



Marine Engineering Division
Report on Aquaculture Licence Application

Application Reference No: T06/326A

Report Prepared by: Gearoid O'Shea, Engineer

Date: 03 May 2018

Applicant: John T. O'Sullivan

Location: Illauneagh Island, Sneem, Kenmare Bay, Co. Kerry

Applicant Type: Aquaculture/Foreshore Licence

Site	T6/326A
Site Area (Ha)	27.43

Species: Mussels (*Mytilus edulis*)

Cultivation Method: Floating Longlines

Intertidal/Non-Intertidal: Non-Intertidal

Source of Seed / Spat: Not Specified

Annual Production Estimates: 210 Tonnes

Shellfish Waters Designation: Yes No
Reference: Map 2: Kenmare River of December 2008

Environmental Designation: Yes No
Reference: Kenmare River SAC (Site Code: 2158)

Development Plans: Yes No
Reference: Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, Sec 8.4

Pre-Consultation Meeting: Yes No

Drawing Validation Sheet

OSI Maps **Yes** **No**

Comment: MED OSi Map

BA Chart **Yes** **No**

Comment: MED BA Chart

Farm Layout Drawing **Yes** **No**

Directional Arrow **Yes** **No**

Scale **Yes** **No**

Title Block **Yes** **No**

Date **Yes** **No**

Comment:

Drawings of structures **Yes** **No**

Comment: Sketched section detail of mussel longline structure

Details of Proposed Navigation Marking **Yes** **No**

Comment:

Site Access Indicated **Yes** **No**

Comment: Adjacent to Gleesk Quay

Site Co-Ordinates Indicated **Yes** **No**

Comment: Submitted with application form

Site Overlap **Yes** **No**

Comment: Previous trail licence site by applicant

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

The site is located at Illauneagh Island, Sneem, Kenmare Bay, Co. Kerry. The proposed location is exposed to south westerly Atlantic swells. The site is adjacent to the N70 roadway from Sneem to Caherdaniel which is a part of the well-known Ring of Kerry.

Site Management

A trial licence was issued to the applicant at the same location in 2005. The Smart Farm System on trial was damaged during a storm event during the trial licence period. The damaged structures remained derelict until the Irish Coast Guards notified AFMD in June 2014.

Site Layout and Structures

The applicant proposes to use 14 No. 220m single headrope floating longlines to cultivate blue mussels.

Land Based Facilities / Site Access

Not mentioned. The proposed site is adjacent to Gleesk Quay.

Navigation

There are no navigational marks proposed. The MSO should be consulted regarding providing a safe system of navigation for all marine users.

Visual Impact

The proposed site is located in Outer Kenmare Bay. The adjacent stretch of roadway (N70) is a part of the famous Ring of Kerry and is also a part of the Wild Atlantic Way, a coastal tourism route along the west coast of Ireland.

The proposed farm layout and type of structures adhere to the best practices outlined in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of Marine Aquaculture, 2001. In general, the views of the mussel longline sites are obscured and limited from scenic routes.

Impact / Cumulative Impact

There are no other aquaculture applications in the relevant area. There is fishing and marine leisure in the area.

The site is directly exposed to south westerly swell waves from the Atlantic Ocean. The site is also situated in significant water depths. The combination of these factors would allow severe swell waves to enter the proposed site.

In my opinion, a mussel farm at the proposed location is not sustainable. I believe the relevant application should not be licensed for the reasons outlined above.



Derelict Structures Inspected in 2014 following Trial Licence in 2005



Pipe unit left derelict following Smart Farm System Trial



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM
CHOSAINT
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

22nd August 2018

Bernie McDonald,
Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
National Seafood Centre
Clonakilty,
Co. Cork.

**Re: Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence application T6/326 for Bio Atlantis
Aquamarine Ltd, Kenmare Bay, Co. Kerry**

- The issuing of an Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence in the area identified as T6/326 for the cultivation of mussels in Kenmare Bay, Co. Kerry would have **no negative impact** on local sea fishing operations. However, it is important that this site is clearly marked as there is fishing activity adjacent and in close proximity to the identified area.

Yours sincerely,

Bryan Foran,
Sea Fishery Officer,
Sea Fisheries Protection Authority,
Dingle, Co. Kerry.



Rinville,
Oranmore,
Co. Galway
Tel: 091 387200
Date: 16 April 2019

Deirdre Fitzpatrick
Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Clogheen,
Clonakilty
Co. Cork.

