



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

30 December 2021

Mr. Martin Hughes
Clerk of the Public Accounts Committee
Dail Eireann,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PAC@Oireachtas.ie

Re: Marine Agencies Annual Reports 2020

Dear Martin,

I refer to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 24 of 2021 *'Timely Production and Submission of Financial Statements/ Accounts of State Bodies and Funds audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Laying of Special Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General before the Houses of the Oireachtas'* with respect to the following 4 marine agencies under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM);

- Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)
- Marine Institute (MI)
- Aquaculture Licenses Appeals Board (ALAB)

I refer also to undertakings to the committee given in 2020 to set out the dates on which the reports of the above marine agencies (DAFM) were formally laid before the Oireachtas.

The processing timelines for marine agencies annual reports 2020 are set out in the below table. Please note, in the case of the marine agencies, the Department is required to first present the financial statements/accounts to the Government before the reports are laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

2020 Annual Report Timelines			
	Date of the C&AG Audit Certificate	Date the Annual Report was submitted to DAFM	Date the Annual Report was laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas
BIM	23/06/2021	23/07/2021	20/09/2021
SFPA	10/06/2021	08/07/2021	21/09/2021
MI	04/08/2021	25/08/2021	02/11/2021
ALAB	30/06/2021	01/10/2021	02/11/2021



In accordance with Section 9 of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 24 of 2021, I wish to advise that the Aquaculture Licenses Appeals Board (ALAB) Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 did not adhere to the timeframe set out in Section 5 of Circular 24 of 2021;

“accounts or financial statements of bodies under the aegis of Departments and Offices should be presented to the sponsoring Department by each body within one month of the audit certificate on the accounts being issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General, together with any report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the accounts.”

The processing timeline of ALABs annual report 2020 is presented below.

1. The Comptroller and Audit General audit certificate was issued on 30th June 2021.
2. ALAB submitted the English only version of the Annual Report 2020 to the Department on 30th July 2021.
3. Subsequently, ALAB submitted the final version (combined English/Irish language version) of the report to this Department on 01st October 2021.
4. The annual report and financial accounts were laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 02nd November 2021.

ALAB advised the Department that the delay in submitting the final (combined English/Irish) version of the report was due to a delay in receiving the translation report from the Translation Services Unit. As a result, the Department was not in a position to submit the final report before Government until 27th October 2021.

This Department has issued a reminder notification to ALAB of the reporting requirements outlined in Circular 24 of 2021 and will continue to work with ALAB to ensure compliance with the timeframes will be achieved for all future annual reports.

Yours sincerely,

PMeany

Peter Meany
Assistant Principal
Marine Agencies Corporate Governance Oversight Unit
Sea-Fisheries Policy and Management Division

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Oifigí an Rialtais, An tIonad Náisiúnta Bia Mara, An Cloichín, Cloich na Coillte, Co. Chorcaí, P85 TX47.
Government Buildings, National Seafood Centre, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co Cork, P85 TX47