

MLA/2023/00227

Project summary

Application type

Please select the type(s) of application you are applying for.

If you wish to apply for a section 36 or 36A consent or a safety zone in addition to your marine licence application please tick the relevant box.

If you wish to also apply for consent under a local Act or Order please tick the Local Act consent box. Please explain which local Act or Order consent you are applying when giving details of the project background below. You should also upload a copy of the local Act or Order there too.

Application type

Marine licence

Please tick all additional application types that are relevant.

Additional application types

- Section 36 and Section 36A: Electricity Act 1989.
- Local Act Consent: Consent under a local Act or harbour order.

- ☐ Section 36
- ☐ Section 36A
- ☐ Local Act consent
- ☐ Safety zone

Project details

Project title

Enter the title of your project (max. 250 characters)

Nearshore seaweed cultivation of native species

Project background

You should explain the background to the project. This should include the aims of the project, the need for the project, whether it forms part of a larger project and any other relevant information. (max. 2000 characters)

There is a growing global movement to find more sustainable ways to feed the earth's population and use our oceans in ways that are sustainable and enhance the quality of the marine environment. Kelp farming is one way to achieve this and has multiple benefits. It captures CO₂, reduces the acidity of the seas, provides a 'reef' environment for marine life and allows us to grow and farm highly nutritious crops without the need for pesticides, fertiliser or any other chemicals. Aqua Botanika is a mariculture business based in England. It will be dedicated to the development of a sustainable aquaculture operation. This will consist of a seaweed farm that will grow local species of kelp and dulse to be farmed and utilised as food and in natural beauty products. Our aim is to first and foremost create a sustainable operation that supports local employment, enhances the marine environment and helps promote environmentally friendly, ethical and sustainable production of food and pharmaceutical products.

Programme of works

You should detail the proposed programme of works for the project. This should include proposed start and end dates for the overall project and individual elements of the project. It should also include details of any elements that need to be completed by a certain date and details of any time periods during which activities could not be carried out and the reasons for this. It should also include proposed working hours. (max. 2000 characters)

Once we have been granted a licence we would procure seeded lines from a local supplier using only native seeds and aim to install the seeded lines, seabed anchors, buoys etc during the autumn of 2024 in order to grow the first crop during the winter and harvest in spring 2025. Working hours during this time will be between the hours of 9 to 5, five days per week. The maintenance and checking of the lines etc will then take place a few hours per week during the growing phase and following heavy seas, storms and strong winds, and the crops will be harvested the following spring.

Related consents and applications

Have any other applications been made to the MMO in relation to this project?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has there been any other contact with the MMO in relation to this project?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Have any applications been made to or consents issued by other authorities in relation to this project?

This could include applications for planning permission, environmental permits, development consent orders, transport and works orders, marine licences or any other type of licence, permit or consent. This could also include consents from local authorities, Government regulators, harbour authorities, devolved administrations, other European countries and any other type of authority.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you have statutory powers to consent or undertake without consent any aspect of this project?

This could include statutory powers of a coast protection authority, harbour authority or lighthouse authority or any other type of statutory powers.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is the project located within the jurisdiction of a statutory harbour authority?

This includes the jurisdiction of municipal, private and trust ports where they are a statutory harbour authority.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Applicant details

This is the person, company or organisation that will hold the licence.

Contact type

Select the Contact type. Individual should only be selected when the contact is not working on behalf of an Organisation.

- ☐ Individual
☒ Organisation

Trading title (if applicable)

Aqua Botanika Limited

Title

Mrs

Forename

Nataliya

Surname

Robinson

Organisation name

AQUA BOTANIKA LTD

Reg number

Position in organisation

Director

Contact within company

Postcode

TQ1 1QJ

Postal address

Grafton Cottage
 Grafton Road
 Torquay
 Devon
 TQ1 1QJ

Telephone number

Please enter numbers, brackets and the international symbol (+) if needed.

