

# Submission AGR 00777-19: Recommendation to Grant (a variation) Aquaculture and Foreshore Licences for 1 site (T12/550A)

TO: Minister  
STATUS: Completed  
PURPOSE: For Decision

AUTHOR: Maher, EileenM  
OWNER: Maher, EileenM  
REVIEWERS: Farrell, Geraldine  
O'Callaghan, Grace  
Quinlan, John  
Beamish, Cecil  
Smith, Ann

DIVISION: Coastal Zone Management  
DECISION BY:

## Final comment

Minister determines the Aquaculture and Foreshore Licences sought be granted with a variation reducing the site to 0.8982, for the reasons outlined.

## Action required

Ministerial Determination on Aquaculture/Foreshore Licensing Application (T12/550)

## Executive summary

The Minister's determination is requested in relation to an application of an Aquaculture Licence from Ask Oysters Ltd, Leenan, Kiel, Clonmany, Co. Donegal. The application is for the culture of Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles on Site T12/550A totalling 1.0702 hectares on the foreshore in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal.

A submission in respect of the application for the Foreshore Licence is also set out for the Minister's consideration.

It is recommended that the Minister determines the Aquaculture and Foreshore Licences sought **be granted** with a variation reducing the site to 0.8982 for the reasons outlined in the 'Detailed Information' section below.

## Detailed information

### DECISION SOUGHT

The Minister's determination is requested in relation to an application of an Aquaculture Licence from Ask Oysters Ltd, Leenan, Kiel, Clonmany, Co. Donegal. The application is for the cultivation of Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles on Site T12/550A, totalling 1.0702 hectares (now proposed to be reduced to 0.8982 ha) on the foreshore in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal.

**Note: Tabs attached to this submission may contain additional information which is subject to redaction if transmitted to third parties.**

### BACKGROUND

Marine aquaculture operations require separate Aquaculture and Foreshore Licences and Ministerial approval is required in respect of this submission (Aquaculture Submission) and submission underneath (Foreshore Submission), which refer to the same site.

The Aquaculture Licence defines the activity that is permitted on a particular site and the Foreshore Licence allows for the occupation of that particular area of foreshore. The continuing validity of each licence is contingent on the other licence remaining in force.

### APPLICATION FOR AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE

An application (**TAB A**) for an Aquaculture Licence has been received from the applicant referred to above (in conjunction with an

application for a Foreshore Licence), for the cultivation of Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles in relation to a 1.0702 hectare site on the foreshore in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal. It is now proposed that the site be reduced to a 0.8982 hectare site on the foreshore in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal (numbered T12/550A– see **TAB A**).

## LEGISLATION

Section 7 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 provides that the licensing authority (i.e. Minister, delegated officer or, on appeal, the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board) may, if satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so, licence a person to engage in aquaculture.

Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive provides that “Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon ... shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives ... the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned ...”

## CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The application was sent to the Department’s technical experts, statutory consultees and was also publicly advertised in a composite public notice covering both aquaculture and foreshore elements.

### Technical Consultation

Marine Engineering Division (MED): This site is located on west side of licensed site 215. The substrate was slightly/moderately firm and adequate load bearing characteristics for supporting trestles. There are two areas of rough ground where there was an accumulation of cobbles with seaweed attached and would not be suitable for trestle placement. One area is to the centre of the site and is 15m in radius the other was towards the north of the site and was a 10m radius. If it is decided to licence a condition should be included in the licence stipulating that such parts of the site with surface stone be left visible and undisturbed by aquaculture operations with no trestle placement or no vehicle movement on these areas (this is in order that natural protection afforded against erosion by these surface stones is not lost). The foreshore area in the vicinity of site 550A does not have significant amenity usage. The low water channel on the east side of 550A is a blind channel it has no significant inflowing river feeding it so there should be no impact on migrating salmonids. Site 550A has little potential to cause visual or landscape impact because of central location in Bay distant from public viewpoints. The site area applied for is in excess of the uniform site area policy approach adopted by the Department in licensing shellfish aquaculture in this Bay to date. MED recommends a reduced site area of 0.8982ha due to past licensing policy favouring a standard plot size of approximately 0.9 hectares, in the following co-ordinates which will exclude the southern part of the site:

244992, 449339

245056, 449367

245111, 449257

245043, 449225

Marine Survey Office (MSO): No comments received in relation to this application. It is proposed to insert a specific condition covering MSO matters in any licence/s which may issue as follows:

*The Minister’s determination in respect of this licence is conditional upon immediate full compliance by the Licensee in respect of all requirements and conditions which are imposed under the relevant legal provisions applicable to the Marine Survey Office.*

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): No objection to this application. However they note that Trawbreaga is Class B for Pacific Oysters. There is no sea fishing in or adjacent to the area. The Malin Village and Carndonagh Waste Water Treatment Plant is approx 1km from the site. There is already oyster cultivation adjacent to this site.

### Statutory Consultation

Regulation 10 of the Aquaculture (Licence Application) Regulations, 1998 requires certain statutory bodies to be notified of an Aquaculture Licence application.

Comments were received from the following statutory bodies:

Marine Institute (MI): The MI noted the site is located within the Trawbreaga Bay Shellfish Growing waters and within the North Inishowen Coast SAC. They recommend the continued use of triploid stock in Trawbreaga. They recommended that the licensee is required to prepare a Contingency Plan for the approval of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine which should

identify, inter alia, methods for the removal from the environment of any non-target species introduced as a result of operation at this site. They also recommended that the source of seed be approved by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and the access route over the intertidal habitat be strictly adhered to, in order to minimise habitat disturbance. The MI also suggested that the CLAMS process might be useful and appropriate vehicle for the development and implementation of alien species management and control plans. These issues can all be covered in the aquaculture licence if granted (**schedule 4**).

Following 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.

Commissioner of Irish Lights (CIL): No objection to this application provided that, if the licence is granted, all structures must be clearly marked as required by regulations. CIL also recommend a condition be inserted in the licence that the applicant secures statutory sanction from CIL for the navigation aids that may be required by the MSO.

Donegal County Council: No objection to the proposed application. It is considered that the development does not represent a visual intrusion into the scenery of the host area and is considered to be acceptable and that it will not result in a significant intensification of the Oyster Farming activity in Trawbreaga Bay.

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI): This site is located in close proximity to the main channel and the applicant should take all necessary measures to ensure that the development will not interfere with the passage of migrating salmon and sea trout. This site should be clearly marked with navigational marks to prevent any navigational hazard. The applicant should confirm that only triploid oysters are intended for use on site. Should this application to cultivate Gigas Oysters using bags and trestles be sanctioned it would be essential that proper biosecurity protocols are followed during the operations of the farm to ensure no diseases or non-native species are introduced or spread elsewhere from the facility.

Irish Water: Irish Water noted that this application is wholly within a designated shellfish water within Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal and identified that this site is within 10km of existing primary and secondary discharges operated by Irish Water discharging to this designated water.

## **Public Consultation**

The application was publicly advertised using a composite public notice covering both aquaculture and foreshore elements, in Donegal Democrat on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. The application and supporting documentation were available for inspection at Carndonagh and Buncrana Garda Stations for a period of 30 days from the date of publication of the notice in the newspaper.

There were no objections/comments received from the public consultation process.

A copy of all the observations/submissions received at the Statutory consultation stage was forwarded to the applicant.

The applicant raised the following points in response to the submissions:

The applicant raised the following points in response to the submissions:

- They currently only use Triploid oysters and this is a policy they will continue to implement should they be granted these new sites. This should ensure a low risk of non native oyster species establishing in the bay. For non native species other than oysters we have drawn up a draft contingency plan should non native species be introduced. This includes prevention measures such as buying seed from hatcheries rather than buying half grown stock which may carry invasive species. It also includes the protocol for the identification, containment and removal of invasive species, should accidental introduction occur.
- The sites are in the middle of the Bay approximately 1km from all roads so visual impact should be minimal.
- The main migratory channel for fish is approximately 500m from the new application sites so they should not interfere with fish passage. However they will take all measures to ensure trestles do not interfere with fish migration.

## **CRITERIA IN MAKING LICENSING DECISIONS**

The licensing authority, in considering an application, is required by statute to take account of, as appropriate, the following points and also be satisfied that it is in the public interest to license a person to engage in aquaculture:

a) the suitability of the place or waters

*Scientific advice is to the effect that the waters are suitable for the cultivation of Oysters.*

b) other beneficial uses of the waters concerned

Public access to recreational and other activities can be accommodated by this project. Aquaculture appropriately licensed can co-exist with other leisure activities.

c) the particular statutory status of the waters

(i) Natura 2000

*The site is located within a Natura area (i.e. in a Special Area of Conservation or Special Protected Area). An Appropriate Assessment of Aquaculture in North Inishowen Coast SAC (Site Code: 2012) and Trawbreaga Bay SPA (site code: 4034) was carried out. This Assessment and its findings were examined by the Department and its scientific/technical advisors and a Conclusion Statement (TAB D) has been produced outlining how it is proposed to licence aquaculture in compliance with Habitats/Birds requirements. The Appropriate Assessment and Licensing Authority's Conclusion Statement are available on the Department's website. No particular issues in relation to birds / habitats arise in relation to this site.*

(ii) Shellfish Waters

*The site is located within Trawbreaga Bay Shellfish Designated Waters. Oysters from this area currently have a "B" classification*

d) the likely effects on the economy of the area

*Aquaculture has the potential to provide a range of benefits to the local community such as, attraction of investment capital, development of support services etc.*

e) the likely ecological effects on wild fisheries, natural habitats, flora and fauna

*No significant issues arose regarding wild fisheries. The potential ecological impacts of aquaculture activities on natural habitats, flora and fauna are addressed in the Article 6 Appropriate Assessment for Trawbreaga Bay and in the Licensing Authority's Conclusion Statement.*

f) the effect on the environment generally

*The Department's Scientific Advisors the Marine Institute, are 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.*

*g) DCHG raised no objection to the development from an underwater archaeological perspective*

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

**approves** the granting of an Aquaculture Licence (**TAB E**) to Ask Oysters Ltd, Leenan, Kiel, Clonmany, Co. Donegal, with a **variation, reducing** the footprint of the site from 1.0702 hectares to 0.8982 hectares, for a period of ten (10) years for the purpose of cultivating Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles in accordance with the terms and conditions of the attached draft Aquaculture Licence.

The reason for the recommendation to reduce the site footprint is in line with orderly development policy of the bay. There is a uniform site area approach adopted by the Department in licensing shellfish aquaculture in this bay to date (that an area of approximately 0.9 hectares be licensed to individual applicants).

## REASONS FOR DECISION

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine is required to give public notice of both the licensing determination and the reasons for it. To accommodate this it is proposed to publish the following on the Department's website, subject to the Minister approving the above recommendation:

### "Determination of Aquaculture/ Foreshore Licensing application – T12/550

Ask Oysters Ltd has applied for authorisation to cultivate Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles on the inter-tidal / sub-tidal foreshore on a 1.0702 hectare site (T12/550A) in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that it is in public interest to grant a variation of Aquaculture/Foreshore licences sought i.e. reducing the footprint of the site to 0.8982 ha. This is in line with the Department's development policy for bay to evenly distribute the licensed areas, where sites are suitable. In making his determination the Minister considered those matters which by virtue of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997, and other relevant legislation, he was required to have regard. Such matters include any submissions and observations received in accordance with the statutory provisions. The

following are the reasons and considerations for the Minister's determination to grant a variation of the licences sought: -

- *Scientific advice is to the effect that the waters are suitable;*
- *Public access to recreational and other activities can be accommodated by this project;*
- *The proposed development should have a positive effect on the economy of the local area;*
- *All issues raised during Public and Statutory consultation phase*
- *There are no effects anticipated on the man-made environment heritage of value in the area;*
- *No significant effects arise regarding wild fisheries;*
- *The site is located within the North Inishowen Coast SAC and Trawbreaga Bay SPA. An Article 6 Assessment has been carried out in relation to aquaculture activities in the SAC/SPA. The Licensing Authority's Conclusion Statement (available on the Department's website) outlines how aquaculture activities in this SAC/SPA, including this site, are being licensed and managed so as not to significantly and adversely affect the integrity of the North Inishowen Coast SAC and Trawbreaga Bay SPA;*
- *Scientific observations related to the Appropriate Assessment received during the licensing consultation process are addressed in the Licensing Authority's Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement;*
- *Taking account of the recommendations of the Appropriate Assessment the aquaculture activity at this site is consistent with the Conservation Objectives for the SAC/SPA;*
- *No significant impacts on the marine environment and the quality status of the area will not be adversely impacted;*
- *The updated Aquaculture and Foreshore licences contain terms and conditions which reflect the environmental protection now required under EU and National law."*

### **Recommendation to grant a Foreshore Licence application (T12/550)**

#### **DECISION SOUGHT**

The Minister's determination is requested please in relation to the application for a Foreshore Licence from Ask Oysters Ltd, Leenan, Kiel, Clonmany, Co. Donegal, for a site in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal, in which it is proposed to conduct aquaculture.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Marine aquaculture operations require separate Aquaculture and Foreshore Licences and Ministerial approval is required in respect of this submission (Foreshore Submission) and submission above (Aquaculture Submission), which refer to the same site.

