

Oronsay East Seaweed Farm

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

This Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Marine Licencing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 in support of an application for a Marine Licence for Oronsay East Seaweed Farm in Loch Sunart.

1. Proposed Licensable Marine Activity

Please describe below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form the proposed licensable marine activity, including its location

GreenSea Solutions are proposing to develop a seaweed farm in Loch Sunart, to the East of Oronsay Island. Maps showing the location and coordinates of the proposed site are presented in **Appendix A**.

The design and deployment of the farm structure will be undertaken by AquaMoor. AquaMoor have been involved in seaweed aquaculture since 2012, and their team have over 60 years combined experience of designing, installing and maintaining mooring systems and aquaculture structures.

The proposed farm infrastructure design has a short scope mooring system for minimum benthic impact and smallest possible seabed footprint. This will be achieved with direct embedment anchors and synthetic fibre mooring components. The materials used will create an environmentally friendly, high strength, long life mooring system and seaweed cultivation structure.

Various species of seaweed native to Loch Sunart will be grown including *Laminaria digitata*, *Saccharina latissima* and *Alaria esculenta*.

2. Applicant Details

Title

Initials

Surname

Miss	A	Scott			
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Trading Title (if appropriate)

GreenSea Solutions

Address

Dabton, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 5AR

Name of contact (if different)

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N/A

Position within Company

Managing Director

Telephone number (incl. dialling code)

+44 7704 241 572

Fax number (incl. dialling code)

N/A

Company Registration No.

SC615634

Email

amabel@greenseasolutions.co.uk

Is this prospective applicant the proposed licensee?

Yes

If NO, please complete section 3 below

3. Proposed Licensee Details

Title Initials Surname

Title	Initials	Surname

Trading Title (if appropriate)

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Address

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Name of contact (if different)

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Position within Company

Telephone number (incl. dialling code)

Fax number (incl. dialling code)

Company Registration No.

Email

4. Pre-application Consultation Event

Please describe below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form, the pre-application consultation event.

The Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) event for Oronsay East Seaweed Farm was initially intended to be held on the 14th April 2020 at the Kilchoan Community Centre in Kilchoan, Ardnamurchan from 18:00 to 20:00.

Notice of the event was advertised in De tha dol?, the local newspaper for Moidart, Ardnamurchan and Morvern six weeks in advance of the event on the 1st March 2020 (**See Appendix B**). The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG) were all notified of the event by email on the 23rd February 2020 (**see Appendix B**).

Unfortunately, due to the global outbreak of Covid-19, lockdown restrictions meant that the event could not be held in person as planned. Having consulted with Marine Scotland's License Operations Team (MS-LOT), we were informed that we would be able to hold the event online as a Zoom Webinar (**See Appendix B**). To provide additional notice for those impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak, the event was delayed by two weeks to the 28th April 2020. At this point, De tha dol? had ceased to publish, and so notice of this change was made online at the local community Facebook page, on the GreenSea Solutions Facebook page, and on the GreenSea Solutions website. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG) were all notified of changes to the event by email on the 10th April 2020 (**see Appendix B**). A further reminder email was sent out on the day before the event, the 27th April 2020 (**see Appendix B**).

During the live online event, information about the project was provided by two Directors of GreenSea Solutions, in the form of a slideshow presentation (**see Appendix C**). Considerations regarding the General Policies of Scotland's National Marine Plan were outlined (**See Appendix D**). A Q&A took place to answer questions that had been sent by email to GreenSea Solutions prior to the event, and to answer questions asked by attendees during the event (**See Appendix E**). Information was provided about where further information could be obtained, and how to provide further feedback or queries regarding the project. A recording of the event was published online on the GreenSea Solutions Facebook page and on the GreenSea Solutions website, and can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/G-iTa3uOeZI>

5. Information provided by the Prospective Applicant at the Pre-application Consultation Event

Please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form details of any information provided by the prospective applicant for a marine licence at the pre- application consultation event

Slideshow presentation (**See Appendix C**) including considerations regarding the General Policies of Scotland's National Marine Plan (**See Appendix D**)

6. Information received by the Prospective Applicant at the Pre-application Consultation Event

Please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form details of any comments and objections received by the prospective applicant for a marine licence at the pre-application consultation event

There were 6 attendees at the online PAC event for Oronsay East Seaweed Farm. These were a combination of statutory bodies, non-statutory bodies and local residents. Some concerns regarding the project were emailed to GreenSea Solutions both prior to and following the event (**See Appendix E**).

