

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- In addition and conjunction to the program to monitor BioAtlantis harvest sites in Bantry Bay (Appendix 1) It would be appropriate to focus monitoring efforts on one single area. This area will be the first area to be harvested and a thorough analysis of this site must be conducted. It will be important from the outset to identify an appropriate control site that is broadly reflective of the harvest site in terms of size and extent of kelp, depth, exposure and general biota found therein. Given the broadly qualitative nature of the sampling it will be important to have as many replicates as possible of the various sampling efforts. Therefore the number of 10-12 transects per treatment for biota/flora would be considered appropriate.
- Analysis of the qualitative data should be conducted using some ordination method (e.g. MDS in Primer). This would allow determination of community change, similarly between treatment and control sites and subsequent habitat recovery.
- While the proposed sampling of fish communities is appropriate and should be carried out as indicated, an additional fish sampling method i.e. Fyke nets, should be employed. The use of Fyke nets has, in the past, realised good estimates of fish use in kelp habitat. This method would likely allow sampling of a wider range of species as well as over a longer time scale (i.e. 24 hours). The details of the recommended sampling methodology (duration, replication etc.) will be communicated to the relevant surveyors via the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority and the Central Fisheries Board
- The monitoring of flora is appropriate. Analysis should be broadly similar to that employed for faunal analysis.
- A review of sampling methodology at one year post-harvest would be considered appropriate.
- The licensee must apply to the Marine Survey Office, Dublin to arrange for an Irish load line certificate for the vessel to permit it to carry cargo.
- If a passenger boat licence required one must be obtained.
- Licencee is required to arrange the publication of a local marine notice. This notice should give a general description of operations and approximate dates of commencement and completion.