McCarthy Ann

From:

Crowley, Raphael

Sent:

14 June 2018 15:21

To:

McCarthy Ann

Subject:

T03/087 - Hookhead Shellfish Ltd - Oysters - Bannow Bay

Attachments:

T03-087 Hookhead Shellfish Ltd.pdf

Ann

Please find attached MED report on the above application.

Regards

Raphael

Raphael Crowley

Chartered Engineer - Marine Engineering Division

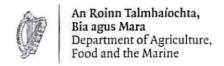
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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Marine Engineering Division

Report on Aquaculture Licence Application

Application Reference No:	T03/087					
Report Prepared By:	Raphael Crowley					
Date:	14 June 2018					
Applicant	Hook Head Shellfish Ltd, Ramstown, Fethard-On-Sea, New Ross, Co. Wexford					
Location	Bannow Bay, County Wexford					
Applicant Type	Aquaculture/Foreshore Licence Application					
Sites Site Area (Ha)	A 2.754 Ha					
Species	Pacific Oysters (Crassostrea Gigas)					
Cultivation Method	Trestle and Bag					
Intertidal/Non-Intertidal	Intertidal					
Source of Seed / Spat	Hatcheries in EU					
Annual Production Estimates	Not specified					
Shellfish Waters Designation Reference:	Yes					
Environmental Designation Reference:	Yes No D Bannow Bay SPA (Site Code: 004033) & Bannow Bay SAC (Site Code: 000697)					
Development Plans Reference:	Yes ⊠ No □ Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019, Sections 6.4.7, 13.10					
Pre-Consultation Meeting	Yes No 🖂					

Drawing Validation Sheet

OSI Maps Comment:	Yes 1:10,0 attach		No maps j	prepared	d by GI	S Марр	oing Section	
BA Chart Comment:	Yes BA Cl attach		No 50,000 p	orepared	d by GIS	S Mapp	ing Section	
Farm Layout Drawing	Direct Scale Title E Date	ional Ai Block nent: Dra		Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes s adequ	⊠ ⊠ ⊠ ate.	No No No No		
Drawings of structure Comment:		⊠ provide	No ed is not	adequa	ate for I	icencin	g purposes.	
Details of Proposed Navigation Marking Comment:	Yes	\boxtimes	No					
	Within the exiting SUMS Marker Scheme.							
Site Access Indicated Comment:	Yes By tra	⊠ ctor and	No l boat in	 ndicated	l.			
Site Co-Ordinates Indicated Comment:	Yes		No					
Site Overlap Comment:	Yes		No	\boxtimes				
Oyster Fishery Order Overlap Comment:	Yes		No	\boxtimes				
	The application is therefore						•	listed
(The second sec	AFMD shoul ubmitted as			at insuf	ficient	details	have been	

Site Suitability Assessment

Site Location

This site is located within the central aquaculture area within Bannow Bay, Co Wexford in relatively sheltered waters. The aquaculture at this location has been in existence for many years, which indicates that the hydrodynamic regime is suitable for this type of aquaculture. The consistency of the seabed at this location is of soft mud overlaying a firm substrata and suitable for the aquaculture proposed.

Site Management

This is a new application for the cultivation of oysters using typical bag and trestle.

Proposed Site Layout and Structures

This application is for the cultivation of oysters using the bag and trestle method. The aquaculture sites in Bannow Bay have historically been configured to facilitate navigation, farming operations, and visual impact within the overall aquaculture area.

The farm site layout drawing has been prepared and is suitable for attachment to any licence issued for the site. The detail of structures provided is not suitable for attachment to any licence issued for the site.

Land Based Facilities / Site Access

The operator proposes to access the site from a public road using an existing route to the aquaculture sites at this location and also by boat. Details of the access routes were included with the application.

Navigation

A group navigational marking scheme is in place for the aquaculture at Bannow Bay. The scheme includes this site and provides a safe system of navigation for all marine users.

Visual Impact

The Wexford County Development Plan describes the area around Bannow Bay as a Coastal Landscape of Greater Sensitivity. In general, the views of this aquaculture site are obscured and limited from scenic routes. The aquaculture at this location has been in place for some time and has become embedded in the landscape.

The proposed farm layout and type of structures adheres to the best practices outlined in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of Marine Aquaculture, 2001.

Impact / Cumulative Impact

This site is located adjacent to the existing oyster aquaculture industry within Bannow Bay, which has been in place for some time. There is fishing and marine leisure in the area. The group marking scheme reduces the impact of the aquaculture on navigation in the area.

The 2017 Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement for Bannow Bay SAC/SPA outlines how it is proposed to licence and manage aquaculture activities in compliance with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. On the basis of the Appropriate Assessment findings it is not proposed to licence any new aquaculture activity in Bannow Bay as there are no clear mitigation measures available to prevent the risk of the deterioration of the conservation status of specific shorebirds.

MED does not recommend licencing this site as the Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement advises against the licencing of new aquaculture activity at this location.