ALAB
An Bord Achomhairc Um Cheadúnais Dobharshaothraithe
Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board

Neil Ruane
FEAS Aquaculture Section
Marine Institute
[redacted]

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 Ruane,

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.

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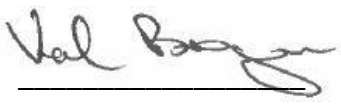
The ALAB Bertraghboy Bay Aquaculture license site T09/093A Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Remedial Screening for Appropriate Assessment report is enclosed.

You are hereby directed 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 (NIS) as defined by Regulation 2(1) of the 2011 Regulations. The Remedial NIS must 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 within 6 months of the date of this notice (23 April 2026).

You are hereby given notice that, pursuant to Regulation 42(4) of the 2011 Regulations, unless the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board otherwise directs, where you fail to furnish a Remedial NIS within the period specified above, or any additional period that may be agreed by the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board, your application shall be deemed to be withdrawn.

Yours sincerely,



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

ALAB
An Bord Achomhairc Um
Cheadúnais Dobharshaothraithe
Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board

Screening for Appropriate Assessment and Remedial Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Bertraghboy Bay Aquaculture Licence Site T09/093A

ALAB Appeal Ref nos. AP2/1-2/2023

Appeal description:

Appeal against the decision of the Minister 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.

Step 1 - Description of the project, purpose of this document and local site characteristics

Brief description of the project

A Fish Culture Licence was issued to Bradan Mara Teo on 01 June 1984 for the culture of salmon at a site (T9/93) in the inner part of Bertraghboy Bay, in an area known as Lehanagh Pool, County Galway (the 'Existing Licence'). The licence expired on the 31 May 2019.

The site was established as a research facility by the Marine Institute in 2017.

The Marine Institute (MI) applied for a renewal aquaculture licence of the site; for a 21.761-hectare site (T09/093A) on the 26 of March 2019 (the 'Renewal Application').

Since the Existing Licence expired on 31 May 2019 to date, aquaculture activities have continued under the terms and conditions of the Existing Licence pursuant to section 19A(4) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997.

The Existing Licence permits the cultivation of various species for the main purpose of research; the defined species to be farmed are finfish (cod, salmonids and cleaner fish of the wrasse & lumpsucker family), shellfish (blue mussels), other bivalves, sea urchins, crustaceans, and seaweed (macro-algae of the genera Alaria and Laminaria).

The site currently consists of five finfish cages (each 50m in circumference) and associated equipment, seaweed long lines and structures for the cultivation of shellfish.

The annual harvest of finfish from the site in 2024 was less than 1 tonne.

No acoustic deterrent equipment has been required on site since May 2019.

The Minister decided to grant the renewal licence for a period of 10 years to the MI on the 30 December 2022.

The Renewal Application is for the cultivation of the following species:

- Finfish: such as fish of the Families Gadidae e.g. Atlantic cod, Salmonidae e.g. Atlantic salmon, Mugilidae e.g. grey mullet, Labridae e.g. Ballan wrasse and Cyclopteridae e.g. lumpfish,
- Molluscan shellfish of the Class Bivalvia such as blue mussel, King scallop, Variegated scallop and European flat oyster
- Echinoderm animals such as Purple sea urchin and Black sea cucumber,
- Crustaceans such as European lobster,
- Seaweed macro-algae species in the Phylum Chlorophyta (green algae), Rhodophyta (red algae) and Phaeophyta (brown algae).

The Renewal Application proposes a maximum of 12 cages (each 50m in circumference) and associated equipment, a maximum of 1km of seaweed long lines and structures for the cultivation of shellfish, echinoderms and crustaceans.

The proposed maximum biomass (of finfish, shellfish and seaweed) will not exceed 100 tonnes, and the annual harvest output of finish will not exceed 50 tonnes.

No acoustic deterrent equipment will be required on site.

Purpose of this document

Peter Sweetman on behalf of Wild Ireland Defence, the Federation of Irish Salmon & Seatrout anglers and Galway Bay against Salmon cages, appealed the minister's decision to grant a renewed licence for the site, on the 22/01/2023 (ALAB reference number AP2/1/2023). Eamonn Ross on behalf of the National Anglers representative Association appealed the minister's decision to grant a renewed licence for the site, on the 06/02/2023 (ALAB reference number AP2/2/2023).

The proposed aquaculture licenced activities in Bertraghboy Bay were screened for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in December 2016 by BIM on behalf of the Minister. It was concluded following the Screening for AA that a stage 2 AA was not necessary.

