

Mr Martin Heydon TD
Minsiter for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Agriculture House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

15 December 2025

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025,
AP8/2025, AP9/2025, AP10/2025 and AP11/1-2/2025

Site Refs: T12/407B, T12/409A, T12/409B1, T12/409B2, T12/441A, T12/441B, T12/441C,
T12/500A, T12/502A, T12/515A and T12/516A

**Re: Notice that an Appropriate Assessment Is required pursuant to Regulation 42(8) of
The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.**

Dear Minister,

I refer to the above Appeals which has been remitted to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (the Board) for further consideration.

Following remittal of the Appeals, the Board carried out an updated Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for each appeal and determined that it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information that the proposed aquaculture activities the subject of the Appeals, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant impact on European Sites. A copy of the Screening Reports relevant to each Appeal, as prepared by the Board's Technical Advisor and adopted by the Board, are all publicly available on ALAB's website at the following link:

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Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, as amended (2011 Regulations) the Board has determined that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the project for the reasons set out in the Screening Report, and you are hereby given notice of the Board's determination in this respect in accordance with Regulation 42(8).

In particular, the Board concluded that there is a possibility of significant effects on the Ballyness Bay SAC (Site code 001090), Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (Site code 001141), Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC (Site code 000147), Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC (site code 02047), Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (site code 004083), Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (site code 4039), Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (site code 09194), West Donegal SPA (site code 04150), the West Donegal Islands SPA (site code 04230) as well as Lough Swilly SPA (site code 004075), Roaninish SPA (Site code 004121) and Lough Foyle SPA (Site code 004087).

It is noted that Lough Swilly SPA, Roaninish SPA and Lough Foyle SPA were not considered for the purposes of Stage 2 AA in the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) dated September 2023.

In light of the additional European sites which have been screened in for AA and, having regard to the passage of time since the original NIS was submitted, including the fact that activities were commenced on sites T12/407B, T12/515A and T12/414A after the Board made its now quashed Determination in May 2024, the Board has requested that the Licence Applicants submit an updated NIS or Statements in respect of the activities pursuant to Regulation 42(3) of the 2011 Regulations.

A copy of these letters can likewise be found on the Board's website at the above link.

The updated NIS or Statements are required to be submitted to the Board within 5 months from the date of the notices issued to the license Applicants, and not later than 14 May 2026. Upon receipt of the updated NIS or Statements, you will be given an opportunity to make a submission or observation in respect of the further information received, in accordance with the 2011 Regulations.

Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

CC Brian Batt, Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division.

Mr Timmy Dooley TD
Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 3

15 December 2025

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025,
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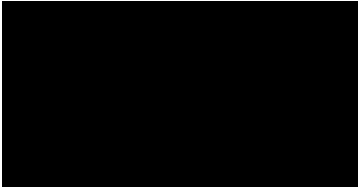
Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

CC Brian Batt, Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division.

Dr. Rick Officer, CEO
Marine Institute



15 December 2025

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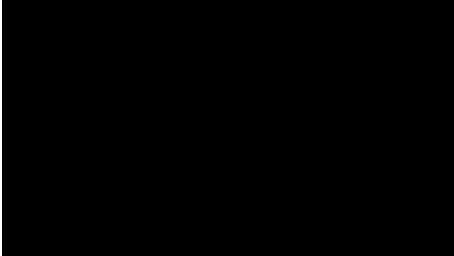
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Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Dr David Lyons
Head of Marine Habitats and Species



15 December 2025

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Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Dr Elaine McGoff
An Taisce



15 December 2025

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025, AP8/2025, AP9/2025, AP10/2025 and AP11/1-2/2025

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Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Ms Caroline Bocquel CEO
An Bord Iascaigh Mhara



15 December 2025

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025, AP8/2025, AP9/2025, AP10/2025 and AP11/1-2/2025

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Dear Ms Bocquel,

I refer to the above Appeals which has been remitted to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (the Board) for further consideration.

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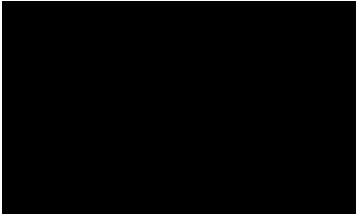
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Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Mr David Friel
Water and Environment Section



15 December 2025

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Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Save Ballyness Bay C/O Mr John Connaghan



15 December 2025

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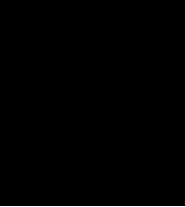
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Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Mr Joseph Friel



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Following remittal of the Appeals, the Board carried out an updated Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for each appeal and determined that it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information that the proposed aquaculture activities the subject of the Appeals, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant impact on European Sites. A copy of the Screening Reports relevant to each Appeal, as prepared by the Board's Technical Advisor and adopted by the Board, are all publicly available on ALAB's website at the following link:

<https://www.alab.ie/activeappeals/>

Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, as amended (2011 Regulations) the Board has determined that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the project for the reasons set out in the

Screening Report, and you are hereby given notice of the Board's determination in this respect in accordance with Regulation 42(8).