Advice on Aquaculture Licence Application

Applicant	BioAtlantis Aquamarine Ltd
Application type	New
Site Reference No	T06/326A
Species	Mussels (<i>M. edulis</i>) - longlines
Site Status	Located within the Kenmare River SAC (Site Code 002158) Located within the Kenmare River / Sneem/ Ardroom designated Shellfish Growing Waters Area.

Dear Deirdre

This is an application for the renewal of an aquaculture licence to cultivate mussels (*M. edulis*) using longlines at Site T06/326A in Kenmare Bay, Co. Kerry. The area of foreshore at Site T06/326A is circa 27.40Ha

No chemicals or hazardous substances will be used during the production process.

Considering the location, nature and scale of the proposed aquaculture activity, and in deference to our remit under the Marine Institute Act, and the considerations implicit to Sections 61(e and f) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997 the Marine Institute is of the view that there will be no significant impacts on the marine environment and that the quality status of the area will not be adversely impacted

Site T06/326A is located within the Kenmare River / Sneem/ Ardroom designated Shellfish Growing Water Area.

Under Annex II of EU Regulation 854/2004 mussels in the Sneem / Tahilla area currently have a "B" Classification

Site T06/326A is located within the Kenmare River SAC (Site Code 002158)

We note the findings of the Appropriate Assessment report¹ and the Department's draft Natura conclusion statement² in regard to the impacts on the Conservation Objectives within the Kenmare River SAC.

In making the final determination with respect to this application it is recommended that DAFM take full account of the conclusions and recommendations of the Appropriate Assessment report and the proposed mitigation measures set out in the Department's Draft Natura Conclusion Statement.

1

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/aquacultureforeshorelicenceapplications/cork/2019/ApproAssessofAquacultandFisheriesRiskAssessinKenmareRiverSAC270319.pdf>

2

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessmentconclusionstatement/DRAFTAACONCLUSIONSTATEMENT260319.pdf>

In order to be able to assess and manage the potential risk of the introduction of invasive non-native species the MI recommends that the initial source of seed and other sources which may be used at any point in the future should be approved by the Minister. This approval should be a specific condition of any licence that may issue. It should be noted that the control of alien species is a separate issue to the control of diseases in the context of the current Fish Health legislation.

Notwithstanding the recommendation outlined above, and in the event that an Aquaculture Licence is granted, the movement of stock in and out of the site should follow best practice guidelines as they relate to the risk of introduction of invasive non-native species (e.g. [Invasive Species Ireland](#)). In this regard it is recommended that, prior to the commencement of operations at the site, the applicant be required to draw up a contingency plan, for the approval of DAFM, which shall identify, *inter alia*, methods for the removal from the environment of any invasive non-native species introduced as a result of operations at this site. If such an event occurs, the contingency plan shall be implemented immediately.

