

Seazou Aquaculture Ltd Seaweed Farm



Consultation Summary

Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Consultation Summary	4
3	Appendix A: The Southgate and Pennard Community Public Consultation	7
4	Appendix B: Pennard Community Council	15
5	Appendix C: NRW’s marine advisory service	18
6	Appendix D: Trinity House.....	19
7	Appendix E: Maritime and Coastguard Agency.....	20
8	Appendix F: RNLI The Mumbles Life Boat Station	21
9	Appendix G: Swansea Marina	22
10	Appendix H: Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club	23
11	Appendix I: Glamorgan – Gwent Archeological Trust	24
12	Appendix J: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	25
13	Appendix K: Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Division.....	26
14	Appendix L: Welsh Fisherman’s Association	27

Seazou Aquaculture Ltd Seaweed Farm Consultation Summary

1 Introduction

The following document outlines the consultation that have been done as part of the marine license application for the Seazou Aquaculture Ltd Seaweed Farm. The document outlines the dates and names of the organisations consulted, a summary of the issues raised, how these have been considered and resolved (or not) in the application, and where the relevant information can be found in the supporting documents.

The location of the seaweed farm is shown in Figure 1 below. Please refer the Farm Overview document for further details of the seaweed farm and marine license application.



Figure 1: Seaweed farm location map

The key consultees that have been contacted are as follows:

- Public Consultation
 - The Southgate and Pennard Community
 - The Pennard Community Council
- For nature conservation and environment:
 - NRW's marine advisory service for activities within the Welsh inshore area (up to 12nm) marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
- For navigation:
 - Trinity House
 - Maritime and Coastguard Agency
 - RNLI The Mumbles Lifeboat Station
 - Swansea Marina
 - Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club
- For archaeology and historic environment:
 - Glamorgan–Gwent Archaeological Trust
 - Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
- For fisheries:
 - Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Division
 - Welsh Fishermen's Association

2 Consultation Summary

Consultation	Summary of Discussion	Key Issues Raised	Impact to Submission
The Southgate and Pennard Community	The summary of the public consultation discussion is included in Appendix A .	The key issues raised were: 1. The impact of the farm on local fishermen, particularly the local whelk fishermen. 2. The visual impact of the farm on local residences located along E Cliff Road and W Cliff Road. 3. The environmental impact of the farm and the plan for decommissioning.	1. There is inevitably going to be some impact to local fishermen, but there is a commitment from Seazou Aquaculture to work with the local fishermen in order to minimize the impact whilst realizing the potential mutual benefit. 2. A study has been undertaken on the extent of the visual impact of the seaweed farm on the residences along E Cliff and W Cliff Roads. This is included in Appendix B of the Farm Overview Document. 7 out of the 50 residences will have a significant view of the seaweed farm. 3. The application outlines the environmental impact of the seaweed farm. There is a commitment from Seazou Seaweed Ltd to maintain a bond for decommissioning of the seaweed farm.
The Pennard Community Council			
NRW's marine advisory service	The summary of the consultation with NRW's marine advisory service is included in Appendix C .	The NRW's marine advisory service has been providing guidance throughout the process of preparing the application. No further advice is	The Water Framework Directive Assessment and Th Biosecurity Plan have been prepared as per the

		required as the environmental impact assessments contained in the application have been undertaken as per the guidance and using the template provided on the NRW's website.	guidance and using the template provided on the NRW's website.
Trinity House	The summary of the consultation with Trinity House is included in Appendix D .	Trinity House have been consulted and they have advised on the visible markers that will need to be provided with the farm.	• The seaweed farm draft functional diagrams • The Navigational Risk Assessment
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	The summary of the consultation with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency is included in Appendix E .	The Maritime and Coastguard Agency have given guidance around the Navigational Risk Assessment. The MCA have reviewed the NRA and their comments have been captured in the NRA that has been submitted.	• The Navigational Risk Assessment
RNLI The Mumbles Life Boat Station	The summary of the consultation with the RNLI is included in Appendix F .	No significant issues raised. Consultation used to inform the local marine users desk study in the Navigational Risk Assessment	• The Navigational Risk Assessment
Swansea Marina	The summary of the consultation with the Swansea Marina users is included in Appendix G .	The key issues raised were: 1. The impact of the farm on local fishermen 2. The impact of the farm on local recreational vessels.	1. There is inevitably going to be some impact to local fishermen, but there is a commitment from Seazou Aquaculture to work with the local fishermen in order to minimize the impact whilst realizing the potential mutual benefit. 2. The impact on local recreational vessels has been considered in the Navigational Risk Assessment.

Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club	The summary of the consultation with the Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club is included in Appendix H.	The key issue raised was that the seaweed farm would need to be lit at night in order for it be visible by any boats navigating in the dark.	• The seaweed farm draft functional diagrams • The Navigational Risk Assessment
Glamorgan – Gwent Archeological Trust	The summary of the consultation with the Glamorgan – Gwent Archeological Trust is included in Appendix I.	No significant issues raised. It was noted that the seaweed farm could disturb some unknown buried archaeological remains on the seabed.	The farm installation methodology will consider the required protocol if archaeological remains are encountered.
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	The summary of the consultation with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales is included in Appendix J.	No significant issues raised. It was noted that the seaweed farm could disturb some unknown buried archaeological remains on the seabed.	The farm installation methodology will consider the required protocol if archaeological remains are encountered.
Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Division	The summary of the consultation with the Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Division is included in Appendix K.	No issues raised.	N/A
Welsh Fisherman's Association	The summary of the consultation with the Welsh Fisherman's Association is included in Appendix L.	No significant issues raised. Consultation used to inform the local marine users desk study in the Navigational Risk Assessment	The Navigational Risk Assessment

3 Appendix A: The Southgate and Pennard Community Public Consultation

Pennard Community Public Consultation

Pennard Community Hall – 9th March 2024, 2pm

On the 9th March Seazou Aquaculture, (Guy Macleod and Wross Lawrence), hosted a public consultation at the Pennard Community Hall. The consultation involved a short presentation outlining the seaweed farm project, followed by questions from the attendees. In total around 20 members of the local community attended the consultation, with a mix of local residents and 4 local fishermen.

Also attending the consultation was Donna Page, the Pembrokeshire County Council aquaculture business development officer. The Gower Peninsular is outside of her jurisdiction, however, she supports the project and is an expert in the Welsh Government's aquaculture policy.

The presentation from the consultation is included in Appendix of this summary.

Following the presentation the period of questioning covered the following topics:

Fishermen – Why weren't the fishermen been consulted on this project? There are fishermen fishing for pollock, lobster and whelks that use the area. There will be an impact to the fishermen's livelihood.

Seazou – This community consultation is an opportunity for local stakeholders to provide feedback on the project. In addition, Michael Bond, the assistant manager of Swansea Marina, has circulated the presentation to all the marina users and requested feedback on the project. There will be an impact to some fishermen, but it should be noted that seaweed farming is a regenerative farming technique which will benefit the fish stocks and ecology of the local water body.

Donna Page – There are clearly benefits that could be realized if the fishermen and the seaweed farmers work closely together.

Fishermen – Is Neil Thomas from Thomas Fisheries in South West Wales aware of the plans for the seaweed farm location? He fishes the area and will not be in favour of the proposed location as it will impact his fishing grounds.

Seazou – No, Neil Thomas has not yet been consulted, however Wross knows Neil and will organize a discussion with him.

Post Meeting Note: A discussion was held with Neil Thomas and he confirmed that the proposed location of the seaweed farm will have no impact on his commercial fishing in that area as they only fish the west side of Oxwich bay. Please refer to Appendix 14 for evidence of this discussion.

Fishermen – Why don't you place the farm in Swansea Bay?

Seazou – The area to the east of Pwlldu Head is designated as protected marine environment, which would make it difficult to located the seaweed farm there.

Post Meeting Note: The area to the east Pwlldu Head is designated as a 'shellfish water protected area'. Shellfish water protected areas are areas designated for the protection of shellfish growth and production, so is more suitable for whelk and lobster fishing rather than seaweed farming.

Resident – Do you have any better images of the seaweed farm to understand what visual impact it will have on the local residents, particularly those houses alone E Cliff Road and W Cliff Road?

Seazou – We do not currently have detailed visualisations of the seaweed farm. We were reluctant to illustrate images from similar seaweed farms, such as Câr-y-Môr, as this might give a false impression of the scale of the farm. We will endeavor to prepare some images illustrating the view of the farm and circulate them to the community. It should be noted that the topography of the cliff top and the distance that the houses are set back from the cliff edge will mean that the majority of the houses will not have a view of the farm.

Resident – It is clear that the east side of the bay has been chosen for the seaweed farm because the Penrice Estate has blocked the option of having the farm on the west side of the bay where it could be viewed from the estate and Oxwich beach. Seazou – The selected location of the farm had nothing to do with the Penrice Estate. The east side of the bay was selected for the reasons outlined in the presentation, primarily the proximity to protected marine areas. To the west of Oxwich Point is the Carmarthan Bay and Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
Fishermen – The east of the bay is quite exposed and westerly winds can cause very rough sea conditions. They themselves have experienced instances where their whelk pots have come adrift and washed up on the shore. Also, the location of the farm is adjacent to the knol sand bank which in high seas can have waves breaking over it. Seazou – As noted in the presentation, the seaweed farm will be design by a marine engineering firm for the relevant storm scenarios. In addition, the farm will be monitored by regular inspections and will also be fitted with GPS tracking to monitor unusual movement. Seaweed farms are relatively flexible and are well suited to energetic seas.
Fishermen – If you do not get support of the local fishermen then there is a chance that the seaweed farm infrastructure would be vandalized. Seazou – That warning has been noted.
Resident – You note that there is already an active seaweed farm in Pembrokeshire, so it would be good to understand their current track record and see images on what their farm looks like, which would then inform this consultation. Seazou – Yes, we will share some more information on the <i>Câr-y-Môr seaweed farm</i>.
Resident – Can you go back through the environmental benefits of seaweed farming. Seazou – Seaweed farming is a regenerative farming technique which will benefit the ecology and biodiversity of the water. It is a very efficient carbon sequester with the carbon used by the seaweed to fuel its growth. Further down the chain the seaweed can be used as an organic fertilizer which farmers could then use on their fields in close proximity to the local water courses to de-pollute the water. It can be used as an organic animal feed which then has the added benefit of reducing the methane produced by the animals. The Welsh government are committed to developing the industry as a way of meeting their net zero objectives. It can also be used as an alternative to plastic packaging.
Resident – What are the projected ecological impacts of the seaweed farm? Seazou – Seaweed farming is a regenerative farming technique which will benefit the ecology and biodiversity of the water rather than damage it. There are some environmental risks associated with seaweed farming such as: shading photosynthetic organisms on the seabed, (not an issue here as there are no protected habitats on the seabed, mammal entanglement and damaged equipment washing ashore. The last two risks will be managed through our mammal entanglement protocol and through the operation and maintenance strategy for the farm.
Resident – Can you guarantee that in the event that the yield from the farm is lower than predicted you will not resort to hand harvesting seaweed along the shoreline? Seazou – Yes, we can guarantee that. You need another type of license if you want to commercially hand harvest seaweed.
Resident – What happens if Seazou go bust – who would clear away the farm infrastructure? Seazou – Seazou would set aside an amount of capital, i.e. a bond, to make sure that there was always enough money to dismantle the seaweed farm infrastructure.
Fishermen – Would there be an exclusion zone around the seaweed farm and would you stop people tying up to your moorings. Seazou – In theory the area between the lit marker would an exclusion zone but in practice it would not be possible to police.
Resident – What are the next steps and how will the residents get the outstanding responses to the queries asked, particularly the question around the visual impact of the farm.