The Foreshore Licence allows for the occupation of the particular area of foreshore while the Aquaculture Licence defines the activity that is permitted in this area. The continuing validity of each licence is contingent on the other licence remaining in force.

#### **APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE**

An application (TAB A) for a Foreshore Licence has been received from the applicant referred to above (in conjunction with an Aquaculture Licence application), for the cultivation of Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles in relation to a 1.0702 hectare site on the foreshore in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal is now proposed to be reduced to a 0.8982 hectare site on the foreshore in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal (numbered T12/550A – **see TAB A**).

#### **LEGISLATION**

Section 3 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 gives power to the Minister to licence the use of foreshore, if he is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to do so.

#### **CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The application was sent to the Department's technical experts, and was also publicly advertised in a composite public notice covering both aquaculture and foreshore elements.

This application was also sent to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in accordance with subsection (1B) of Section 3 of the Foreshore Act, 1933, which requires consultation between the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government. Whilst aquaculture legislation requires certain statutory bodies to be notified of an aquaculture application, no other statutory bodies are prescribed consultees under Fisheries related foreshore legislation.

DHPLG There were no comments received from a water quality or foreshore perspective

#### **Technical Consultation**

Marine Engineering Division(MED): This site is located on west side of licensed site 215. The substrate was slightly/moderately firm and adequate load bearing characteristics for supporting trestles. There are two areas of rough ground where there was an accumulation of cobbles with seaweed attached and would not be suitable for trestle placement. One area is to the centre of the site and is 15m in radius the other was towards the north of the site and was a 10m radius. If it is decided to licence a condition should be included in the licence stipulating that such parts of the site with surface stone be left visible and undisturbed by aquaculture operations with no trestle placement or no vehicle movement on these areas (this is in order that natural protection afforded against erosion by these surface stones is not lost). The foreshore area in the vicinity of site 550A does not have significant amenity usage. The low water channel on the east side of 550A is a blind channel it has no significant inflowing river feeding it so there should be no impact on migrating salmonids. Site 550A has little potential to cause visual or landscape impact because of central location in Bay distant from public viewpoints. The site area applied for is in excess of the uniform site area approach adopted by the Department in licensing shellfish aquaculture in this Bay to date. MED recommends a reduced site area of 0.8982ha due to past licensing policy favouring a standard plot size of approximately 0.9 hectares, in the following co-ordinates which will exclude the southern part of the site:

244992, 449339

245056, 449367

245111, 449257

245043, 449225

Marine Survey Office (MSO): No comments received in relation to this application. If a licence was to be granted the applicant would need to contact the MSO in relation to aids to navigation in advance of commencement of activities on the site.

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): No objection to this application. However they note that Trawbreaga is Class B for Pacific Oysters. There is no sea fishing in or adjacent to the area. The Malin Village and Carndonagh Waste Water Treatment Plant is approx 1km from the site. There is already oyster cultivation adjacent to this site.

### **Public Consultation**

The application was publicly advertised using a composite public notice covering both aquaculture and foreshore elements, in Donegal Democrat on the 12th September, 2019. The application and supporting documentation were available for inspection at Carndonagh and Buncrana Garda Stations for a period of 30 days from the date of publication of the notice in the newspaper.

There were no objections/comments received from the public consultation process.

A copy of all the observations/submissions received at the Statutory consultation stage was forwarded to the applicant.

The applicant raised the following points in response to the submissions:

. They currently only use Triploid oysters and this is a policy they will continue to implement should they be granted these new sites. This should ensure a low risk of non native oyster species establishing in the bay. For non native species other than oysters we have drawn up a draft contingency plan should non native species be introduced. This includes prevention measures such as buying seed from hatcheries rather than buying half grown stock which may carry invasive species. It also includes the protocol for the identification, containment and removal of invasive species, should accidental introduction occur.

. The sites are in the middle of the Bay approximately 1km from all roads so visual impact should be minimal.

. The main migratory channel for fish is approximately 500m from the new application sites so they should not interfere with fish passage. However they will take all measures to ensure trestles do not interfere with fish migration.

### **CRITERIA IN MAKING LICENSING DECISIONS**

The Minister, in considering an application for a Foreshore Licence, may, if satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so, grant such a licence.

Section 82 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997 stipulates that the Minister, in considering an application for a licence under the Foreshore Acts, which is sought in connection with the carrying out of aquaculture pursuant to an Aquaculture Licence, shall have regard to any decision of the licensing authority in relation to the Aquaculture Licence.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

**approves** the granting of a Foreshore Licence (**TAB F**) to Ask Oysters Ltd, Leenan, Kiel, Clonmany, Co. Donegal, for a site in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal for a reduced footprint of 0.8982 ha in respect of a site in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal for a period of ten (10) years for occupation of the site for the carrying out of aquaculture activities as defined in the Aquaculture Licence, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the attached draft Foreshore Licence.

## Related submissions

There are no related submissions.

## Comments

**Farrell, Geraldine** - 20/11/2019 16:33

It is recommended that the Minister approves the granting (with variation) of the Aquaculture / Foreshore Licences, as applied for, to Ask Oysters Ltd for the reasons outlined in the submission and in accordance with the terms & conditions of the attached draft licence(s).

**O'Callaghan, Grace** - 22/11/2019 12:55

I have reviewed this submission and agree with the recommendation made that the Minister approves the granting (with variation) of the Aquaculture / Foreshore Licences, as applied for, to Ask Oysters Ltd for the reasons outlined in the submission and in accordance with the terms & conditions of the attached draft licence(s).

**Quinlan, John** - 25/11/2019 14:44

Recommended for approval please.

**Beamish, Cecil** - 27/11/2019 12:34

Recommended that the Minister determines the Aquaculture and Foreshore Licences sought be granted with a variation reducing the site to 0.8982 for the reasons outlined in the submission.

**Smith, Ann** - 27/11/2019 12:34

Approved for submission to Minister. AS 27/11/2019

**Lennox, Graham** - 29/11/2019 11:50

Minister determines the Aquaculture and Foreshore Licences sought be granted with a variation reducing the site to 0.8982, for the reasons outlined.

## User details

INVOLVED: Maher, EileenM  
Farrell, Geraldine  
O'Callaghan, Grace  
Quinlan, John  
Beamish, Cecil  
Sub Sec Gens Office  
eSub Sec Gen  
eSub Ministers Office  
eSub Minister

READ RECEIPT: Maher, EileenM  
Farrell, Geraldine  
O'Callaghan, Grace  
Quinlan, John  
Beamish, Cecil  
Smith, Ann  
Lennox, Graham

**AQUACULTURE AND FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM, for purposes of  
FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1997 and FORESHORE ACT, 1933**

**NB: The accompanying Guidance Notes should be read before completing this form.**

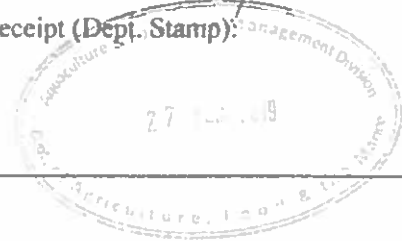
**Note:** Details provided in Parts 1 and 2 will be made available for public inspection. Details provided in Parts 3 and 4 and any other information supplied will not be released except as may be required by law, including the Freedom of Information Act 1997 as amended.

**USE BLOCK CAPITALS IN BLACK INK  
PLEASE**

For Office Use

Application Ref. No. T 12 / 550 .

Date of Receipt (Dept. Stamp):



Type of Applicant (tick one)	
Sole Trader	<input type="checkbox"/>
Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Company	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Co-operative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	Please specify- <input type="checkbox"/>

**PART 1: PRELIMINARY DETAILS**

Applicant's Name(s)	
1.	ASK OYSTERS LTD
Address:	LEENAN KIEL CLONMANY CO. DONEGAL
2.	
Address:	
3.	
Address:	
4.	
Address:	



<b>Contact in case of enquiries (if different from above)</b>	
Contact Name	
Organisation Name (if applicable)	
Address	

**PART 1: PRELIMINARY DETAILS**

<b>TYPE OF APPLICATION</b> – please indicate relevant type of application	
This Application Form is valid for each type of application - <i>See Guidance Note 3.1</i>	
(i) Aquaculture Licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(ii) Trial Licence	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) Foreshore Licence, if Marine Based	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) Review of Aquaculture Licence	<input type="checkbox"/>
(v) Renewal of Aquaculture Licence	<input type="checkbox"/>

**TYPE OF AQUACULTURE**

*See Guidance Note 3.2*

Indicate the relevant type of application with a tick.

**(i) MARINE-BASED**

- |                                          |                                     |                          |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Finfish                                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Go to Parts 2.1 and 2.1A |
| Shellfish <i>Subtidal</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Go to Parts 2.2 and 2.2A |
| <i>Intertidal</i>                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Go to Parts 2.2 and 2.2A |
| Seaweed/Aquatic Plants/Aquatic Fish Food | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Go to Parts 2.3 and 2.3A |

**(ii) LAND-BASED**

- |                |                          |                   |                          |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Finfish        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shellfish         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Parts 2.4 and 2.4A |
| Aquatic Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> | Aquatic Fish Food | <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to Parts 2.4 and 2.4A |

**(iii) TRIAL LICENCE**

- |                          |                                                   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Go to appropriate Parts as above and to Part 2.5. |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|

## 2.2 MARINE-BASED SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE

When filling out this section refer also to 2.2A and Guidance Note 3.3 for information on Conditions and Documents required with this application type

**Proposed Site Location**

- (i) Bay: TRABREAGA BAY
- (ii) County: DONEGAL
- (iii) OS Map No: \_\_\_\_\_
- (iv) Co-ordinates of Site: (please specify coordinate reference system used e.g. Irish Grid (IG) or Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) or Latitude/Longitude [in which case specify whether ETRS89 or WG84 etc.]  
245043 449225  
245111 449257                      244978 449380  
245050 449380                      449370  
IRISH GRID
- (v) Size of Site (hectares): 1

(vi) Species (common and scientific name) and whether native or non-native species: (see Guidance Notes 3.3.1)

PACIFIC OYSTER CRASSOSTREAS GIGAS (NON NATIVE)

(vii) Whether production will be sub-tidal or inter-tidal?

(viii) Please supply details of (a) source of seed e.g. wild hatchery and location and (b) means of collection and introduction to culture.

WE WILL BE BUYING OUR SEED FROM VARIOUS FRENCH HATCHERIES

NB Importation of seed into the State or movement of seed within the State requires notification to the Marine Institute as per the Fish Health Authorisation Regulations - See Guidance Notes Section 6

(ix) Method of culture (rope, trestles - intensive; bottom - extensive; other) TRESTLES

(x) Proposed number of lines/ropes/trestles as per site layout drawing  
800

(xi) Proposed Production Tonnage:

Year 1	0	Year 2	0	Year 3	10	Year 4	15	Year 5	20
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(xii) (a) Please outline the reasons for site selection:

IT IS IN AN AREA WITH GOOD ACCESS AND IS CLOSE TO A SITE WHICH WE ARE ALREADY OPERATING.

