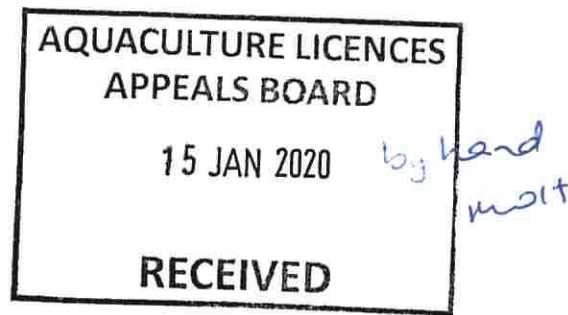


West Cork Seafoods,
Harbour View House,
Wolf Tone Square,
Bantry,
Co. Cork.

15/01/2020



Dear Mary,

I am in receipt of your correspondence dated 16th and 17th Dec re the appeal against the decision of the Minister for Agriculture Food and Marine Granting a license to West Cork Seafoods Ltd. T05/430A

I note on the letter dated the 17th Dec, that any reply must be with the board not later than the 15th December 2020

Where as on the letter of 16th Dec, that the reply date is 15th of Jan 2020 I do also note that it mentions 30 days on both letters.

I wish to comment on the appeals received as follows;

I note that Mr Ian L Stretch has taken upon himself to appeal against the granting of the License on behalf of the Seefin Group,

As there is only one signature on the appeal letter, that of Mr Stretch a retired English Gentleman, is he venting his personal views on this matter?

The combined Aquaculture industry in Bantry Bay is presently the largest employer, all locally owned in West Cork.

This all started in 1982 following the Betelguse Disaster in 1979 when Unemployment was high and little prospects of employment,

Fastnet Mussels was the pioneer of the mussel farming industry, on putting out a raft to check the hydrocarbon content of the sea water using Mussels on ropes, being filter feeders to monitor the levels in the inner bay. The Mussels were sent to Scotland to their marine Lab to be analysed and the tests were returned clear.

In the mean-time the Mussels had grown to a marketable size and Fastnet developed a fresh market outlet in France, and so the beginning of the aquaculture industry in Bantry.

Mr Stretch mentions the steady decline in the rugged beauty due to the two processing factories, a Salmon Farm and a Seaweed Farm, these entities employ over 120 people living locally and then there is the support of the service industry, Fresh Product, Transport, Fuel, Packaging, etc which employs so many more locally. Mussel exports from the bay are in excess of € 3Million Euro Ireland is surrounded by water and Aquaculture is the only viable industry which can be a major employer in rural sea communities and must be considered.

Regarding the ownership of the Pier at Gerahies which Mr Stretch has a issue with, I herewith enclose Folio Map no 36789F which is owned by my father, John Murphy, clearly shows the pier as being part of this folio. It is maintained by the Cork Co Council with a public right of way.

Re The Inshore Fisherman of Bantry Bay.

Bantry Bay has an extensive mass of water which the Department considers ample room for various industries, industrial, commercial, tourism, sport , and pleasure,

All can be accommodated within the bay without an exclusivity to any one sector.

Starfish are a natural predator, the issue with starfish is probably a bigger issue with the Mussel rope culture farmers than it is with the fishermen, as the starfish settle on the mussel lines, they eat/kill portions of the mussels on the droppers and slippage with the loss of the rest of the mussels on the dropper occurring. I believe there should be cooperation between the entities with support from BIM in an effort to reduce the effect of starfish in the bay.

The experience in the mooring systems for the aquaculture industries has improved considerable over the past decades in countries like Holland, UK, Canada, Chile, and New Zealand, we exchange cooperation on various improvements with these new technologies which improve the safety and production of the farms.


Yes traditionally Gerahies was a very important fishing ground for the herring, which cost the lives of many local fisher men and it is notable that a Plaque is now on the wall of the pier in memory of those eight Fishermen. However on the day I was born, 19th January 1990, was the very day that my father put the excavating machines in the field at Gerahies which is now the Mussel Factory, and as far as I am aware no herring have been landed at Gerahies pier since that day 30 years ago.

I am also enclosing my letter to the DAFM in Clonakilty related to the original objections.

I trust that this is in order and thank you for your cooperation on this matter,

I await your decision regarding this licence TO5/430A.