Seazou – We will follow up with additional information related to the visual impact of the farm and circulate it within the community. In addition, we will provide an email address for you to contact if you have any further comments or questions.
Resident – Would it be possible to do a follow up consultation with a member of Natural Resources Wales in attendance? Donna Page – This could be possible and in addition it would be good to invite someone from Câr-y-Môr to come down and present the seaweed farm so that the residents can better understand the benefits from an operating seaweed farm.
Resident – You noted that the growing season was from October to May, but what happens with the farm over the summer, which will be the busiest season for the bay. Seazou – After the harvest in May, the growing line and floating buoys will be taken away, cleaned and put into storage. The perimeter buoys connected to the weighted blocks, and the lit marker buoys, will stay in situ.
Resident – If you don't do it will anyone else do it? Seazou – The answer is probably yes as this area has been earmarked in a number of documents as suitable for seaweed aquaculture.
Resident – Are we able to see the application documentation, including the consultation minutes, from the other seaweed farms in Pembrokeshire? Seazou – Yes, this information is available on the NRW's public register.
Resident – Will the anchor weights destroy the seabed? Seazou – The seabed in the location of the farm is sand and does not include any protected ecology. The weighted blocks used to anchor the farm will be formed from reef blocks which will create a manmade reef on the seabed and improve the ecology and the biodiversity of the water.
Resident – What is the harvesting technique? Seazou – The seaweed will be harvested around May time each year, with some of the oarweed crop being allowed to grow slightly later into the summer. The seaweed will be harvested using a vessel fitting with a crane. The crane will hook and lift the seaweed line, ragging them onto the back of the boat. The seaweed will then be cut from the ropes. The crop will then be transported back to Swansea for its onward journey. The total harvest is estimated to be around 60 to 80 tonnes but that will depend on the final configuration of the farm.

Other positive feedback provided after the consultation came from:

- Jay the founder of Earthly Rebels, (<https://earthlyrebels.co.uk/>), an organic skincare company based on the Gower.
'I just wanted to drop a line and say that I hope things are progressing with Seazou (I think it sounds great!), and that if I can do anything to help from this side, please don't hesitate to get in touch.'
- Toby, the owner of Pobbles Pizza in Southgate, (<https://www.pobblespizza.com/>).

The key outputs from the consultation were:

- More work is required to illustrate the visual impact of the seaweed farm to the local community. A visual assessment is now included in the Farm Overview Document.
- Further discussions are required with the relevant fisheries agencies to see whether there is any way that the seaweed farm can operate along side existing fishing activities.
- The local community have some concerns about the environmental impact of the seaweed farm and want to see that there is a commitment to decommissioning the farm if and when the farm stops operating.

Post Meeting Feedback

Email from Sonia and Martin Jones – 11th March

Presentation

It was very difficult to hear you at times, partly because you were looking down to read from your notes. You need to look at and speak to the guys in the back row :))

It would help if you put the key points on the slides and used these as prompts to guide your speech so that you are looking at the audience more.

Being able to look at the key points as we listen would also help to convey their importance to the audience.

Content

We didn't get an initial sense of the potential benefits of the scheme. I think you need to put the 'Big Sell' upfront -

For example, you could have a lead slide highlighting the advantages of the scheme, eg:

We want to develop this farm because it will benefit:

The environment – reduce CO2, reduce the acidity of the sea...

The local community – improved water quality (sewage outfall...

Local fishermen – increase in marine life including fin fish & crustaceans...

You need to convince people that there's something in it for them.

When you spoke about these aspects the supporting science didn't always come across. There's a lot of evidence already that such schemes work so tell us about these, perhaps highlight some statistics (again bullet point them on a slide), quote some research studies / official reports to help convince people it's not just you trying to con us :)

Can you include more photos & diagrams (large enough to see from the back)? They would help to convey what the farm would look like and might allay fears re visual intrusion. Could you obtain some photos from existing farms? It's worth remembering that Gower is an AONB as well as an SSI.

Also, could you get some before & after photos of the impact on the seabed and the surrounding water column to demonstrate the positive impact on the marine life?

Also, there are risks & there will be problems – what steps are you incorporating into your operation to deal with these? What have the other farms experienced? How will your farm, its design & location differ?

Returning to the benefits for the locality, I notice that Car y mor have involved the local schools.

There's tremendous scope here, especially once the farm is operating, for informative talks to various groups re the science & benefits. Car y mor also offer boat trips out to the farm – another potential income source as well as a new & valuable leisure opportunity?

Finally, have you approached the National Trust about the scheme? (they own the cliffs) Their views might be helpful.

Q & A session

Maybe 'chair' this more – so that everyone gets a chance to speak & avoid certain interests dominating?

One last point, your name - Seazou, made us think that you were an overseas company. Maybe something more 'Welsh' would be more appealing to people?

Seazou Response – 15th March

Thank you very much for your feedback. We have taken note of it and will make sure we do a better job of presenting the project and highlighting its benefits in the future. To follow up on some of your feedback:

- Yes, we'll put more information onto the slides. My preference for presenting is to have visually stimulating slides with the information relayed in what is being said. Slides with excessive amounts of text on them can be overwhelming for people. But we appreciate there is a happy medium and some more bullet points with the key facts would help.
- I agree that the 'big sell' should have been clearer. We had put it into the first section of the presentation: the 'Introduction to Seaweed Farming' but if it didn't come across with enough clarity then we'll go back and relook at it.
- There is indeed a lot of evidence out there supporting the environmental benefits of seaweed farming. For your reference you can refer to the following:

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/industries/farmed-seaweed>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001v2w4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UL29ndxcYjg>

https://www.mcsuk.org/news/the-power-and-potential-of-seaweed/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwwMqvBhCtARIsAIXsZpalqhnXhytEQdaUaUNaiiliXQGGonr3ORqghFwZypxlZ4m6GgBi7HMaArhTEALw_wcB

- For the visual impact of the farm, this is definitely an area where we need to provide more information to the local community. So we are already in the process of preparing some visualisations of the seaweed farm from a number of locations along E Cliff Road and W Cliff Road. The farm will inevitably be visible from the cliff top path but we want to try and illustrate that, from the majority of the houses, the farm will not be visible due to the cliff topography and the fact that the houses are generally set back from the cliff top.
- In terms of the risks associated with the farm operations, we will be consulting with other operating farms to make sure we are implementing the best farming methods and that our operations and maintenance strategies help to mitigate and manage the various risks associated with the farming activities.
- We will definitely be exploring some of the additional ways of getting the local community involved in the farm, whether it be through engagement with local schools or organising boat trips to the farm.
- We have not yet spoken to the National Trust, but definitely will do.

Thanks again for your feedback and your interest in the project.

Email from Alan Glass – 13th March

I was at your presentation in Pennard on Saturday, but I was not one of the people that tried to give you a mauling. I live in Oxwich, and am a long-standing Ward Councillor on Penrice Community Council. A fellow councillor is Thomas Methuen-Campbell, owner of Penrice Estate, well known for being very "commercial", but Thomas has good environmental credentials, for which few people give him credit. I have a good working relationship with him, respecting his rights to run a profitable business, but minimising disruption caused to local residents (I am particularly referring to the road into Oxwich on busy sunny days when his beach car-park is causing a tail-back).

Most of my neighbors probably feel much as I do: proud to live in the UK's first AONB, and keen to act as its custodians. I do not particularly want to look out on a grid of buoys, especially if they are flashing lights, but I think we must be prepared for some compromises if we are to play our part in addressing the issue of Global Warming. The concept you are proposing is very exciting in this regard. It will only make a small contribution to the UK's carbon footprint, but every little bit matters, and hopefully it can be replicated in other areas to build up a useful aggregated contribution. Making a business out of something environmentally positive is very laudable, and is what I did for 25 years (helping people live and work in the countryside with polluting its streams and rivers).

It seems to me that the fishermen have grabbed the moral high-ground. They are nomads who have been periodically using whichever part of the bay takes their fancy. The owner of the land

(Crown Estate) may get some revenue from licenses, and will expect them to pay taxes to HMRC on their profits, but you are offering to pay your dues, and for the size of the area involved, it is probably a much better deal for the Crown. The fishermen should expect to make some concessions. I asked if there was any part of the bay they would find acceptable for your farm, and got the glib response "Yes, Swansea Bay". I suspect you would just run up against a different set of fishermen to object, if you followed this advice.

As well as being a Gower Ambassador, a few years ago I was elected Chairman of the Supporters Group for Gower, Wales, and UK for Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay. It still amazes me that the second highest tidal range in the world is not being harnessed to produce electricity predictably and reliably for 14 hours a day!

I am not sure how I can help you get this scheme off the ground, but I wanted to let you know that not everyone in Gower is a NIMBY. If you need a local sounding-board, please let me know. I am sure you will do whatever you can to work with local vested interests and NRW etc., so do not give up on the fight.

Seazou Response – 13th March

Thank you very much for your kind email, and seeing the good in what we are trying to achieve with the seaweed farm. Sustainability is really at the heart of what we are doing.

It was a tough consultation but the comments were not unexpected. We are now focusing on preparing some visualisations of what parts of the farm will be visible from the properties along E Cliff Road and W Cliff Road. The topography of the cliffs means that for the majority of the properties the view of the farm will be obscured by the terrain. However, there will be 3 or 4 properties at the west end of W Cliff Road that will have a direct view of the farm. The big lesson learnt for us from the consultation was that we should have had these images ready to show during the presentation as I'm sure it would have dampened some of the concerns. Once we have the images ready, I will circulate them to as many people as I can. We will of course also work hard to minimise the visual impact of the buoys by limiting their size and number, and please note that it will only be the four special marker buoys that will flash. Below is a picture of Câr-y-Môr's test farm in St Davids, (they are currently in the process of upscaling to a larger scale farm). The image shows the floating buoys supporting the seaweed growing lines and the yellow special markers.



Thank you for your appraisal of the fishermen's comments. The last thing we want to do is get on the wrong side of the fishermen. But there will inevitably have to be some concessions which will hopefully be minimised if we can proactively work together. Another lesson learnt from the consultation was that I wish I'd been more assured when talking about the designation of Swansea Bay. Swansea Bay is designated as a Shellfish Water Protected Area which is an area designated for

the protection of shellfish growth and production. So Swansea Bay is in fact an area designated for shellfish fishing and not seaweed farming!

