



Proposed eight-grid seaweed farm in Loch Snizort, Isle of Skye

Appendix 4 - Decommissioning Plan

1 Introduction

1.1.1 Marine Scotland require information on decommissioning as part of Marine Licence applications for algal farms:

(h) Provide a full method statement, including plan of how, when and where component parts are proposed to be deposited and removed.

1.1.2 On completion of the ‘Licensed Activity’, Marine Licence conditions typically require a written report regarding the deposit of the licensed objects to the Licensing Authority and must ensure that the seabed is returned to its original profile, or as close as reasonably practicable on completion of the Licensed Activity.

1.1.3 Kaly are committed to sustainable seaweed farming and have designed their algal farm with long-term service in mind, to limit the amount of marine systems in the water. For example, the use of heavy ropes rather than chains will allow a decade or more of operation before major replacement of parts are required.

1.1.4 The decommissioning plan for the Loch Snizort seaweed farm will ensure that the infrastructure is removed and equipment is reused or recycled or disposed of in a sustainable way and through the decommissioning process, avoid and mitigate against impacts on the marine environment.

2 Decommissioning Plan

2.1 Method – ‘How’

2.1.1 Kaly will use local vessels, where possible, to remove all surface structures. These are light floats and longlines and would not require specialist vessels. Materials removed would be stored or disposed of ashore once all waste and environmental conditions have been complied with.

2.1.2 Subsurface anchors would be lifted by a chartered specialist vessel. Decommissioning costs include for mobilisation of suitable vessel to site, lift risers and recover anchors. Marine growth (barnacles, algae, and mussels) would be removed at sea (jetwashing) as far as possible to avoid bringing this ashore for disposal.

2.1.3 Navigation marks, risers and anchors would be removed from site. Materials removed would be stored or disposed of ashore once all waste and environmental conditions have been complied with.

2.1.4 No infrastructure will be left on the seabed and as the sub-surface anchors sit on the sea floor, the seabed profile will be as per original profile.

2.2 Programme - ‘When’

2.2.1 Ahead of decommissioning, Kaly will revisit this Decommissioning Plan to ensure that it meets the Licence conditions and latest guidance at the time of decommissioning from Marine Directorate.

2.2.2 The exact programme for the decommissioning will depend on operational conditions. Whilst the Marine Licence allows for operation for an agreed period, there may be a decision to remove ahead of this date or an extension sought to the licence.

2.2.3 The general sequence of tasks ahead of decommissioning is anticipated as follows:

- 12 months before decommissioning – Marine Licence Application
- 6 months before decommissioning – Appoint Competent Contractor
- 3 months before decommissioning – Detailed RAMS, Methodology and Sequence
- 1 month before decommissioning – inform stakeholders/statutory consultees with Notice to Mariners and then updating of marine charts and navigational information.

2.3 Removal – ‘Where’

2.3.1 The decommissioning stage will see removal of all in-water equipment and components of the seaweed farm:

- Grid Lines and Growing Lines
- Anchors
- Buoys and Special Markers

2.3.2 Kaly will have secured either a buyer for the infrastructure to allow re-use or materials will be correctly disposed of via a licenced waste disposal contractor. If Kaly intend to store material ahead of their own re-use, the location of storage will be confirmed in the final decommissioning plan.

2.4 Appointments and Associated Documentation – ‘Who’

2.4.1 In line with the Marine Licence and standard conditions, a written report confirming the completion of decommissioning and removal of infrastructure will be submitted to the Licensing Authority.

2.4.2 Kaly will secure specialist support of suitable contractors and appropriate risk assessments, and detailed method statements (environmental protection, pollution prevention, ecological protection) and reuse, recycling and disposal details will be included within these documents.

2.5 Decommissioning Costs

2.5.1 In setting out the required information on decommissioning, there is also a requirement to confirm the costs associated with removal of the seaweed farm infrastructure. The decommissioning will be delivered by Kaly working with specialist contractors. It is confirmed that all in-water equipment is designed as removable and will be removed.

2.5.2 The estimated costs for decommissioning the site are as follows:

	Capacity	Infrastructure	Decommissioning Costs
Full Development	8 Grids (16 Longlines)	47 Anchors + 2 Special Marks	£100,000