

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010, PART 4 MARINE LICENSING

LICENCE TO DEPOSIT ANY SUBSTANCE OR OBJECT IN THE SCOTTISH MARINE AREA

Licence Number: **MS-00010108**

The Scottish Ministers (hereinafter referred to as "the Licensing Authority") hereby grant a marine licence authorising:

Atlantic Mariculture Ltd
Ardtoe Marine Laboratory
Ardtoe
Acharacle
PH36 4LD

to deposit any substance or object as described in Part 2. The licence is subject to the conditions set out, or referred to, in Part 3.

The licence is valid from **04 November, 2023** until **21 January, 2027**

Signed:

Kirsten Watson

For and on behalf of the Licensing Authority

Date of issue: 03 November, 2023

1. PART 1 - GENERAL

1.1 Interpretation

In the licence, terms are as defined in Section 1, 64 and 157 of the Marine Scotland Act 2010, and

- a) "**the 2010 Act**" means the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010;
- b) "**Licensed Activity**" means any activity or activities listed in section 21 of the 2010 Act which is, or are authorised under the licence;
- c) "**Licensee**" means Atlantic Mariculture Ltd
- d) "**Mean High Water Springs**" means any area submerged at mean high water spring tide;
- e) "**Commencement of the Licensed Activity**" means the date on which the first vehicle or vessel arrives on the site to begin carrying on any activities in connection with the Licensed Activity;
- f) "**Completion of the Licensed Activity**" means the date on which the Licensed Activity has been installed in full, or the Licensed Activity has been deemed complete by the Licensing Authority, whichever occurs first;

All geographical co-ordinates contained within the licence are in WGS84 format (latitude and longitude degrees and minutes to three decimal places) unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Contacts

All correspondence or communications relating to the licence should be addressed to:

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
Scottish Government
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB
Email: MS.Marinelicensing@gov.scot

1.3 Other authorisations and consents

The Licensee is deemed to have satisfied itself that there are no barriers or restrictions, legal or otherwise, to the carrying on of the Licensed Activities in connection with the licensed activity. The issuing of the licence does not absolve the Licensee from obtaining such other authorisations and consents, which may be required under statute.

1.4 Variation, suspension, revocation and transfer

Under section 30 (1) of the 2010 Act the Licensing Authority may by notice vary, suspend or revoke the licence granted by them if it appears to the Licensing Authority that there has been a breach of any of its provisions. For any such other reason that appears to be relevant to the Licensing Authority under section 30(2) or (3) of the 2010 Act.

Under the 2010 Act variations, suspensions, revocations and transfers of licences are subject to the procedures set out in section 31 of the Act.

Under section 30 (7) of the 2010 Act, on an application made by a licensee, the Licensing Authority may vary a licence if satisfied that the variation being applied for is not material.

Under section 30 (8) of the 2010 Act, on an application made by the licensee, the Licensing Authority may transfer the licence from the Licensee to another person.

1.5 Breach of requirement for, or conditions of, licence

Under section 39 of the 2010 Act it is an offence to carry on a Licensable Marine Activity without a marine licence and it is also an offence to fail to comply with any condition of a marine licence.

1.6 Defences: actions taken in an emergency

Under section 40 of the 2010 Act it is a defence for a person charged with an offence under section 39(1) of the 2010 Act in relation to any activity to prove that –
the activity was carried out for the purpose of saving life, or for the purpose of securing the safety of a vessel, aircraft or marine structure ('force majeure'), and
that the person took steps within a reasonable time to inform the Licensing Authority as set out in section 40(2) of the 2010 Act.

1.7 Offences relating to information

Under section 42 of the 2010 Act it is an offence for a person to make a statement which is false or misleading in a material way, knowing the statement to be false or misleading or being reckless as to whether the statement is false or misleading, or to intentionally fail to disclose any material information for the purpose of procuring the issue, variation or transfer of a marine licence or for the purpose of complying with, or purporting to comply with, any obligation imposed by either Part 4 of the 2010 Act or the provisions of this licence.

1.8 Appeals

Under Regulation 3(1) of the Marine Licensing Appeals (Scotland) Regulations 2011 a person who has applied for a marine licence may by summary application appeal to against a decision taken by the Licensing Authority under section 71(1)(b) or (c) or (5) of the Act.

2. PART 2 – PARTICULARS

2.1 Agent

As per Licensee

2.2 Location of the Licensed Activity

Loch Sunart, Lochaber, within the area bounded by joining points

56° 39.820' N 05° 54.950' W

56° 39.947' N 05° 54.797' W

56° 39.791' N 05° 54.338' W

56° 39.670' N 05° 54.473' W

As shown in Annex One.

2.3 Description of the Licensed Activity

Variation to algal farm

As described in the application dated 20 October, 2022 and correspondence submitted in support of the application.