Yours Sincerely,

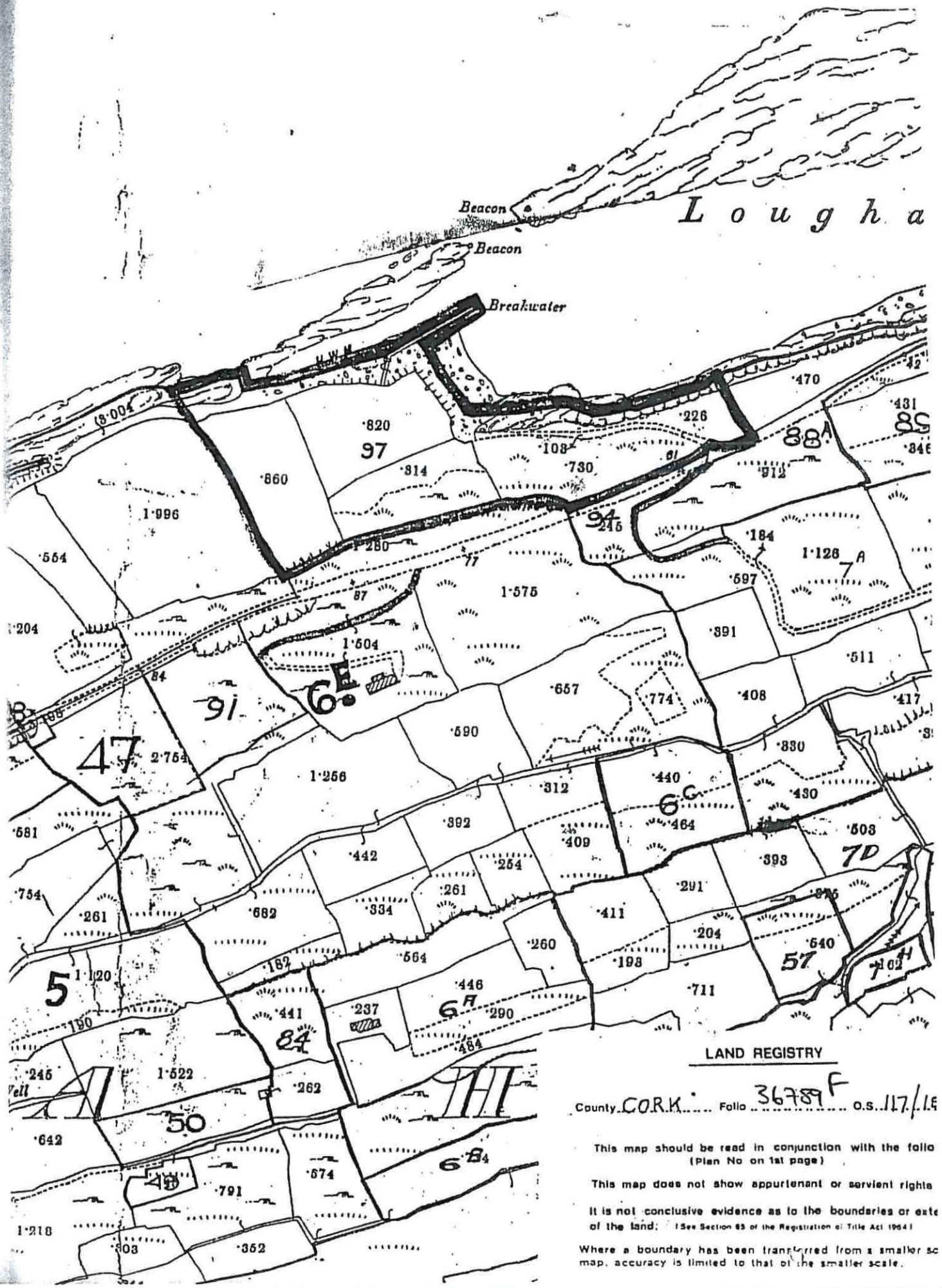

Gareth Murphy
West Cork Seafoods

Beacon

Beacon

Breakwater

Lougha



LAND REGISTRY

County CORK Folio 36789 F o.s. 117/15

This map should be read in conjunction with the folio (Plan No on 1st page)

This map does not show appurtenant or servient rights

It is not conclusive evidence as to the boundaries or estate of the land; (See Section 83 of the Registration of Title Act 1954)

Where a boundary has been transferred from a smaller scale map, accuracy is limited to that of the smaller scale.

West Cork Seafoods.

Harbour View House,
Wolf Tone Square,
Bantry, Co Cork.