(b) If using trestles please outline the physical characteristics of the site which make it suitable for using trestles

GOOD ACCESS, GOOD GROWTH. HARD GROUND.

(xiii) Is it intended that the product is for direct human consumption or half grown? Please specify

DIRECT HUMAN CONSUMPTION - CURRENTLY EXPORTING TO FRANCE

(xiv) How will the visual impact issues of the flotation devices for the proposed application be addressed?

(xv) Is the site located in Designated Shellfish Waters Area? (Refer to Guidance Note 3.3.2)

Yes  No

If yes give details.

TRAWBREAGA BAY

If no outline the reasons why you believe the site suitable for the proposed aquaculture, notwithstanding its location outside Designated Shellfish Waters Area?

(xvi) Has the area been classified under Food Safety Legislation? (For Bivalve Molluscs) What is the current classification of the area for the proposed species applied for?

B

(xvii) Is the site located in/adjacent to a sensitive area e.g. SPA (Special Protection Area) or SAC (Special Area of Conservation) i.e. a Natura 2000 site? (Refer to Guidance Note 3.3.1- Natura 2000 sites)

TRAWBREAGA BAY SPA

(xviii) Are there known sources of pollution in the vicinity e.g. sewage outfall?

Yes/No

If yes please give full details.

(xix) Methods used to harvest the shellfish and details of any subsequent processing of shellfish

OUR OYSTERS ARE PROCESSED FOR EXPORT AT OUR

SHED NEAR OUR SITE

(xx) Describe any proposed purification facilities to be used:

N/A

(xxi) What are the main predators of the species to be cultivated?

N/A

(xxii) Describe the method(s) which will be used to control them

TRU N/A

See Part 2.2A for details of documentation to be included with this application type

### **2.2A DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR MARINE-BASED SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE**

(to be included separately with a Licence Application for a new site or for a renewal or review of an existing Licence)

1. **An appropriate Ordnance Survey Map (recommendation is a map to the Scale of 1:10,000/1:10,560, i.e. equivalent to a six inch map). Note: The proposed access route to the site from the public road across tidal foreshore must also be shown on the map.**
2. **Scale drawing of the structures to be used and the layout of the farm.**  
The proposed site drawings must illustrate all site structures above and below the water including mooring blocks. (recommended scales normally 1:100 for structures and 1:200 for layout ) (See Guidance Note 3.3.2)
3. **The prescribed application fee (See Guidance Note Section 4)**
4. **If the applicant is a limited Company within the meaning of the Companies Act 1963. as amended, the Certificate of Incorporation and Memorandum and Articles of Association**
5. **If the applicant is a Co-operative, the Certificate of Incorporation and Rules of the Co-operative Society**
6. **Environmental Impact Statement (if required) in certain cases- See Guidance Notes Section 3.3.1**
7. **Alien Species dossier ( where required) – See Guidance Notes Section 3.3.1**

**NOW COMPLETE PARTS 2.6, 3, 4 AND 5 PLEASE**

**PART 5: DECLARATION AND SIGNING**

*NB: Refer to Guidance Note Section 3.5 and Section 4 - Guidance on Declaration and Signing and Annual Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence Fees*

If this is a renewal/review have you met all licence conditions of the existing aquaculture licence? If applicable, explain why you have not complied with all conditions:

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I/We hereby declare the information provided in Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 above to be true to the best of my/our knowledge and that I am over 18 years of age. I/We enclose an application fee\* of € 95-23 with this application.

Signature(s) of Applicant(s):  
(Please state capacity of persons signing on behalf of a Company/Co-op)

Stephen Keorrey  
Company Director.

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Date: 5-2-19

**NB All persons named on this licence application must sign and date this application form. Only the existing licence holder(s) can apply for the renewal/review of an Aquaculture Licence.**

\*Preferred method of payment is by cheque or bank draft. The fee should be made payable to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

*Refer to Guidance Note Section 4 - Guidance on Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence Fees*

The application form should be forwarded, with the required documents and application fee, to:

**Aquaculture Licensing  
Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
National Seafood Centre  
Clonakilty  
Co. Cork  
P85 TX47**

**1 NO. SITE AT TRAWBREAGA BAY CO.DONEGAL**

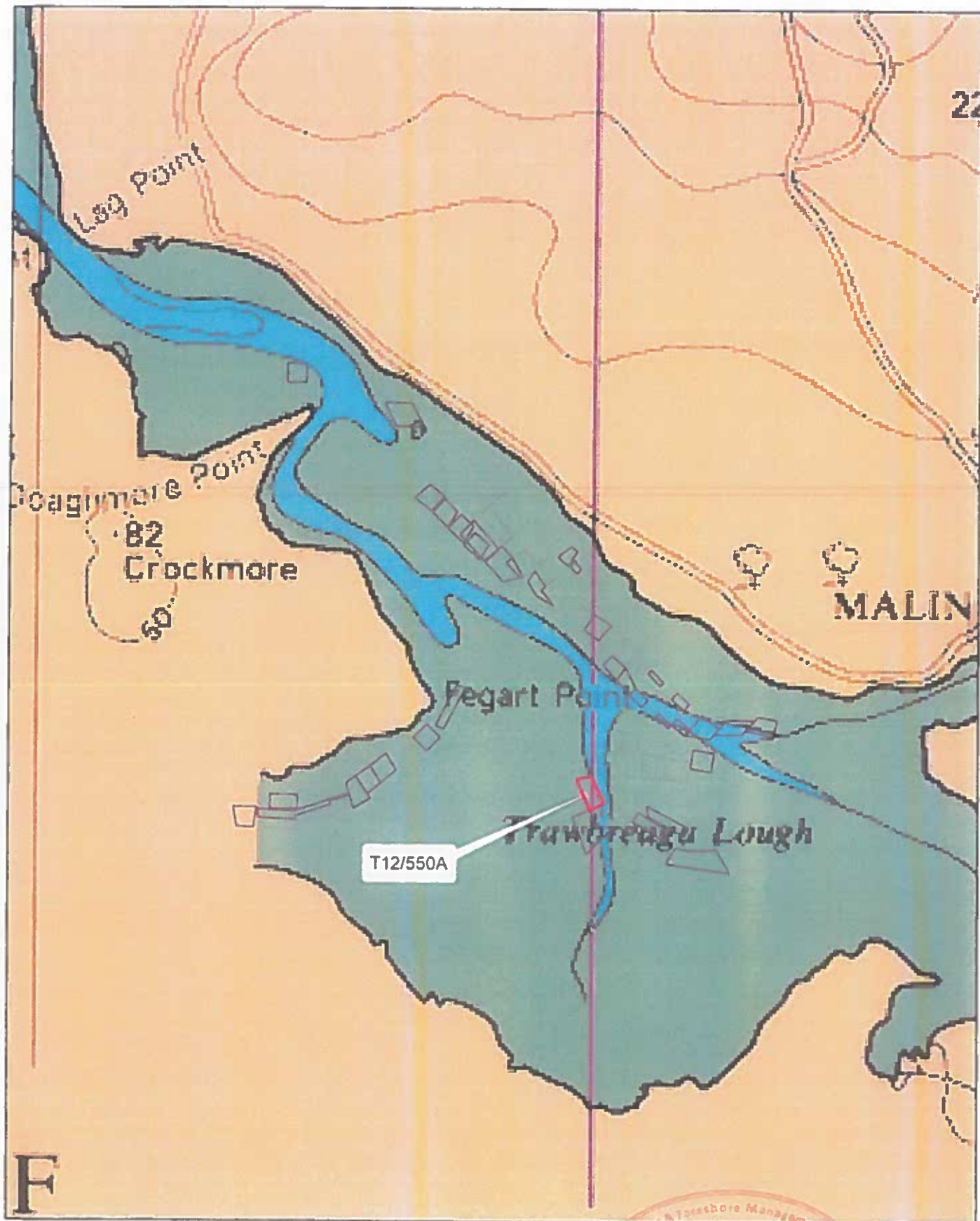
**Co-ordinates & Area**

**Site T12/550A (1.0702 Ha)**

The area seaward of the high water mark and enclosed by a line drawn from Irish National Grid Reference point

245043, 449225 to Irish National Grid Reference point  
244978, 449370 to Irish National Grid Reference point  
245050, 449380 to Irish National Grid Reference point  
245111, 449257 to Irish National Grid Reference point





**Aqua Culture Sites**  
 <all other values>  
**Site\_Status**

	Under Appeal
	Application
	Lapsed
	Licensed
	Refused
	Revoked
	Summured
	Withdrawn

**1:24,000**

Sites highlighted in red denotes Application

Part of Admiralty Chart No =2811-0  
 Not to be used for Navigation



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

245000

246000

450000

450000

449000

449000

245000

246000


1:10,560

Sites highlighted in red denotes Application

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0076418  
© Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland

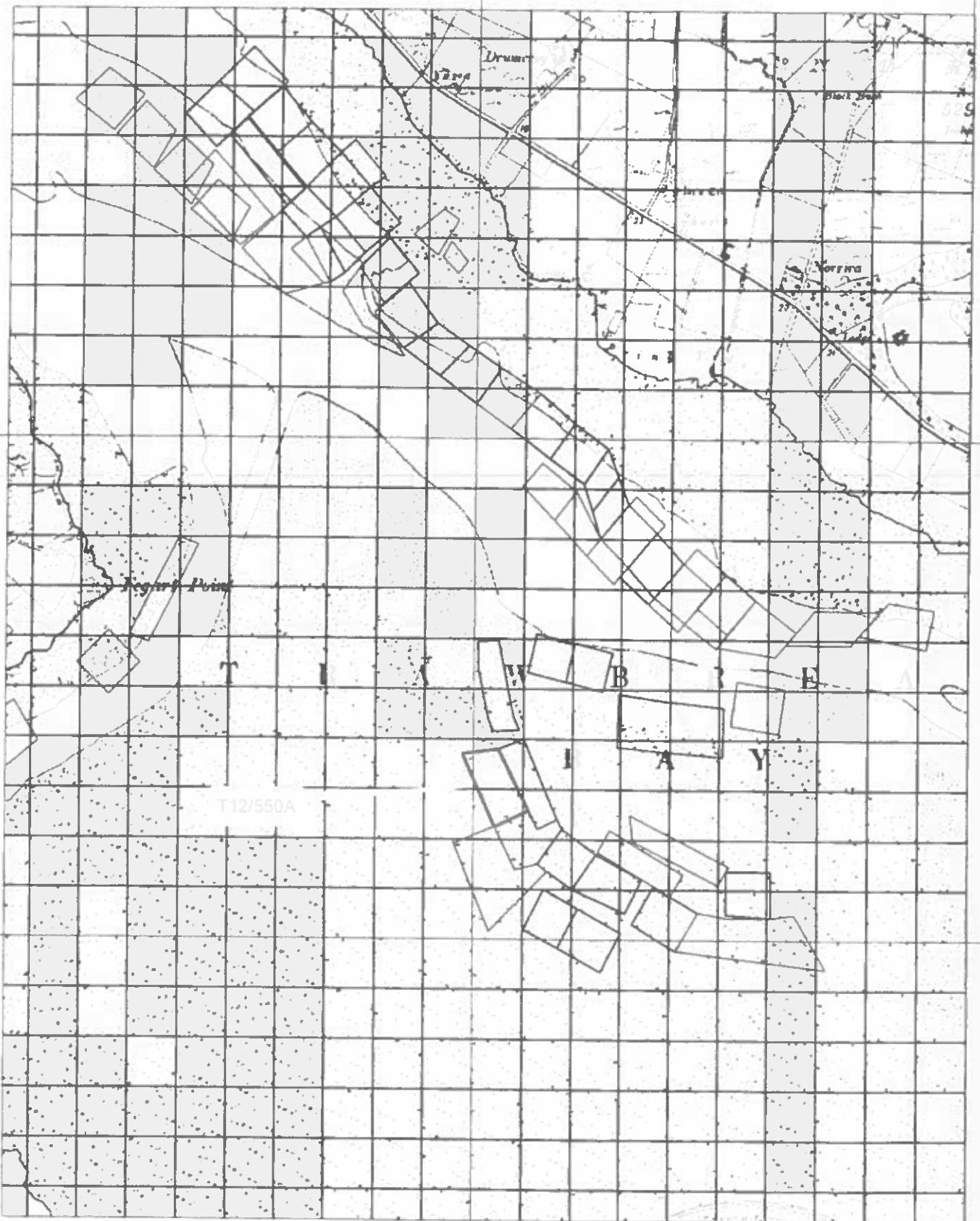
**Aqua Culture Sites**  
(at other values)