Thanks again and we will definitely take you up on the offer of being a local sounding board.

4 Appendix B: Pennard Community Council

Zoom meeting with the Pennard Community Council – 18th April 2024, 3.30pm

On the 18th April Seazou Aquaculture, (Guy Macleod and Wross Lawrence), had a zoom meeting with members of the Pennard Community Council. The meeting was hosted by Janet Crocker, the Clerk and RFO of the Pennard Community Council and attended by council members Cari Jones, Rachel Carter and Susan Rodaway.

Seazou Aquaculture gave a presentation of the seaweed farm project. The presentation was similar to the one that was given at the Pennard Community Hall on the 9th March, but updated based on some feedback provided after the original presentation. The presentation now gave more emphasis to the environmental credentials of the project and how the local community would be involved and benefit from the project. It also looked in more detail at the visual impact of the farm.

The key concern highlighted by Cari Jones and Susan Rodaway were of the visual impact of the seaweed farm. They noted that this area of the Gower Peninsular was loved by locals and tourists for having beautiful, unspoilt views. They noted that Three Cliffs Bay in particular was one of the most famous beaches in the UK. Seazou noted that there would indeed be a visual impact from the floating infrastructure, but that this would be mitigated as far as possible through the layout design and the choice of materials. It was noted that the farm would not be significantly visible from the beach at Foxhole but would be more visible from the elevated position of the clifftop path. In terms of Three Cliffs Bay, the visual impact would be limited as the seaweed farm is approximately 2km from the beach and over 2.5km from the elevated position of the Three Cliffs Bay Campsite.

Susan Rodaway also highlighted that the Gower community was a very vocal and active community who would not be afraid of opposing something that they did not believe in. Susan queried why had the farm be positioned in the chosen location. There were lots of other locations that would be more suitable and have less impact to the local community. Seazou noted that the location had been chosen due to the fact the waters within the wider Oxwich Bay were not protected. Water further east towards Swansea Bay are designated as Shellfish Protected Waters and water further west towards Rhosili are designated as a Special Area of Conservation. And importantly, the area has been designated as suitable for seaweed aquaculture by the Welsh Government.

Seazou noted that the infrastructure would be installed in stages with only a third of the lines placed in the water in the first year, which will be the research and proof of concept stage of the project. This phased installation would hopefully minimize the visual impact to the local community. Seazou will make every effort to work with the local community to bring them along the journey together.

Rachel Carter noted that there was currently an issue with ghost fishing tackle being washed ashore and impacting the local wildlife and there was a concern that the seaweed farm would also create debris. Seazou noted that there would be a maintenance and inspection strategy in place that would mitigate the risk of infrastructure coming adrift, and in the unlikely event that something did come loose then there would also be a recovery and repair protocol.

Rachel noted that there were often jet skiers in the summer months using the area of water where the farm was located. Seazou noted that small pleasure vessels such as jet skis had been considered in the navigation risk assessment. For small vessels such as jet skis there was a low risk of becoming entangled as the seaweed growing lines are submerged by 2m. But there would be a risk of the jet skis hitting the floating buoys. This risk had been noted in the navigation risk assessment and had been discussed with the RNLI and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. In addition, the farm would

be lit by four special markers so that it would be visibly to vessels even at night. And finally, the farm would be added to all relevant nautical maps.

Rachel Carter, who is a terrestrial ecologist, was generally in favour of the project but encouraged Seazou to make sure that the benefits to the local community were clearly stated and followed through with.

Cari Jones and Susan Rodaway understood the environmental credentials of the project and the need for these sorts of sustainable, green initiatives to tackle climate change, but they did not think that the Pennard Cliffs was the right place for the farm on the grounds of visual impact.

5 Appendix C: NRW's marine advisory service

The following email outlines the consultation that has been undertaken with the NRW's marine advisory service.

Fwd: FW: seaweed farm query

Wross Lawrence <wrosstheforager@gmail.com>
To: "Cooper, Adam" <Adam.Cooper@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Cc: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Tue, Apr 16, 2024 at 11:46 AM

Hi Adam,

Thank you for the advice. Based on what you have said, I think we can proceed with the application without any further advice from your team. This is on the basis that the two environmental assessments provided in the submission, the Water Framework Directive Assessment (and subsequent impact assessment), and the Biosecurity Plan, have both been undertaken as per the guidance and the templates provided on the Natural Resources Wales website.

Thanks again for your help.....

Best wishes,

Wross

On Thu, 11 Apr 2024, 17:36 Cooper, Adam, <Adam.Cooper@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk> wrote:

Hello Wross

I'm afraid I cant answer your question on what the next best step would be.

What we generally provide pre application advice on is the adequacy of any plans for environmental assessment (whether its on the planned surveys in order to provide information for the assessment, or the method(s) to be used to analyse the data provided by such surveys). Sometimes we can provide advice on whether the applicant has comprehensively scoped their assessment in terms of what receptors and impacts they have included. The value of this to the applicant is that they can be sure that the (often expensive) survey work (and/or analyses and report writing by a consultant) they undertake is using methods we agree with (in principle at least).

We can also provide our opinion (as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body) on mitigation plans.

This all generally only works if the applicant has produced the necessary documents on these plans and has a clear question or questions to ask us.

So it's entirely up to you if you wish to enter into a DAS agreement for further advice before submitting your licence application. I've attached the form you need to fill in if you do want to go down the DAS route (though it may be quicker to send the completed form back to me rather than the email address in the form).

If you like to have a quick chat about what advice we could give before filling in the form please give me a call on the number below (tuesday-friday).

Adam

Adam Cooper

Uwch Gynghorydd Morol / Senior Marine Advisor

Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service

Rhif ffon 03000 653219 / 03000 653219

Dyddiau gweithio dydd Mawrth-dydd Gwener/ Working days Tuesday-Friday

Rhagenwau Fe/e / Pronouns He/Him

 **Logo Dysgu Cymraeg / Learning Welsh Logo**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.

From: Wross Lawrence <wrosstheforager@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:43 PM
To: Cooper, Adam <Adam.Cooper@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: FW: seaweed farm query

You don't often get email from wrosstheforager@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni, atodiadau agored nac sganio codau QR oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Adam,

How are you ? Just following up on my previous email.

Best wishes,

Wross

On Tue, 2 Apr 2024, 14:53 Wross Lawrence, <wrosstheforager@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Adam,

I have now completed all documents and consultations with regard to applying for a marine license to farm seaweed in the oxwich bay area of swansea, with the Navigational Risk Assessment now being reviewed by the MCA.

I wanted to ask what you think the next best step would be ? I would like to proceed with a pre application discussion with NRW followed by subsequent application submission. Please can you let me know your thoughts on this ?

Best wishes,

Wross

Show quoted text

On Wed, 31 Jan 2024, 13:30 Cooper, Adam, <Adam.Cooper@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi Wross

I'm not sure what you mean by the "*consultation phase of the application process*". We (as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body {SNCB} part of NRW) will be consulted by the Marine Licensing Team (a separate part of NRW) when they receive an application. You appear to be still in the pre-application stage?

We (the SNCB) are not able to provide advice on how to fill in the Marine Licensing Application form. marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk may be able to help with this.

What I can do is suggest you look at publicly available Marine Mammal Entanglement Protocols from other projects. While a variety of factors will be different between these projects and your proposal (and so potentially need to be treated differently) these will at least give you an idea of what an Entanglement Protocol looks like.

You can find these on our Public Register 2 projects that I can think of have the Marine licence numbers DEML2041 and DEML2151.

I can also point you to these relevant documents, but these are quite technical:

Mammal Mortality Position Statement

Marine Mammal Management Units in HRA

I would suggest it may be useful for you to engage a consultant to help you produce the necessary documentation.

We recognise the value of pre-application discussion and provide a certain amount free of charge, however we are now at the limit for this application and any further advice would have to be under a Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) agreement, and would be charged at £125 an hour plus VAT. Such a DAS would enable us to review documents and answer specific questions, but we are unable to act as a consultant and produce application documents. Let me know if you would like to set up a DAS.

Please get in touch if you need any clarification on any of this.

Thanks

Adam

Adam Cooper

Uwch Gynghorydd Morol / Senior Marine Advisor

Gwasanaeth Morol / Marine Service

Rhif ffon 03000 653219 / 03000 653219

Dyddiau gweithio dydd Mawrth-dydd Gwener/ Working days Tuesday-Friday

Rhagenwau Fe/e / Pronouns He/Him

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.

Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.

From: Marine Area Advice and Management Team <marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 January 2024 09:15
To: Cooper, Adam <Adam.Cooper@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Cc: Scorey, Alexander <alexander.scorey@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: seaweed farm query

Hi Adam

This came into the inbox,

Alex cc'd you into this as I think that you have had a discussion about this site

Cheers

Rowland

From: Wross Lawrence <wrosstheforager@gmail.com>
Sent: 20 January 2024 15:26
To: Marine Area Advice and Management Team <marine.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: seaweed farm query

Rhybudd: Deilliodd yr e-bost hwn o'r tu allan i'r sefydliad. Peidiwch â chlicio dolenni, atodiadau agored nac sganio codau QR oni bai eich bod yn cydnabod yr anfonwr ac yn gwybod bod y cynnwys yn ddiogel.

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Hi Adam,

Thank you so much for your last email. It has been extremely useful in the putting together of a marine license application.

I am now at the consultation phase of the application process and wanted to ask if you could help with regard to 'marine mammal entanglement protocol'.

The site sits outside of any protected areas of the Swansea bay, as shown on the map you attached in our previous email. I was wondering how this would affect the 'details of any protected site features' document of the application.

I hope that you are well and to hear from you soon.

Best wishes,

Wross

On Fri, 29 Sept 2023, 09:55 Wross Lawrence, <wrosstheforager@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi,

I have been given your email address by Emma Litt from the marine licensing branch of the NRW. She has advised me to contact you with regard to an application for a seaweed farm in Wales. Ideally I would like the farm situated a mile or so out from the oxwich and three cliffs bay area of the gower peninsula in Swansea. I would like it to be 30 lines of 100 meters in length each, equaling 0.3 hectares in total. Could you please advise on whether this would be a suitable area for the farm or if you think there may be a better position for it ?

I hope that you are well and to hear from you soon.

Best wishes,

Wross

6 Appendix D: Trinity House

The following email outlines the consultation that has been undertaken with Trinity House.

Navigational Risk Assessment

Catherine Bransby <Catherine.Bransby@trinityhouse.co.uk>
To: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Thu, Feb 15, 2024 at 4:06 PM

Good afternoon Guy,

Apologies for the delay in response.

As it appears that the southern boundary is rather close to the electricity cable, could you confirm this distance? The proximity would need to be agreed with the operator of the cable but we would expect this to be at least 200m.

