Finding of no significant effects report:

Name of project or plan:	Hand harvesting of certain seaweeds on the foreshore at a site adjacent to Balltnprior, Banna, Co. Kerry (MS51/9/617)
Name and location of Natura 2000 site:	Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC (Site Code 00332). This is a large coastal site covering a 10km section of coastline in County Kerry, and including a wide diversity of habitats. A number of coastal habitats which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive are contained within the site. Sand dunes run southwards from Ballyheigue south of the Akeragh outflow they show great variety in both physiography and vegetation. The largest proportion of the sand dune system is fixed dune grassland. Mobile Marram dunes occur as a narrow band running along the seaward side of the entire coastal strip. There is a slight increase in dune mobility towards the growing tip at Carrahane The site contains a number of dune slack areas, these being best developed on the landward side of Carrahane dunes Of ecological interest is the gradation from fixed dune and dune slack to salt marsh at Carrahane. Salt marsh here is particularly well developed but also occurs at Barrow Harbour. The site supports important wintering waterfowl populations. Brent Geese occur in internationally important numbers (360 in winter 1996/97), while in winter 1996/97 nationally important populations of Ringed Plover (130), Grey Plover (62), Lapwing (c.2000), Sanderling (280) and Bar-tailed Godwit (345) occurred. Notable populations of Golden Plover, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Curlew and Redshank also occur. The regular occurrence of Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit is of note as these species are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. This large site is of major ecological interest due both to its range of floristically-rich coastal habitats and as a wintering site for significant numbers of waterfowl The Conservation Objectives[1] of the site are: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: • Annual vegetation of drift lines • *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco Puccinellietalia maritimae)* • Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with

[1] NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC [000332]. Generic Version 3.0. Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht

	Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes") • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") • Humid dune slacks • European dry heaths
Description of the project or plan	The proposed works involves the hand harvesting of seaweeds on the foreshore at Ballyheigue Bay, adjacent to Balltnprior, Banna, Co. Kerry. The quantities and species to be harvested annually include 10 tonnes of Kelp (*Laminaria digitata*), 2.5 tonnes of wrack (*Fucus serratus*), 2 tonnes of Carrageen (*Chondrus crispus*) and 2 tonnes of Dillisk (*Palmaria palmata*). It is intended to use the material for the production and sale of a dried seaweed product.
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?	No.
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?	No
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.	The works could potentially; • Impact on dune system as a result of vehicle access to and egress from seaweed harvesting site. • disturb and displace bird species due to noise
Explain why these effects are not considered significant.	The proposed works will result in a very small area of interaction with the dune system and only a single access / egress route is permitted. Any impacts will be minor, localised and temporary. There will be no direct discharges into the environment during the works. Harvesting will be carried out manually by a single operator and no mechanical harvesting is permitted. Noise levels will therefore not be significant. There will be no direct or indirect habitat fragmentation or impacts on key species. On the basis of the above it is it is concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects as a result of the hand-harvesting of seaweed on the foreshore on the Conservation Objectives of Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC
Who carried out the assessment?	Marine Institute, on behalf of the MLVC, 23 March 2012