Concerns were raised regarding the following issues:

- Possible conflicts with other marine activity in the area, both aquaculture and leisure related
- Harvest and processing of seaweed incl. smell from processing unit
- Impact of onward transport on existing peninsula traffic
- The entanglement of local wildlife species
- The reduction of light to benthic areas
- Potential for future expansion beyond proposed limits

7. Amendments made, or to be made, to the Application for a Marine License by the Prospective Applicant following their Consideration of Comments and/or Objections received at the Pre-application Consultation Event

Where any amendments are made, or are to be made, by the prospective applicant for a marine licence to the marine licence application as a direct result of their consideration of comments and/or objections received at the pre-application consultation event, please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form details of such amendments.

Responses made to questions can be found in **Appendix E**. Following the event, GreenSea Solutions requested that any further concerns be sent by email within 14 days, with a deadline of 12th May 2020. Any questions sent during this time are included and addressed in **Appendix E**.

8. Explanation of Approach taken by the Prospective Applicant where, following Relevant Comments and/or Objections being received by the Prospective Applicant at the Pre-application Consultation Event, no Relevant Amendment is made to the Application for a Marine Licence

Where, following comments and/or objections having been received by the prospective applicant for a marine licence at the pre-application consultation event, no relevant amendment is made to the application for a marine licence by the prospective applicant, then please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form an explanation for the approach taken

CERTIFICATION

Insert name	Miss A Scott
Insert Address	Dabton
Town	Thornhill
County	Dumfriesshire
Postcode	DG3 5AR

I certify that I have complied with the legislative requirements relating to pre-application consultation and that the pre-application consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements.

Signature _____

Date _____

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Appendices

Appendix A – Site map and coordinates

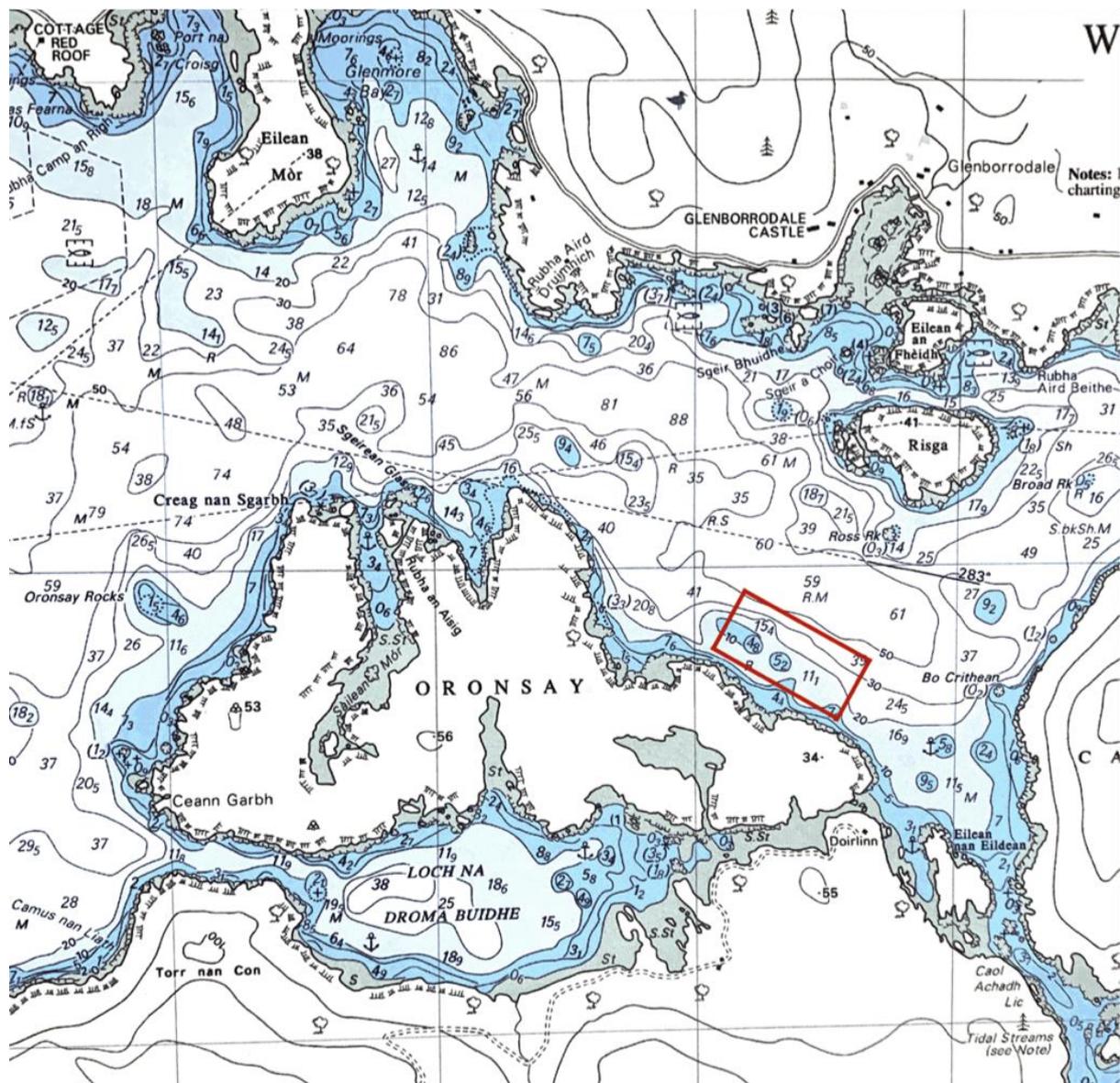
Appendix B – Notification of Consultation Event