Regarding marking requirements, we would likely be recommending four lit special marks. However, we will be able to finalise the marking requirements once we have received the full application through NRW.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Catherine Bransby

Navigation Requirements Advisor | Navigation | Trinity House

e: catherine.bransby@trinityhouse.co.uk | t: 0207481 6920 m: 0787578357

www.trinityhouse.co.uk



TRINITY HOUSE

From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 1:29 PM
To: Catherine Bransby <Catherine.Bransby@trinityhouse.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Navigational Risk Assessment

Hi Catherine,

Please find attached some location plans and a set of draft functional layouts for our proposed seaweed farm off the south coast of the Gower Peninsular. Please can you review and advise on a suitable marking layout for the farm.

Thanks,

Guy

On Tue, Jan 16, 2024 at 9:11 AM Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com> wrote:

Hi Catherine,

That's great. As soon as I know when the information will be ready I will let you know the timeline and then when it is ready I'll send it across to you.

Thanks,

Guy

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 4:00 PM Catherine Bransby <Catherine.Bransby@trinityhouse.co.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon Guy,

We would be happy to advise on the marking layout for the farm. Please send over the diagrams and any other information you think is useful and we will assess the marking requirements.

Many thanks.

Kind regards,

Catherine Bransby

Navigation Requirements Advisor | Navigation | Trinity House

e: catherine.bransby@trinityhouse.co.uk | t: 0207481 6920 m: 0787578357

www.trinityhouse.co.uk



From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 3:05 PM
To: Catherine Bransby <Catherine.Bransby@trinityhouse.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Navigational Risk Assessment

Hi Catherine,

Thanks for getting back to me. I spoke to the Marine and Coastguard Agency today and they have given me some great guidance on how to complete a Navigational Risk Assessment. I will definitely send you a copy of it once it is complete for you to review.

The MCA noted that Trinity House would be able to advise on a suitable marker buoy layout for the farm. Is this something you can help with? If so, I will send you the farm functional diagrams for you to review and then hopefully we can develop a compliant and safe marker buoy layout.

Thanks,

Guy

On Wed, Jan 10, 2024 at 2:49 PM Catherine Bransby <Catherine.Bransby@trinityhouse.co.uk> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Thank you for getting in touch. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency should be able to advise you on the requirements of the Navigational Risk Assessment. Once completed we will be happy to review and advise as necessary.

Kind regards,

Catherine Bransby

Navigation Requirements Advisor | Navigation | Trinity House

e: catherine.bransby@trinityhouse.co.uk | t: 0207481 6920 m: 0787578357

www.trinityhouse.co.uk



From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:57 PM
To: Navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk; Navigation <navigation.directorate@trinityhouse.co.uk>
Subject: Navigational Risk Assessment

Hello,

I am currently putting together a marine license application for a 10-hectare seaweed farm in Oxwich Bay, south of Southgate in the Gower Peninsula. Part of the application process is to prepare a Navigational Risk Assessment and the advice from Natural Resources Wales is to contact the [Maritime and Coastguard Agency](#) and [Trinity House](#) to help with this.

The proposed location for the seaweed farm is shown in the attached image.

Please can you review and confirm what other information you require and what the next steps would be.

Thanks,

Guy

7 Appendix E: Maritime and Coastguard Agency

The following email outlines the consultation that has been undertaken with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Navigational Risk Assessment

Sam Chudley <Sam.Chudley@mcga.gov.uk>
To: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Tue, Apr 16, 2024 at 11:32 AM

Dear Guy,

Thank you for the email and sorry for the delay. My team has reviewed your NRA and has added comments (see attached). I am happy to talk through them with you I am free Thursday and Friday for a quick team meeting if required. Please let me know if you want the meeting with your availability then I will make the appointment.

Kind Regards

Sam Chudley

Marine Licence Advisor

+44 (0) 7553 637057

Marine Licensing and Consenting

UK Technical Services Navigation

Sam.Chudley@mcga.gov.uk



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Maritime & Coastguard Agency

Bay 2/25, Spring Place

105 Commercial Road,

[Southampton SO15 1EG](https://www.gov.uk/mca)



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www.gov.uk/mca

From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 9:48 AM

To: navigation safety <navigationssafety@mcga.gov.uk>; Sam Chudley <Sam.Chudley@mcga.gov.uk>

Cc: wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Navigational Risk Assessment

Good morning Sam,

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the UK Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Please use the Report Message function to report suspicious messages.

Just checking on how you and your colleagues are getting on with the review of our Navigational Risk Assessment. Do you have a date when you think you can get the comments back to me. We are hoping to get our marine license application wrapped up and submitted this week.

Thanks,

Guy

On Wed, Apr 3, 2024 at 4:23 PM Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com> wrote:

Thanks Sam. I look forward to seeing the comments.

Guy

On Thu, Mar 28, 2024 at 2:26 PM navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Guy,

Thank you for the email. I have reviewed the NRA and have ask my colleagues for their comments, but they are on leave next week. I will try to get you the MCA comments when I can.

Kind Regards

Sam Chudley

Marine Licence Advisor

+44 (0) 7553 637057

Marine Licensing and Consenting

UK Technical Services Navigation

Sam.Chudley@mcga.gov.uk



Maritime & Coastguard Agency

Bay 2/25, Spring Place

105 Commercial Road,

Southampton SO15 1EG



From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:20 PM
To: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>; Sam Chudley <Sam.Chudley@mcga.gov.uk>
Cc: wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Navigational Risk Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the UK Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Please use the Report Message function to report suspicious messages.

Hi Sam,

I hope you are well. As discussed back in January, please find attached the draft navigational risk assessment for the Seazou Seaweed Farm in Oxwich Bay off the south coast of the Gower Peninsular. Please review and let me know if you have any comments or queries, or whether you think any section within the report needs to be developed further at this stage.

Perhaps once you have had a chance to review the document we could have another meeting to go through your thoughts.

Thanks,

Guy

On Tue, Jan 9, 2024 at 10:21 AM Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com> wrote:

Hi Sam,

1pm tomorrow works well for me. See you then.

Guy

On Tue, Jan 9, 2024 at 8:50 AM navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Guy,

Thank you for the email, Happy New Year. I am free on Wednesday all day. I will set up a team meeting for 1300 to allow some of my team to join if required. If this doesn't work, can you let me know?

Kind Regards

Sam Chudley

Marine Licence Advisor

+44 (0) 7553 637057

Marine Licensing and Consenting

UK Technical Services Navigation

Sam.Chudley@mca.gov.uk



Maritime & Coastguard Agency

Bay 2/25, Spring Place

105 Commercial Road,

Southampton SO15 1EG



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From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 5, 2024 2:31 PM

To: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mca.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Navigational Risk Assessment

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Hi Sam,

First of all, Happy New Year. I hope you have had a great Christmas break.

Let me know when would be best for our call to discuss the navigational risk assessment next week. I'm pretty much free Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week.

Thanks,

Guy

On Fri, Dec 22, 2023 at 1:02 PM navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Guy,

I am on leave until the 8th I am happy to discuss then.

Kind Regards

Sam Chudley

Marine Licence Advisor

+44 (0) 7553 637057

Marine Licensing and Consenting

UK Technical Services Navigation

Sam.Chudley@mcga.gov.uk




Maritime &
Coastguard
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From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 11:52 AM

To: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Navigational Risk Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the UK Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Please use the Report Message function to report suspicious messages.

Hi Sam,

Thanks for getting back to me. I'm not available today or on fact until after Christmas now, so can plan to meet in the new year, perhaps on the 3rd of January.

Guy

On Fri, 22 Dec 2023, 11:12 navigation safety, <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Guy,

Thank you for the email, are you free this afternoon for a quick chat? You can phone my number below or we can set up a team meeting for 2-3pm today?

Kind Regards

Sam Chudley

Marine Licence Advisor

+44 (0) 7553 637057

Marine Licensing and Consenting

UK Technical Services Navigation

Sam.Chudley@mcga.gov.uk

Maritime & Coastguard Agency

Bay 2/25, Spring Place

105 Commercial Road,

Southampton SO15 1EG

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From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 3:23 PM

To: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Navigational Risk Assessment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the UK Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Please use the Report Message function to report suspicious messages.

Hi Sam,

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly and providing the details of what you would expect to see from a navigational risk assessment. In your experience would you expect the assessment to be done by the individual preparing the license or by a specialist subcontractor, experienced in producing such reports. If it's the latter do you know any suitable companies that could engage with to prepare the desk study and assessment?

Also, what is the best way of getting access to the 2022 AIS data? Is it to send an MoU data request form via the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website?

Thanks,

Guy

On Tue, Dec 19, 2023 at 11:41 AM navigation safety <navigationsafety@mca.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Guy,

Thank you for the email. The MCA would expect the applicant to provide consideration and assessment of the risk to shipping and navigation through a proportionate Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA), to ensure the risk to navigation is reduced to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP). For small-scale development such as this we would expect at the following to be least to be included in the NRA:

- Project details
- The existing traffic baseline - AIS data ideally 2022 data + and desk top study with consultation (RYA, Trinity house and others as appropriate) to ensure recreational, fishing and commercial vessels are considered.
- Hazard log – listing the hazards caused or changed by the introduction of the seaweed farm and its associated equipment;
- A qualitative assessment on the risks associated with the hazards
- a risk control list including the risks, the risk mitigation measures, and the residual risk after applying suitable risk control measures.
- the tolerability of the residual risk and

- An ALARP declaration should then be stated.
- Search and Rescue overview including layout and access for service craft or emergency response vessels. This includes confirmation of the applicant's ability to self-rescue and the availability of the standby vessel for use in an emergency.
- The emergency response arrangements should be detailed in the Marine Emergency Action Card and be agreed with HM Coastguard in advance.
- Monitoring arrangements for the site and response times should any component break free.
- Marking and Lighting arrangements should be discussed and agreed with Trinity house.
- The MCA then has to make a decision on whether any claims that 'the risks associated with the site are 'Tolerable' on the basis of "As Low As Reasonably Practicable" (ALARP)' are acceptable.

A copy of the risk assessment methodology document can be found at the following link https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/981718/MGN_654_Annex_1_NRA_Methodology_2021.pdf

. Although written for the offshore renewables industry, the principles can be applied to any works in the marine environment. This document will explain proportionality and what we would expect from the Hazard Log and a risk control log.

2) The MCA would need to see consideration of local traffic in the area through a desk top study of AIS data and through local consultation with interested parties on the site selection, before we would be content that the risk to navigation can be considered low on this occasion.

3) We would expect the NRA to consider the monitoring and maintenance of the site, including the frequency, and response times should any problems arise with components breaking free. It should also detail the decommissioning arrangements once the site has reached the end of its operational lifespan.

Kind Regards

Sam Chudley

Marine Licence Advisor

+44 (0) 7553 637057

Marine Licensing and Consenting

UK Technical Services Navigation

Sam.Chudley@mcga.gov.uk

Maritime & Coastguard Agency

Bay 2/25, Spring Place

105 Commercial Road,

Southampton SO15 1EG

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From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:57 PM

To: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>; Navigation.Director@thls.org

Subject: Navigational Risk Assessment

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Hello,

I am currently putting together a marine license application for a 10-hectare seaweed farm in Oxwich Bay, south of Southgate in the Gower Peninsula. Part of the application process is to prepare a Navigational Risk Assessment and the advice from Natural Resources Wales is to contact the [Maritime and Coastguard Agency](#) and [Trinity House](#) to help with this.