This report has been prepared to allow ALAB to screen for Appropriate Assessment:

- The proposed aquaculture activities; and
- The aquaculture activities undertaken since 31 May 2019.

Aerial imagery from 13 May 2019 and 03 April 2025 provide evidence of changes within the site (see appendix 2).

Three cages are clearly visible in the 13 May 2019 image and five cages and one reverse osmosis cage (personal communication with A Drumm, MI Senior Laboratory Analyst 13 March 2025) are clearly visible in the 03 April 2025 image.

Brief description of the site characteristics

Bertraghboy Bay is located in County Galway, to the north of Kilkieran Bay. The Bay is bounded by Gorteen Point to the south and Mace Head to the north. Roundstone village lies towards the head of the Bay on the northern shore and is the main population centre in the area.

The Bay is relatively sheltered due in part to the number of Islands located within the Bay. The Rivers Recess, Owengowla, and Gowlabeg flow into the Bay.

The entirety of the Bay lies within the Udaras na Gaeltachta aquaculture licence site T09/078/1, which is licensed for Pacific Oyster, Great Atlantic Scallop and Manila Clam.

There are three other licenced aquaculture sites in the Bay; sites T09/155 and T09/155/1 are licensed for Atlantic Salmon and Atlantic Cod and site T09/107 is licensed for Atlantic Salmon and Rainbow Trout.

There has been no change to the current situation with regards to licences in the Bay since May 2019.

There currently are two new licence applications, for the cultivation of seaweeds (T09-1017) and algae (T09-1001), currently being process by the Department.

The MI site lies 1.6km from both the Connemara Bog Complex SAC and 2.8km from the Connemara Bog Complex SPA.

Step 2 - Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor Model and compilation of information on qualifying interests and conservation objectives.

The Qualifying Interests (QI's) highlighted in **bold text** are deemed to have a source-pathway-receptor link and as such the relevant European sites have been screened in. Distances are measured as straight-line distances in open water, or along-shore coastal distances, depending on the site and QI's being considered.

The information and the conclusions set out in the table below are relevant and apply to both the assessment of the proposed aquaculture activities and the aquaculture activities undertaken since 31 May 2019 to date.

Table 1: List of protected sites and their current Qualifying Interests

European Site Code	Site Designation Date	Distance from the Proposed Project (km)	List of Current Qualifying Interests	Current Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (Maintain/Restore favourable conservation condition)	Connections (Source-Pathway-Receptor link)	Current Qualifying Interests considered further in Screening Y/N	European Site Screening in for stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Connemara Bog Complex SAC (site code 002034)	01 August 1997	1.6	Coastal lagoons [1150] Reefs [1170] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the	Maintain Maintain Maintain Maintain Maintain			

			Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Blanket bogs (if active bog) [7130] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Alkaline fens [7230] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] **Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]**	Maintain Restore Restore Maintain Restore Restore Restore Restore Maintain Maintain Maintain Maintain Restore	No (no source-pathway-receptor link) Yes – farmed Salmon reared within	No (no further consideration given) Yes –possible physical disturbance (including the	Yes

					migratory path of 1106 Salmon	transmission of sea lice or infectious disease and possible genetic introgression)	
Rosroe Bog SAC (site code 000324)	01 September 2019	2.3	Blanket bogs (if active bog) [7130] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Restore Restore	No (no source-pathway-receptor link)	No (no further consideration given)	No
Cregduff Lough SAC (site code 001251)		6.6	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]	Maintain Maintain	No (no source-pathway-receptor link)	No (no further consideration given)	No
Kilkieran Bay And Islands SAC (Site code 002111)		8	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Machairs (in Ireland) [21A0] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130][1]	Maintain Maintain Maintain Maintain Restore Restore Restore	No (no source-pathway-receptor link)	No (no further consideration given)	No

			Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351][1] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]	Maintain Restore Maintain Maintain			
Dogs Bay SAC (Site code 001257)		8.6	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] European dry heaths [4030]	Restore Maintain Restore Restore Maintain	No (no source-pathway-receptor link)	No (no further consideration given)	No
Murvey Machair SAC (Site code 002129)		11.6	Machairs (in Ireland) [21A0] Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395]	Restore Maintain	No (no source-pathway-receptor link)	No (no further consideration given)	No
Slyne Head Peninsula SAC (Site code 002074)		16	Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Restore Maintain Maintain Maintain			

			Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Maintain	No (no source-pathway-receptor link)	No (no further consideration given)	No
			Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	Restore			
			Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	Restore			
			Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Restore			
			Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]	Restore			
			Machairs (in Ireland) [21A0]	Restore			
			Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]	Maintain			
			Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130][1]				
			Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	Maintain			
			European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain			
			Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	Maintain			
			Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (important orchid sites) [6210]	Maintain			

			Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510] Alkaline fens [7230] Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349][1] Petalophyllum ralfsii (Petalwort) [1395] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]	Maintain Maintain Maintain Maintain Maintain			
Slyne Head Islands SAC (Site code 000328)		21.5	Reefs [1170] Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	Maintain Maintain Maintain	No (no source-pathway-receptor link)	No (no further consideration given)	No
Connemara Bog Complex SPA (site code 004181)	01 November 2010	2.8	**Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]** **Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098)** **Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]** **Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182]**	Restore Restore Restore Maintain	Yes – research facility activities have taken and are to take place within species foraging ranges[2]	Yes - possible visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance	Yes
Slyne Head to Ardmore Point Islands SPA (site code 004159)[3]		6.9	Barnacle Goose (Branta leucopsis) [A045] Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195]	To Maintain or Restore listed for all special	No	No	

	26 October 2011		**Sandwich Tern (Sterna sandvicensis) [A191]** **Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194]**	conservation interests for this site	Yes – research facility activities have taken and are to take place within species foraging ranges[2]	Yes - possible visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance	Yes
Illaunnanoon SPA (Site Code: 004221)		20	**Sandwich Tern (Sterna sandvicensis) [A191]**	Restore	Yes – research facility activities have taken and are to take place within species foraging ranges[2]	Yes - possible visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance	Yes
Lough Corrib SPA (Site Code: 004042)		22	Gadwall (Anas strepera) [A051] Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056] Pochard (Aythya ferina) [A059] Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061] Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065] Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082] Coot (Fulica atra) [A125] Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]	Restore Restore Restore Restore Maintain Restore Restore Maintain	No	No	Yes

			Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] **Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182]**	Restore Restore Restore Restore Maintain Restore	Yes – research facility activities have taken and are to take place within species foraging ranges[2]	Yes - possible visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance	
Inishbofin, Omey Island and Turbot Island SPA (Site Code: 004231)		23.5	Corncrake (Crex crex) [A122]	Maintain	No	No	No
Lough Mask SPA (Site Code: 004062)		26	Tufted Duck (Aythya fuligula) [A061] Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193]	Restore Restore Maintain	No	No	

			Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182] **Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]**	Restore Maintain Restore Restore	Yes – research facility activities have taken and are to take place within species foraging ranges[2]	Yes - possible visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance	Yes
Inishmore SPA (site code 004152)[3]		26.7	Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199] **Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]**	Restore Restore Restore Restore	No Yes – research facility activities have taken and are to take place within species foraging ranges[2]	No Yes - possible visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance	Yes
Cruagh Island SPA (Site Code: 004170)[3]		28	Barnacle Goose (Branta leucopsis) [A045]	Maintain	No	No	

			Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013]	Restore	Yes – research facility activities have taken and are to take place within species foraging ranges[2]	Yes - possible visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance	Yes
High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA (Site Code:004144)[3]		32	Barnacle Goose (Branta leucopsis) [A045] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] **Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009]**	Maintain Restore Maintain	No Yes – research facility activities have taken and are to take place within species foraging ranges[2]	No Yes - possible visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance	Yes

[1] There are currently no site-specific conservation objectives for this species, so the conservation objectives from the nearest applicable site have been used.

[2] Estimated that 280 boat trips/annum will take place from Wallace Pier (1.5km from MI site) [A Drumm, (Marine Institute Senior Laboratory Analyst), personal communication, 10 April 2025].

[3] There are currently no site-specific conservation objectives for all species in this SPA, so the conservation objectives from the nearest applicable sites have been used.

Step 3 Assessment of likely significant effects

Table 2: List of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may have, or may have had since 31 May 2019, an effect on a European Site in light of the conservation objectives of that site, taking into account the nature, size and scale of the project.