**Site\_Status**

-  Under Appeal
-  Application
-  Lapsed
-  Licensed
-  Refused
-  Revised
-  Surrendered
-  Withdrawn
-  100 Meter Reference Grid

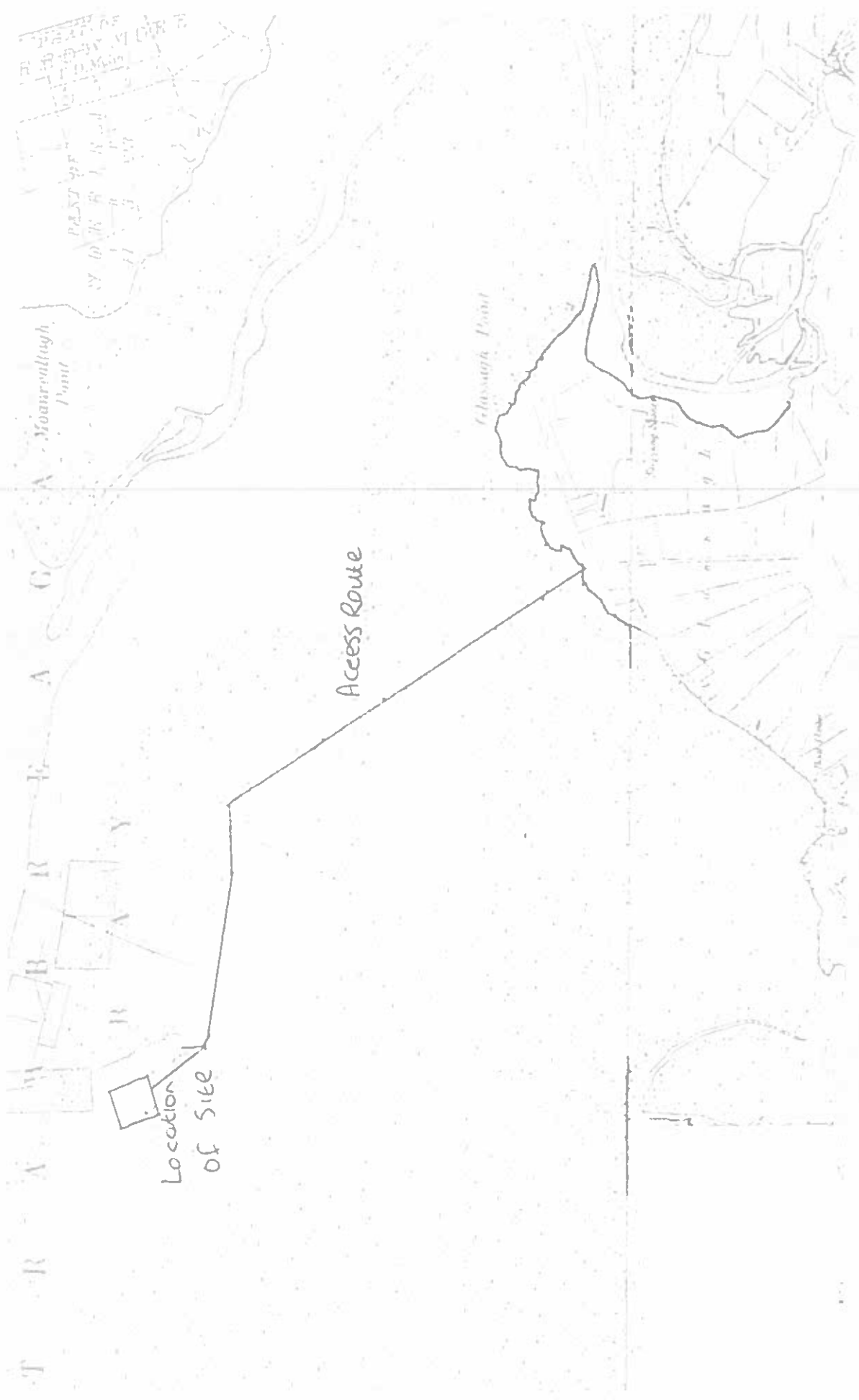


An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

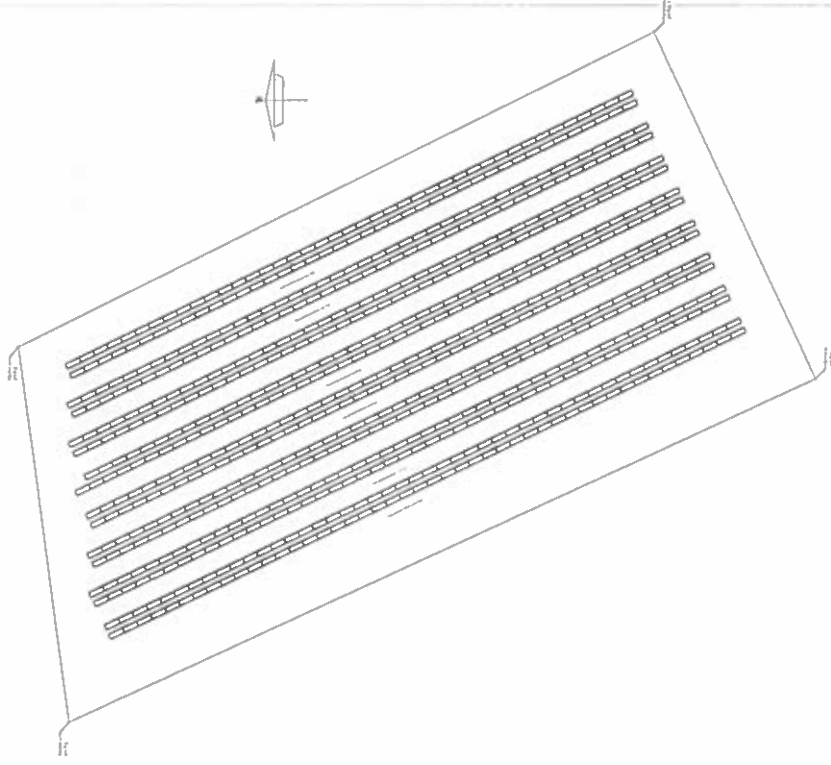





T12/550



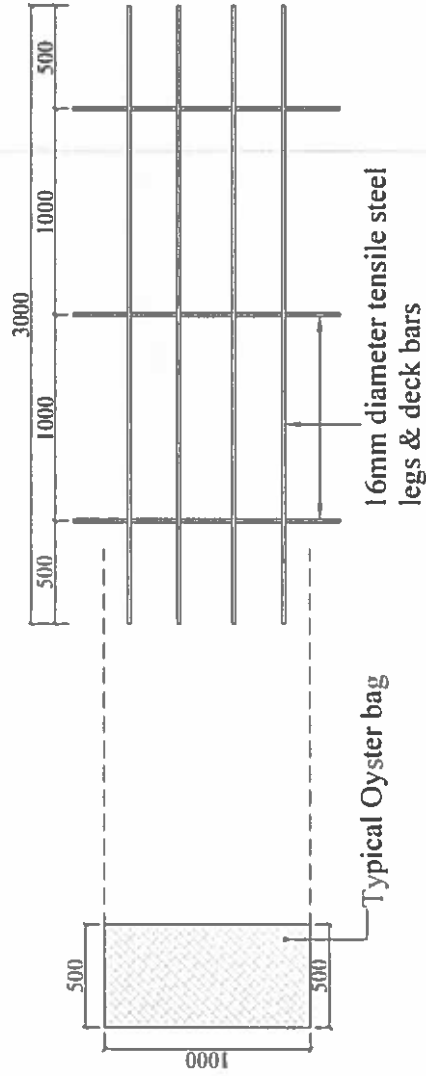
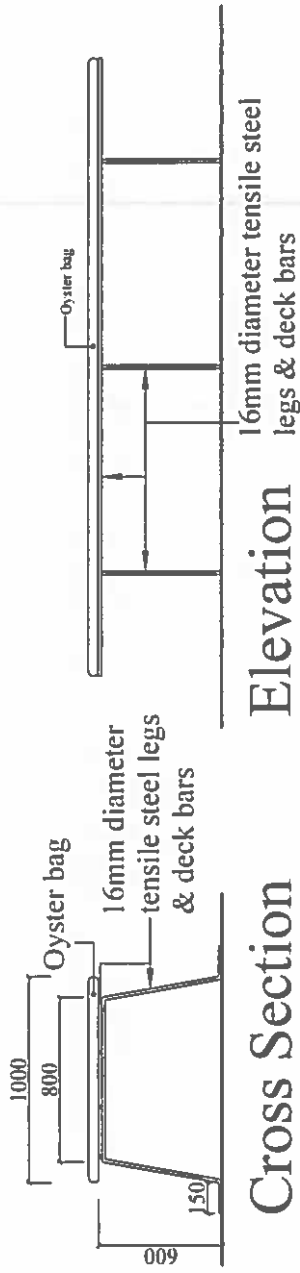
11111



<b>Aquaculture Licence Application</b>	
Ordinance Survey Ireland License No. AR0016019 © Ordnance Survey Ireland, Government of Ireland	
<b>DESIGNED BY:</b>	<b>(CHECKED BY):</b>
October House Design Ltd The Mullins Knader Rd Ballyshannon Co. Donegal 13 km SW of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal Tel: 0984 221719 Fax: 0984 221719 www.octoberhouse.com	
<b>TITLE</b>	
Trestle Layout For Site T12/550 on behalf of Ask Oysters Ltd.	
<b>DRAWING</b>	
Typical 10x10 Layout	
<b>SCALE</b>	<b>DWG NO</b>
1:1000	01 ref
<b>DATE</b>	<b>REV</b>
July 2010	01

# Proposed Trestle Layout Scale: 1/1000

(Original Page Size A3)



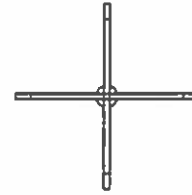
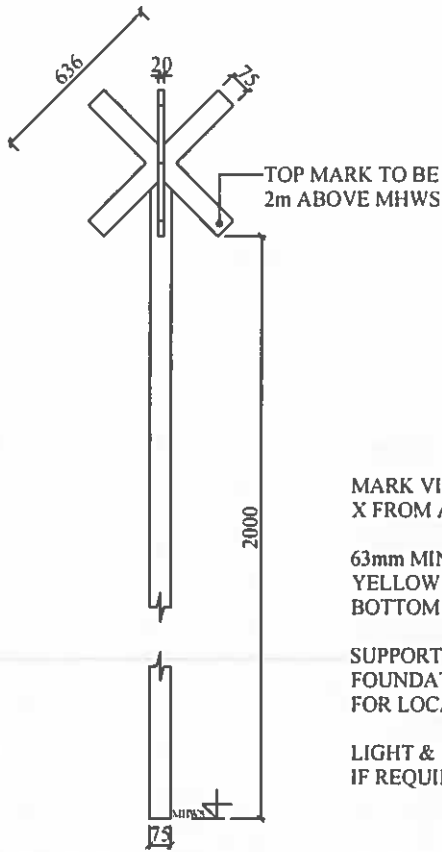
Plan (Oyster bags not shown for clarity)

# Typical Trestle Detail

## Fig. 1

Scale: 1/25 (Original Page Size A3)

Aquaculture Licence Application Ochraíocht Surveála Idirnáisiúil License No. AR0016019 © Ochraíocht Surveála Idirnáisiúil, Government of Ireland	
DESIGNER: October House Design Ltd The Mullins Knader Rd Ballyshannon Co. Donegal Tel: 0942 22111 Email: info@octoberhouse.com	OBJECTIVE: Trestle & Special Mark Beacon Detail For Site T12/550 on behalf of Ask Oysters Ltd.
DRAWING Trestle & Special Mark Trestle Detail	
SCALE: 1/25	DWG NO: 02
DATE: July 2019	REV: 02



## Plan: Special Mark Beacon

MARK VISIBLE AS YELLOW  
X FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.