The proposed location for the seaweed farm is shown in the attached image.

Please can you review and confirm what other information you require and what the next steps would be.

Thanks,

Guy

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Seazou Seaweed_NRA_Final with MCA Comments.pdf

2561K

8 Appendix F: RNLI The Mumbles Life Boat Station

On Friday 23rd February 2024, a discussion was held with Mr Josh Stewart, the coxswain at the Mumbles Lifeboat Station. The following email outlines the details of the discussion.



Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Fwd: Seaweed Farm Proposal

The Mumbles Lifeboat Station <The-Mumbles@rnli.org.uk>
To: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Mon, Mar 4, 2024 at 1:23 PM

Hi Guy

Sounds all good to me, best of luck with the application.

Regards

Josh Stewart

From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:42 AM
To: The Mumbles Lifeboat Station <The-Mumbles@rnli.org.uk>
Cc: Stephen Knight <s305766k@yahoo.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Seaweed Farm Proposal

You don't often get email from gwamacleod@googlemail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Josh,

Thanks again for the discussion we had 2 weeks ago and apologies for being so slow in sending the summary of what was discussed.....it was a busy week last week with the Pembrokeshire Aquaculture Conference. Below is the summary. Please review and let me know if you have any comments or if you would like to add anything to the discussion:

Seazou Seaweed Farm - Oxwich Bay - Consultation with the Mumbles RNLI Lifeboat Station - Josh Stewart (Coxswain)

- In general, there were no significant concerns with the location and/or arrangement of the seaweed farm.
- Josh confirmed the understanding that it would mainly be pleasure vessels using the water in the vicinity of the seaweed farm, with larger vessels using routes further out to sea.
- The pleasure vessels would typically be transiting between Swansea or Mumbles and the beaches at Oxwich Bay.
- Josh confirmed that the 800m distance between the shoreline and the seaweed farm would be sufficient for vessels who were transiting along the coast, and for those vessels transiting between Pwlldu Head and Oxwich Point, as long as the farm has sufficient visible markers, vessels would be able to make a small adjustment to their route in order to avoid the farm.
- Guy informed Josh that Seazou were in discussions with Trinity House with regards to suitable visible markers and the current proposal was to have 4 lit special markers, one at each corner of the farm. This arrangement would be confirmed once Trinity House had reviewed the marine licence application.
- Josh also noted that we should speak with the local fishing clubs to see whether any local fishermen used the area.
- Josh noted that there were significant tides and currents in the area and that this would need to be taken into consideration in the design of the farm infrastructure.
- Guy noted that the seaweed farm would not be an impenetrable barrier and the risk of collision or entanglement of any smaller vessels and the farm infrastructure would be low as the marker buoys would be spaced at around 25m and the horizontal longlines growing the seaweed would be submerged 2m below the surface of the water.
- Josh noted that once the farm had been installed, complete with the recommended markers, and the local navigational charts had been updated, then it was the responsibility of the vessels themselves to avoid the seaweed farm.
- Guy took Josh through the operation and maintenance regime for the farm and he had no concerns. It was noted that the farm would be provided with GPS tracking and that any unusual movement would trigger a visual inspection in addition to the regular inspections.

Thanks again for taking the time to talk to me. Your input is greatly appreciated. As discussed, this summary will be used in the marine license application as proof of the consultation.

All the best.

Guy

On Fri, Feb 23, 2024 at 11:27 AM Stephen Knight <s305766k@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Hi Guy,

Inshore Station number is 01792 361268

Sandra

Sent from my iPad

On 23 Feb 2024, at 10:14, Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com> wrote:

Hi Josh,

I just tried to call but the number you have provided in your email is not recognised. I think it's missing a number. The number you gave is 0179236268. Please can you double check. Otherwise you could give me a call this morning, if you're available, on 07790961658.

Thanks,

Guy

On Thu, Feb 22, 2024 at 2:32 PM Stephen Knight <s305766k@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: The Mumbles Lifeboat Station <The-Mumbles@rnli.org.uk>
Date: 22 February 2024 at 13:43:46 GMT
To: Stephen Knight <s305766k@yahoo.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Seaweed Farm Proposal

Afternoon Guy

I'm happy to discuss with you proposed seaweed farm location and impact on water users from my prospective of lifeboat coxswain.

Station number Is 0179236268 feel free to call

Josh Stewart (Coxswain)

From: Stephen Knight <s305766k@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 10:54 AM
To: The Mumbles Lifeboat Station <The-Mumbles@rnli.org.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Seaweed Farm Proposal

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@gmail.com>
Date: 20 February 2024 at 18:37:52 GMT
To: s305766k@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Seaweed Farm Proposal

Hi,

My name is Guy Macleod and I am in the process of putting together a marine license application for a seaweed farm off the coast of the Gower Peninsula south of Southgate. Part of the process is to consult with local stakeholders to discuss the proposals and to answer any queries or concerns. So please can you let me know who at the Mumbles Lifeboat Station would be best to talk to.

In addition, part of the application process is to do a navigational risk assessment of the seaweed farm proposal. To do this effectively, we need a good understanding of what vessels use the area. For larger vessels I can look at the relevant AIS data, but for smaller vessels I am enquiring with the local sailing clubs. But I also thought the local lifeboat stations would have a good idea of who currently uses the water in the vicinity of the farm. So any advice on this subject would also be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Guy



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9 Appendix G: Swansea Marina

Mchael Bond, the assistant manager of Swansea Marina circulated a slide deck outlining the seaweed farm project to the marina users mailing list on the 2nd March. The users were asked to send any comments or queries directly to Seazou Aquaculture. The following schedule outline the discussions that took place with the Swansea Marina users.

