

Mr Martin Heydon TD
Minsiter for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

01 May 2026

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025,
AP8/2025, AP9/2025, AP10/2025 and AP11/1-2/2025

Site Refs: T12/407B, T12/409A, T12/409B1, T12/409B2, T12/441A, T12/441B, T12/441C,
T12/500A, T12/502A, T12/515A and T12/516A

Re: REVISED Notice that an Appropriate Assessment Is required pursuant to Regulation 42(8) of The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

Dear Minister,

I refer to the above Appeals which has been remitted to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (the Board) for further consideration.

Following remittal of the Appeals, the Board carried out an updated Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for each appeal and determined that it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information that the proposed aquaculture activities the subject of the Appeals, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effects on European Sites. A copy of the updated Screening Reports relevant to each Appeal are all publicly available on ALAB's website at the following link:

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Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, as amended (2011 Regulations) the Board determined that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the project for the reasons set out in the Screening

Report, and you were given notice of the Board's determination in this respect in accordance with Regulation 42(8) on 15 December 2025.

In particular, the Board concluded that there is a possibility of significant effects on the Ballyness Bay SAC (Site code 001090), Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (Site code 001141), Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC (Site code 000147), Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC (site code 02047), Inishbofin, Inishdooley and Inishbeg SPA (site code 004083), Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (site code 4039), Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (site code 09194), West Donegal SPA (site code 04150), the West Donegal Islands SPA (site code 04230) as well as Lough Swilly SPA (site code 004075), Roaninish SPA (Site code 004121) and Lough Foyle SPA (Site code 004087).

ALAB has identified two additional European sites (Greers Isle SPA and Illancrone & Inishkeeragh SPA) that based on bird species foraging ranges should have been screened in for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. ALAB has revised its screening determination to include these additional sites. A copy of the revised AA Screening Report is available on the Board's website at the above link.

The Board accordingly has issued a revised notice to the Licence Applicants requesting an updated NIS.

A copy of these letters can likewise be found on the Board's website at the above link.

The updated NIS or Statements are required to be submitted to the Board not later than 14 May 2026. Upon receipt of the updated NIS or Statements, you will be given an opportunity to make a submission or observation in respect of the further information received, in accordance with the 2011 Regulations.

Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

CC Brian Batt, Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division.

Mr Timmy Dooley TD
Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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01 May 2026

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025,
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Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

CC Brian Batt, Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division.

Dr. Rick Officer, CEO
Marine Institute



01 May 2026

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Dear Dr. Officer,

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Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Dr David Lyons
Head of Marine Habitats and Species
National Parks & Wildlife Service

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01 May 2026

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025,
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Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Dr Elaine McGoff

An Taisce



01 May 2026

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025, AP8/2025, AP9/2025, AP10/2025 and AP11/1-2/2025

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Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Ms Caroline Bocquel CEO
An Bord Iascaigh Mhara

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

01 May 2026

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025, AP8/2025, AP9/2025, AP10/2025 and AP11/1-2/2025

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Dear Ms Bocquel,

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Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Mr David Friel
Water and Environment Section
Donegal County Council



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Save Ballyness Bay C/O Mr John Connaghan

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Mr Joseph Friel

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Mr John Boyle

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025, AP8/2025, AP9/2025, AP10/2025 and AP11/1-2/2025

Site Refs: T12/407B, T12/409A, T12/409B1, T12/409B2, T12/441A, T12/441B, T12/441C, T12/500A, T12/502A, T12/515A and T12/516A

Re: REVISED Notice that an Appropriate Assessment Is required pursuant to Regulation 42(8) of The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

Dear Mr Boyle,

I refer to the above Appeals which has been remitted to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (the Board) for further consideration.

Following remittal of the Appeals, the Board carried out an updated Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for each appeal and determined that it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information that the proposed aquaculture activities the subject of the Appeals, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effects on European Sites. A copy of the updated Screening Reports relevant to each Appeal are all publicly available on ALAB's website at the following link:

<https://www.alab.ie/activeappeals/>

Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, as amended (2011 Regulations) the Board determined that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the project for the reasons set out in the Screening

Report, and you were given notice of the Board's determination in this respect in accordance with Regulation 42(8) on 15 December 2025.

In particular, the Board concluded that there is a possibility of significant effects on the Ballyness Bay SAC (Site code 001090), Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (Site code 001141), Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC (Site code 000147), Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC (site code 02047), Inishbofin, Inishdooley and Inishbeg SPA (site code 004083), Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (site code 4039), Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (site code 09194), West Donegal SPA (site code 04150), the West Donegal Islands SPA (site code 04230) as well as Lough Swilly SPA (site code 004075), Roaninish SPA (Site code 004121) and Lough Foyle SPA (Site code 004087).

ALAB has identified two additional European sites (Greers Isle SPA and Illancrone & Inishkeeragh SPA) that based on bird species foraging ranges should have been screened in for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. ALAB has revised its screening determination to include these additional sites. A copy of the revised AA Screening Report is available on the Board's website at the above link.

The Board accordingly has issued a revised notice to the Licence Applicants requesting an updated NIS.

A copy of these letters can likewise be found on the Board's website at the above link.

The updated NIS or Statements are required to be submitted to the Board not later than 14 May 2026. Upon receipt of the updated NIS or Statements, you will be given an opportunity to make a submission or observation in respect of the further information received, in accordance with the 2011 Regulations.

Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board