

## East Balvicar Seaweed Farm - Method Statement

### Introduction

Argyll Aquaculture, acting as agents for J MacGregor and Sons Ltd, reapply to Marine Scotland for license consent to continue at their site in East Balvicar Bay, Seil, Argyll and Bute. The site currently holds license No. 04700/13/0 For algae and mussels.

The East Balvicar Bay Farm has been active in growing algae since licensing was completed in March 2017 and it is our intention to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. We also wish for the underlying consent to grow mussels to also continue. If the change is made from algae back to mussels, we will inform Marine Scotland through the FEP5 route.

To facilitate this relicensing, Marine Scotland will receive a completed algae license application submitted to them by the license holder, Jack MacGregor and Sons. Argyll Aquaculture will appear as agents for the license holder.

The algae license application will have the critical information required of the currently consented site from the original mussel farm licensing and the addition of algae consented in Mar 2017.

As none of the details originally presented during the application for algae consent have changed, we have not approached any of the original statutory consultees

This Method Statement will be submitted along with the Algae License Application by the license holder and site owner and paid for immediately by BACS or Cheque to begin the process.

No new works are expected, so costs are £0, so the marine licence application fee will be £56.

The works will be bounded within the coordinates of the existing licensed mussel farm under consented License Number 04700/13/0 (attached).

These are;

Descriptio n	Grid Reference	Latitude	Longitude	Point Link	Link For All Points
Point A	NM 77912 17160	56 17.683 N	5 35.441 W	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link for All 8 Points</a>
Point B	NM 78030 17123	56 17.667 N	5 35.325 W	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link for All 8 Points</a>
Point C	NM 77718 16551	56 17.350 N	5 35.598 W	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link for All 8 Points</a>
Point D	NM 77868 16519	56 17.337 N	5 35.451 W	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link for All 8 Points</a>
Point E	NM 77905 17084	56 17.642 N	5 35.444 W	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link for All 8 Points</a>
Point F	NM 77851 16875	56 17.528 N	5 35.486 W	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link for All 8 Points</a>
Point G	NM 77858 16816	56 17.497 N	5 35.476 W	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link for All 8 Points</a>
Point H	NM 77773 16599	56 17.377 N	5 35.547 W	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link for All 8 Points</a>

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Where points A. B. C. D are the outer edges of the works and points E and F and points G and H are the north and south ends of the 2 x 220 metre lines respectively. The links in the above table lead to an interactive map of the site.

### **In water equipment**

We will continue to use the same header floats, ropes and anchors, same type of dropper lines and same shore infrastructure as is already in place at the site of the established, chartered mussel farm with appropriate special marks denoting their limits.

There are no chemical additions or treatments used for the seaweed growing process. The seeded stock is harvested from local shore sites and grown at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage. The harvest for seeding plants will be very small volumes (<10 wet kg) and by taking no more than around 25% in any given patch on a shore. The species to be farmed are all found locally at the farm sites.

The species planned for use are Atlantic Wakame (*alaria esculenta*) Dulse (*palmaria palmata*) and Sugar Kelp (*saccharina latissima*) if growing conditions suit.

We will put seeded seaweed lines out in Oct-Dec and harvest them in Mar-Jun using the existing shore infrastructure, staff and mussel harvest vessels. This will make up 90% of the harvest of about 10 tonnes. Small amounts of algae may be left for monitoring of fouling of lines.

The lines will be deployed by existing mussel farm vessels. Regular monitoring will decide the optimum harvest periods. Harvesting will be a reversal of the process using the same vessels.

### **Timetable of works**

#### **Oct to Dec**

Deployment of seeded media laced lines onto lines.

#### **Dec to Mar**

Monitoring of seaweed growth and duty of care over lines.

#### **Mar to Jun**

Algae harvesting

Removal of lines

#### **Jun to Oct**

Duty of care over lines.