63mm MIN DIAMETER POLE -  
YELLOW FOR 2 METERS BELOW  
BOTTOM OF CROSS.

SUPPORT STRUCTURE &  
FOUNDATION SUITABLE  
FOR LOCATION.

LIGHT & RADAR REFLECTOR  
IF REQUIRED.

## Elevation: Special Mark Beacon

# Special Mark Beacon Detail Fig. 2

Scale: 1/25  
(Original Page Size A4)

Aquaculture Licence Application			
Ordnance Survey Ireland License No. AR0016019			
© Ordnance Survey Ireland, Government of Ireland			
DRAWN BY		CHECKED BY	
© COPYRIGHT OF October House Design Ltd.			
The Mullins Knader Rd Ballyshannon Co. Donegal			
J Martin McLaughlin B ENG(Hons), C ENGR, M.T.E.I.			
Mobile: (086) 2217173 Email: info@octoberhouse.org			
No dimensions to be scaled from this drawing all dimensions to be checked by the contractor on site; any errors or discrepancies to be reported to the engineer in charge.			
TITLE			
Trestle & Special Mark Beacon Detail For Site T12/550 on behalf of Ask Oysters Ltd.			
DRAWING			
Trestle & Special Mark Beacon Detail			
SCALE	1/25	O.S. ref.	DRG NO.
DATE	July 2019		04
			REV.

Mr Campbell, Divisional Engineer

BJR 21/6/19

Ms Farrell, AFMD

**RE: Aquaculture licence application for suspended oyster culture using trestles at Trawbreaga Bay, Co Donegal by Ask Oysters Ltd.**

File ref: T12/550

Ms Farrell's memo of 12/3/19 and attached application refers.

Application background

The applicant Ask Oysters Ltd. is owned by Anthony and Stephen Kearney [REDACTED]. The two brothers operate an oyster farm that extends over [REDACTED] licensed sites in Trawbreaga Bay sites – [REDACTED]. They have built up considerable experience in oyster farming over 10 years or more- initially assisting [REDACTED] and now running the oyster farm enterprise themselves.

This application for site 550A is one of [REDACTED] applications made for further extensions of the farm area currently licensed to them. The other applications are [REDACTED].

Site applied for

Site 550A is 1.0702 hectares in area and is located on west side of licensed site 215. It mostly overlaps with the earlier (2011) application of Stephen Kearney when a site area of 1.846 was applied for (0.9 hectare of which was licensed in April 2018). Effectively this application by Ask Oysters Ltd. is an application for the balance of application site [REDACTED] which was not licensed in 2018 to be licensed now to the original applicant (and his brother).

Site characteristics

On 3/6/19 I inspected site 550A at low spring tide to check its suitability. There were no structures on the site.

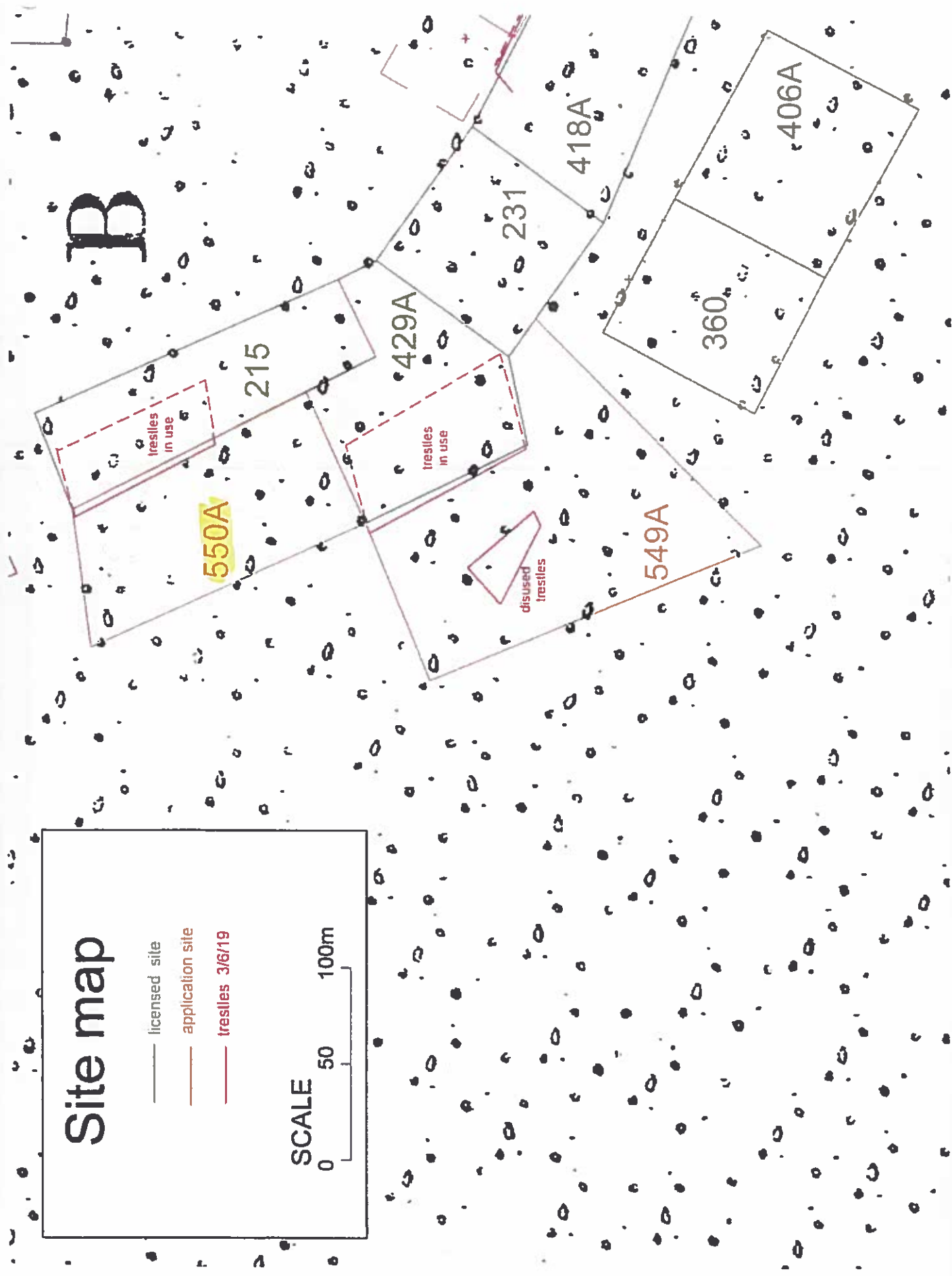
The site is highest at its northwest corner. The main slope on the site is from west down to east which is quite a steep slope - with a slight cross gradient to the south. A low water channel runs parallel to the east boundary of the site. Oysters have been grown on nearby site 215 for many years.

The substrate on site 550A was mostly clean mostly sand. This sand substrate was slightly/moderately firm and had adequate load bearing characteristics for supporting trestles. There

# Site map

- licensed site
- application site
- trestles 3/6/19

SCALE  
0 50 100m



were two areas of rough ground on site where there was an accumulation of cobbles with seaweed attached which would not be suitable for trestle placement –one area the centre of site was 15m in radius and the other was towards the north of site ( 10m radius). If it is decided to licence the site for oyster culture a special condition stipulating that such parts of site with surface stone visible be left undisturbed by aquaculture operations with no trestle placement or vehicle movement on such areas (this is in order that natural protection afforded against erosion by these surface stones is not lost).

I expect the clear sand areas of the application site would be suited to oyster culture – although the highest ground at north of site may be more suited to oyster holding rather than growth.



View of site 550A from northwest corner looking to southeast

3/6/19

#### Development proposal

The applicant proposes to put 800 trestles on the site and produce 10 tonnes by year 3 (25 tonnes by year 5. These figures are reasonable.

#### Adequacy of application documents

*Layout drawing* –The layout drawing is not adequate in terms of drawing quality. Larger scale and more accurate detail are required.

*Access route map* – This is adequate.

*Trestle structure drawing* – This needs to show trestle height and trestle width dimensions and number of oyster bags per trestle.



Centre of site 550 A (view from to NNW) – weed covered stones in foreground trestles at site 215 at centre image 3/6/19

#### Potential impacts on other beneficial usages

##### *Natura 2000*

Site 550A is located in a Natura 2000 area (in both North Inishowen Coast SAC and Trawbreaga Bay SPA). Appropriate assessment as specified under the Habitats Directive will be required to assess potential for impact on Conservation Objectives of the Natura 2000 areas.

##### *Amenity*

The foreshore area in the vicinity of site 550A does not have significant amenity usage.

##### *Fishing*

The low water channel on east of site 550A is a blind channel – it has no significant inflowing river feeding it; development of site 550A should not therefore impact on any migratory salmonid river. The site because of small size and location will not significantly impact on crab potting activity in the area in my opinion

##### *Visual impact*

Site 550A has little potential to cause visual or landscape impact because of central location in Bay distant from public viewpoints.



### Navigation

Occasional angling boat movements (punt) occur at low water channel 350m to northeast of site [REDACTED]. If the site (or group of sites nearby in central part of Bay) is marked for navigation the impact on navigation should not be significant. At present there is little in the way of navigation marking present in this part of the Bay.

### Site area recommended (uniform site area approach for Trawbreaga Bay)

The site area applied for of 1.0702 hectares is slightly in excess of the uniform site area approach adopted by the Department in licensing shellfish aquaculture in this Bay to date ( we recommend that an area of approximately 0.9 hectares be licensed to individual applicants ).

In line with this policy and for orderly development reasons I recommend a reduced site area only be considered for licensing – this reduced site would omit the southern part of the site ; Recommended site area is shown hatched on MAP 2 overleaf and is defined by the following coordinates :

244992 449339  
245056 449367  
245111 449257  
245043 449225 area 0.8982 ha

### Usage of site areas licensed

The applicants have current use of 6 licensed sites – most of these apart from [REDACTED] (on east side) are being well utilised at present. I expect that they would put applied for areas on the reasonably firm ground [REDACTED] (550A) on west side of their existing farm to good use if licensed.

### Conclusion

Appropriate assessment of the application site area is required due to location in a Natura 2000 area.

The applicant will need to supply a satisfactory quality trestle layout drawing and trestle structure drawing.

I recommend that a reduced part of site only could be licensed due to past licensing policy in this Bay favouring a standard plot size of approximately 0.9 hectare.

I recommend inclusion of a special condition requiring that the parts of site with surface stone with attached seaweed be left undisturbed by aquaculture operations on site 550A.