Appendix C – Slideshow presentation

Appendix E – Questions received & GreenSea Solutions' responses

Appendix A

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BETTER CHART NEEDED?

Dé tha dol?

A paper for Moidart, Ardnamurchan and Morvern
Issue No. 461



Cover photo:
Rotary Young Chef of the Year, Helen Jones, from Lochaline, a 1st year pupil at Ardnamurchan High School. Details inside.
Deadline for the April issue is Friday 20th March

March 2020 – £1.30

SUNARTnetworks
professionally connecting the peninsula
Acharacle Community Centre | Acharacle | Argyll | PH9 4JJ
superfast wireless broadband services

For the next two years only we are introducing an unlimited 25/25Mbps fibre service which is planned to be replaced by a new 'gigabit' service, perhaps as early as Summer 2020.
All existing customers will then be invited to upgrade to the faster service.

For enquiries email sales@sunarttelecom.com
or call our local team on 07944 539 904 / 07452 929 858

GREENSEA SOLUTIONS – NOTICE OF CONSULTATION EVENT

GreenSea Solutions, an environmental start-up, have plans to establish a seaweed farm to the East of Oronsay Island in Loch Sunart. Subject to licensing consent, the mooring structure will be deployed in late September of this year. For further details regarding the farm, please email Amabel Scott at amabel@greenseasolutions.co.uk

We will be holding a consultation event at **Kilchoan Community Centre, 1 Pier Road, Kilchoan, PH36 4LJ on Tuesday 14th April 2020 from 18:00-20:00**, where we will provide further details and would be happy to address any queries or concerns. If you are unable to attend, please email any comments or concerns to amabel@greenseasolutions.co.uk prior to the 17th April and we would be happy to discuss these further.

All comments are made directly to GreenSea Solutions, not to Marine Scotland's Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT). There will be an opportunity for representations to be made to MS-LOT on the license application. For further details regarding the licensing process please contact ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Neat Yam Distillery News

Now 18 months into production, we have 924 casks of organic whisky spirit maturing in our warehouses. The prolonged hot spell on the west coast this summer made us a little nervous about our water supply but thankfully the springs are still flowing. However, it did make our warehouses rather hot and while this might have been good for maturation, it was not so good for our heat sensors and we had to spend a lot of time silencing the fire alarm!

This summer season has brought not only hot weather, but also many visitors to the distillery for tours - keeping our new visitor manager, Amy Stammers, very busy. We have a new locally sourced organic menu for lunch, which has proved very popular and visitors continue to be impressed with the stunning views from the distillery courtyard and the creativity and the sustainability behind the brand.