+44 07799060671

Fax number

Please enter in format +00(0)0000 000000

Email address

Please enter a valid email address formatted as xx@xx.xx

tyrobinson1@mac.com

Sustainable development

The MMO strongly advise that a strategic appraisal is completed. Issues that should be considered include:

1. Identification of any conflicts between the project and the relevant marine plan.
2. Identification of alignment of the project with the Marine Policy Statement and any relevant National Policy Statement.
3. Identification of the environmental, social and economic drivers for a project that have been identified through existing feasibility studies or discussions with other public bodies (e.g. Local Authorities or Local Economic Partnerships).
4. Identification of any potential issues that may arise due to UK law (e.g. Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017, Marine Strategy Regulations 2010, Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017), and how these can potentially be avoided, or mitigated, at the strategic level.
5. Identification of any priority issues that may need addressing with regard to cumulative effects.
6. Options appraisal undertaken by the applicant, and the social, economic and environmental reasoning behind why the preferred option has been chosen.

Environmental impact assessment

Has an environmental statement been produced to support this project?

Environmental statements are required for projects of a type listed in the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007. If you are not certain whether your project falls within this category, please contact us before proceeding with your application.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please give details

(max. 2000 characters)

The location that we are applying for does not fall in SACs, SPAs or pSPAs. There are no reefs in this area. In addition, please see attached Aqua Botanika environmental risk analysis

Habitats regulations assessment

Have the effects of the project on European sites been considered?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please give details

(max. 2000 characters)

We are not aware of any bird or migratory bird species that will be impacted by a kelp farm in the location that we are applying for. Unlike other aqua-culture or some algal-culture, the proposed rope grid infrastructure is open and is predominately below water level except where supported by buoys so by design it will have little impact on birdlife. Because the growing lines and support ropes are located at least 5 metres apart, fish and water fauna can pass through the ropes and the growing kelp. If anything the farm will provide habitat for fish similar to the natural habitat.

Marine conservation zone assessment

Have the effects of the project on marine conservation zones been considered?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please give details

(max. 2000 characters)

We are aware the Marine Conservation Zone is 150 meters from the proposed site. None of the operations for the installation that we have described above will need to come anywhere near the MCZ. Also seeding, maintenance and harvesting of the seaweed operates directly over the farm and will not come close to the MCZ. Our farm in Torbay is within the MCZ and to get that license we had to prove that rather than being damaging it is instead highly regenerative. When the farm is in cultivation the natural environment will extend the benefits of the MCZ and even be beneficial to the MCZ. Kelp farms create a protective ecology for sea life. Kelp farms remove nitrogen, phosphates and other nutrients from agricultural run-off from the land. This run-off is detrimental to the life that is being protected in the MCZ. Kelp also absorbs CO2 and reduces acidity that is being caused by global warming.

Having the proposed farm alongside the MCZ will undoubtedly be a benefit to the MCZ.

Sites of special scientific interest

Have the effects of the project on sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) been considered?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please give details

(max. 2000 characters)

The proposed site is not within a SSSI

Water Framework Directive compliance assessment

Have the effects of the project been considered in accordance with the Water Framework Directive?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please give details

(max. 2000 characters)

The water framework directive includes marine waters up to one nautical mile from shore. Our proposed site is outside this range.

Consultation and advertising

Has public consultation taken place and/or has the project been advertised?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please give details

(max. 2000 characters)

We will advertise the project in prominent locations along the coastline and understand that MMO will consult with the relevant local interest groups. We have selected a site away from existing activities such as fishing, scallop farming, lobster pots recreation and reefs.

We have consulted with IFCA and local fisheries representatives to help select a site that has their support as not interfering with existing fishing activities.

Has consultation about the project with any other statutory body taken place?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Please give details

(max. 2000 characters)

We have consulted with IFCA in order identify a suitable location which will have minimal impact on fishing activities

Licence summary

Do you consider this application to be for emergency activities?

Emergency activities are those undertaken for the protection of life, property or the environment from an imminent risk.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Do you consider this application would qualify for the accelerated licensing process for dredging?

