

Pre-application notification Kilchoan Algae farm

Description

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. The cultivation of the seaweed will run over a full yearly cycle, beginning of deployment September 2021 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 limited. 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.

If the trial farm (2 x 60 m lines) proves to be successful, the farm will extend slowly towards a maximum 4 ha farm. In case the lease is terminated, or the farm is unsuccessful. Kilchoan management limited will be responsible for the decommissioning of the farm. The used anchors will be removed, and the seabed restored to its original state.

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.

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. The area has been monitored since December 2019 and the site location was chosen in an area outside of the usual creel fishing grounds.

Species of cultivation

- Saccharine altissimo
- Laminaria digitata
- Laminaria hyperboles,
- Altria esculenta
- Sacchoriza polyschides

Cultivation Equipment

Trial farm:

- - 2 x 60m longlines which are suspended.
- - 2 x 20 foam buoys.
- - 4 x 100l cushion buoys: Used to tension the lines
- - 4 x 2-meter Helical anchor.
- - 2 x red cardinal buoys above anchors for navigation
- Total farm size: 920 MS
- If the trial farm proves to be successful, we will expand towards a 4-ha farm.

Full farm:

- - 40 x 120m longlines which are suspended.
- - 40 x 40 foam buoys.
- - 80 x 100l cushion buoys: used to tension the lines
- - 80 x Helical anchors.
- - 4 x red cardinal buoys above anchors for navigation
- Total farm size: 40 000 MS
- Total seabed footprint: 54 000 MS

The site location can be found on the attached maps and charts.

A marine license will be submitted for the construction of this algae farm.

The public consultation event will be held on the 26th of March 2021 at 11 AM via zoom.

For future information you can contact Marnik van Cauter at

Email: marnik@kilchoanestate.co.uk

Phone: +44 7377 194263