As well as producing spirit for maturation, we are about to release our first product - a Botanical spirit - which feels like an important milestone for the company. Starting with a base of our unaged whisky spirit, it is redistilled with botanicals by Campbelltown gin distillers, Beinn an Tuir. With the help of Clare Hobbelen from Lochaline, we identified a range of botanicals found locally, and the final recipe includes four of these: heather, bog myrtle, wild thyme and sorrel as well as six other more exotic ingredients such as grapefruit, coriander and liquorice. The result has elements of whisky from our unaged spirit and elements of gin from the botanicals - we believe it is the first of its kind! It will be available for purchase in our shop and online, and we are hoping to organize an evening of Botanical Spirit cocktails at the Lochaline social club - keep an eye on the Lochaline facebook page for details.

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 13:51:17 British Summer Time

Subject: NOTICE OF CONSULTATION EVENT
Date: Sunday, 23 February 2020 at 08:10:41 Greenwich Mean Time
From: Amabel C A Scott
To: enquiries@nlb.org.uk, sar.response@mcga.gov.uk, WestHighlandArgyll@sepa.org.uk, south_highland@nature.scot, macdonaldsimon@ymail.com
CC: Douglas Hamilton
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing on behalf of GreenSea Solutions, who have plans to establish a seaweed farm to the East of Oronsay Island in Loch Sunart. Subject to licensing consent, the mooring structure will be deployed in late September of this year.

We will be holding a consultation event at **Kilchoan Community Centre, 1 Pier Road, Kilchoan, PH36 4LJ** on **Tuesday 14th April 2020** from **18:00-20:00**, where we will provide further details and address any queries or concerns. If you are unable to attend, please email any comments or concerns to amabel@greenseasolutions.co.uk prior to the 17th April and we would be happy to discuss these further.

All comments are made directly to GreenSea Solutions, not to Marine Scotland's Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT). There will be an opportunity for representations to be made to MS-LOT on the license application. For further details regarding the licensing process please contact ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Amabel Scott
Co-Founder and CEO
GreenSea Solutions Ltd

Tel: +44 7704241572



Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 13:58:32 British Summer Time

Subject: RE: Impact of Covid-19 on PAC event
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 at 10:28:01 British Summer Time
From: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot
To: amabel@greenseasolutions.co.uk
Attachments: image002.jpg

Dear Amabel,

Thank you for your email.

It is a requirement under the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 ("the Regulations"), article 7(3)b that the Pre-application consultation (PAC) event is to be held in a suitably accessible venue. The Marine Scotland PAC guidance is that the PAC event should be held at a physical venue (typically a local town hall or hotel). However, as you have noted, this is currently not possible with the current Scottish Government guidance in relation to COVID19.

Therefore during this time while the COVID19 guidance prohibits these types of gatherings, a PAC event may be held using the internet and a free to access software that will allow the public to ask questions of the prospective applicant or their representatives as well as submit concerns. The prospective application and other relevant documentation must be made available for the public to view (this can be online).

Please note that all the requirements under the Regulations remain the same, including the requirement for a PAC report which must include details of the event such as how and when it was hosted.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Fiona

Marine Licensing Casework Manager
Marine Scotland - Marine Planning & Policy

COVID-19: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team (LOT) is working from home and unable to respond to phone enquiries. Please communicate with LOT via email. Email addresses are MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot for marine renewables correspondence or MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot for all licensing queries

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB
Email: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot
Website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 14:03:52 British Summer Time

Subject: NOTICE OF CHANGE TO PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION – ORONSAY EAST SEAWEED FARM
Date: Friday, 10 April 2020 at 11:31:34 British Summer Time
From: Amabel C A Scott
To: Amabel C A Scott
CC: Douglas Hamilton
BCC: enquiries@nlb.org.uk, sar.response@mcga.gov.uk, south_highland@nature.scot, macdonaldsimon@ymail.com, AHS@sepa.org.uk, MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, Lawrie Stove, AquaMoor
Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Sir or Madam,

NOTICE OF CHANGE TO PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION – ORONSAY EAST SEAWEED FARM

This PAC event was originally intended to be held at Kilchoan Community Centre on the 14th April, but due to Covid-19 we have been advised that we may hold an online consultation instead. The event will now be held as a Zoom Webinar from 18:00-19:30 on Tuesday 28th April.