The accelerated licensing process applies to certain types of small-scale low-risk dredging activity.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Proposed licence start date

06-MAY-2024

Proposed licence end date

30-JUN-2054

Site summary

Please provide the location of your proposed activities. Note that the responsibility for determining whether your proposed activities are below Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) rests with the applicant. If there is any doubt as to whether a site lies below MHWS you can undertake an independent survey to determine its location.

Use the 'Add/edit site(s)' button below to add one or more more locations to your application.

Next use the 'Add activity' button to add activities to your locations. (NB this option only appears once a location is created).

Basic examples:

Dredging at RiverA. Create one site for RiverA and add dredging as an activity.
Dredging and quay wall improvements at RiverA. Create 2 locations: one for the dredging in front of the new quay area and one for the quay wall improvements.
Dredging at RiverA and removal of large concrete block within the dredge area. Create 1 location and add two activities: 1 activity for removal and 1 activity for dredging.

Additional functions:

Subsites, Holes and Exclusion Zones can also be used more guidance is available in the 'Help' guide.

Activities:

When an activity is added to a site it is listed in a table. Click on the activity name in the table or use the links on the left hand side of this screen to navigate to the activity screen where you can provide your method statement and other information.

If you delete a site, the activities linked to it will still be visible on this screen. You must delete these activities or move them to a valid site.

If you would like any advice on using this form or structuring your application please contact us.

Sites

Please see included locations.kml file for detailed site locations.

Warning: these sites may contain spikes. Please ensure they are correct before submitting your application.

Aqua Botanika proposed North Devon seaweed farm

Site sensitivities

You should provide details of any protected areas (European or Ramsar sites, marine conservation zones, sites of special scientific interest, areas of outstanding natural beauty etc) and protected features (scheduled monuments, protected wrecks etc). You should also provide details of other areas and features of social, economic or environmental value. This could include shipping lanes, fishing grounds, recreational sailing areas, material assets, unprotected habitats and species and any other feature. (max. 2000 characters)

We believe the location we have selected for our farm is not within a protected area or MCZ. There are no protected monuments affected by it and we have selected a location with minimal social or economical impacts. It will have a positive environmental impact by due to the various positive impacts addressed within the environmental section of this application

List of activities at this site

Activity	Site	Activity type	Actions
Creation of a seaweed farm	Aqua Botanika proposed...	Construction of new works	

Aqua Botanika proposed North Devon seaweed farm - Creation of a seaweed farm

Site

Please see included locations.kml file for detailed site locations.

Activity details

Activity type

Please select the type of activity that would take place. If more than one activity would take place you should enter the details of one activity here and then add another activity.

Activity type

Construction, alteration or improvement of any works

Activity subtype

Construction of new works

General

Activity title

Enter the title of this activity (max. 250 characters)

Creation of a seaweed farm

Activity description

You should include a detailed description of the activity. For construction activities, this should include the dimensions of the works and materials to be used. (max. 2000 characters)

This is to be a Kelp Farm on ropes similar to successful Kelp farms in Scotland, NI, Britany, Faroe Islands, Norway and New England that all follow the same basic principles of Buoys anchored to the seabed or to blocks in roughly 50-meter frequencies, main ropes connecting the buoys in each direction creating a grid. Growing ropes are then connected to main ropes to run parallel at 10-meter centres. Our proposal is for multiple bays which equate to an area of 100 hectares. Please see additional information in uploaded file on method of anchoring etc

Activity methodology

Your method statement should clearly explain how you are going to carry out the activities providing detail on any materials and plant to be used as well as proposed programme timings. (max. 2000 characters)

The infrastructure we will design and install will be a seaweed farm rope grid and anchorage with Trinity House approved marking; attach growing ropes when water reaches 17 deg C in October/November. The ropes will be preseeded during the summer months from invitro fertilized gametes in onshore nursery conditions. All seed will be generated from indigenous stock. HSE evaluation and methodology will be undertaken before installation commences.