Consultation Record

	Company	In person / Online	Date	Comments (1)	Received	Response (1)	Sent	Comments (2)	Received	Response (2)	Sent
Josh Stewart (Coxswain)	RNLi	Telephone conversation	23/02/2024	n/a	n/a	Summary of discussion: - In general, there were no significant concerns with the location and/or arrangement of the seaweed farm. - Josh confirmed the understanding that it would mainly be pleasure vessels using the water in the vicinity of the seaweed farm, with larger vessels using routes further out to sea. - The pleasure vessels would typically be transiting between Swansea or Mumbles and the beaches at Owich Bay. - Josh confirmed that the 800m distance between the shoreline and the seaweed farm would be sufficient for vessels who were transiting along the coast, and for those vessels transiting between Pwlldu Head and Owich Point, as long as the farm has sufficient visible markers, vessels would be able to make a small adjustment to their route in order to avoid the farm. - Guy informed Josh that Seazou were in discussions with Trinity House with regards to suitable visible markers and the current proposal was to have 4 lit special markers, one at each corner of the farm. This arrangement would be confirmed once Trinity House had reviewed the marine licence application. - Josh also noted that we should speak with the local fishing clubs to see whether any local fishermen used the area. - Josh noted that there were significant tides and currents in the area and that this would need to be taken into consideration in the design of the farm infrastructure. - Guy noted that the seaweed farm would not be an impenetrable barrier and the risk of collision or entanglement of any smaller vessels and the farm infrastructure would be low as the marker buoys would be spaced at around 25m and the horizontal longlines growing the seaweed would be submerged 2m below the surface of the water. - Josh noted that once the farm had been installed, complete with the recommended markers, and the local navigational charts had been updated, then it was the responsibility of the vessels themselves to avoid the seaweed farm. - Guy took Josh through the operation and maintenance regime for the farm and he had no concerns. It was noted that the farm would be provided with GPS tracking and that any unusual movement would trigger a visual inspection in addition to the regular inspections.	04/03/2024				
George Pettifore (Commodore) Christine Batterley (Secretary) 2 x committee members	Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club	In person meeting	29/02/2024	n/a	n/a	Summary of discussion: - In general, the representatives present at the meeting did not have any significant issues with the proposed seaweed farm. - The Commodore's primary concern was that the farm would need to have lit, visible markers to alert any vessels travelling at night to the size and location of the farm. He noted that typically vessels travelling along the coast would traverse Owich Bay travelling from Pwlldu Head and Owich Point. They would therefore need to adjust their course slightly to avoid the farm. - We informed the representatives that we were in discussions with Trinity House with regard to suitable visible markers and the current proposal was to have 4 lit special markers, one at each corner of the farm. This arrangement would be confirmed once Trinity House had reviewed the marine licence application. - One of the committee members queried who was behind the proposal and what the maximum size of the farm would be. We informed him that this was a self-funded, private venture and that the size of the farm would not exceed the 25hectare (500m x 500m) plot as defined in the marine licence application. - We informed the representatives that the farm would be installed, operated and maintained using a vessel berthed in Swansea Marina. We outlined the typical operational cycle of the farm with the seeded ropes being placed in October/ November and the seaweed harvest being done in May/ June. It was noted that the eventual yield from the farm would around 50 to 60 tonnes. The seaweed would be harvested over a couple of weeks with all operations and transport some through Swansea Marina. One of the committee members noted that there would be some impact on the local road network and it was therefore very important for the local council to be aware and in favour of the project.	TBD				
Philip Garvey	Mumbles Motor Boat & Fishing Club	Email circulation via the Swansea Marina	n/a	I have read your proposal. 1. Can you provide images of what the site will look like when completed. 2. How large will be the no go area in terms of fishing and pleasure boats. 3. Will the construction be from land or by sea. I am asking on behalf of Mumbles Motor Boat & Fishing Club. (MMBFC)	02/03/2024	Thank you for taking the time to review the seaweed farm proposal and responding to the consultation. My name is Guy Macleod and together with my brother in law Wross Lawrence we are Seazou Aquaculture Ltd and have put together the proposal for the seaweed farm in Owich Bay. The answers to your questions are as follows: 1. Please see attached an image of the site showing the seaweed lines. The seaweed lines will be arranged in three banks of 20x 100m long lines. 2. The overall area of the licensed farm will be 500m500m (25 hectares). The farm will be marked by 4 special lit markers, one at each corner, and relevant nautical charts will be updated to show the farm's location. The farm will have no further constraints beyond the 25 hectare area. 3. The construction will be done by sea using a vessel out of Swansea Marina.	05/03/2024	Thanks Guy. It all seems good to me. One remaining question? How is the seaweed collected how often and where is it taken? I think that's 3 questions.	06/03/2024	The seeded lines will be placed in the water in October/ November. It will then be harvested in May/ June. Harvesting will be done by lifting the lines onto a vessel, one by one, and then cutting the seaweed by hand. The seaweed will then be taken to Swansea Marina to be loaded onto trucks. Installation, operation and maintenance of the farm will be done via a vessel out of Swansea Marina. Hopefully that answers your questions, but please don't hesitate to email again if you have any further questions.	06/03/2024
Chris Williams	n/a	Email circulation via the Swansea Marina	n/a	I would like to state my interest in this matter and be advised of all developments, announcements, presentations or any opportunity to state any possible concerns in regard of this proposal. I am a leisure boat user, based at Swansea Marina and regularly fish this area.	02/03/2024	Thank you for taking the time to review the seaweed farm proposal and responding to the consultation. My name is Guy Macleod and together with my brother in law Wross Lawrence we are Seazou Aquaculture Ltd and have put together the proposal for the seaweed farm in Owich Bay. Your interest in the project has been noted. We will be doing a public consultation this coming Saturday at the Pennard Community Hall from 2pm, see attached poster. If you are available to come to that then we could discuss any concerns you have in person. We are committed to making sure all concerns are noted and where possible taken into account in the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the farm.	05/03/2024				
Howard Blackwell	Shoreline Management	Email circulation via the Swansea Marina	n/a	With regard to the consultation in relation to the aquaculture proposals at Owich, I write object to the proposal. Owich bay is the most important and favourite destination for the boating fraternity of Swansea marina and used by passing/ visiting yachts. I would not be in favour of any obstruction or navigation restriction in and around Owich Bay. Tide, wind, coastal features and bathymetry makes navigating around the shores of the Gower difficult at times without further challenges in this prime destination area being introduced. The proposal would, in my view, be particularly problematic for sailing vessels and I wish to register my objection to the proposed scheme. Would be grateful if you could register this objection and keep me informed.	03/04/2024	Thank you for taking the time to review the seaweed farm proposal and responding to the consultation. My name is Guy Macleod and together with my brother in law Wross Lawrence we are Seazou Aquaculture Ltd and have put together the proposal for the seaweed farm in Owich Bay. Your response has been noted and will be included in the record of consultation submitted as part of the marine licence application. We are committed to making sure all concerns are noted and where possible taken into account the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the farm. We understand your concern that the farm will create an obstruction or navigation restriction and we have managed that risk in the development of the proposal in the following ways: 1. We have located the farm 800m off the low water mark of the shoreline below Southgate. This allows sufficient space for vessels who are navigating around the coastline to pass between the shore and the farm. 2. We have positioned the farm as far as possible away from the direct line between Pwlldu Head and Owich Point to avoid the route that vessels use when traversing the bay. This is a challenge but we are managing any residual risk through item 3 below. 3. We have been in consultation with Trinity House and they have advised that the farm should include 4 lit special markers, one at either corner. This will ensure that the farm is visible even at night. In addition, relevant nautical charts will be updated with the farm's location. We have also consulted with the RNLi at the Mumbles Lifeboat Station and the Commodore of the Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club. In general they were both happy with the proposal, but also noted the need to make sure the farm was always visible. We will be doing a public consultation this coming Saturday at the Pennard Community Hall from 2pm, see attached poster. If you are available it would be great to have the opportunity to discuss your concerns in person.	05/03/2024				
Thomas Methuen-Campbell	Penrice Estate	Email	n/a	As the owners of Owich beach and part of the bay, we are somewhat surprised that we have not been consulted over the proposed seaweed farm. We have only heard about it on the off chance from a third party. Please can you ask Seazou to consult with us and provide further information? In particular we would like to know: - Will anything be visible above the sea level? - What process they would go through to harvest and manage the seaweed? - What ecological and marine issues may arise from the seaweed farm? What studies have been commissioned in this regard?	04/03/2024	Thank you for getting in touch. Apologies for not contacting you directly. We would indeed like to consult with Penrice Estate with regards to the seaweed farm proposal. We are committed to making sure all concerns are noted and where possible taken into account the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the farm. My name is Guy Macleod and together with my brother in law Wross Lawrence we are Seazou Aquaculture Ltd and have put together the proposal for the seaweed farm in Owich Bay. Attached is a presentation outlining the project. We will be doing a public consultation this coming Saturday at the Pennard Community Hall from 2pm, as per the attached poster, and it would be great if you were available to attend so we could discuss the project in person. Alternatively we would be happy to visit the Penrice Estate for a separate discussion. As you can see from the location maps, the seaweed farm is located to the east of Owich Bay off the coastline below Southgate, approximately 2km from the eastern end of Owich Beach and 4km from the western end. The answers to your queries are as follows: 1. Yes, a grid of floating buoys will be visible above the water. The seaweed lines themselves will be suspended 2m below the surface. You can see the farm infrastructure on Slides 13 and 14 of the presentation. 2. The seeded ropes will be placed in the water in October / November and the seaweed will be harvested in May / June. For the harvest, the lines will be lifted onto the back of the harvesting vessel and the seaweed is cut from the lines by hand, see image below. Installation, operation and maintenance of the farm will be done using a vessel out of Swansea Marina. We will not be using the slipway at Owich Beach. 3. Seaweed farming is a regenerative farming technique with the farm benefitting the marine environment and increasing biodiversity. Even so, as part of the marine application process, we have prepared the following documents: - A Water Framework Directive assessment. The aim of this assessment is to demonstrate that the project will not cause 'deterioration in the water body'. The farm is located in the Bristol Channel North water body which currently has a water body status of 'moderate'. - A Basecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan. This document allows the marine operator to understand and minimise the risk of introducing non-native species (NNS). - A Protected Site Features report. This report illustrates the proximity of the project to the various Marine Protected Areas. The farm has been located to avoid impacting protected areas. - A Mammal Entanglement Protocol report which sets out a plan for monitoring the site, to record sightings of protected species, and an adaptive management plan, which outlines what to do in the event of an entanglement and how to adapt practices to mitigate future entanglements. Please let me know if you have any further questions.	05/03/2024				
Jo	About Wild Wales	Email circulation via the Swansea Marina	n/a	Hi Could you send me some information about the project? Many thanks Jo	04/03/2024	Info sent. Waiting for a response.					
Robin Vaughan	Cambrian Boats	Email circulation via the Swansea Marina	n/a	Sounds like a good idea.	04/04/2024	n/a					
Neale Griffiths	n/a	Email circulation via the Swansea Marina	n/a	Best of luck. I've recently been informed that you propose to farm seaweed east end of Owich bay off Three Cliffs area. Having studied the map location, this area is frequently fished by recreational and commercial bass fishermen using rod and line tactics. Often the method of fishing is drifting in close proximity to the proposed location which would make it hazardous. This is a very busy area during the summer months. Also, recreational fishermen frequent this area and fish at anchor for tope and other species. Large fish and or boats anchored in strong tides near this proposed site is also extremely dangerous.	04/04/2024	Thank you for taking the time to review the seaweed farm proposal and responding to the consultation. My name is Guy Macleod and together with my brother in law Wross Lawrence we are Seazou Aquaculture Ltd and have put together the proposal for the seaweed farm in Owich Bay. Your concerns have been noted and will be included in the record of consultation submitted as part of the marine licence application. We are committed to making sure all concerns are noted and where possible taken into account the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the farm. We know that there will be some impact to the use of Owich Bay and some restrictions introduced to where you can fish. We are managing this impact by: - Limiting the size of the farm to 25 hectares (500m500m). - Locating the farm 800m off the low water mark of the shoreline below Southgate, which would allow vessel access between the shoreline and the farm. Seaweed farming is a regenerative farming technique. The seaweed will act as an underwater forest that absorbs carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus, (making it a valuable tool to fight climate change), and as a water purifier. It will also create new habitats for a diversity of marine life. We hope to be able to illustrate that the farm increases fish stocks and biodiversity within the bay which would hopefully benefit fishing activities. We would like the opportunity to discuss the farm layout with you to see if there is any other way we can address your concerns. It is worth noting that the floating buoys are the only parts of the farm that are at the water surface. These will be spaced at around 25m centres. The growing lines themselves will be suspended 2 to 2.5m below the water surface. So, in the event that a smaller vessel drifts into the farm then the risk is one of collision with the floating buoys as opposed to entanglement with the seaweed lines. We have been in consultation with Trinity House and they have advised that the farm should include 4 lit special markers, one at either corner. This will ensure that the farm is visible even at night. In addition, relevant nautical charts will be updated with the farm's location. We have also been in consultation with the RNLi at the Mumbles Lifeboat Station and the Commodore of the Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club. In general they were both happy with the proposal, but also noted the need to make sure the farm was always visible. Finally, we have also been in consultation with Barry Thomas the SWWFC Director, and he confirmed that the project would not impact trawler fishermen. Please review our response and let me know if you have any further questions. I would be happy to organise a call with you if you think that would be beneficial.	05/03/2024				
Michael Davis	n/a	Email circulation via the Swansea Marina	n/a	As a regular boat angler in the area how will affect the seabed and will there be any restriction on angling in the area? If so I would have to appose the proposal.	04/03/2024	Thank you for taking the time to review the seaweed farm proposal and responding to the consultation. My name is Guy Macleod and together with my brother in law Wross Lawrence we are Seazou Aquaculture Ltd and have put together the proposal for the seaweed farm in Owich Bay. The impact to the seabed will be minimal. The seaweed farm will be anchored to the seabed using weighted blocks. These blocks will be specified as reef cube type blocks, https://arcmarine.co.uk/products/reef-cube/ , which are scientifically proven to enhance marine biodiversity. We know that there will be some impact to the use of Owich Bay and some restrictions introduced to where you can fish. We have tried to manage the impact of the farm by: - Limiting the size of the farm to 25 hectares (500m500m). - Locating the farm 800m off the low water mark of the shoreline below Southgate, which would allow vessel access between the shoreline and the farm. Seaweed farming is a regenerative farming technique. The seaweed will act as an underwater forest that absorbs carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus, (making it a valuable tool to fight climate change), and as a water purifier. It will also create new habitats for a diversity of marine life. We hope to be able to illustrate that the farm increases fish stocks and biodiversity within the bay which would hopefully benefit fishing activities. Let me know if you have any further questions.	05/03/2024	Thank you for replying. I can see on the map that the proposed site is very near a favorite fishing mark, i.e. the sand bank and ridge called knol which is a sand bank.	06/03/2024	Thanks for your email and continued dialogue. We want to work together with people who know the area, such as yourself, to make sure we minimise the impact of the farm as far as reasonably possible. There are many constraints that have to be taken into account in locating the farm, including but not limited: proximity to protected marine areas, marine traffic routes, submerged cables and fishing areas. Please could you therefore mark up on the map the location and extent of the fishing area around the sand bank. We could then see whether it would be possible to make a small adjustment to the location of the farm in order to maintain the fishing area. Thanks. Your input to this process is greatly appreciated.	07/03/2024