GreenSea Solutions, an environmental start-up, have plans to establish a seaweed farm to the East of Oronsay Island in Loch Sunart. Subject to licensing consent, the mooring structure will be deployed in October 2020. If you would like an information sheet regarding the farm, or have any queries regarding the event, please contact myself or email Douglas Hamilton on douglas@greenseasolutions.co.uk.

The consultation, which will be accessible via Zoom (a free video conferencing platform), will follow this format:

1. A short presentation outlining plans for our seaweed farm to the east of Oronsay Island in Loch Sunart, including considerations taken to address Scotland's National Marine Plan.
2. A Q&A where we will answer questions sent to us in advance of the meeting. Please send any questions or concerns to amabel@greenseasolutions.co.uk by **18:00 on Monday 27th April**.

You will also be required to register for this event, after which you will receive information on how to join via Zoom. Please register in advance using the following link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Nmo9Su8jQ9yvAndwULazFA

The event will be recorded so that we are able to share it with anyone unable to attend. The prospective license application and other relevant documentation will also be available. We look forward to answering your questions and providing further details about our plans on the 28th April.

Kind regards,

Amabel Scott
Co-Founder and CEO
GreenSea Solutions Ltd

Tel: +44 7704241572



Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 14:06:35 British Summer Time

Subject: REMINDER OF CONSULTATION EVENT 28TH APRIL 2020, 18:00-19:00 – ORONSAY EAST SEAWEED FARM
Date: Monday, 27 April 2020 at 09:32:32 British Summer Time
From: Amabel C A Scott
To: Amabel C A Scott
BCC: Douglas Hamilton, consultations@ryascotland.org.uk, alan@drayson.org.uk, macdonaldsimon@ymail.com, lawrie@aquamoore.co.uk, Hattie@really-matters.com, enquiries@nlb.org.uk, sar.response@mcga.gov.uk, south_highland@nature.scot, AHSH@sepa.org.uk, MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, fingalm@nlb.org.uk, Alexander Macdonald
Attachments: image001.jpg

Good morning everyone,

REMINDER OF CONSULTATION EVENT 28th APRIL 2020, 18:00-19:00 – ORONSAY EAST SEAWEED FARM.
Please send any questions by 18:00 today and register for the event at the link below.

The consultation, which will be accessible as a Zoom Webinar (a free video conferencing platform), will follow this format:

1. A presentation outlining plans for our seaweed farm to the east of Oronsay Island in Loch Sunart, including considerations taken to address Scotland's National Marine Plan.
2. A Q&A where we will answer questions sent to us in advance of the meeting. Please send any questions or concerns to amabel@greenseasolutions.co.uk by **18:00 on Monday 27th April**.

You will also be required to register for this event, after which you will receive information on how to join via Zoom. Please register in advance using the following link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Nmo9Su8jQ9yvAndwULazFA

The event will be recorded so that we are able to share it with anyone unable to attend. We will share the link to the recording on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) following the event.

Best wishes,

Amabel Scott
Co-Founder and CEO
GreenSea Solutions Ltd

Tel: +44 7704241572



Appendix C



 CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

1. Welcome
2. The farm site
3. Scotland's National Marine Plan – considerations
4. Q&A



 WELCOME

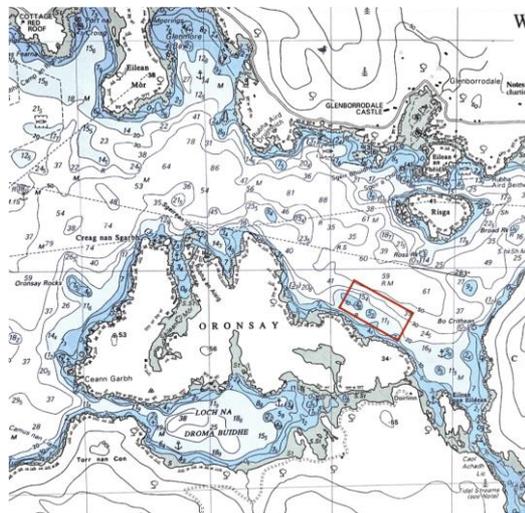


Douglas Hamilton and Amabel Scott, Co-founders of GreenSea Solutions





LOCATION



56.6637, -5.91582
56.66578, -5.91327
56.6632, -5.90563
56.66117, -5.90797



Site location



Structure

- The design and deployment of the farm structure will be undertaken by AquaMoor. AquaMoor have been involved in seaweed aquaculture since 2012, and their team have over 60 years combined experience of designing, installing and maintaining mooring systems and aquaculture structures.
- The proposed farm infrastructure design has a short scope mooring system for minimum benthic impact and smallest possible seabed footprint. This will be achieved with direct embedment anchors and synthetic fibre mooring components. The materials used will create an environmentally friendly, high strength, long life mooring system and seaweed cultivation structure.