*Paul O'Sullivan*

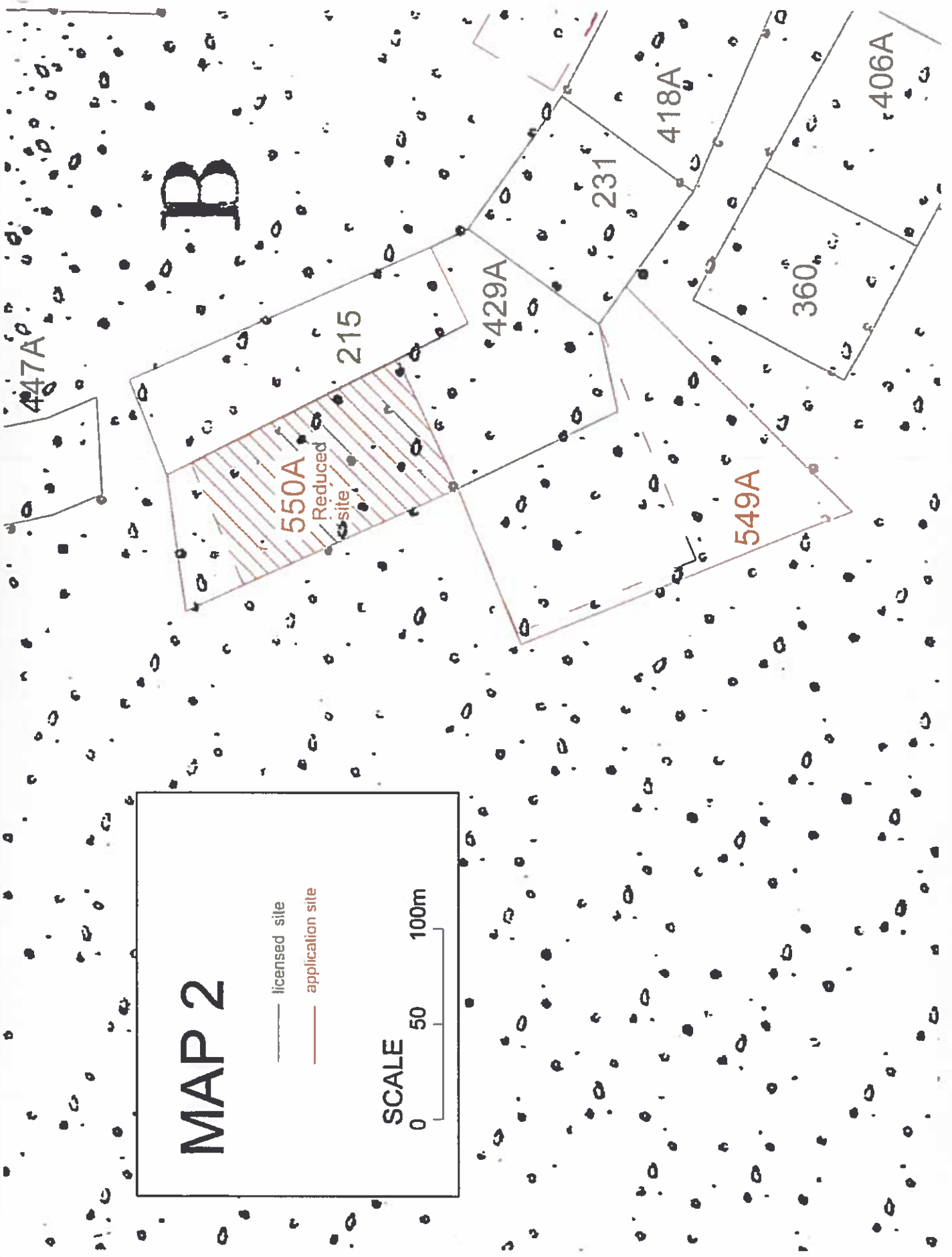
Paul O'Sullivan

20/6/19

# MAP 2

— licensed site  
— application site

SCALE  
0 50 100m



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



12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Mr. Raphael Crowley – Engineer  
Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Reen Point  
Blennerville  
Tralee  
Co. Kerry

**Our Ref: T12/550 – Ask Oysters Ltd**

Please see attached an application for Aquaculture and Foreshore licences for the cultivation of pacific oysters in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal for your examination.

Please may I have your observations as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

P.P.   
Geraldine Farrell  
Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division

Ph. 023 8859519

Email: [Geraldine.Farrell@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Geraldine.Farrell@agriculture.gov.ie)

Geraldine Farrell and John Coakley  
Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division.  
Dep. of Agriculture Food and the Marine.  
National Seafood centre.  
Clonakilty.  
Co. Cork.

Ref:T12/550

Ask Oysters Ltd

Date: 26/03/2019

Dear Geraldine and John,  
Please find our observations of the application T12/550 for the cultivation of Crassostrea.gigas Oysters using bags and trestles in Trawbreaga bay, Co. Donegal for your examination.

The current classification of the Trawbreaga bay is "B" with a seasonal "A" for Pacific Oysters.

The application is within a special Protected Area, a special Area of Conservation and a National Heritage Area.

There is currently no active sea fishing in or adjacent to the application

The Malin village and Carndonagh Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) discharge is located approximately 1.5 kilometres from the application.

There is cultivation of pacific oysters on and adjacent to the application.

There is no harvesting of wild shellfish on or adjacent to the application.

Yours sincerely.



Rudi Amrein



Commissioners of  
**IRISH LIGHTS** | Navigation  
and Maritime  
Services

Commissioners of Irish Lights  
Harbour Road, Dun Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin, Ireland

T +353 1 271 5400  
F +353 1 271 5566

E [info@irishlights.ie](mailto:info@irishlights.ie)  
W [www.irishlights.ie](http://www.irishlights.ie)

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

*Your Reference:* T12/550  
*Our Reference:* LA:0398.6025  
*Date:* 15/03/2019

LL: LA 0398.6025

Applicant: Ask Oysters Ltd

Site: Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal

Dear Ms. Farrell,

Thank you for your letter advising us of this application.

Based on the information supplied, there appears to be no objection to the development. It is important to ensure that no navigable inter-tidal channels are impeded by the site.

If a licence is granted, all structures must be clearly marked as required by Regulations and Licensing Permit conditions and to the approval of the Nautical Surveyor with the Marine Survey Office.

We would request that you include the following terms in the licence—

- That the applicant secures Statutory Sanction from the Commissioners of Irish Lights for the aids to navigation that may be required by the Marine Survey Office. These aids should be in place before development on the site commences. Statutory sanction forms are available at <http://www.irishlights.ie/safety-navigation/statutory-sanction.aspx>
- The size and specification of aids to navigation should be of the design and specification approved by the Marine Survey Office and must be agreed in advance with the Commissioners of Irish Lights.

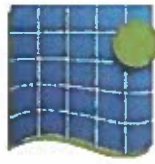
It is recommended that local fishing and leisure interests be consulted prior to a decision being made.

Furthermore, if a licence is granted, the UK Hydrographic Office at Taunton: [sdr@ukho.gov.uk](mailto: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,

**Neil Askew**  
for Director of Operations and Navigation

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



*Marine Institute*  
Foras na Mara

Rinville,  
Oranmore,  
Co. Galway  
Tel: 091 387200

Date: 07 October 2019

**Eileen Maher**  
**Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division**  
**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**  
**Clogheen,**  
**Clonakilty**  
**Co. Cork.**

**Advice on Aquaculture Licence Application**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Ask Oysters Ltd</b>
<b>Application type</b>	<b>New</b>
<b>Site Reference No</b>	<b>T12/550A</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Pacific Oysters– Bags and Trestles</b>
<b>Site Status</b>	<b>Located within the Trawbreaga Bay SPA (Site Code 004034) and the North Inishowen Coast SAC (Site Code 002012)</b> <b>Located within the Trawbreaga Bay Shellfish Growing Water Area.</b>

Dear Eileen

This is an application for an aquaculture licence for the cultivation of pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) using bags and trestles at Site T12/550A on the foreshore at Trawbreaga, Co. Donegal. The area of foreshore at Site T12/550A is 1.0702Ha

Site T12/550A is located within the Trawbreaga Bay Shellfish Growing Water Area.

Under Annex II of EU Regulation 854/2004 oysters in Trawbreaga Bay currently have a “B” Classification .

The cultivation of shellfish at this site will produce faeces and pseudofaeces. Any impact will be limited to the area of the sites. The build-up of excess organic matter beyond the footprint of the sites is not considered likely. On the basis of targeted research<sup>1</sup>, the impact of intertidal oyster cultivation using bags and trestles on the majority of community types is considered not significant.

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(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 T12/550A is located within the Trawbreaga Bay SPA (Site Code 004034) and the North Inishowen Coast SAC (Site Code 002012). We note the findings of the Appropriate Assessments reports<sup>2,3</sup> and the Department’s draft

<sup>1</sup> Forde, J., F. O’Beim, J. O’Carroll, A. Patterson, R. Kennedy. 2015. Impact of intertidal oyster trestle cultivation on the Ecological Status of benthic habitats. Marine Pollution Bulletin 95, 223–233.

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessments/donegal/1NorthInishowenSACandTrawbreagaSPAAAJuly2019Report300719.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessments/donegal/2AnnexIITrawbreagaSPAAAJuly2019300719.pdf>

Natura conclusion statement<sup>4</sup> in regard to the impacts on the Conservation Objectives within the Trawbreaga Bay SPA and the North Inishowen Coast 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 reports and the mitigation measures set out in the Department's Natura Conclusion Statement.

Given the short residence time of the bay it is concluded that the risk of establishment of non-native oyster species is low in the Trawbreaga Bay portion of the North Inishowen Coast SAC and Trawbreaga Bay SPA. Notwithstanding this, the Marine Institute recommends the continued use of triploid oysters by operators in Trawbreaga.

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,

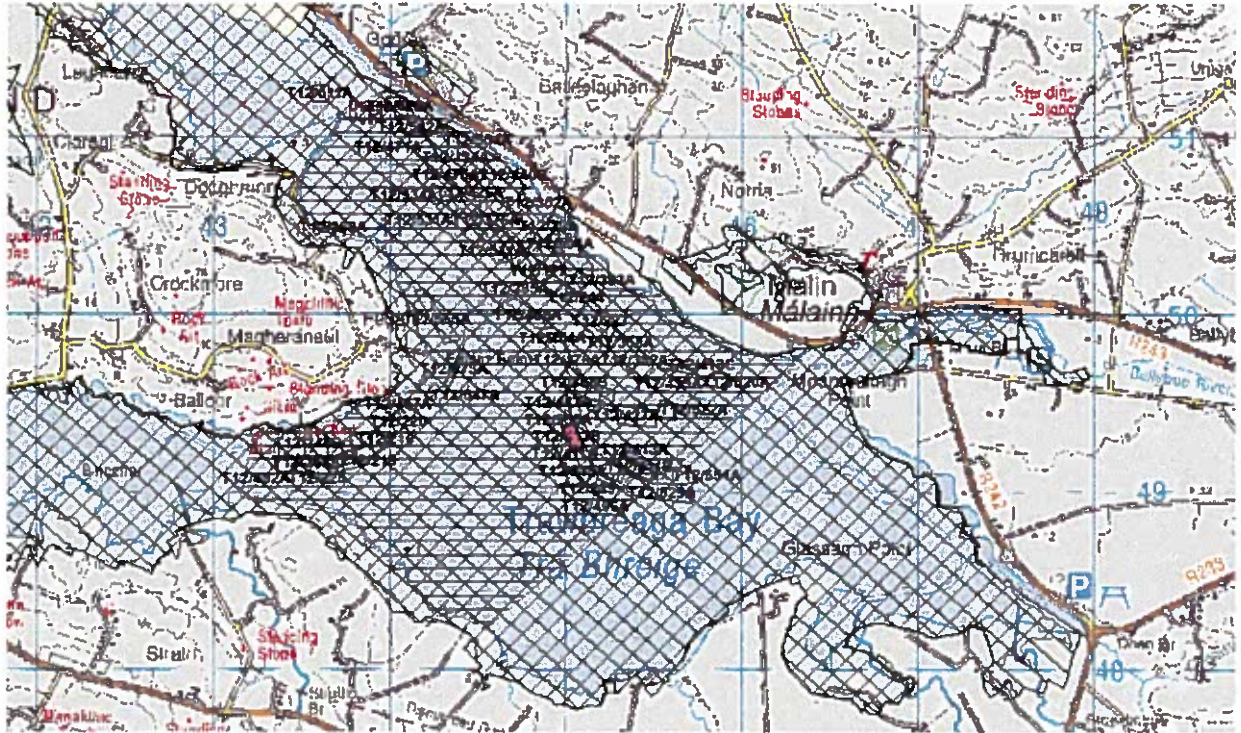


Dr. Terry McMahon  
Section Manager, Marine Environment and Food Safety Services,  
The Marine Institute.

