Mowi Ireland

Response to the Department's Marine Engineering Division's (MED) Report on Aquaculture Licence Application reference T06/202 (24 April 2024)

1. Mowi Ireland response to the issue of one pen not meeting the recommended 3.0m clearance (contained within section "Proposed Site Layout and Structures" in the report)

The Deenish site has been operated by Mowi Ireland since 2008. Mowi have used the same size of grid frames, pens, and nets since that time, with no major issues experienced, despite coming through some very challenging weather conditions over that period. Some surface damage was experienced during a particularly stormy period in 2015, when hamster wheel type top net supports were being used, but these type of top net supports are no longer used. They have been replaced by carbon fibre poles supporting a more robust specification of top net and these have weathered many subsequent storms successfully.

In 2016, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine organised a dive team company to go out and do a survey of the nets at sea at the Deenish site with no prior notice of the inspection. The survey was designed to inspect the nets, with measurements of the depth of the walls and the centre of the nets, and the circumference being taken. The main purpose was to double check the size and capacity of the nets to ensure Mowi were staying within organic stocking regulations, but the condition of the pens and nets were also inspected and recorded.

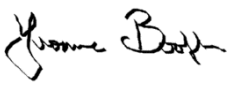
The Executive Summary of the report concluded that both the Inishfarnard and Deenish sites appeared to be in good order with no debris or rubbish in the direct vicinity of either site. All fish pens that were inspected showed no visual signs of defects and the netting appeared to be in good order. The general layout of both sites were observed to be clean and well maintained. At the time of inspection, the Deenish site had 126m circumference pens with the deepest points of the inspected pens being 19.5m. This is only 0.5m less than the deepest net depths being proposed in the current application. The report is attached as Appendix 1.

2. Clarification in relation to the access pier that will be used (contained with section "Land Based Facilities / Site Access" in the report).

The Main Report (Volume 2) of the EIAR correctly indicates the access points for the site. Travara Pier, Co. Cork will be used for storage of equipment, delivery of smolts and feed and landing harvested fish and detail of the local road network to the pier was provided. Access from the County Kerry side of Kenmare Bay is proposed by boat with smaller vessels and staff accessing from Bunavalla Pier located in Derrynane Harbour and also from Westcove Harbour to the northeast. Ballycrovane Harbour/Pier, County Cork is also used while Castletownbere and Killybegs FHCs are used on occasion for larger well-boat type vessels. Details of marine access routes were provided.

As recommended, in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Aquaculture (Licence Application) Regulations, 1998, Cork County Council were consulted by email as instructed on 16 April 2024, with confirmation of delivery being received on 17th April 2024.

With Regards



Yvonne Booth
LICENCE APPLICATIONS MANAGER

APPENDIX 1

MARINE SPECIALISTS

INSPECTION OF TWO MARINE HARVEST SITES IN KENMARE BAY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE, TRALEE
1ST DECEMBER 2026

UNDERWATER INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection of two Marine Harvest sites in Kenmare Bay for the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Tralee

1st of December 2016 Underwater Inspection Report



MARINE SPECIALISTS
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Submitted: 23rd February 2017

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CLIENT –

Noel Dillion
Marine Engineering Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Reen Point
Blennerville
Tralee, Co Kerry

APPROVED BY:



CONSULTANT –
Marine Specialists Ltd.
Loughnageer,
Foulksmills,
Co. Wexford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The commercial dive team of Marine Specialist Ltd. was asked to carry out a visual survey of two fish farm sites in Kenmare Bay to assess the condition of the netting and to report the deepest point in the fish cages.

The dive survey was carried out on 1st December 2016.

The two fish farm sites appear to be in good order. There was no debris or rubbish in the direct vicinity of the two sites. All the fish pins that were dived on showed no visual signs of defects and the netting appeared to be in good order. The general layout of the two sites appeared to be clean and well maintained.



Figure 1: A map of the area and location of the fish farms

Red point – departure point

Yellow point – Inishfarnard site

Pink point – Deenish site

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report contains the findings of an inspection of two fish farm sites in Kenmare Bay conducted on 1st of December 2016. One is located near Inishfarnarad island. The other is located east of Deenish island on the Kerry side of the bay. The dive team was mobilized from Ballycrovane pier near Eyeries and was transported to and from the site by our own passenger vessel. The weather conditions on the day of the survey were good and the visibility in the water was very good 10 meters plus.
After the completion of the dive survey the dive team demobilized again back to Ballycrovane pier.



2.0 METHODOLOGY

A four person dive team conducted the underwater inspection. Our own rib was used as a dive platform and rescue boat. The diver carried out a visual inspection of the cage and was to find the deepest point of the netting and record a depth on his dive computer. The diver was also to scan the netting to assess for damage and the general condition of the netting. This was only a visual survey and no video was recorded during the survey. The survey was witnessed by Noel O'Murchu from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.



3.0. SUMMARY OF INSPECTION FINDINGS

3.1. Inishfarnard site:

10 fish cages in total, each cage circumference = 126m

8 cages with fish, 2 cages empty

4 random cages were chosen and were surveyed

Cage 1: depth at the deepest point in the cage: 20.2m. No visual signs of defects and the netting appeared to be in good condition.

Cage 2: Depth in the deepest point in the cage: 19.0m. No visual signs of defects and the netting appeared to be in good condition.

Cage 3: Depth in the deepest point in the cage: 19.9m. No visual signs of defects and the netting appeared to be in good condition.

Cage 4: Depth in the deepest point in the cage: 21.0m. No visual signs of defects and the netting appeared to be in good condition.

3.2. Deenish site

10 fish cages in total, each cage circumference = 126m

2 cages with fish, 8 cages empty

2 random cages were chosen and were surveyed

Cage 1: depth at the deepest point in the cage: 19.5m. No visual signs of defects and the netting appeared to be in good condition.

Cage 2: Depth in the deepest point in the cage: 19.5m. No visual signs of defects and the netting appeared to be in good condition.

The two fish farm sites appear to be in good order. There was no debris or rubbish in the direct vicinity of the two sites. All the fish pins that were dived on showed no visual signs of defects and the netting appeared to be in good order. The general layout of the two sites appeared to be clean and well maintained.

Inspection of two Marine Harvest sites in Kenmare Bay for
the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Tralee
December 2016 Underwater Inspection Report

