This is a brief summary of desk investigations of a site chosen by New Wave Foods Ltd for a Seaweed Cultivation “Reef”. Further detail can be found in the Method Statement.

The Site at Sound of Insh is centred around the coordinates below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Description | Grid Reference | Latitude | Longitude | Link For All Points | |
| V | NM 74067 17788 | 56.29853 | -5.65321 | [Link for All 8 Points](http://tinyurl.com/yazog3tv) | |
| U | NM 74579 18548 | 56.30559 | -5.64562 | [Link for All 8 Points](http://tinyurl.com/yazog3tv) | |
| S | NM 73740 18064 | 56.30086 | -5.65872 | [Link for All 8 Points](http://tinyurl.com/yazog3tv) | |
| T | NM 74286 18813 | 56.30783 | -5.65057 | [Link for All 8 Points](http://tinyurl.com/yazog3tv) | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| E | NM 74023 18116 | 56.30145 | -5.65421 | [Link for All 8 Points](http://tinyurl.com/yazog3tv) | |
| F | NM 74337 18574 | 56.30571 | -5.64953 | [Link for All 8 Points](http://tinyurl.com/yazog3tv) | |
| G | NM 74409 18515 | 56.30521 | -5.64833 | [Link for All 8 Points](http://tinyurl.com/yazog3tv) | |
| H | NM 74091 18054 | 56.30093 | -5.65306 | [Link for All 8 Points](http://tinyurl.com/yazog3tv) | |

Estimated depths across the site range from 22m to 36m deep OD. Boat runs over the site to take soundings will be needed for absolute accuracy.

On checking the charts for tidal flow, The Sound of Insh site shows 1.5 knot spring flood and 1 knot spring ebb from a notation on the chart less than 1 nm from the proposed mooring site.

The sea area adjacent to the proposed site is known for unpredictable cross current and sea swells and although not representative of the proposed mooring site conditions, should be acknowledged.

The proposed site is exposed to open sea conditions to the South West. Anchors and Array Plans accompanying the application are designed for expected tidal and wave exposure conditions.

**Visual Impact**

Great care will be taken in the design of these Reefs to make it as visually unobtrusive as possible. The Reefs sit subsurface and only mooring buoys will normally be visible. It is of vital importance to NWF to limit the visual impact of the Reef on the visitors and residents of the area and wider users of the sea.

There are no houses or roads on the Isle of Seil or Easdale overlooking the site. There is a pathway that runs over the hills above the nearby village of Ellenabeich which would allow sight of the proposed array. Care will be taken to limit the visual impact of the array on the visitors and residents of Seil. This is of vital importance to NWF.

Admiralty charts show no suitable anchorage at the site. The usual checks will hopefully confirm this.

Safer overnight anchorages are easily found around the area.

**Site Designations**

The site sits within the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura Marine Protected Area, designated for the protection of Common Skate, but is not typical Skate habitat and once installed the reef would pose no negative effect should skate move through the area.

The site sits within the Lorn marine SAC for Rocky Reefs. NWF is aware of and respects the importance of protecting these complex marine features and will design the exact final placement of the Seaweed Reefs and anchors accordingly. This will prevent any damage to the Rocky Reef features at the site.

The site is within the Inner Hebrides and Minches Candidate SAC for Harbour Porpoises. The reef is placed tight to the coast and uses no chemicals, seal scarer devices.

The proposed Seaweed Cultivation “Reef” will use a new but proven corkscrew anchor and sub surface systems similar to those used by the Finfish industry. This will involve modular squares of 2 x 12 x 50m x 50m squares (100m x 600m) (see attached reef plans) held by (up to) 32 anchors. NWF plan on putting 2 such Reefs, the first in September 2018 and the 2nd added over the following months and years.

All seaweed lines will be attached to this grid subsurface. The deployment phase of seaweed lines will be October through November and harvesting phase will be April through May. The actual time any vessels will be on site during these phases are dictated by weather conditions and are likely to last a few days or weeks at most during the 2 phases. Periodic line surveying and maintenance will also be needed throughout the year as per standard license conditions.

As standard aquaculture practice, as encouraged by Northern Lighthouse Board, the surface buoys will be standard 300l SeaQure Buoy grey cans and the marking of outlying anchor points are discouraged (unless specifically requested by local users) to keep the visual impact of the site to an absolute minimum.

As per standard license conditions all material and waste shall be managed properly.

The wider outer site shall be marked as directed by lighten yellow buoys fitted with yellow crossed topmarks. This wider site has been deliberately restricted in size to minimize impact to passage of commercial and leisure vessels transiting the area.