



Supplemental Report to Interim Technical Advisors Report AP17&18/2020, Crookhaven, submitted by Eco Eireann to ALAB on 8th September 2021

Dr Ciar O'Toole, ALAB Technical Advisor

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As described in the Technical Advisor Report submitted by Eco Eireann to ALAB on the 8th September 2021, the appeals AP 17/2020 and AP 18/2020 deal with site T05/432B and T05/432C respectively. This supplemental report considers further two issues relating to navigational safety at the two sites under appeal.

Seaweed Longlines -various species – both sites

The proposed deployment of longlines on both sides of the mouth of the Harbour as shown in maps provided by the applicant, has, in my opinion, the potential to significantly restrict access to and from a number of private slipways and piers located on both sides of the Harbour, with four located along the southern side and three along the northern side, all of which have the potential to be negatively impacted.

The appellant had indicated within the initial site application that the proposed longlines will be set up in December and harvested /removed in May /June, thereby only being present for 6-7 months of the year, prior to the start of the main marine leisure activity season. However, in response to a Section 47 request, the applicant did not clearly indicate a timeline when the seaweed longlines would be removed, stating that '*Various strains of seaweed are grown at different times of the year resulting in varying off seasons but regardless of same, long lines ropes and floats will be removed in their entirety when not in use*'. This lack of confirmation

of the proposed timeline led Eco Eireann to conclude that there is a **high likelihood** that the proposed sites will be operational during the summer months, an opinion I concur with.

The appellant had suggested that he was willing to drop the appeal for seaweed longlines in site T05/432B in favour of licensing longlines in T05/432C alone, to reduce the potential impact on safe access to the Harbour. However, it is my considered opinion that there will still be a risk to navigation due to the area taken up by Site T05/432C in the safe channel accessing Crookhaven Harbour, the lack of clarity around the timeline for seasonal removal of the longlines and the restricted access the presence of these longlines would cause to existing slipways and piers.

Having reviewed the Technical Advisor Report submitted by Eco Eireann and taking into consideration their recommendation not to grant site T05/432B and for the Board to carefully consider T05/432C given the reasons outlined in the report, it is my considered opinion as ALAB Technical Advisor to recommend that the Board not grant a licence for seaweed longlines for either site T05/432B or T05/432C.

Scallop Cages – both sites

Following consideration of the comments relating to the proposed scallop cages in the Technical Advisor report submitted by Eco Eireann on the 8th September 2021, I would disagree somewhat with the Technical Advisors opinion. The proposed cages and marker buoys could, in my opinion, be considered a navigational impediment due to their location in the channel, although on a much lesser scale than the longlines. The stability of the cages, which will be unanchored on a sloping surface is another factor to be considered, although they will likely be of a considerable weight.

Crookhaven Harbour is used as a training area for inexperienced sailors and is accessed by recreational sailors who are unfamiliar with the area, another factor for consideration when looking at navigational safety. I would ask the Board to consider carefully the impacts of licencing the proposed scallop cages. It is my opinion as ALAB Technical Advisor, while they

don't hold the same risk to safe navigation as that of the proposed seaweed longlines, there is still some potential risk to navigational safety.