Activity start date	Activity end date
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10-JUN-2024	30-JUN-2054
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Activity programme

You should detail the proposed programme of works for the activity. This should include proposed start and end dates for the activity. It should also include details of any elements that need to be completed by a certain date and details of any time periods during which the activity could not be carried out and the reasons for this. It should also include proposed working hours. (max. 2000 characters)

- 1) design, engineer and supply the Kelp farm infrastructure. Then negotiate contracts with suppliers of equipment in spring of 2024;
- 2) propagate seeded ropes using indigenous gametes (shore-based in-vitro fertilisation of the seed, attachment to the ropes and early growth in a nursery)
- 3)Installation of farm infrastructure during the summer of 2024.
- 4)Placing of the growing lines in Autumn 2024 (once sea temperatures reach circa 17 degrees c.)
- 5) Monitor and Service though the winter till spring;
- 6) Harvest May to July 2025
- 7) Removal to drying shed and warehouse;
- 8) Distribute to customers in summer of 2025. Then repeat each year for the next 30 years

Potential impacts

You should detail the potential impacts this activity may have. This should include social, economic and environmental impacts. If this has already been detailed elsewhere in the application it is sufficient to reference that. (max. 2000 characters)

Seaweed farms have positive environmental impacts. Positive environmental impacts include:

- 1)regeneration of diminishing indigenous seaweed;
- 2)absorbs nutrient imbalances from runoff and other aqua-culture, (nitrate & phosphate absorption);
- 3) CO2 capture and use;
- 4) storm surge protection (very local);
- 5)protected seaside habitat promoting bio-diversity.

Potential negative environmental impacts are minor:

- 1) shading of the sea bed;
- 2) local depletion of nutrients:

This kelp farm will have positive socio-economic impacts:

- 1) land-based employment;
- 2)off-season employment and utilisation of equipment of fishermen;
- 3)contribute to North Devon sustainable and local economy profile.

Proposed mitigation

You should detail the mitigation you propose in response to the potential impacts. This should include a detailed explanation of the mitigation measure and evidence to demonstrate that the mitigation is likely to be successful. If this has already been detailed elsewhere in the application it is sufficient to reference that. (max. 2000 characters)

Environmental:

- 1) shading of the sea bed. The infrastructure will be a rope grid with enough space between the growing lines to prevent permanent shade on the sea bed.
- 2)local depletion of nutrients. Our proposal is for a seaweed farm that is washed by the tide. Any depletion of nutrients will be insignificant. If anything these farms are known to remove non-beneficial nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates from other aqua-culture and from wash off the land.

Negative Socio-economic impacts:

- 1) disruption of fishing and potting. The site that we are applying for is not particularly interesting to fishing and not at all interesting to potting.
- 2) disrupt leisure. The site that we are applying for is not intensively used for leisure. The buoys will be well marked.

Residual risks

You should detail the residual risks from the activity following the mitigation. This should include an assessment of the significance of the risks and evidence to show why these risks cannot be avoided or further mitigated. (max. 2000 characters)

Please see the uploaded risk assessment which details all known risks, mitigation of these and residual actions where appropriate

Additional supporting information

You should use this section to provide any further information about this activity that you wish to have taken into account in the processing and determination of this application. (max. 2000 characters)

The South West inshore and offshore marine policy is to support and promote appropriate aquaculture initiatives and we hope to have demonstrated within this application and supporting reports that this is exactly what we wish to achieve. The project leader Tyrone Robinson was born and raised in Devon and has a deep interest and passion for the regeneration of the area and enhancement of the bay. We believe this can be the first of numerous initiatives that will contribute to this end. Land based food production cannot sustain the population and governments worldwide recognise the absolute imperative to develop sustainable aquaculture initiatives to support the growing population.

Construction of new works

Use intended to be made of the works

You should detail the use that will be made of the works. For example, if you are proposing to build a quay to use for unloading cargo then you should detail the type of cargo, quantity to be unloaded, frequency of unloading, methodology of unloading and any other relevant information. (max. 2000 characters)

Initially, there will be no onshore construction. The crop will be harvested utilising appropriate vessels and taken to existing land based facilities for sorting and drying. Following this, it will be packaged and sold. In time as the business grows we would hope to identify suitable facilities within the local coastline for the business to utilise, Failing this we will construct our own.