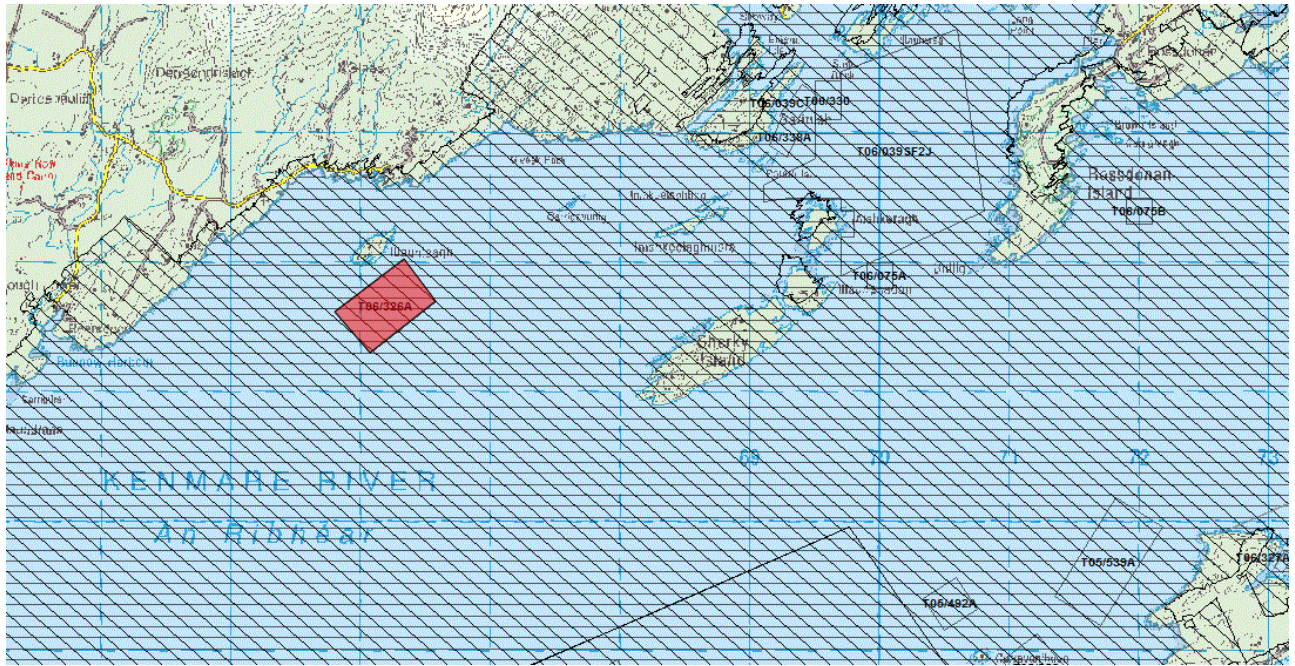
In the event that invasive non-native species are introduced into a site as a result of aquaculture activity the impacts may be bay-wide and thus affect other aquaculture operators in the bay. In this regard, therefore, the Marine Institute considers that the CLAMS process may be a useful and appropriate vehicle for the development and implementation of alien species management and control plans.


It is statutory requirement that a Fish Health Authorisation as required under Council Directive 2006/88/EC be in place prior to the commencement of the aquaculture activities proposed.


Kind regards,





Dr. Terry McMahon
Section Manager, Marine Environment and Food Safety Services,
The Marine Institute.



Shellfish Waters Directive Area


Aquaculture Site


Special Area of Conservation


Special Protection Areas


Fitzpatrick, Deirdre

From: Foreshore EPA Marine [fem.dau@chg.gov.ie]
Sent: 08 May 2019 12:01
To: Aquaculturelicensing
Subject: [REDACTED]

T06/326A [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

A chara,

Attached please find the nature conservation and underwater archaeology recommendations of the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht for the above mentioned planning application.

Nature Conservation

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht welcomes the opportunity to provide observations concerning the aquaculture licence applications at Kenmare River SAC (Site Code: 02158) for the sites referenced in your correspondence of the 27th of March 2019. The Department has offered comments on the report supporting Appropriate Assessment of Aquaculture in Kenmare Bay on 10th of December 2015. Comments were also provided on the revised Assessment report and Conclusion Statement and on the Risk Assessment of Fisheries on the 13th and 14th of April 2016, respectively.

The Department acknowledges the consideration of previous observations made by this Department in the 2019 Appropriate Assessment and the draft Conclusion Statement. However the following points are still relevant to the current licence applications. It is hoped that these observations will be considered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in its decision-making process.

1. In relation to the Harbour seal Qualifying Interest at the site, the terms "close proximity" and "immediate vicinity", by which the likelihood of man-made disturbance is concluded, are unclear. These could usefully be better defined within the assessment and its conclusions, in order to provide an appropriate level of confidence around this Attribute and its associated Target.
2. There are no recommendations made for the Marine Community Types "Muddy fine sands dominated by polychaetes and *Amphiura filiformis* community complex" and the two subtidal reef communities given that the spatial overlap of aquaculture, when considered in-combination with fishing activity, is close to or exceeds the 15% threshold.
3. Overlap with maërl is only considered in Kilmakilloge and Ardroom Harbours. Maërl also occurs subtidally between Glinisk, Sharky Island and Parknasilla which has sites licensed for mussel culture and scallops culture. These areas have not been considered.

The Department would also like to draw attention to the coastal habitats of Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230), Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*) (1330) and Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) (1410) which occur within the Kenmare River SAC. In some cases they occur adjacent to the aquaculture activities however no access routes are given within the Appropriate Assessment document. These habitats were screened out on the basis that there was no overlap with aquaculture activities. However it should be noted that storage of aquaculture materials and access routes for aquaculture can have negative impacts on these habitats. Therefore such activities should not be carried out either inside the Annex I habitat or in an area where it is likely to have an impact on the Annex I habitat (e.g. storing aquaculture frames on a cliff top, storage of equipment or establishing access paths in a saltmarsh). Disposal of waste from aquaculture activities should similarly take place well away from these Annex I coastal habitats.

