

Description Kilchoan Algae farm

The Kilchoan estate is a cultural and educational enterprise. It is focused on ecological restoration, rewilding, and preservation of both the marine and terrestrial habitats for the benefit of the people of Argyll and the world. With the algae farm we want to contribute towards a cleaner environment and a sustainable food source, we want to attempt creating a product that can be used for the enhancement of the natural world.

Financial resources

The cost of installation and operation of the farm will be provided by Kilchoan Management Ltd. <Redacted>

Production and strategy plan

The aim is to cultivate sugar kelp *Laminaria saccharina* & *Alaria esculenta*, the cultivation of the seaweed will run over a full yearly cycle, beginning of deployment September 2024 with hopefully regular harvesting throughout the year. The farm site will be regularly checked for damage and repairs by Marnik van Cauter who is a full-time employee of Kilchoan Management Ltd. The kelp will be harvested 2 times a year, this will be done with hired vessels which are suitable equipped for this kind of work.

Future

The farm consists of a pilot farm which will have a seabed footprint of 16800 m2. The 10-ha proposed license offers the opportunity to experiment with orientation and farm scope to optimize the cultivation set-up. If the pilot proves successful there is an opportunity to increase the farm site over the next years.

Decommissioning measures

In case the lease is terminated- ended, or the farm is unsuccessful. Kilchoan Management Ltd will be responsible for the decommissioning of the farm. The used anchors will be removed, and the seabed restored to its original state.

MPA

The farm is in the Loch Sunart to sound of Jura MPA which has been designated for the protection of the flapper skate. The kelp farm will be a nursery for small fish and will have no impact on the demersal fish species.

Stakeholders

Due to the location of the kelp farm being located into the bay there will be no effect for boat traffic. There are no present moorings in the area other than the ones owned by Kilchoan Estate.

Cultivation Equipment

Removal:

- 2 x 60-meter-long lines.
- Zig-zag method growing line 360 meters.
- 2 x 20 m Foam Buoy
- 4 x 100 L Cushion Buoys

Pilot farm:

- 4 x grid moorings: 2.2 ton concrete blocks.
- 1 x Yellow special marker buoy.
- 4 x A5 yellow net buoys as corner floats

Proposed new equipment:

- 11 x 50 m longlines.
- 11 x A3 Net buoys as support.

Proposed license area	56° 15.4833'N	5° 33.1333'W
	56° 15.2833'N	5° 33.25'W
	56° 15.3333'N	5° 33.4833'W
	56°15.5333'N	5°33.35W

-Yellow special marker buoy: 56°15.313'N / 5°33.363'W

Trial farm

Method statement

September 2024

Day 1: Set 4 anchors with boat and barge supplied by kames fish farm. The deployment of the anchors will done according to Kames HS protocol and marine practice.

Day 2: Dive survey to check moorings and riser rope and installment of longlines.

Day 3: Dive survey final check on moorings and add small cushions buoys and extra weights.

October 2024

Day 1: Seeding lines (weather dependent)

Day 2: Dive survey to see if components are secured.

More information regarding the monitoring of the farm can be found in the 'Consultation report-1' which has been supplied in 2024