Marine plan policies

Access

SW-ACC-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We believe due to the nature of the seaweed farm and the location we have proposed there will be no adverse impact upon public access to marine areas.

We have also consulted with IFCA and do not believe there are local tourism and recreation activities that would be adversely impacted by this. Indeed, our existing seaweed farm in Torbay has become a location of interest to tourists due to the growing public awareness of the positive impacts these activities can have upon our environment

Air quality

SW-AIR-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our seaweed farm will not have any adverse effect upon air quality and indeed Kelp is a very effective means of sequestering Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere and will in effect reduce pollution and reduce the levels of CO2 present in the area

Aquaculture

SW-AQ-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our seaweed farm will cultivate native species of Kelp and regenerate what were once large naturally occurring resources. It will provide a habitat for sealife and help promote greater diversity of species by reducing commercial fishing in the area. No fertilisers or pesticides will be used in growing the kelp and it will naturally reduce acidity of the sea and help reduce pollution from run off from land

SW-AQ-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Aqua Botanika's proposed seaweed farm has been located to ensure minimal adverse impacts on existing activities and will create significant new sustainable development. It will also generate local employment, inject revenue into the local economy, utilise local facilities during construction and during the life of the farm for access and harvesting/processing the crop

Biodiversity

SW-BIO-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Based upon significant evidence from other farms, academic research and our experience with our existing farm in Torbay, we believe our seaweed farm will have no negative impact upon biodiversity and will instead create a habitat for sealife that will promote biodiversity and protect it from commercial fishing.

SW-BIO-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We will be planting native species of seaweed using locally sourced seeds. There will be no adverse impact on native species.

SW-BIO-3

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our farm will help restore the abundance of kelp in the local area where it has been depleted through decades of commercial fishing activity

SW-HAB-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our farm is designed to have minimal impact upon habitats, planted lines will be at appropriate intervals to ensure that sunlight is able to penetrate naturally and not create shaded areas. The seaweed itself deacidifies and improves sea water quality locally and the design of the infrastructure will ensure minimal impact upon the seabed habitats

Cables

SW-CAB-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We are not installing any cables

SW-CAB-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We do not believe this policy has any impact upon our proposals. Our site is located away from any existing or potential landfall sites.

SW-CAB-3

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We are not proposing to locate close to existing subsea cables.

Climate change

SW-CC-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Seaweed is a very effective natural carbon sequestering and habitat restoring ecosystem. Our farm will improve air and water quality and reduce CO2 pollution.

SW-CC-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our farm will be engineered by experts in the creation of this type of infrastructure and design to accommodate local conditions. It is sufficiently far from the coast not to be impacted by coastal change.

The detail design will be part of the anchor installation contract and will follow the same rigour as set out by the Recommended Design Practice recently published by the North Sea Farmers and the Dutch Government. When this was being adapted, Aqua Botanika participated in the consultation. <https://www.northseafarmers.org/sector-support>.

In making preliminary assessment we also assessed the recently published Engineering A Low-Cost Kelp Aquaculture System for Community-Scale Seaweed Farming at Nearshore Exposed Sites via User-Focused Design Process.

Although this design uses a different anchorage system the location of the case study, a nearshore site in Saco Maine has very similar conditions and tide to our proposed site. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2022.848035/full>

SW-CC-3

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We do not believe our proposals will have any adverse impacts on coastal change. Research demonstrates that in fact Seaweed farms but their nature have a calming effect on local currents and therefore a positive impact in reducing coastal change

Co-existence

SW-CO-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We have consulted with IFCA and local fisheries representatives and do not believe our proposals will have any significant impact or displace existing activities as we have selected a location that is not presently heavily fished.

Cross-border co-operation

SW-CBC-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

There are no cross border implications to our proposals

Cumulative effects

SW-CE-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We do not believe that our proposals will have any adverse cumulative effects with other proposals. Seaweed farms provide synergies with other aquaculture activities such as muscle or scallop farming as the seaweed absorbs excess nutrients created by these activities.