Richard Tierman	n/a	Email circulation via the Swansea Marina	n/a	As a berth holder at Swansea Marina and a regular visitor to Owchik Bay is there a possibility that you could provide visitor mooring buoys to prevent accidental damage to your proposed Seweed Farm?	05/03/2024	Thank you for taking the time to review the seaweed farm proposal and responding to the consultation. My name is Guy Macleod and together with my brother in law Wross Lawrence we are Seazoo Aquaculture Ltd and have put together the proposal for the seaweed farm in Owchik Bay. This is a very good suggestion. It has been noted and will be taken into consideration as the detailed design of the farm develops.	05/03/2024				
Andrew Jenkins	n/a	Email circulation via the Swansea Marina	n/a	Thanks very much for the information on the proposed seaweed farm at Owchik/Pwllidi Point. Can I please ask some questions: 1. Will it be fitted with an AIS target system to avoid boat collisions? 2. Will it be visible for either Three Cliffs Bay or Owchik Bay?	05/03/2024	Thank you for taking the time to review the seaweed farm proposal and responding to the consultation. My name is Guy Macleod and together with my brother in law Wross Lawrence we are Seazoo Aquaculture Ltd and have put together the proposal for the seaweed farm in Owchik Bay. The answers to your queries are as follows: 1. No, we do not intend to fit an AIS target system to the farm. However to mitigate the risk of vessel collision, the farm will include 4 ft special markers and the farm will be added to updates of the relevant nautical charts. This strategy has been discussed and agreed with Trinity House. As part of the marine license application a navigational risk assessment has also been undertaken. Within the assessment there is a study of the AIS data for the area. This has informed the positioning of the seaweed farm and the farm has been located in order to avoid the primary vessel routes in the area. 2. Yes. The seaweed farm will include a grid of floating buoys. As such, the farm will be visible from Three Cliffs Bay and Owchik Bay, particularly from the cliff top footpath. Less so from the beaches. Please let me know if you have any further questions.	05/03/2024	Thanks very much for the response. I sail this area frequently, anchoring in the bay regularly throughout the Spring and Summer and have close friends that fish the area. My biggest concerns are for the sustainability impact to the natural balance we have now. The area has recently been affected by overfishing from European fishing fleets, now removed due to Brexit, but is already showing signs of recovery. I read with interest the Atkins report on the area in the proposal. It seems to be missing some relevant information: The bay has witnessed spawning of Moon Jellyfish in recent years. The area supports seasonal grounds for a number of species including sand eels, mackerel, sea bream, bass, pollack as well as a very healthy population of spider crab, edible crab, numerous star fish and other crustaceans. There are a number of healthy pods of Common Dolphin resident in the area that take advantage of the vast numbers of mackerel and other fish available. Your report correctly states that bottlenose dolphins are not commonly seen in the area but does not mention the Common Dolphin species. Alpine blooms are commonly seen in the bay. The blue and green luminous water have become quite the tourist attraction. Tidal gatherings of fish can be witnessed to the east of a sand bank in the bay, the area you have chosen for your farm, which makes it a popular spot for fishermen. I don't know where the impact will be, whether it will provide habitat for shoals, or displace them. Whether the impact will be positive or negative. Perhaps you have some information on this? Seals are common. Your report highlights that there are no haul out areas but does not mention the feeding areas for seals that haul out at Tenby, Worms Head and Lundy. Please understand that I am not against the development of such projects, as we need to replace our reliance on oils at some point in the future and it is by ventures such as this that we develop a sustainable way forward. I hope you can answer my concerns above and wish you every success.	06/03/2024	Thanks for your email and continued dialogue. I don't think I have seen the Atkins report you have referenced in your email. It sounds like it has very important information on the area, so if possible please could you send me a link to it. We understand your concerns around sustainability and the risk of impacting the natural balance of the waters in Owchik Bay. Seaweed farming is a regenerative farming technique. The seaweed will act as an underwater forest that absorbs carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus, (making it a valuable tool to fight climate change), and as a water purifier. It will also create new habitats for a diversity of marine life. We hope to be able to illustrate that the seaweed farm will benefit the flora and fauna within the bay. There are some potential environmental impacts such as equipment loss, shading of sensitive habitats such as seagrass, mammal entanglement and the introduction of non native species. (see: https://media.mcsuk.org/documents/15-5909-2023_Seweed_Policy_Paper_phdudfR.pdf), but these have all been assessed in the marine license application. From an environmental impact perspective the marine license application has included the following reports/ assessments: A Water Framework Directive assessment. This assessment is to demonstrate that the project will not cause 'deterioration in the water body'. The farm is located in the Bristol Channel North water body which currently has a water body status of 'moderate'. A Biosecurity Risk Assessment and Management Plan. This document allows us to understand and minimise the risk of introducing non native species (INNS). A Protected Site Features report. This report illustrates the proximity of the project to the various Marine Protected Areas. The farm has been located to avoid impacting protected areas. A Mammal Entanglement Protocol report which sets out a plan for monitoring the site, to avoid sightings of protected species, and an adaptive management plan, which outlines what to do in the event of an entanglement and how to adapt practices to mitigate future entanglements. We also plan to work closely with Cŵr-y-Môr to make sure we are implementing proven farming techniques that minimise the impact throughout the process. Cŵr-y-Môr have established a seaweed farm in heavily protected waters in the Ramsay Sound in St Davids. (https://www.cymru.org/wales/). We can see that you have a profound love for Owchik Bay and a deep understanding of how the waters in the bay are used. It would be great if we could meet with you to discuss the plans for the farm to see if there are any adjustments to the design that could further limit the impact to the local users. We will be doing a public consultation this coming Saturday at the Penard Community Hall from 2pm, see the attached poster, if you are available. If not, then we could arrange a separate meeting. Thanks again, we really appreciate your input.	06/03/2024

10 Appendix H: Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club

On Thursday the 29th February 2024, a meeting was held with George Pettifore, the Commodore of Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club, Christine Battersby, the club secretary, and two members of the club's committee. The following email outlines the details of the meeting.



Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Seaweed Farm

Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>
To: Christine Battersby <christinebattersby@yahoo.co.uk>
Cc: wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 2:49 PM

Hi Christine,

I'm just completing the documentation for the seaweed farm consultations and I realised that I did not send you a summary of the discussion we had with George and the two members of the SYSAC committee. Apologies for this but below you can see the notes that I took. Let me know if you have any comments:

On Thursday the 29th February 2024, a meeting was held with George Pettifore, the Commodore of Swansea Yacht and Sub Aqua Club, Christine Battersby, the club secretary, and two members of the club's committee.

- In general, the representatives present at the meeting did not have any significant issues with the proposed seaweed farm.
- The Commodore's primary concern was that the farm would need to have lit, visible markers to alert any vessels travelling at night to the size and location of the farm. He noted that typically, vessels travelling along the coast from Swansea to the Gower would traverse Oxwich Bay travelling from Pwlldu Head and Oxwich Point. They would therefore need to adjust their course slightly to avoid the farm.
- Seazou Aquaculture informed the representatives that discussions with Trinity House with regard to suitable visible markers were on going and the current proposal was to have 4 lit special markers, one at each corner of the farm. This arrangement would be confirmed once Trinity House had reviewed the marine licence application.
- The Commodore noted that the western side of Oxwich Bay was the busier area in terms of sailing and other pleasure vessels, with the eastern side of the bay primarily being used by local fishermen.
- One of the committee members queried who was behind the proposal and what the maximum size of the farm would be. Seazou Aquaculture informed him that this was a self-funded, private venture and that the size of the farm would not exceed the 25hectare (500m x 500m) plot as defined in the marine license application.
- It was noted that the farm would be installed, operated and maintained using a vessel berthed in Swansea Marina. The typical operational cycle of the farm was outlined, with the seeded ropes being placed in October/ November and the seaweed harvest being done in May/ June. It was noted that the eventual yield from the farm would around 80 tonnes. The seaweed would be harvested over a couple of weeks with all operations and transport done through Swansea Marina. One of the committee members noted that there would be some impact on the local road network and it was therefore very important for the local council to be aware and in favour of the project.

Thanks,

Guy

On Fri, Mar 1, 2024 at 10:43 AM Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com> wrote:

Hi Christine,

It was great to meet you, George and the other members of the council yesterday, and so reassuring to us that there was generally a favourable reaction to our proposal. Thank you very much for organising the meeting. Please could you send me the full names of George and the other two gentlemen who attended so that I can complete my notes from the meeting.

Attached is the short presentation outlining the seaweed farm proposal for you to circulate to the birth holders and divers. We will be back on the Gower in the next few weeks to complete our public consultation with the local community. I will keep you posted on our plans and then if you think another meeting at the yacht club is beneficial then we would be happy to come back.

Thanks again.

Guy

On Thu, Feb 29, 2024 at 2:00 PM Christine Battersby <christinebattersby@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Hi Guy,

It was good to meet you this morning.

I know myself and the others present found it very interesting.

I look forward to receiving the information you have, so that I can distribute to berth holders and divers.

Chris

Sent from my iPad

On 28 Feb 2024, at 19:51, Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes, that would be perfect.

See you tomorrow.

Guy

On Wed, 28 Feb 2024, 18:47 Chris, <christinebattersby@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Hi Guy

Could you make it 10-30 in the morning?

Chris

Sent from my iPhone

On 28 Feb 2024, at 17:09, Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@gmail.com> wrote:

No problem. Thanks Chris.

On Wed, 28 Feb 2024, 16:41 Christine Battersby, <christinebattersby@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Guy,

I will check with the Commodore and get back to you later this evening.

Chris

Sent from my iPad

On 28 Feb 2024, at 13:51, Guy Macleod
<gwamacleod@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Chris,

I am free all morning on Thursday and can be in Swansea by 9am, so
whatever time suits you.

Guy

On Wed, 28 Feb 2024, 13:16 Christine Battersby,
<christinebattersby@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Mr Macleod,

What time would you like to meet on Thursday?

Chris Shefford,

Honorary Secretary

Sent from my iPad

11 Appendix I: Glamorgan – Gwent Archeological Trust

The following email outlines the consultation that has been undertaken with the Glamorgan – Gwent Archeological Trust (GGAT).



Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

ggat consultation with Jess Dallimore

wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>
To: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 6:22 PM

Dear Wross,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you, I was on leave.

Thank you for consulting us on this Marine License Application. We have reviewed the area against the information in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) which shows as follows:

The wreck of an oil tanker sunk during WWII is noted on modern charts to the west of the proposed works, but is not included within the survey area. However, it is recommended that the RCAHMW (Dr. Julian Whitewright julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk) be contacted for further advice on surveying below high water.

As the application is for a 500sqm seaweed farm, there is some potential to encounter buried archaeological remains on the sea bed. Therefore, it is advised that works be undertaken with care, should any features be disturbed. The Historic Environment Record is not definite and it is possible that unrecorded sites may be present or encountered during works. Should any other archaeological remains be encountered in the process, please contact the division of the trust for further advice.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Jess

Advisory Services Archaeologist/Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust

12 Appendix J: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

The following email outlines the consultation that has been undertaken with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, (RCAHMW).



Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Fwd: Hunts Bay Seaweed Farm Application

wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>
To: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 6:00 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dr Julian Whitewright** <julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk>
Date: Wed, 31 Jan 2024 at 09:48
Subject: Re: Hunts Bay Seaweed Farm Application
To: wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>

Hi Wross,

I have checked our GIS for maritime records within the National Monuments Record of Wales and you are fine for at least 600m around the centrepont that you provided. Even then, the nearest records are UKHO records for the loss of a modern speedboat in the 1990s, which has never been found.