Impacts	Possible Significance of Impacts (duration, magnitude etc.)
Physical disturbance (including the transmission of sea lice or infectious disease and possible genetic introgression)	Possible impacts on 1106 migratory Salmon which is a QI for the Connemara Bog Complex SAC
Possible visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance (e.g. disturbance caused to birds by passing boats)	Possible impacts on bird species identified in table 1

In-Combination Effects

Following a search of relevant databases (DAFM aquaculture licences, EPA dumping at sea permits, Local authority planning portals, Departmental foreshore licences and MARA maritime usage licences & maritime area consents) undertaken on the 08 October 2025 and having regard to the European Commission's *Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites*[4] Guidance document, the below project(s) have been identified as potential in-combination projects.

Table 3: List of potential in-combination projects

Application reference(s)	Project description	Approximate distance to aquaculture licence site T09/093A (km)	Project status
T09-178/1	Udaras na Gaeltachta, Pacific Oyster, Great Atlantic Scallop, Manila Clam farm	0	Licence first granted 27 March 1998
T09-1017	New application to cultivate native green and brown seaweeds	0.02[5]	Proposed (new aquaculture licence application)

[4] Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC 2021/C 437/01(Commission notice C/2021/6913. Dated 28.10.2021).

[5] At time of writing this application area site boundary layer was not available to view on the Departments AQUAMIS (Aquaculture Management Information System) map viewer (Licensed Aquaculture Sites) and as such the distance to T09/093A has been calculated conservatively by reference to adjacent boundaries on the AQUAMIS viewer.

T09-1001	New application to cultivate brown and red algae	1.4[5]	Proposed (new aquaculture licence application)
T09-155	Comhlacht Bradain Chonamara Teo Atlantic Salmon and Atlantic Cod farm	2.6	Licence first granted 15 November 1991
T09-107	Comhlacht Bradain Chonamara Teo Atlantic Salmon and Rainbow Trout farm	3.6	Licence first granted 08 December 1989
T09-155/1	Comhlacht Bradain Chonamara Teo Atlantic Salmon, Atlantic Cod farm	6.7	Licence first granted 31 December 1990
FS007085	Foreshore licence, Irish Water Site investigations for Sewerage Scheme, Roundstone Bay, Co Galway	9.5	Licence granted 15/12/22

All of the projects listed in the above table have been assessed with the proposed aquaculture activities to determine whether they, in combination, are likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

All of the licensed projects listed in the above table have been assessed with the aquaculture activities undertaken since 31 May 2019 to determine whether they, in combination, likely had a significant effect on a European site.

Two further foreshore licences, both for ORE site investigations (FS007543 and FS007161) have been ruled out as they are deemed to have no potential for in combination significant effects due to the nature of the projects and the distance from the Bertraghboy Bay site (12 and 14 km respectively).

The following plans, related to the development of the maritime environment were also identified:

- The Climate Action Plan 2025 and prior 2019, 2021, 2023 and 2024 Climate Action Plans
- River Basin Management Plans 2022-2027 (RBMP) and prior 2018-2021 RBMP
- Galway County Development plan (CDP) 2022 - 2028 and prior 2015-2021 Galway CDP

It cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information that the proposed aquaculture project, in combination with the above listed projects and plans, will have a significant effect 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. Particularly in relation to those projects which could potentially cause increased physical disturbance (such as the existing and proposed aquaculture licensed activities shown in table 3 above which could increase the potential for the transmission of sea lice or infectious diseases and possible genetic introgression) and increased visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance.

It also cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information that the aquaculture activities undertaken from 31 May 2019 to date, in combination with the above listed projects and

plans, will have had a significant effect 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. Particularly in relation to those projects which could potentially have caused increased physical disturbance (such as the aquaculture licensed activities shown in table 3 above which could have increased the potential for the transmission of sea lice or infectious diseases and possible genetic introgression) and increased visual disturbance & above water noise disturbance.

Were mitigation measures considered during the screening process? No

Step 4 Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significant effects:

On the basis of the information on file, and having regard to:

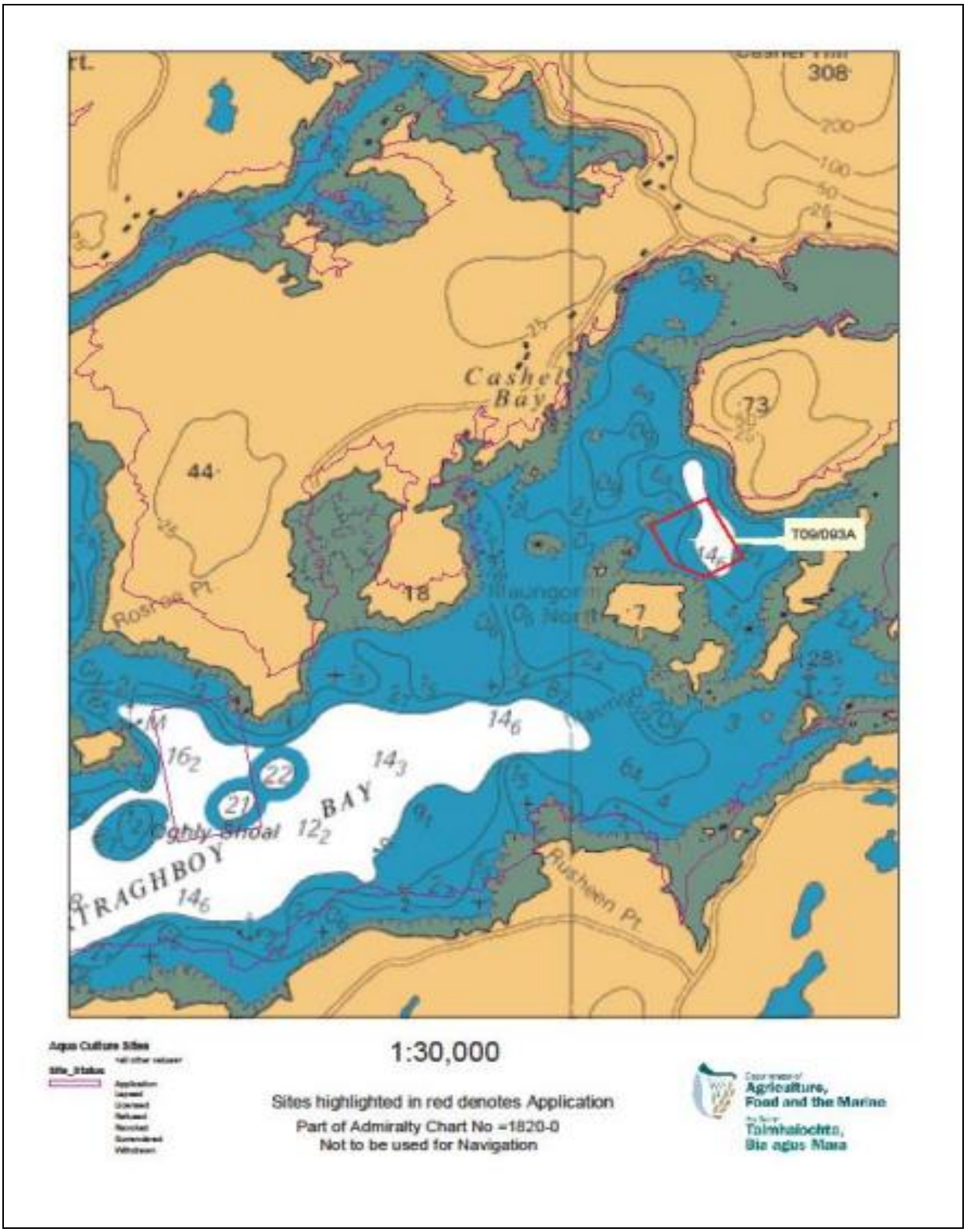
- The nature and scale of the proposed development and the aquaculture activities undertaken from 31 May 2019
- The distance to the nearest European sites
- The potential for in-combination effects with other plans and projects
- Physical disturbance
- Visual impacts & above water noise disturbance

Having considered the legal framework applicable to Appropriate Assessment, **it was concluded that the proposed Aquaculture Licence to the Marine Institute to cultivate various species of finfish, shellfish and seaweeds for research purposes on the foreshore on site T09/093A at Lehanagh Pool, Bertraghboy Bay, Co Galway will require Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment as it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information following screening that the proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European Site. It was also concluded that the aquaculture activities undertaken under the Existing Licence pursuant to section 19A(4) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 since 31 May 2019 will require a remedial Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment as it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information following screening that those activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, did not have a significant effect on a European Site.**

Conclusion		
	Tick as appropriate	Recommendation
(i) The possibility of significant effects on a European site can be excluded		
(ii) The possibility of significant effects on a European site cannot be excluded	✓	Proceed to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment
Senior Technical Advisor Signature and Date	 Mary Hegarty, 17/10/2025	

Appendix 1:

T09/093A Aquaculture Licence Map



Appendix 2:

Bertraghboy Bay Aerial images (courtesy of google maps) from 13 May 2019 and 03 April 2025

13 May 2019

03 April 2025