Seaweed

- Three common kelp species already native to Loch Sunart; *Laminaria digitata*, *Saccharina latissima* and *Alaria Esculenta*
- Seeded lines made from fertile material collected close to the farm site to avoid introduction of INNS
- Member of UK-wide consortium of companies and universities exploring the environmental benefits of seaweed-based products
- Several future uses: food, natural skincare and as a sustainable agricultural feed/fertiliser

Harvest and Processing



Harvest and Processing

- Harvest will be carried out manually using a small work boat. We will harvest around ½ a tonne each day over a 2-4 week period.
- Two people working on the boat at a time, and two more working on processing the harvested crop.
- Processing will occur in an existing waterfront shed close to the site at Glenmore Bay and will be transported onward by road

Timeline

May – September 2020: License application process

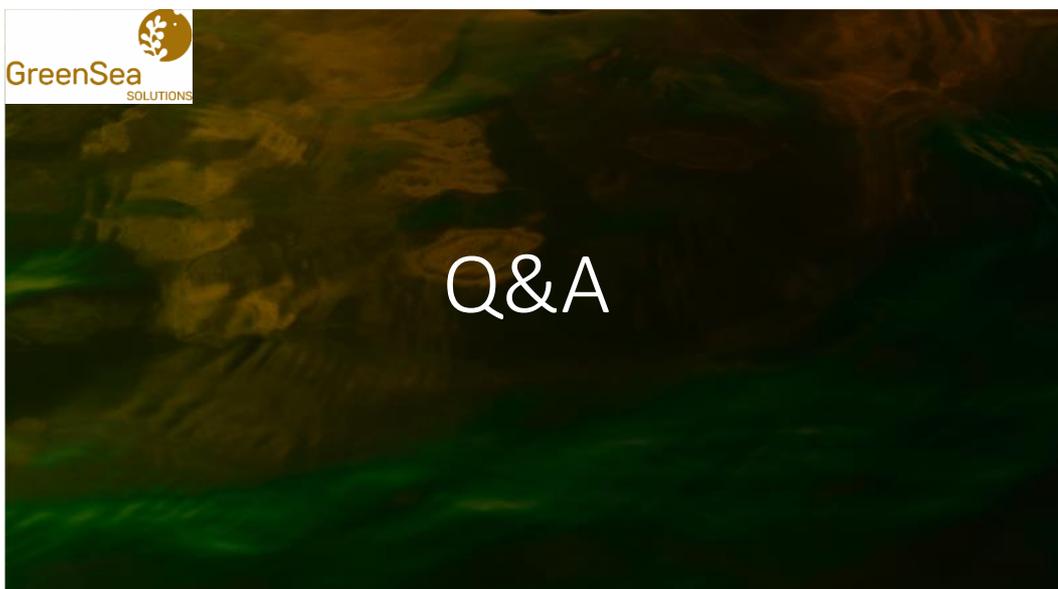
October 2020: Deployment and seeding of Trial Grid 1

October 2020 – March 2021: Seaweed growth period

March-April 2021: Harvest period (up to 4 weeks)

May-September 2021: Assessment of Trial Grid 1 success; Lines taken out of the water to be cleaned in preparation for winter deployment.

October 2021: Re-seeding of Grid 1 and deployment of Grid 2 (TBC)





Thank you for your time

If you have any further questions please send them to
amabel@greenseasolutions.co.uk or douglas@greenseasolutions.co.uk
by the 12th May.