22/05/2019

Dear Theresa O Keffe

Re; Application from West Cork Seafoods Ltd. for Aquaculture Licences 2 sites in Bantry Bay T05/430A & T05/430B.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letters dated 1st & 2nd of May 2019, which included observations & objections to the proposed development from Statutory and public submissions.

I have read and noted each submission and will comment as follows;

1. Marine Institute;

We note that the Marine Institute do not object to the granting of this license, as outlined, "Both sites T05/430A & T05/430B are located within the Bantry Bay South designated Shellfish Growing Area",

"Considering the location nature and scale of the proposed aquaculture activity, the Marine Institute is of the view, that there will be no significant impact on the marine environment and that the quality status of the area will not be adversely impacted"

The sites are not within a Natura 2000 Site

We have noted the other comments & observations stated by the Marine institute and the applicant will observe and comply with same.

The source of the stock for these sites will be natural spat collections, thinning's & onward growing

2. Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)

We note that the SFPA do not object to the granting of this license application,

We have noted their comments and subject to the licence being granted as operators, we will cooperate fully with the SFPA in facilitating access to the site in order to obtain samples for the Classification, Shellsan and Biotoxin monitoring programs.

3. Commissioner of Irish Lights

Site T05/430A We note that the Commissioner of Irish Lights have no objection to the development, "Provided that no navigable inter-tidal channels are impeded by the site"

That the applicant secures Statutory Sanction from the Commission of Irish Lights for the aids to navigation that may be required by the Marine Survey office.

That the size and specification of aids to navigation should be of the design and specification approved by the Marine Survey Office and must be agreed in advance with the Commissioners of Irish Lights.

It is Recommended that local fishing and leisure interests be consulted prior to a decision being made.

If a license is granted, the UK Hydrographic Office at Taunton must be informed of the developments geographical position in order to update nautical charts and other publications.

Site T05/430B, we note that the Commissioner for Irish Lights has objected to this site based on the consideration that this site is too close to Bantry Bay anchorage number four.

There are four such anchorage sites in Bantry Bay, which I understand are .40NM in size, originally designated for Tanker Moorings. Presently there is limited Tanker traffic compared to the busy times of Gulf Oil with weekly tanker movement in the bay, the prevailing winds in Bantry Bay are from a west south west direction, the site T05/430B is situated .30NM from the nearest Anchorage circle, also the wind would have to be in a north westerly direction to swing a vessel from Anchorage number four in the direction of the site.

4. Inshore Fishermen and Michael & John Daly

Mussel Farming commenced in Bantry Bay in 1982 and inshore fishing is still a livelihood for many in the area, if anything the fishing of potted shrimp and swimming crab has increased as a result of the mussel lines giving significant shelter and food to these species. Starfish are a concern as a predator to both the mussel farmer and the in shore fisherman

5. There is a considerable number of objections from residents of the local community;

I have read through all of these objections and noted their contents.

There are a number of concerns mentioned by the objectors but these for the most part are not in breach of legislative regulations, and would have been taken into consideration when the south shore was designated as "Shellfish Growing Waters".

Bantry Bay is a magnificent natural bay and my family for over four generations have lived in Bantry, but Bantry Bay is also a commercial bay with Cruse Liners, Tanker Traffic, the country's reserve oil storage depot on Whiddy Island, Sailing, Small Craft Hire, Aquaculture of Mussels and Algae commercially grown, the fishing port of Castletownbere and also smaller inshore fishing activities

It must be noted, that following the Tanker Disaster at Whiddy Island Jan 1979 and the clean up which took nearly three years. In 1982 mussels, being filter feeders were placed on various locations in the bay to analyse the Hydro Carbon content in the water.

From these trials it was noted the accelerated growth, quality and meat content in the mussels was significant, unemployment was at all-time high, so Mussel Farming was proposed as a possible solution. Aquaculture and the processing of its product, is now possibly the largest employer in the Bantry area of West Cork with two factories employing in excess of 100 personnel whose products from Bantry Bay are now exported across the four continents worldwide, plus the Bantry Marine Research Station, employing a further 13 people, these employees numbers feed many families in the local community. It must also be noted that one of the best selling item in the restaurant's is local rope grown Mussels.

Aquaculture is a sustainable method of producing healthy nutritional food to assist in feeding the world's growing population and is the only certain way to increase employment in our coastal areas.

I trust you will take the aforementioned into consideration when making your decision on our application for both sites T05/430A & T05/430B and hopefully get a positive result

Yours Sincerely
Gareth Murphy
West Cork Seafoods