

Chat Messages

-  **Javier Sanchez**01:23:04

Good evening from Italy! It may be of interest for the attendees of this event: this interactive dashboard with information on the algae producing companies and the seaweed species being produced https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/bioeconomy/country/united-kingdom_en#algae_prod_plants,united-kingdom It is based on a recent scientific publication on the current status of the algae industry in Europe: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.626389/full>

-  **GLEN REYNOLDS**01:25:27

can the slides be shared following this evening's presentation to attendees please. I'm aware that the recording link will be available too

-  **Jennifer Mouat**01:28:26

Can I ask where the vessel density data was sourced please?

ScotMap data (Marine Scotland project providing spatial information on the fishing activity of Scottish registered commercial fishing vessels under 15m in overall length, based on interviews with fishermen).

Historic AIS data from the European Marine Observation and Data Network website.

-  **Kieran Beattie**01:30:26

Can't hear anything I'm afraid, if we're meant to?

-  **jburnet4**01:30:43

The sound on the video is not coming through

-  **Terri Vogt**01:30:43

Me neither

-  **Maggie Chapman MSP (she/her)**01:30:48

Can't hear anything either

-  **MICHELLE WALKER**01:30:49

No sound and storing for Me to

-  **Natalie Jurdeczka**01:30:51

Same here

-  **MICHELLE WALKER**01:31:00

*strobing

-  **robert**01:34:31

on the 3 areas you have earmarked ...where is/was the consultation with the fishing industry done . as a local trawler skipper 2 of the areas is a none starter . as high vessel movements of local squid trawlers

Within the scope and budget of the feasibility study, consultation was undertaken with inshore creel fishermen based in Portknockie and Rosehearty, and also a squid fisherman based in Macduff. We fully accept that the potential locations identified require further consultation before any proposal is taken further. Would be interested to hear which of the 3 areas is suitable in your opinion.

-  **Brenda Durno**01:35:35

What about contamination of the seaweed from fertiliser on farm land going into the sea ?

Not really in a position to comment on agricultural run-off going into the sea, however worth noting that seaweed can "clean up" the water environment by absorbing pollutants. Whether this could impact on quality/safety of the seaweed itself - don't know. Water quality overall on the N Aberdeenshire coast classed by SEPA as "Good" to "High" so no issues anticipated.

-  **Fingal McKiernan**01:38:25

The three locations may present challenges to navigation, yet, there has not been any consultation with us (NLB) about these - I would urge you to do this as soon as possible. Secondly, the reason there is very limited aquaculture on the East coast is due to higher exposure to extreme conditions - how is your site infrastructure going to over-come this? I cannot see any difference with the site designs shown to those on the more sheltered West coast.

The three potential locations identified in the feasibility study are just that – potential. Consultation with NLB would be undertaken as usual for any Marine Licence application if any proposals are taken forward.

The site designs shown in the presentation are indeed the same as those used on the more sheltered West coast. However we have allowed for significant additional cost for heavier-duty gear. We have also spoken to suppliers/installers of seaweed farm infrastructure and none had any significant concerns – they have deployed in more high energy environments.

Seaweed farming is being done on the Atlantic coast of the USA !

-  **kennethcoul**01:40:13

Question to NLC: given that- NMP states “existing fishing opportunities and activities are safeguarded” what dialogue has there been with squid fishermen in the area who land over £6 million to Aberdeenshire ports?

Within the scope and budget of the feasibility study, consultation was undertaken with inshore creel fishermen based in Portknockie and Rosehearty, and also a squid fisherman based in Macduff. We fully accept that the potential locations identified require further consultation before any proposal is taken further.

-  **David McClelland**01:40:44

Methane reduction in livestock systems is attributable to a specific red seaweed (Australian research) I'm not aware kelp has this benefit, more work required

We didn't attribute this benefit specifically to kelp – rather to illustrate some of the potential benefits of seaweed in general - the research

you refer to was done on *Asparagopsis taxiformis* which wouldn't grow here (water is too cold). That's not to say that other species of red seaweed could not produce similar results – just as yet untested.

-  **Brenda Durno**01:42:23

how will harbour dredging process effect this as silt will be deposited somewhere around harbours ?

Would not anticipate any significant issues – however dredging operations are covered by Marine Licence which would have to consider the impacts

-  **malcolmmorrison**01:47:16

Im afraid that inventing jobs for fishers without speaking to them is poor practice!

Inventing jobs for fishers without speaking to them would be poor practice – those we consulted with did show some interest. There are many fishermen globally diversifying into seaweed farming or even switching over completely, and not just in third world economies. One example here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dssHAr2A8Hs>

-  **Brenda Durno**01:48:15

sea birds feed off insects in the seaweed has this been taken into consideration ?

Not sure exactly what your point is but more seaweed = more insects = more food for seabirds ?

-  **malcolmmorrison**01:48:37

I would be interested to see where the saving is made on building the larger farm??

The cost of the fixed infrastructure (moorings etc) is a smaller proportion of the overall set-up cost as the scale increases.

-  **itaylor**01:48:49

Presuming that the dry matter of dry product is 90% what is dry matter of wet material?

“Wet” seaweed is approx. 90% water. Hence the drying process removes almost all of that water, and the volume/weight is reduced by approx. 90%. i.e. 10kg wet seaweed = 1kg dry seaweed.

-  **Fingal McKiernan**01:53:08

I have to leave now - I'll leave my colleague, Gillian to respond to my questions re: consultation with NLB.

-  **iPad**01:58:31

What species did you consider.

Focus on kelps as there is competition from wild harvest on wracks (which can be legally harvested mechanically, most kelps must be hand-cut)

Cuvee (*Laminaria hyperborea*) – slow growing, low value

Sugar Kelp (*Saccharina latissima*) – primary target species

Dabberlocks (*Alaria esculenta*) – potential secondary target species

Oarweed (*Laminaria digitata*) – slow growing, grows in intertidal zone

-  **Stephen Ball**01:59:04

What's to largest size of farm you can make?

In theory – no limit. Largest farm planned in Scotland to date is 43,200m of growing line – 24 number 50m x 50m grids.

-  **iPad**01:59:49

Why not NE coast?

Only because the study brief specifically asked us to look at the North coast – presumably Peterhead/Aberdeen/Stonehaven not considered suitable ?

-  **dmair2**02:00:32

thanks very much very interesting

-  **Matt Lockley**02:01:12

Fascinating run through a complex subject, thanks NLC

-  **Amanda (she/her)**02:01:26

Thanks very useful.

-  **Jennifer Mouat**02:02:01

If you contact myself as the Inshore Fishery Group Chair we can coordinate comments

Thank you Jennifer.

-  **Alistair Webster**02:02:15

Very informative - thankyou