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4

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessmentconclusionstatement/2019new/DraftConclusionStatement310719.pdf>



Shellfish Waters Directive Area



Aquaculture Site



Special Area of Conservation



Special Protection Areas





## Maher, EileenM

---

**From:** Kelleher, Evan  
**Sent:** 16 September 2019 10:53  
**To:** Maher, EileenM  
**Cc:** Farrell, Geraldine  
**Subject:** FW: Trawbreaga Bay Applications x 4 (New)  
**Attachments:** New Licence Ask Oysters Ltd T12\_529.docx; New Licence Ask Oysters Ltd T12\_549.docx; New Licence Ask Oysters Ltd T12\_550.docx; New Licence Ask Oysters Ltd T12\_551.docx

Hi Eileen,  
Forwarding obs received from IFI for Trawbreaga Bay.  
Kind regards,  
Evan

---

Evan Kelleher  
*Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division*

---

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara  
*Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*  
National Seafood Centre, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47  
An Lárionad Bia Mara Náisiúnta, An Cloichín, Cloich na Coillte, Corcaigh, P85 TX47

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T +353 (0)23 8859475  
[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

---

**From:** Milton Matthews [<mailto:milton.matthews@fisheriesireland.ie>]  
**Sent:** 16 September 2019 10:03  
**To:** Kelleher, Evan  
**Cc:** Greg Forde  
**Subject:** FW: Trawbreaga Bay Applications x 4 (New)

**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.**

Dear Evan  
Please see attached IFI reports regarding aquaculture applications for Trawbreaga bay, Co. Donegal.  
Rgds  
Milton Matthews  
Director  
Inland Fisheries Ireland- Ballyshannon

---

**Iascach Intíre Éireann**  
**Inland Fisheries Ireland**

Tel +353 (0)7198 51435  
Fax: +353 (0)7198 51816  
Email [milton.matthews@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:milton.matthews@fisheriesireland.ie)  
Web [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)  
Station Road, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, Ireland. **F94 WV76**

---

**From:** Owen Kelly  
**Sent:** 15 September 2019 18:32  
**To:** Milton Matthews  
**Cc:** Peter Kelly  
**Subject:** Trawbreaga Bay Applications x 4 (New)  
Milton, Peter  
Attached 4 new applications for Trawbreaga Bay.  
Regards  
Owen Kelly  
Assistant Inspector – Glenties

**New Aquaculture and Foreshore Application for Ask Oysters Ltd, Leenan  
Keel, Clonmany, Co Donegal**

**Reference Number: T12/550**

The North Inishowen Coast situated on the north Donegal coast is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitat's Directive. The marine area is designated for mudflats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide which support a variety of soft sedimentary communities and community complexes.

Trawbrega Bay is located to the west of the R242 and forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way which attracts large amounts of visitors annually.

A site visit was carried out at low water and the following was noted.

1. This area of Trawbrega Bay is sandy in nature and of a gentle gradient. This area is a well-established route for adult salmon and sea trout returning to spawn and for the outward migration of salmon smolts. Salmon and sea trout populations migrate upstream of this point to two river catchments, the Glennagannon and the Donagh Rivers which flow into Trawbrega Bay. At present both rivers are currently closed to salmon fishing because stocks do not meet their conservation limits. The conservation status of salmon in Ireland at present is listed as vulnerable (Red List No. 5, 2011).
2. This site is located in close proximity to the main channel and the applicant should take all necessary measures to ensure that the development will not interfere with the passage of migrating salmon and sea trout.
3. This site should be clearly marked with navigational marks to prevent any navigational hazard.
4. The applicant should confirm that only triploid oysters are intended for use on site.
5. Should this application to cultivate Gigas Oysters using bags and trestles be sanctioned it would be essential that proper biosecurity protocols are followed during the operations of the farm to ensure no diseases or non-native species are introduced or spread elsewhere from the facility.

As the proposed site is 1.0702 hectares in size the visual impact is minimal. However as this is a very scenic location which attracts large numbers of visitors in the summer months, it may be more beneficial if used as an outdoor amenity. Going forward it may be useful for a cost benefit analysis to be undertaken into the benefits or otherwise of Trawbrega Bay as an oyster production site or as a visual amenity.

Signed: Owen Kelly - Assistant Inspector (Letterkenny Glenties)



Email response

11/09/2019

Ms Eilecn Maher  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division  
National Seafood Centre  
Clonakilly  
Co. Cork  
P85 TX47

Re: Applications for Aquaculture Licences in Trawbrega Bay


Dear Eileen

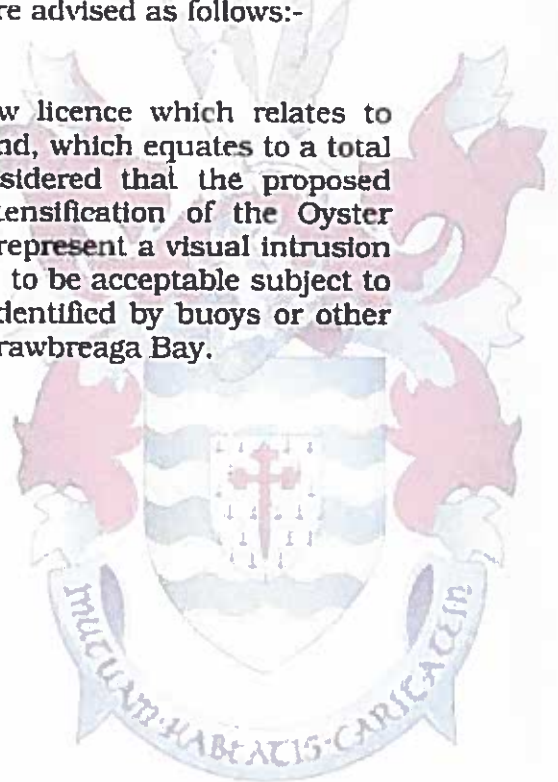
I wish to refer to the Aquaculture Licence applications received by this office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019 for consultation. You are advised as follows:-

**T12/529, T12/549, T12/550 & T12/551**

No objection arises to the proposal to grant new licence which relates to farming Pacific Oysters, in bags and trestles by hand, which equates to a total area of 6.0827ha of Trawbrega Bay. It is considered that the proposed development will not result in a significant intensification of the Oyster Farming activity in Trawbrega Bay and does not represent a visual intrusion into the scenery of the host area and is considered to be acceptable subject to the location of sites to be licenced being clearly identified by buoys or other markers so as not to obstruct other boat users of Trawbrega Bay.

Yours sincerely

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Conway  
Staff Officer



**Maher, EileenM**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 October 2019 21:26  
**To:** Maher, EileenM  
**Subject:** [REDACTED], T12/550 [REDACTED]

**CAUTION:** This Email originated from Outside of this department. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Otherwise Please Forward any suspicious Emails to [Notify.Cyber@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Notify.Cyber@agriculture.gov.ie) .

Hi Eileen,

If you need a hard copy of these responses let me know and I can post it as Soon as possible.

Response to comments, observations and objections received as a result of the public statutory consultation stage of the application process for sites [REDACTED] T12/550 [REDACTED]

Regarding invasive species.

We currently only use Triploid oysters and this is a policy we will continue to implement should we be granted these sites. This should ensure a low risk of non native oyster species establishing in the bay. For non native species other than oysters we have drawn up a draft contingency plan should non native species be introduced. This includes prevention measures such as buying seed from hatcheries rather than buying half grown stock which may carry invasive species. It also includes the protocol for the identification, containment and removal of invasive species, should accidental introduction occur.

We currently have a fish health authorization.

Regarding visual impact.

These sites are located in the middle of the bay, around 1km away from all roads, so visual impact will be minimal.

Regarding salmon and sea trout migration.

The main migration route from the sea to the Glengannon and Donagh rivers is approximately 500 metres to the north of these sites so obstruction to salmon and trout should not be a problem. Nevertheless we will take all necessary measures to ensure trestles do not interfere with the migration of these fish.

Stephen and Anthony Kearney

ASK Oysters Ltd.



**T12/550**

**AQUACULTURE LICENCE**

**AQUACULTURE MARINE SHELLFISH**  
**INTER/SUB-TIDAL**  
**(Structures e.g. trestles)**

**Ask Oysters Ltd**

**Leenan**

**Kiel**

**Co.Donegal**

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**AQUACULTURE LICENCE NO. XXXX**

**GRANTED UNDER THE FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1997 (NO. 23 of 1997)**

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (hereinafter referred to as the “Minister”), in exercise of the powers conferred on him by the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997 (No. 23 of 1997) (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”), grants an Aquaculture Licence to:

**Ask Oysters Ltd**

**Leenan**

**Kiel**

**Co.Donegal**

(hereinafter referred to as the “Licensee”) for the cultivation of Pacific Oysters on a site in Trawbreaga Bay, Co.Donegal as specified in Schedule 1 attached (numbered T12/550A) and indicated by a red line on the attached map in accordance with the plans and drawing(s) in Schedule 2 attached as approved of by the Minister, subject to the Act and Regulations made under the Act and to the terms and conditions set out in the attached pages.

This Aquaculture Licence shall remain in force for a maximum period of ten (10) years commencing on **XX XXXXXXXXXXXX 20XX**, provided for so long as the Foreshore Licence granted on **XX XXXXXXXXXXXX 20XX**, under Section 3(1) of the Foreshore Act 1933 (No. 12 of 1933) in respect of the same site for the purpose referred to is in force.

---

A person authorised under Section 15(1)  
of the Ministers and Secretaries Act 1924 to  
authenticate the Seal of the Minister for  
Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLYING TO THIS AQUACULTURE LICENCE

### 1. Licensed Area

- 1.1 The area specified in *Schedule 1* attached (0.8982 hectares) (labelled T12/550A) and outlined in red on the map(s) in *Schedule 1*.
- 1.2 The co-ordinates for the site are based on the Irish National Grid Co-ordinate System.

### 2. Species, Cultivation and Method Licensed

- 2.1. Species to be farmed: Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*).
- 2.2.
- 2.3. Method: Bag and Trestle subject to the stocking and/or deployment limits as may be specified in *Schedule 4* attached.
- 2.4. The introduction of seed to the site shall comply with the legislation relating to fish health.

### 3. Infrastructure and Site Management

#### Indemnity

- 3.1. The Licensee shall indemnify and keep indemnified the State, the Minister, his officers, servants or agents against all actions, loss, damage, costs, expenses and any demands or claims howsoever arising in connection with the construction, maintenance or use of any structures, apparatus, equipment or any other thing used in connection with the licensed operation in the licensed area or in the exercise of the rights granted under the licence and the Licensee shall take such steps as the Minister may specify in order to ensure compliance with this condition.
- 3.2. The duty of maintenance and responsibility for the upkeep and safety of the site rests with the Licensee.

#### Design, Arrangement and Maintenance of Structures

- 3.3. The Licensee shall ensure that the equipment (including all flotation, mooring and anchoring devices) is placed within the licensed area only. Storage or placement of equipment or stock on the foreshore or seashore outside the licensed area is not permitted under any circumstances.
- 3.4. The Minister may direct as to the deployment of apparatus and flotation devices and their colour, within the site.
- 3.5. The Licensee shall obtain the prior approval of the Minister to any proposed material change to the plan/drawings or equipment as approved being used during the licensing period as specified in *Schedule 2* attached.
- 3.6. The Licensee shall at all times for the duration of the licence keep all equipment used for the purposes of the licensed operations in a good and proper state of repair and condition to the satisfaction of the Minister or other competent State authority.



- 3.7. The Licensee shall ensure that each trestle grouping/pole and all flotation and mooring devices in the licensed area legibly bear the Aquaculture Licence Number in an indelible weatherproof format.