2.4 Descriptions of the substances or objects to be deposited

The licence authorises the deposit of the undernoted substances and objects required in connection with the licensed activity, subject to the maximum amounts as specified below:

15 No. Longlines

30 No. Grid Moorings

2 No. Marked Buoys

2.5 Contractor and Vessel Details

3. PART 3 – CONDITIONS

3.1 General Conditions

3.1.1 The Licensee must only deposit the materials listed in Part 2 of the licence in accordance with the licence, the application and any plans or programmes approved by the Licensing Authority unless otherwise authorised by the Licensing Authority.

3.1.2 The Licensee must maintain the materials deposited under the licence in accordance with the licence, the application and any plans or programmes approved by the Licensing Authority.

3.1.3 Only the materials listed in Part 2 of the licence may be used during the execution of the Licensed Activity.

3.1.4 All materials used during the execution of the Licensed Activity must be inert and must not contain toxic elements which may be harmful to the marine environment, the living resources which it supports or human health.

3.1.5 The Licensee must ensure that the Licensed Activity does not encroach on any recognised anchorage, either charted or noted in nautical publications, within the licensed area as described in Part 2 of the Licence.

3.1.6 In the event of any breach of health and safety or environmental obligations relating to the Licensed Activity during the period of the licence, the Licensee must provide written notification of the nature and timing of the incident to the Licensing Authority within 24 hours of the incident occurring. Confirmation of remedial measures taken and/or to be taken to rectify the breach must be provided, in writing, to the Licensing Authority within a period of time to be agreed by the Licensing Authority.

3.1.7 The Licensee must notify Source Data Receipt, The Hydrographic Office, Admiralty Way, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 2DN (e-mail: sdr@ukho.gov.uk; tel.: 01823 484444) of the progress and upon completion of the the Licensed Activity. Such notification must include a copy of the licence, and wherever possible, 'as built plans', in order that all necessary amendments to nautical publications are made.

3.1.8 Details of any marks or lights not required by the licence must be submitted to the Northern Lighthouse Board and its ruling complied with. The display of unauthorised marks or lights is prohibited.

3.1.9 The Licensee must remove the materials from below the level of Mean High Water Springs, or make such alterations as advised by the Licensing Authority, within one month of notice being given by the Licensing Authority at any time it is considered necessary or advisable for the safety of navigation, and not replaced without further approval by the Licensing Authority. The Licensee shall be liable for any expense incurred.

3.1.10 The Licensee must ensure that outlying anchor points are not marked with buoys. Alternative means to locate anchors must be used.

3.1.11 The Licensee must ensure that there are no loose lines or ropes around site equipment.

3.1.12 Where any damage, destruction or decay is caused to the works, the Licensee must notify the Licensing Authority, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Northern Lighthouse Board, Kingfisher Information Services of Seafish and the UK Hydrographic Officer, in writing, of such damage, destruction or decay as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than 24 hour after becoming aware of any such damage, destruction or decay.

3.1.13 The Licensee must ensure the works remain secured to the seabed at all sea state conditions expected at the location of the Licensed activity. Regular inspection and maintenance of the works must take place.

3.1.14 If governmental assistance is required (including UK governmental assistance or the assistance of any UK devolved government) to deal with any emergency arising from:

- a) the failure to mark and light the works as required by the licence;
 - b) the maintenance of the works; or
 - c) the drifting or wreck of the works, to include the broadcast of navigational warnings
- then the Licensee is liable for any expenses incurred in securing such assistance.

3.1.15 Should the Licensee proceed to undertake the Licensed Activity under the authority of the licence, the Licensed Activity authorised under the previous marine licence in favour of Green Sea Solutions Ltd, dated 21 January 2021 (licence number MS-00008866) is not permitted.

3.1.16 The Licensee must ensure that a weekly check of the marking and lighting equipment is made and records kept of its physical state for audit purposes.

3.1.17 The Licensee must ensure that the site is marked by means of:

- a) Two lit yellow Special Mark Poles fitted with a yellow 'X' topmarks.
- b) The lights must display a character of flash yellow every five seconds (Fl Y 5s) with a nominal range of 2 nautical miles and be installed above the yellow 'X' topmarks.
- c) The poles must be positioned at the most Northern and Eastern seaward Corners of the site.
- d) The buoy diameter must be approximately 1 metre at the waterline and the 'X' topmark must be greater than or equal to 50cm length by 7.5cm width.

3.1.18 The Licensee must ensure that the navigation marking and lighting given in condition 3.1.17 are installed at the same time as the licensed objects and continued unless and until the Licensing Authority rescind this direction.

3.1.19 In the event of the Licensed Activity being discontinued the materials used under the authority of the licence must be removed to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.

