

Eamonn Ross
[REDACTED]
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24 October 2025

Our Ref: AP2/1-2/2023

Site Ref: T09/093A

Re: Appeal against the decision by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to grant an Aquaculture Licence to the Marine Institute for the cultivation of various species of finfish, shellfish and seaweeds for research purposes on site T09/093A at Lehanagh Pool, Bertraghboy Bay, Co Galway (the "Appeal").

Dear Mr Ross,

Please be advised that the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (2011 Regulations) as amended, has determined that an Appropriate Assessment (AA), as referred to in Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (as amended), is required for the project the subject of the Appeal for the reasons set out below.

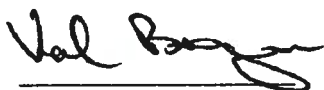
The Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board has carried out a Screening for AA and a Remedial Screening for AA and determined that the proposed aquaculture activities and the aquaculture activities undertaken since the existing licence expired on 31 May 2019, pursuant to section 19A(4) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 require AA and Remedial AA on the basis that it cannot be excluded by reason of objective scientific information, that those activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have or had a significant effect on a European site. The Screening for AA and the Remedial Screening for AA concluded that there is and was a possibility of significant effects on the Connemara Bog Complex SAC, Connemara Bog Complex SPA, Slyne Head to Ardmore PT Islands SPA, Illaunnanoon SPA, Lough Corrib SPA, Lough Mask SPA, Inishmore SPA, Cruagh Island SPA and High Island Inishshark & Davillaun SPA.

The Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board has directed the Applicant pursuant to Regulations 42(3) and 42(8) of the 2011 Regulations to furnish the Aquaculture Licences Appeal Board

with a Remedial Natura Impact Statement as defined by Regulation 2(1) of the 2011 Regulations to assess whether or not the proposed project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. The Remedial NIS must also retrospectively assess whether or not the aquaculture activities undertaken since the existing licence expired on 31 May 2019 pursuant to section 19A(4) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 have adversely affected the integrity of a European site.

The Remedial NIS is to be furnished by the Applicant to ALAB within 6 months of the date of this notice (23 April 2026).

Yours sincerely,



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Peter Sweetman



24 October 2025

Our Ref: AP2/1-2/2023

Site Ref: T09/093A

Re: Appeal against the decision by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to grant an Aquaculture Licence to the Marine Institute for the cultivation of various species of finfish, shellfish and seaweeds for research purposes on site T09/093A at Lehanagh Pool, Bertraghboy Bay, Co Galway (the "Appeal").

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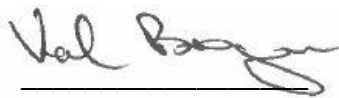
Please be advised that the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (2011 Regulations) as amended, has determined that an Appropriate Assessment (AA), as referred to in Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (as amended), is required for the project the subject of the Appeal for the reasons set out below.

The Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board has carried out a Screening for AA and a Remedial Screening for AA and determined that the proposed aquaculture activities and the aquaculture activities undertaken since the existing licence expired on 31 May 2019, pursuant to section 19A(4) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 require AA and Remedial AA on the basis that it cannot be excluded by reason of objective scientific information, that those activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have or had a significant effect on a European site. The Screening for AA and the Remedial Screening for AA concluded that there is and was a possibility of significant effects on the Connemara Bog Complex SAC, Connemara Bog Complex SPA, Slyne Head to Ardmore PT Islands SPA, Illaunnaon SPA, Lough Corrib SPA, Lough Mask SPA, Inishmore SPA, Cruagh Island SPA and High Island Inishshark & Davillaun SPA.

The Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board has directed the Applicant pursuant to Regulations 42(3) and 42(8) of the 2011 Regulations to furnish the Aquaculture Licences Appeal Board with a Remedial Natura Impact Statement as defined by Regulation 2(1) of the 2011 Regulations to assess whether or not the proposed project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. The Remedial NIS must also retrospectively assess whether or not the aquaculture activities undertaken since the existing licence expired on 31 May 2019 pursuant to section 19A(4) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 have adversely affected the integrity of a European site.

The Remedial NIS is to be furnished by the Applicant to ALAB within 6 months of the date of this notice (23 April 2026).

Yours sincerely,



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board