Disturbance

SW-DIST-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

mobile species will not be affected by our seaweed farm - there are no nets or hard boundaries that could impeded mobility

Dredging & disposal

SW-DD-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

There is no dredging activity in the location proposed

SW-DD-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

There are no licensed disposal activities in the location proposed

SW-DD-3

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We are not proposing activity of this nature

Employment

SW-EMP-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our seaweed farm will provide new employment opportunities and support the local economy and existing marine infrastructure service providers. It will create jobs during the installation of infrastructure, planting and harvesting phases and potentially during processing of the crop as well.

Fisheries

SW-FISH-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

At present seaweed in England is mostly foraged damaging naturally occurring seaweed beds around our coast. Our farm will grow and harvest new additional sources of seaweed and provide a habitat for sealife that is protected from commercial fishing

SW-FISH-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Following consultation with IFCA and local fisheries representatives we have selected a site away from areas of high fishing activity and therefore we believe that commercial fishing activities in the area will not be significantly affected by our farm

SW-FISH-3

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our farm will provide a safe habitat for sealife where no commercial fishing can take place.

Heritage assets

SW-HER-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

There are no significant heritage assets in the location of our farm therefore we believe our seaweed farm will not impact upon heritage assets

Infrastructure

SW-INF-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We will aim to land the crop locally and process it using existing facilities wherever possible. This will help boost the local economy and help support the ongoing utilisation of existing infrastructure.

SW-INF-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We are not proposing alternative development of existing safeguarded landing facilities. We are also not proposing anything adjacent to or opposite existing safeguarded landing facilities

Invasive non-native species

SW-INNS-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our farm will only use seeds from native species. there will be no utilisation of non-native species.

Boats used for the purposes of farming will also be local eliminating the need for moving equipment.

During installation of the farm infrastructure we anticipate that up to three boats will be required.

SW-INNS-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

we will utilise locally sourced native seeds for the farm

Knowledge, understanding, appreciation & enjoyment

SW-SOC-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our seaweed farm will provide a local source of interest and given the environmentally friendly and restorative nature of seaweed farming we believe it will also offer a source of local pride and interest to tourists. Our farm in Torbay has already been added to the local sea safari and excursion locations for tourists to visit.

Marine litter

SW-ML-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Seaweed farming does not generate marine litter. The seaweed is gathered each year during harvesting without generating waste. Lines and infrastructure is regularly inspected and we install trackers on the infrastructure to alert us in the case of damage so that the equipment can be repaired and returned to its intended location.

SW-ML-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We will not be increasing the amount of marine litter with our seaweed farm. There are

no waste by-products created by seaweed farming.

Marine protected areas

SW-MPA-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our proposals will have no adverse impact upon the objectives of marine protected areas. Our existing farm in Torbay is within the MCZ and to get that license we had to prove that rather than being damaging it is instead highly regenerative. When the farm is in cultivation the natural environment will extend the benefits of the MCZ and even be beneficial to the MCZ. Kelp farms create a protective ecology for sea life. Kelp farms remove nitrogen, phosphates and other nutrients from agricultural run-off from the land. This run-off is detrimental to the life that is being protected in the MCZ. Kelp also absorbs CO2 and reduces acidity that is being caused by global warming.

SW-MPA-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our seaweed farm will help reduce local CO2 levels and reduce the acidity of local sea water, reducing the impact of climate change and supporting the marine protected area

SW-MPA-3

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our farm will have a positive impact in reducing the effects of climate change and by reducing sequestering CO2 from the atmosphere and improving the water quality by absorbing impurities caused by run-off from land based activities.

SW-MPA-4

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our proposals will have no adverse impacts on geodiversity. As commercial farming activities will not be possible within the boundaries of the farm It will in fact provide a protected habitat for sealife that will encourage greater diversity

Oil & gas

SW-OG-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

We are not proposing a location that has geological oil and gas potential

Ports, harbours & shipping

SW-PS-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Whilst it is not expected that we would be developing new infrastructure within Ilfracombe the activities of our seaweed farm will utilise and support existing services locally The installation, farming and landing activities will utilise existing services with the

area.

