

## McCarthy Ann

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**From:** Crowley, Raphael  
**Sent:** 14 June 2018 15:21  
**To:** McCarthy Ann  
**Subject:** T03/086 - SBS Ltd - Oysters - Bannow Bay  
**Attachments:** T03-086 SBS Ltd.pdf

Ann

Please find attached MED report on the above application.

Regards

Raphael

Raphael Crowley  
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Department of Agriculture,  
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**Marine Engineering Division**  
**Report on Aquaculture Licence Application**

**Application Reference No:** T03/086

**Report Prepared By:** Raphael Crowley

**Date:** 14 June 2018

**Applicant** Special Bannow Bay Shellfish Ltd, Danescastle, Carrig-on-Bannow, Co. Wexford

**Location** Bannow Bay, County Wexford

**Applicant Type** Aquaculture/Foreshore Licence Application

Sites	T03/086A	T03/086B	T03/086C	Total
Site Area (Ha)	12.01	2.498	1.633	16.141

**Species** Pacific Oysters (Crassostrea Gigas)

**Cultivation Method** Trestle and Bag

**Intertidal/Non-Intertidal** Intertidal

**Source of Seed / Spat** Not Specified

**Annual Production Estimates** 80 Tonnes

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

**Environmental Designation** Yes  No   
Reference: Bannow Bay SPA (Site Code: 004033) & Bannow Bay SAC (Site Code: 000697)

**Development Plans** Yes  No   
Reference: 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scale	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Title Block	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comment: Drawings are adequate.

**Drawings of structures**

Yes  No

Comment:

Detail provided is not adequate for licencing purposes.

**Details of Proposed Navigation Marking**

Yes  No

Comment:

Within the exiting SUMS Marker Scheme.

**Site Access Indicated**

Yes  No

Comment:

By foot and boat indicated.

**Site Co-Ordinates Indicated**

Yes  No

Comment:

**Site Overlap**

Yes  No

Comment:

**Oyster Fishery Order Overlap**

Yes  No

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.**