A caveat to this, and one which we say to all schemes, of all sizes, is that there are a large number of shipping losses in Welsh Waters that have never been found, and which do turn up eventually. For example, the UKHO have charted 170 new seabed features around Wales since 2020, the majority of which are the result of human activity, and many of which are newly discovered shipwrecks. In conjunction with this, there are a dozen or so historically attested losses of vessel in the general area of Oxwich Bay, which have potential, albeit small, to be in your scheme area.

So one thing we would always ask is that if you come across any archaeological material, of any sort, during your work, and especially from things like direct diver observations, please let us know - I can act as a point of contact for this. There is more information on the overall nature of the types of maritime archaeological material around Wales here: https://rcahmw.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/MarineHistoricAssets_AreaStatement_English.pdf

As a lead on from this. Do you have any plans for any seabed surveys as part of wider work in advance of installation? This would probably serve to establish that the intended piece of seabed is free from any archaeological material if its a side-scan sonar survey, multibeam survey, etc.

Seascapes and visual impact are another aspect of the WNMP but which are much harder to rationalise. Personally, I don't really think that you marker buoys and whatever navigation lights are required will be especially detrimental when considered alongside everything else in the area, other lights at night, etc, etc. Its really just a case of trying to make that point while not just dismissing the relevant policy.

And the final thing, is that from a marine license application point of view, even if it is established that there is no archaeological impact, then its still good to include a section in the application to cover this, rather than just ignoring it (which does happen quite often). There is a really handy document from NRW that lists all the different Marine Plan policies and allows a summary statement to be written against each of them including for historic assets. I also know that this isn't always circulated to people, so its attached here.

Happy to have a chat directly about any of the above if its helpful.

Yours

Julian



Comisiwn Brenhinol
Henebion Cymru
Royal Commission on the Ancient
and Historical Monuments of Wales

Dr Julian Whitewright

Dysgwr 

Uwch Ymchwilydd (Arforol) | Senior Investigator (Maritime)

Ffordd Penglais, Aberystwyth, SY23 3BU

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julian.whitewright@rcahmw.gov.uk

www.cbhc.gov.uk | www.rcahmw.gov.uk

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn peri oedi.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Yn unol â Rheoliadau Safonau'r Gymraeg (Rhif 2) 2016, mae gennych hawl i gyfathrebu a gohebu â Chomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru yn eich dewis iaith. Er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni'r hawl, rhowch wybod i ni a ydych yn dymuno derbyn gohebiaeth a/neu alwadau ffôn oddi wrthym yn y Gymraeg. Bydd yr wybodaeth hon yn cael ei chofnodi gennym ni, a byddwn yn defnyddio'r iaith o'ch dewis ym mhob cyfathrebu yn y dyfodol. Diolch.

Under the Welsh Language Standards (No. 2) Regulations 2016, you have the right to communicate and correspond with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in your preferred language. To ensure we uphold this right, please let us know whether you wish to receive correspondence and/or telephone calls from us in Welsh. This information will be recorded by us, and we will use your preferred language in all future communication. Thank you.



WNMP Signposting Document.xlsx

27K

13 Appendix K: Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Division

The following email outlines the consultation that has been undertaken with the Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Division.



Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Fwd: Marine Licence Enquiry

wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>
To: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Wed, Apr 3, 2024 at 1:51 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **wross lawrence** <lawrencewross@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, 3 Apr 2024, 13:18

Subject: Re: Marine Licence Enquiry

To: <Sebastian.Evans033@gov.wales>

Hi Seb,

Thank you, that's great news.

Best wishes,

Wross

On Wed, 3 Apr 2024, 12:07 , <Sebastian.Evans033@gov.wales> wrote:

Good afternoon Wross,

Thank you for the update regarding your marine licence application, it's very much appreciated.

We welcome the fact that you intend to engage with NRW as this is something we strongly recommend. This is now a matter for yourself and NRW to discuss further.

[Diolch](#) / Thank You

Seb

Seb Evans

[Swyddog Polisi Trwyddedu Morol](#) / Marine Licensing Policy Officer

[Is-adran Y Môr a Bioamrywiaeth](#) / Marine and Biodiversity Division

[Llywodraeth Cymru](#) / Welsh Government

[Ffôn](#) / Tel: 07980757660

[E-bost](#) / E-mail: sebastian.evans033@gov.wales

From: wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 4:27 PM
To: Evans, Sebastian (CCRA - RA - Fisheries) <Sebastian.Evans033@gov.wales>
Subject: Re: Marine Licence Enquiry

Hi Seb,

I believe I have now completed all consultations, assessments and documents regarding the marine license application for a seaweed farm in oxford bay, Swansea. I am now hoping for a pre application meeting with NRW before submitting an application for the license. Would you be able to advise on this ?

Best wishes,

Wross

On Tue, 6 Feb 2024, 16:28 wross lawrence, <lawrencewross@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Seb

Thank you for getting back to me. A few details about the project.

- Growing sugar kelp and oarweed seaweed on seeded lines for use as packaging/cattle pellets/biofuel
- Target for application submission is early March
- Construction will take between 3-5 days
- The scale of the farm will be 500 x 500 sqm
- I am hoping to obtain a 15-20 year license with 10 ropes in the water in year 1, 20 ropes in year 2 and finally 30 ropes in year three. Then to review the scope of the farm in year 5.

I hope this information is helpful and to hear from you soon.

Best wishes,

Wross

On Mon, 5 Feb 2024 at 12:39, <Sebastian.Evans033@gov.wales> wrote:

Hi Wross,

Would it be possible to provide me with some further details about the project so we can comment accordingly please. If available, the following would be of particular use:

- Method statement/general narrative for the project.
- Timescale for application submission.
- Timescale for construction phase.
- Scale of site.
- Anything other you think might be useful in describing the project.

If possible, would you be able to provide this information by mid-end of this week please.

[Diolch](#) / Thank You

Seb

Seb Evans

[Swyddog Polisi Trwyddedu Morol](#) / Marine Licensing Policy Officer

[Is-adran Y Môr a Bioamrywiaeth](#) / Marine and Biodiversity Division

[Llywodraeth Cymru](#) / Welsh Government

[Ffôn](#) / Tel: 07980757660

[E-bost](#) / E-mail: sebastian.evans033@gov.wales

From: wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 1:45 PM

To: Evans, Sebastian (CCRA - RA - Fisheries) <Sebastian.Evans033@gov.wales>

Subject: Re: Marine Licence Enquiry

Hi Seb,

Thank you for getting in touch. I am currently putting together a marine license application for a seaweed farm in the southgate area of swansea. I have now reached the consultation phase as set out by the NRW guidelines. I wanted to get in touch to share with you some information about the farm and to discuss the relevance of its

location and existence to the marine and fisheries division. I have attached some documents that may help you to understand the plans a little better. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any thoughts or questions about the proposal.

Best wishes,

Wross

On Mon, 22 Jan 2024 at 12:30, <Sebastian.Evans033@gov.wales> wrote:

Good morning,

I've been passed your enquiry regarding a marine licence application as I work for the Welsh Government marine licensing policy team. So that I can either assist you myself or direct you to the correct person, can you please provide me with some further details about your enquiry.

For information, Natural Resources Wales deliver the marine licensing function on behalf of Welsh Ministers. Should your enquiry relate to a new or existing marine licence application, NRW can be contacted as follows:

Website: [Natural Resources Wales / Marine licensing](#) Email: marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

[Diolch](#) / Thank You

Seb

Seb Evans

[Swyddog Polisi Trwyddedu Morol](#) / Marine Licensing Policy Officer

[Is-adran Y Môr a Bioamrywiaeth](#) / Marine and Biodiversity Division

[Llywodraeth Cymru](#) / Welsh Government

Ffôn / Tel: 07980757660

E-bost / E-mail: sebastian.evans033@gov.wales

14 Appendix L: Welsh Fisherman's Association

Under guidance from the Natural Resources Wales advisory team, Seazou Aquaculture contacted Marion Warlow, head of the WFA-CPC (the Welsh Fisherman's Association) and she put Seazou Aquaculture in contact with Barry Thomas, Director at the SWWFC (South West Wales Fishing Council). A meeting was held with Mr Thomas where the proposal for the seaweed farm was outlined and he informed Seazou Aquaculture that there are no commercial fishermen currently using the bay and there haven't been in some time. The coordinates of the farm were shared with Mr Tomas and he followed up the meeting with an email to confirm his statement. The email stated: 'I have looked at your proposed area of interest and can confirm it will not affect me or any other trawlers in my opinion. You may need to check with any whelk fishermen from down west. There are no whelk fishermen left in Swansea since the Welsh Government increased the minimum size limit.'

The following two email outline the discussions with Marion and Barry.



Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

wfa-cpc consultation with Marion

wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>
To: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 6:07 PM

Hi Wross

Apologies for taking so long to get back to you.

Please could you contact Barry Thomas, SWWFC Director and Swansea fisherman who will be happy to discuss the project with you. His number is 07970 777362.

Many thanks

Marion



Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

SWWFC Director consultation with Barry Thomas

wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>
To: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 6:16 PM

Hi Wross

I've looked at your proposed area of interest and can confirm it will not affect me or my or any other trawlers in my opinion, you may need to check with any whelk fishermen from down west. There are no whelk fishermen left in swansea since WG increased the minimum size limit. If there's any more I can help you with please let me know.

Regards

Barry Thomas
Director SWWFC

In addition to the consultation with Marion Warlow and Barry Thomas, a discussion was held with the prominent South West Wales commercial fisherman Neil Thomas. Neil Thomas was referenced by the fishermen who attended the public consultation in the Pennard Community Hall on the 9th March. They noted that Neil Thomas would not be in favour of the seaweed in the location to the east of Oxwich Bay. In the discussion with Neil Thomas, however, he confirmed that the proposed location of the seaweed farm will have no impact on the commercial fishing in that area as they only fish the west side of Oxwich bay and not the east, as the ground on the east is too high for them. The following email illustrates the discussion with Neil Thomas.



Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Fwd: Seaweed farm discussion

wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>
To: Guy Macleod <gwamacleod@googlemail.com>

Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 10:45 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Neil Thomas** <thomasfisheries@yahoo.co.uk>
Date: Sun, 21 Apr 2024 at 14:39
Subject: Re: Seaweed farm discussion
To: wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com>

hi wross

jst a quick email to confirm that the proposed location of the seaweed farm will hvsve no impact on our commercial fishing in that area as we only fidh the west side of oxwich bay and not the east as the ground is to high for us

best regards
Neil Thomas

thomas fisheries

vessel name "four aces m4"

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Thursday, April 11, 2024, 11:05 AM, wross lawrence <lawrencewross@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Neil,

Thanks again for meeting with me on Monday. can you please just reply to this email stating that you confirm and agree with the statement. Also, feel free to add anything to it if you think that I have missed something.

'After the public consultation in Pennard community centre a meeting with Neil Thomas of Thomas Fisheries was held on Monday 8th April. The meeting addressed the issues raised in the consultation by local fishermen. Neil confirmed that the location of the farm will not interfere with any commercial grounds. He stated that he is the only fisherman that uses the west side of the bay, and only for a few weeks of the year, but doesn't come east as the ground is too high.'

Thanks again,

Wross