

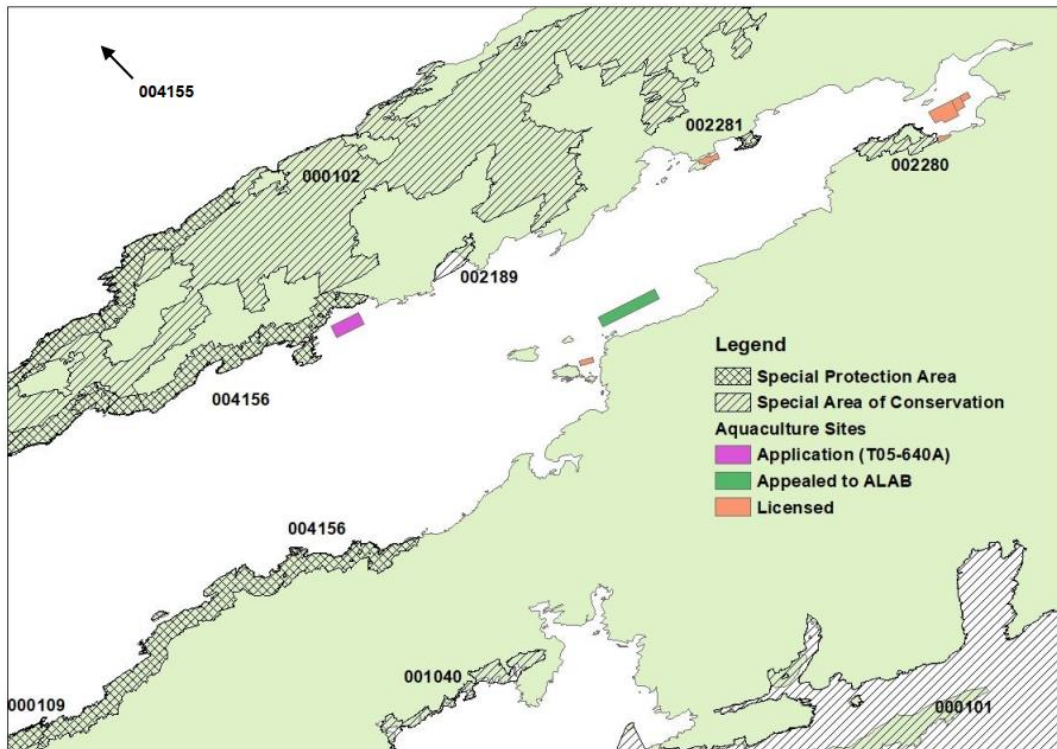
**Appropriate Assessment Concluding Statement**

**AP1/1-3/2022 (T05/640A) - License to produce Seaweed at a site near Dooneen Pier, Dunmanus Bay, Co Cork**

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**Date 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Bantry Marine Research Station was granted a license to develop a seaweed farm on a site near Dooneen Pier on the northern side of Dunmanus Bay, Co Cork. This license was granted by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and was subsequently appealed to ALAB. As part of the appeal process a supplementary Appropriate Assessment was conducted.



**Figure 1-1: Map of Dunmanus Bay with the site in question indicated on the northern side of the bay. Other licensed aquaculture in the bay also included. SACs and SPAs are included with their site numbers.**

The Marine Institute conducted an Appropriate Assessment for the license application which identified no significant, negative impact on the conservation objectives or qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Concerns were raised by stakeholders in the appeals to ALAB and a supplemental appropriate assessment was conducted. During the appropriate assessment process screening of potential negative impacts on qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs) was conducted.

Potential negative impacts of the development on the following qualifying interests were not screened out and were carried forward for appropriate assessment:

Harbour Porpoise – Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC

Grey Seal - Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC

Peregrine Falcon – Sheep’s Head to Toe Head SPA

Chough - Sheep’s Head to Toe Head SPA

Chough – Beara Peninsula SPA

Fulmar – Bears Peninsula SPA

The applicant had, during the course of the appeals process, offered to relocate activities, such as seeding and harvesting, from the nearby Dooneen Pier to a pier near Durrus, 14km to the east. The use of piers, traffic and activity onsite was assessed, together with other factors pertinent to the development and operation of the site such as the distance between the site and the SACs / SPAs; the area occupied by the site relative to the area of Dunmanus Bay and surrounding seas; and the relatively low levels of activity on site for the majority of the year (one site visit per week during most weeks of the year).

The conclusion of the appropriate assessment is that the licensing of this site and the establishment and operation of the site for the intended purpose of growing seaweed will not result in any negative impact on the conservation objectives and qualifying interests of the SACs and SPAs (Natura 2000 sites) identified as being within the sphere of influence of the development.

Fergal Guilfoyle, ALAB Technical Advisor, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024