3.1.20 The Licensee must ensure that the works are maintained at all times in good repair.

3.1.21 The Licensee must ensure that all moorings and any vessels attached to the moorings are within the moorings area bounded by the coordinates in Part 2 of the licence at all times.

3.1.22 The Licensee must ensure that the Licensed Activity is only carried out at the location of the Licensed Activity specified in Part 2 of the licence.

3.1.23 The Licensee must ensure that the marine environment is not artificially enriched to aid production or for any other reason.

3.1.24 The Licensee must ensure that only macro-algal species native to the UK, and found in Loch Sunart, are grown on the licensed objects and shall be limited to growing the following kelp species: *saccharina latissima* and *alaria esculenta*.

3.2 Prior to the commencement of the Licensed Activity

3.2.1 The Licensee must provide the name and function of any agent, contractor or sub-contractor appointed to undertake the Licensed Activities, as soon as is reasonably practicable prior to the Licensed Activities commencing.

3.2.2 The Licensee must issue local notification to marine users – including fisherman's organisations, neighbouring port authorities and other local stakeholders – to ensure that they are made fully aware of the Licensed Activity.

3.2.3 The Licensee must ensure that HM Coastguard National Maritime Operations Centre, in this case Zone35@hmcg.gov.uk, is made aware of the Licensed Activity prior to commencement.

3.2.4 The Licensee must complete the Marine Emergency Action Card provided and send it to oelo@mcga.gov.uk prior to Commencement of the Licensed Activity.

3.3 During the Licensed Activity

3.3.1 Only those persons acting on behalf of, and authorised by, the agent or the Licensee shall undertake the Licensed Activity.

3.3.2 The Licensee must ensure that any debris or waste materials arising during the course of the Licensed Activity are removed for disposal at an approved location above the tidal level of Mean High Water Springs.

3.3.3 The Licensee must ensure that copies of the licence are available for inspection by any authorised Enforcement Officer at:

- a) the premises of the Licensee;
- b) the premises of any agent acting on behalf of the Licensee; and
- c) the site of the Licensed Activity.

3.3.4 The Licensee must ensure that a copy of the licence is given to each contractor and sub-contractor employed to undertake the Licensed Activity.

3.3.5 The Licensee must ensure the best method of practice is used to minimise re-suspension of sediment during the Licensed Activity.

3.3.6 The Licensee must ensure appropriate steps are taken to minimise damage to the shoreline and seabed by the Licensed Activity.

3.3.7 Any person authorised by the Licensing Authority must be permitted to inspect the site at any reasonable time.

3.3.8 The Licensee must monitor for any entanglement incidences involving marine mammals and site equipment, even when the animals have freed themselves, and report any incidents as soon as reasonably practicable to the Licensing Authority, NatureScot, the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme and the Scottish Marine Mammal Stranding Scheme (SMASS).

3.3.9 The Licensee must adopt measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species as a result of the Licensed Activities and must, at all times, act in accordance with the Atlantic Mariculture Ltd Marine Biosecurity Plan for Oronsay East Seaweed Farm, submitted to the Licensing Authority on 02 November 2022.

3.3.10 The Licensee must ensure activities are carried out without unreasonable harm to wild seaweed populations during collection of reproductive material and must at all times use the best practicable means of reproductive material collection.

3.3.11 Following the Commencement of the Licensed Activity, the Licensee must undertake a diving survey twice per year to monitor the benthic community within the location of the Licensed Activity and in the vicinity of the site to determine whether the Licensed Activity has had any impact on Priority Marine Features or designated benthic features of the Sunart Special Area of Conservation or Loch Sunart Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area. The results of the surveys must be provided to the Licensing Authority as soon as practicable following completion of each survey.

3.3.12 Drop down cameras must be used when depositing the site equipment on the seabed to ensure no equipment is deposited on any Priority Marine Features or designated benthic features of the Sunart Special Area of Conservation or Loch Sunart Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area.

3.4 Upon Completion of the Licensed Activity

3.4.1 If a new licence is required, the Licensee must make an application at least fourteen weeks before the expiry date of the licence. This licence shall not continue in force after the expiry date of 21 January 2027.

3.4.2 The Licensee must submit a written report regarding the deposit of the licensed materials to the Licensing Authority. The written report must be submitted on the forms provided by the Licensing Authority no later than 31 July 2028.

3.4.3 The Licensee must ensure the shoreline and seabed are returned to the original profile, or as close as reasonably practicable, following the Completion of the Licensed Activity.

NOTES

1. You are deemed to have satisfied yourself that there are no barriers, legal or otherwise, to the carrying out of the licensed activity. The issue of the licence does not absolve the licensee from obtaining such authorisations, consents etc which may be required under any other legislation.
2. In the event that the licensee wishes any of the particulars set down in the Schedule to be altered, the licensing authority must be immediately notified of the alterations. It should be noted that changes can invalidate a licence, and that an application for a new licence may be necessary.