In particular, the Board concluded that there is a possibility of significant effects on the Ballyness Bay SAC (Site code 001090), Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (Site code 001141), Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC (Site code 000147), Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC (site code 02047), Inishbofin, Inishdooley and Inishbeg SPA (site code 004083), Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (site code 4039), Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (site code 09194), West Donegal SPA (site code 04150), the West Donegal Islands SPA (site code 04230) as well as Lough Swilly SPA (site code 004075), Roaninish SPA (Site code 004121) and Lough Foyle SPA (Site code 004087).

It is noted that Lough Swilly SPA, Roaninish SPA and Lough Foyle SPA were not considered for the purposes of Stage 2 AA in the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) dated September 2023.

In light of the additional European sites which have been screened in for AA and, having regard to the passage of time since the original NIS was submitted, including the fact that activities were commenced on sites T12/407B, T12/515A and T12/414A after the Board made its now quashed Determination in May 2024, the Board has requested that the Licence Applicants submit an updated NIS or Statements in respect of the activities pursuant to Regulation 42(3) of the 2011 Regulations.

A copy of these letters can likewise be found on the Board's website at the above link.

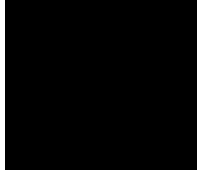
The updated NIS or Statements are required to be submitted to the Board within 5 months from the date of the notices issued to the license Applicants, and not later than 14 May 2026. Upon receipt of the updated NIS or Statements, you will be given an opportunity to make a submission or observation in respect of the further information received, in accordance with the 2011 Regulations.

Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board

Mr John Boyle



15 December 2025

Appeal Refs: AP2/2025, AP3/1-2/2025, AP4/2025, AP5/2025, AP6/2025, AP7/2025, AP8/2025, AP9/2025, AP10/2025 and AP11/1-2/2025

Site Refs: T12/407B, T12/409A, T12/409B1, T12/409B2, T12/441A, T12/441B, T12/441C, T12/500A, T12/502A, T12/515A and T12/516A

Re: Notice that an Appropriate Assessment Is required pursuant to Regulation 42(8) of The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

Dear Mr Boyle,

I refer to the above Appeals which has been remitted to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (the Board) for further consideration.

Following remittal of the Appeals, the Board carried out an updated Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for each appeal and determined that it cannot be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information that the proposed aquaculture activities the subject of the Appeals, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant impact on European Sites. A copy of the Screening Reports relevant to each Appeal, as prepared by the Board's Technical Advisor and adopted by the Board, are all publicly available on ALAB's website at the following link:

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Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011, as amended (2011 Regulations) the Board has determined that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the project for the reasons set out in the Screening Report, and you are hereby given notice of the Board's determination in this respect in accordance with Regulation 42(8).

In particular, the Board concluded that there is a possibility of significant effects on the Ballyness Bay SAC (Site code 001090), Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (Site code 001141), Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC (Site code 000147), Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC (site code 02047), Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA (site code 004083), Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (site code 4039), Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (site code 09194), West Donegal SPA (site code 04150), the West Donegal Islands SPA (site code 04230) as well as Lough Swilly SPA (site code 004075), Roaninish SPA (Site code 004121) and Lough Foyle SPA (Site code 004087).

It is noted that Lough Swilly SPA, Roaninish SPA and Lough Foyle SPA were not considered for the purposes of Stage 2 AA in the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) dated September 2023.

In light of the additional European sites which have been screened in for AA and, having regard to the passage of time since the original NIS was submitted, including the fact that activities were commenced on sites T12/407B, T12/515A and T12/414A after the Board made its now quashed Determination in May 2024, the Board has requested that the Licence Applicants submit an updated NIS or Statements in respect of the activities pursuant to Regulation 42(3) of the 2011 Regulations.

A copy of these letters can likewise be found on the Board's website at the above link.

The updated NIS or Statements are required to be submitted to the Board within 5 months from the date of the notices issued to the license Applicants, and not later than 14 May 2026. Upon receipt of the updated NIS or Statements, you will be given an opportunity to make a submission or observation in respect of the further information received, in accordance with the 2011 Regulations.

Yours faithfully



Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board