

McCarthy Ann

From: Crowley, Raphael
Sent: 14 June 2018 15:22
To: McCarthy Ann
Subject: T03/088 - Fitzpatrick Oysters Ltd - Oysters - Bannow Bay
Attachments: T03-088 Fitzpatrick Oysters Ltd.pdf

Ann

Please find attached MED report on the above application.

Regards

Raphael

Raphael Crowley
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An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
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Department of Agriculture,
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Marine Engineering Division
Report on Aquaculture Licence Application

Application Reference No: T03/088

Report Prepared By: Raphael Crowley

Date: 14 June 2018

Applicant: Fitzpatrick Oysters Ltd, Tallaught, Saltmills, New Ross,
Co. Wexford

Location: Bannow Bay, County Wexford

Applicant Type: Aquaculture/Foreshore Licence Application

Sites	T03/088A	T03/088B	T03/088C	Total
Site Area (Ha)	4.865	7.745	2.613	15.223

Species: Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea Gigas*)

Cultivation Method: Trestle and Bag

Intertidal/Non-Intertidal: Intertidal

Source of Seed / Spat: Not Specified

Annual Production Estimates: 300 Tonnes

Shellfish Waters Designation Reference: Yes No
Adjacent to Bannow Bay Shellfish Waters Designation

Environmental Designation Reference: Yes No
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
Date:

Drawing Validation Sheet

OSI Maps

Yes No

Comment:

1:10,000 scale maps prepared by GIS Mapping Section attached.

BA Chart

Yes No

Comment:

BA Charts 1:50,000 prepared by GIS Mapping Section attached.

Farm Layout Drawing

Yes No

Directional Arrow

Yes No

Scale

Yes No

Title Block

Yes No

Date

Yes No

Comment: Drawings are adequate.

Drawings of structures

Yes No

Comment:

Drawings are adequate.

Details of Proposed

Yes No

Navigation Marking

Comment:

Within the exiting SUMS Marker Scheme.

Site Access Indicated

Yes No

Comment:

By tractor and boat indicated.

Site Co-Ordinates

Yes No

Indicated

Comment:

Site Overlap

Yes No

Comment:

Oyster Fishery Order

Yes No

Overlap

Comment:

The application is submitted with each of the requirements listed and is therefore deemed to be a valid application.

AFMD should be aware that insufficient details have been submitted as per above.

Site Suitability Assessment

Site Location

These sites are 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 drawings have been prepared and are suitable for attachment to any licence issued for the sites. The detail of structures provided is not suitable for attachment to any licence issued for the sites.

Land Based Facilities / Site Access

The operator proposes to access the site by foot 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 these sites 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 these aquaculture sites 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

These sites are 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.