Underwater Archaeology

The Department notes that cumulatively the area for the 14 applications is large. Kenmare Bay is rich in both terrestrial and underwater cultural heritage and therefore there is a potential to negatively impact archaeology (either known or previously unknown) during the undertaking of aquaculture activities. This could include impact from the laying of anchors for longlines, intertidal archaeology impacted by vehicles accessing bags and trestles, etc.

The Department therefore requires that an appropriate Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) be carried out to assess the impact of the proposed applications on known or potential cultural heritage. The UAIA shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and suitably experienced maritime archaeologist and should be licenced by this Department. A detailed method statement should accompany the licence application.

The resultant report should be forwarded to the Department in advance of any aquaculture taking place, as further information for consideration and further comments.

Mise le meas,

Connor Rooney
Executive Officer

An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit

Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

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Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvíorais chun víorais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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Ms. Deirdre Fitzpatrick
Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division
Dept. of Agriculture Food & the Marine
National Seafood Centre
Clonakilty
Co. Cork

Your Reference: T06/326

Our Reference: LA0554.0187-
LA0554.0190

Date: 18/05/2018

LL: LA0554.0187 – 0554.0190

Applicant: Bio Atlantis Aquamarine Ltd (John T. O’Sullivan)

Site: Kenmare Bay, Co. Kerry

Dear Ms. Fitzpatrick,

Thank you for your letter advising us of this application for renewal of this Aquaculture Licence.

Based on the information supplied, there appears to be no objection to a renewal of this licence. This applicant secured Statutory Sanction on the 27th March 2009 from the Commissioners of Irish Lights for the Aids to Navigation that were required at the time.

Before the Licence is renewed it should be verified that the Aids to Navigation as sanctioned are in position.

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

Furthermore, if a licence is renewed the UK Hydrographic Office at Taunton: sdr@ukho.gov.uk must be informed of the development's geographical position in order to update nautical charts and other nautical publications.

Yours sincerely,

Capt. Harry Duggan
for Director of Operations and Navigation

cc Capt. T. O’Callaghan, Dept. of Transport Tourism & Sport, Marine Survey Office

Fitzpatrick, Deirdre

From: Murphy, Mike [murphym@bim.ie]
Sent: 09 May 2019 16:25
To: Fitzpatrick, Deirdre
Subject: RE: 12 Kenmare Aquaculture applications - Kerry sites

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Dear Deirdre,

Re: License Renewals/Applications in Kenmare, Co. Kerry [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] T06/326A; [REDACTED] to grow mussels on longlines and oysters in bags on trestles.

Following internal consultation within the Seafood Technical Services Business Unit, BIM, which includes aquaculture and inshore fisheries, BIM are satisfied that the proposed operations do not conflict with any other aquaculture or inshore fisheries interests in the area.

We have no objection to the renewals.

Regards

Mike Murphy

Michael Murphy

Resource Development Manager North,
Seafood Technical Services Business Unit,
BIM

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M +353 87 2476448

E mike.murphy@bim.ie

From: Fitzpatrick, Deirdre

Sent: Thursday 28 March 2019 11:46

To: 'Mary Larkin (mary.larkin@fisheriesireland.ie)'; 'terry.mcmahon@marine.ie'; Dallaghan, Ben ; O'Carroll, Terence ; Murphy, Mike ; 'foreshore@housing.gov.ie'; 'planning@failteireland.ie'; 'naturalenvironment@antaisce.org'; 'fem.dau@chg.gov.ie'; environ@kerrycoco.ie

Subject: 12 Kenmare Aquaculture applications - Kerry sites

Dear Consultee

Please see attached letters which refer to the above twelve applications. (Site Refs [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] T06/326A, [REDACTED]

I would be grateful for any observations you may wish to make on the applications which must be submitted **within six weeks** from the date of notification. As this correspondence is being sent by e-mail, the date of the e-mail is treated as the date of notification.

Details of the applications and all other relevant documentation may be viewed on the Department's website at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/aquacultureforeshorelicencesapplications/cork/>

Regards

Deirdre

Deirdre Fitzpatrick | Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47

Ionad Náisiúnta Bia Mara, Cloich na Coillte, Co. Chorcaí

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