SW-PS-4

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our crop will be transported by sea to a suitable location for landing and distribution, this will take into account existing transportation networks and facilities

Renewables

SW-REN-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Seaweed farming is not energy intensive and will utilise sunlight and tides to stimulate growth.

SW-REN-3

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our seaweed farm will not include any proposals to generate offshore renewable energy.

Seascape & landscape

SW-SCP-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Seaweed farming has a minimal visual impact and will not detract from the seascape. There are no large structures just buoys to support the headlines. Our selected location is also 2NM from shore and will not be highly visible from shore.

Tourism & recreation

SW-TR-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Our proposals will have minimal impact upon tourism. There is a growing interest in sustainable farming and some tourists will be interested to see this taking place. Our existing farm in Torbay has already been added to other sites of interest for tourists and included in local 'sea-safaris'

Underwater noise

SW-UWN-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

There will be minimal underwater noise during installation. Once installed the only source of underwater noise will be from vessels during the bi weekly inspection visits and harvesting

SW-UWN-2

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

There will be no impulsive or non-impulsive noise apart from during the installation and annual harvesting in the spring each year

Water quality

SW-WQ-1

Provide an explanation on how you have considered this policy

Seaweed farms have positive environmental impact and absorb nutrient imbalances in the sea water from runoff and other aqua-culture such as scallop or muscle farming, (nitrate & phosphate absorption).

Additional plan and policy information

Provide any further information about your consideration of the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), marine plans and policy objectives you would like the MMO to take into account when determining your application

The policies of the South West Inshore and South West Offshore Marine Plan identify constraints that need to be considered to guide selection of a potential site for a seaweed farm. Each of these policies states that proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference, a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on the interests of each of the policies. As detailed above we believe the nature of our proposal (a native-species seaweed farm) and location selected provides a positive response to each of these policies

Do you have any relevant documents that support your consideration or assessment of the MPS or marine plan policies?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Have you considered or assessed this project with regard to other policy statements and spatial plans?

This includes national, regional and local policies and spatial plans

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Provide an explanation of which other spatial plans and policy statements you have considered or assessed and how they have been considered or assessed

The spatial outputs of the modelled areas identified as having potential for aquaculture have been modelled using biological suitability layers, derived as part of MMO1184 Identification of areas of aquaculture potential in English waters, combined with technical suitability and constraints models developed by the MMO. The area Identified off the Coast of North Devon circa 2 nautical miles from Ilfracombe is assessed as having environmental conditions suitable for seaweed farming.

Do you have any documents to upload that support your consideration or assessments of other spatial plans and policy statements?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Licence conditions

Are there any conditions you consider should be added to the marine licence?

Any suggested conditions will be considered as part of the application and may be applied to the consent. However, proposed conditions may also be edited or removed and other conditions may be applied in addition to or in place of any conditions you propose.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Other details

Fees and charges

Cost of project seaward of mean high water springs (£)

Specify pounds only or pounds and pence, e.g. 1000 or 1000.10

2000000

Public register

Permission to add your data to the MMO evidence base:

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has gathered information from a number of existing sources to support marine planning, marine licensing and associated functions of the MMO. The MMO is continuously adding to the evidence base to support future decision making, with the aim to ensure a sustainable future for our coastal and offshore waters.

A new marine plan led system of marine management will set the direction for decision making on marine use and will:

- guide marine users to the most suitable locations for different activities;
- manage the use of marine resources to ensure sustainable levels; and
- consider all the benefits and impacts of current and future activities that occur in the marine environment.

1.The MMO would like your permission to use any of the data you submit in a digital format that can be entered into a geographical information system. This data may be used to inform MMO functions.

Can we use your data to inform MMO functions?

☒ Yes ☐ No

2.Under section 101 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 the MMO must maintain a register of activities where it is the appropriate licensing authority. Information contained within or provided in support of this application will be placed on the MMO's Public Register unless:

- The Secretary of State determines that its disclosure would be contrary to the interests of national security; or
- The MMO determines that its disclosure would adversely affect confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect legitimate commercial interest.

Is there any information in your application (including any supporting documents) that you believe should be withheld from the Public Register?

☐ Yes ☒ No