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Appendix E

Question Received	GreenSea Solutions Response
Will any further grids be contained within the 15-hectare site shown on the map?	There is capacity to install several grids (possibly up to half a dozen) in the 15ha site shown on the map, but it is unlikely that we will be able to use the entire site. It is important that we farm responsibly and sustainably which means not farming too intensively. We will learn what the carrying capacity of the East Oronsay site is once we have some experience of operating it.
Might you want to expand the site at a future date?	If we can achieve successful results at the site and can support local employment then we may look to expand our operations in and around Loch Sunart. We would not necessarily expand adjacent to the East Oronsay site.
How much seaweed may be harvested each year from a grid?	Harvest yield could be up to five tonnes wet weight per grid depending on the size of grid, the species and on the growth at the site. A tonne is the equivalent to 40 sacks of potatoes but remember up to 90% of the seaweed is water weight, which will be lost when the seaweed is dried.
How and where would you take it ashore? Would you need a new Lochside infrastructure, a jetty, slipway or something of the kind?	It can be harvested by a small fishing boat or workboat and landed just across the loch at Glenmore Bay. We plan to use an existing slipway in Glenmore Bay.
Would you need to leave the seaweed to dry out and, if so, where? Would it smell?	No seaweed will be left to dry outside and there will be no smell as it is fresh when landed, and will be processed immediately.
What does processing entail?	Primary processing of seaweed entails drying the seaweed to reduce the moisture content from 90% down to around 10%. – This drying process stabilises the seaweed material allowing it to either be milled down into flakes or vacuum packed as whole fronds for onward transport.
I can find no planning application for a processing plant, will an application be made, or would it count as permitted development?	It is planned to utilise an existing building to house the processing facility. Change of use is the only permission that may be required.
What is the end product of processing, and what forms might it take (liquid, powder, bales or whatever)?	The end product of processing is most commonly dried flakes and powder. This is around 10% of the harvest weight and less than 10% of the harvest volume so a 1

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	tonne harvest (1000kg) will yield 100kg of dried material which will be 4-5 bags or boxes.
Would this end product be moved on by road or by sea?	Most likely by small road vehicle, as the amount from our first yield will be relatively small.
Is there any risk of marine animal entanglement in a seaweed farm?	<p>The moorings on seaweed farms are under constant tension so it's not possible for a large marine animal to get entangled. Entanglement is not a recognised issue on other aquaculture installations such as finfish or mussel farms for the same reason. This is an issue more associated with static fishing gear and Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA) have done good work to provide training and support to Scottish inshore creel fisherman to mitigate the risk of entanglement by focusing on methods of gear set-up.</p> <p>For more information go to www.scottishentanglement.org</p>
Does growing seaweed have any impact on light reaching the seabed?	This is known as benthic shading and is not a significant issue for the scale at which we propose to farm nor in depths of 10m or more. Some academic work has been done to investigate this in South East Asia but this is for red seaweeds grown in 1.5-2.0m of water which is a completely different environment and type of farming.
Does seaweed generate debris if the fronds fall off and is this a problem?	<p>As the seaweed cultivated on the farm is harvested each year there are no old plants left on the farm and at the scale of farming we are proposing this would not be a meaningful, significant issue anyway.</p> <p>The standing biomass of native wild seaweeds in Loch Sunart will be hundreds of thousands of times more than that being cultivated on the farm and shedding of old material is a natural phenomenon in the wild.</p>
Is the development classed as aquaculture and thus consented through Highland	

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<p>Council or does it go directly to Marine Scotland for a Marine Licence?</p>	
<p>Whilst you propose to harvest seaweed early in the season, will the site be available to local creelers later in the season, and have you sought any consultation with these local fishermen?</p>	<p>We have consulted with a number of those working in Loch Sunart who have confirmed that this site should not pose any issue. In fact, we had originally planned to have our farm further to the North West of Loch Sunart in Camas Fearna Bay, however relocated to Oronsay East following an initial consultation regarding the issues you have highlighted. It is our priority not to conflict with anyone else already working in the area, and as a result was one of our primary concerns when choosing the correct site.</p>
<p>There can be quite significant tidal streams in this particular area. Are you sure your Eco anchors and buoys will hold your gear, especially when laden with seaweed?</p>	<p>In terms of tidal streams, the survey and engineering team at AquaMoor have assessed the area closely in order to ensure that there will be no risk to the mooring system.</p>
<p>Will there be any conflicts with yachting or other boating activities in the area?</p>	<p>Any risk to yacht navigation is mitigated under Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) requirements to mark the boundaries of the site. NLB have confirmed that the site allows sufficient space for passage between Oronsay and Carna. Furthermore, Loch Sunart is a relatively low marine traffic area as it is narrow and can be difficult to sail.</p>