Operational Conduct

- 3.8. The Licensee shall conduct its operations in a safe manner and with regard for other persons in the area and the environment and shall ensure that the operations are not injurious to adjacent lands or the public interest (including the environment) and do not interfere with navigation or other lawful activity in the vicinity of the licensed area, and shall comply with any lawful directions issued by the Minister and any other competent State authority in that regard.
- 3.9. The Licensee shall ensure that any aquaculture or other activity conducted under this licence does not adversely affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network (if applicable) through the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species and/or through disturbance of the species for which the area has been designated in so far as such a disturbance may be significant in relation to the stated conservation objectives of the site concerned.
- 3.10. The Licensee shall ensure that tractors (or other vehicles) accessing and leaving the site adhere strictly to approved access and egress routes as specified in Schedule 1 attached. Full compliance is required in order to minimise disturbance to the foreshore and habitat. All drivers shall be made fully aware of the specific route approved.
- 3.11. The Licensee shall ensure that journeys back and forth on the approved access and egress routes are kept to the minimum necessary.
- 3.12. The Licensee shall ensure that all tractors/towing vehicles to be used for aquaculture purposes on the foreshore are fitted with efficient exhaust/silencers/mufflers and that vibration noise from tractors and machinery is kept to a minimum.
- 3.13. The Licensee shall ensure that all vehicles are properly maintained so as to prevent leakages of oils, fuels, grease etc.
- 3.14. The Licensee shall ensure that all vehicles move slowly at all times on the foreshore, that engine revolution is kept to a minimum and that engines are turned off when not in use.
- 3.15. The Licensee shall ensure that if more than one vehicle is needed on the shore that all vehicles, where possible, arrive and depart together.
- 3.16. The Licensee shall so organise its operations in consultation with other licensed operators to ensure that the total number of vehicles and harvesting machines on the foreshore on any one day is kept to the minimum necessary.

- 3.17. The Licensee shall ensure that when carrying out aquaculture work on the foreshore, dogs owned or under the control of the Licensee shall not be present, in order to minimise disturbance to the birdlife in the area.
- 3.18. The Licensee shall ensure that best practice is employed to keep structures and netting clean at all times and any biofouling by alien invasive species shall be removed and disposed of in a responsible manner. In particular, in 'Natura 2000' sites care must be taken to ensure that any biofouling by alien invasive species will not pose a risk to the conservation features of the site. Measures to be undertaken are set out in the draft Marine Code of Practice prepared by Invasive Species Ireland and can be found on the web site at: <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/>.

#### Waste Management

- 3.19. The Licensee shall ensure that the licensed and adjoining area shall be kept clear of all redundant structures (including apparatus, equipment and/or uncontained stock), waste products and operational litter or debris and shall make provision for the prompt removal and proper disposal of such material. If the Licensee refuses or fails to do so, the Minister may cause the said structures, apparatus, equipment or other thing to be removed and the licensed area restored and shall be entitled to recover from the Licensee as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction all costs and expenses incurred by him in connection with the removal and restoration.

#### Inspection

- 3.20. The licensed area and any equipment, structure, thing, or premises wherever situated used in connection with operations carried out in the licensed area shall be open for inspection at any time by an authorised person (within the meaning of Section 292 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959) (No. 14 of 1959) (as amended by Fisheries Act 1980) (No. 1 of 1980), a Sea Fisheries Protection Officer (within the meaning of Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006) (No. 8 of 2006) or any other person appointed in that regard by the Minister or other competent State authority.
- 3.21. The Licensee shall give all reasonable assistance to an authorised officer or a Sea Fisheries Protection Officer or any person duly appointed by any competent State authority to enable the person or officer enter, inspect, examine, measure and test the licensed area and any equipment, structure, thing or premises used in connection with the operations carried out in the licensed area and to take whatever samples may be deemed appropriate by that person or officer.
- 3.22. The Licensee shall keep and maintain in the State for inspection on demand by the Minister or a competent State authority, at all times, records of all operations including compliance monitoring and any required follow up action. These records shall be produced by the Licensee on demand by the Minister or other competent State authority and in any event not later than 24 hours from the making of that demand.
- 3.23. The Licensee shall furnish to the Minister or other competent State authority in the form and at the intervals determined by the Minister or other competent State authority, such information relating to the licensed area as may be required to

determine compliance by the Licensee with the terms of this licence and applicable legislation.

4. **Navigation and Safety**

4.1. The Licensee shall ensure that Statutory Sanction from the Commissioners of Irish Lights is in place prior to the commencement of operations, regarding all aids to navigation. Statutory Sanction forms are available at <http://www.cil.ie/safety-navigation/statutory-sanction.aspx>.

4.2. The Licensee shall ensure that the site is marked in accordance with the requirements of both the Marine Survey Office and the Commissioners of Irish Lights as specified in *Schedule 3*.

The navigation marking detail is as illustrated in *Schedule 3*.

4.3. The Licensee shall comply with any specification requirement relating to navigational aids, flotation and mooring devices, supporting/marking posts/poles, as required by the Minister or any other competent State authority.

4.4. The Minister's determination in respect of this licence is conditional upon immediate full compliance by the Licensee in respect of all requirements and conditions which are imposed under the relevant legal provisions applicable to the Marine Survey Office.

4.5. Prior to commencement of operation the Licensee shall inform the UK Hydrographic Office at Taunton of the location and nature of the site in order that charts and nautical publications can be updated. Tel: 00 44 1823337900 Fax: 00 44 1823 284677 Email: [sdr@ukho.gov.uk](mailto:sdr@ukho.gov.uk) the Licensee shall submit proof to the Department within 14 days of the date of this licence that the UK Hydrographic Office has been so informed.

5. **Monitoring**

5.1. The Licensee shall undertake and/or partake in monitoring, in particular environmental monitoring, as directed by the Minister or other competent State authority.

6. **Fish Health / Mortality Management / Movement of Fish**

**Fish Health Regulations**

6.1. Before the site is stocked the Licensee shall ensure that a Fish Health Authorisation under statutory provisions giving effect to Council Directive No. 2006/88/EC, as amended, or any other legislative act that replaces that Directive on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and their products, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals, is in place.

**Disposal of Mortalities**

6.2. The Licensee shall dispose of dead fish in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions and requirements.

**Movement of Fish**

6.3. The Licensee shall comply with any regulations in force governing the movement of fish.

7. **Duration, Cessation, Review, Revocation, Amendment, Assignment**

**Duration, Cessation**

7.1. This Licence shall remain in force until **XX XXXXXXXXXX, 20XX** and as long as the accompanying Foreshore Licence remains in force.

**Review**

7.2. The Licensee may apply for a review of the licence at any time after the expiration of three years since the granting of the licence or its last renewal in accordance with section 70 of the Act.

**Revocation, Amendment**

7.3. Subject to the Act, the Minister may revoke or amend the licence if:-

- (a) he considers that it is in the public interest to do so,
- (b) he is satisfied that there has been a breach of any condition specified in the licence e.g., operating outside the licensed area,
- (c) the licensed area to which the licence relates is not being properly maintained,
- (d) water quality results or general performance in the licensed area do not meet the standards set by the Minister or the competent State authority.

**Assignment**

7.4. This Licence shall not be assigned without the prior written consent of the Minister and may not be assigned during the period of three years, dating from the commencement or renewal of this licence, unless the Minister determines that it may be assigned under condition 7(5) or the condition set out in 7(6) applies.

7.5. A Licensee, who considers that there are exceptional reasons for the assignment of the Licence during the first three years, may apply to the Minister, giving those reasons, for a determination that the Licence may be assigned. The Minister may, at his discretion, having considered the reasons given by the Licensee, determine whether or not the Licence may be assigned. The determination of the Minister in this regard is final.

7.6. Where the Licensee is a company (within the meaning of the Companies Acts) and goes into Liquidation (within the meaning of the Companies Acts) in the first three years dating from the commencement of the licence, the Liquidator shall, with the consent of the Minister, be entitled to assign the licence to enable him to discharge any debts of the liquidated company.

7.7. This licence is issued subject to any order that the High Court may make under section 218 of the Companies Act 1963 or otherwise with regard to the assignment of this licence.

8. **Fees**

- 8.1. The Licensee shall pay to the Minister an annual aquaculture licence fee in accordance with the Aquaculture (Licence Application and Licence Fees) Regulations 1998(S.I. No. 270/1998) as amended by the Aquaculture (Licence Fees) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 282 of 2000) or an amount payable under Regulations made under section 64 of the Act.
- 8.2. The Minister may revoke the licence where the Licensee fails to pay the aquaculture licence fees on demand.

9. **General Terms and Conditions**

- 9.1. The Licensee shall at all times comply with all laws and protocols applicable to aquaculture operations.
- 9.2. Any reference to a statute or an act of an institution of the European Union (whether specifically named or not) includes any amendments or re-enactments in force and all statutory instruments, orders, notices, regulations, directions, bye-laws, certificates, permissions and plans made, issued or given effect under such legislation shall remain valid.
- 9.3. If any condition or part of a condition in this licence is held to be illegal or unenforceable in whole or in part, such condition shall be deemed not to form part of this licence but the enforceability of the remainder of this licence is not affected.
- 9.4. The Licensee shall at all times hold all necessary licences, consents, permissions, permits or authorisations associated with any activities of the Licensee in connection with the licensed area.

**Notification**

- 9.5. Without prejudice to any other remedy under the licence or in law, if the Minister is of the view that the Licensee is in breach of any obligation under this licence, the Minister may, by notice in writing, require that the Licensee rectifies such breach, within such time as is specified by the Minister. The Licensee shall comply with any direction of the Minister within the time specified in the notice.
- 9.6. Any notice to be given by the Minister may be transmitted through the Post Office addressed to the Licensee at the last known address of the Licensee.
- 9.7. The Licensee shall notify the Minister within 7 days of any change in the Licensee's address, telephone, e-mail or facsimile number.

**Tax Clearance Certificate**

- 9.8. During the term of this licence the Licensee shall provide to the Minister on demand a current tax clearance certificate.

**Companies and Co-operatives**

- 9.9. In the event of the licence being granted to a company (within the meaning of the Companies Acts), control of the licensee company shall not change in any respect

from the control of the company as existed on the date that the licence was granted so long as this licence shall remain in force save with the prior written permission of the Minister.

- 9.10. In the event of a licence being granted to a company that has been incorporated outside this State, the licensee company shall register with the Companies Registration Office within one month of the establishment of a place of business in the State or alternatively, within one month of the establishment of a branch of the said company in the State and the licensee company shall submit proof to the Department within 14 days of the end of that month that it has been so registered.
- 9.11. Where the licensee is a company within the meaning of the Companies Acts, the licensee company shall ensure that it does not become dissolved within the meaning of the Companies Acts for so long as this licence shall remain in force.
- 9.12. In the event of the licence being granted to a society (within the meaning of section 2 of the Industrial and Provident Societies (Amendment) Act 1978 (No.23 of 1978) the following conditions shall apply:-
- 9.12.1. The rules relating to membership of the society shall enable any resident of the State to become a member of it where the resident fulfils all the conditions laid down by the society for membership of it and the rules shall not lay down different conditions for different classes of people;
- 9.12.2. The rules relating to the society as submitted to the Minister before the grant of this licence shall not be amended subsequently other than with the written permission of the Minister; and
- 9.12.3. The Minister may, if he considers it necessary in the interests of good management of the licensed area, direct that an amendment may be made to the rules of the society, and the Licensee shall amend the rules in accordance with that direction.

#### Clearance of Site

- 9.13. The Licensee shall, at the Licensee's own expense, if so required by written notice from the Minister and within three weeks after receipt of such notice or on cessation of the licence for any other cause, remove the structures, apparatus, equipment or any other thing to the satisfaction of the Minister. If the Licensee refuses or fails to do so, the Minister may cause the said structures, apparatus, equipment or other thing to be removed and the licensed area restored and shall be entitled to recover from the Licensee as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction all costs and expenses incurred by him in connection with the removal and restoration. The Licensee shall take such steps as the Minister may specify in order to secure compliance with this condition.

## **SCHEDULE 1**

**Schedule 1 contains:**

- **the co-ordinates of the site based on the Irish National Grid Co-ordinate System and the area of the site**
- **site map(s) which also shows the access/egress route to and from the site**
- **a chart showing the location of the site in relation to the surrounding area.**

**DRAFT**

**1 NO. SITE AT TRAWBREAGA BAY CO.DONEGAL**

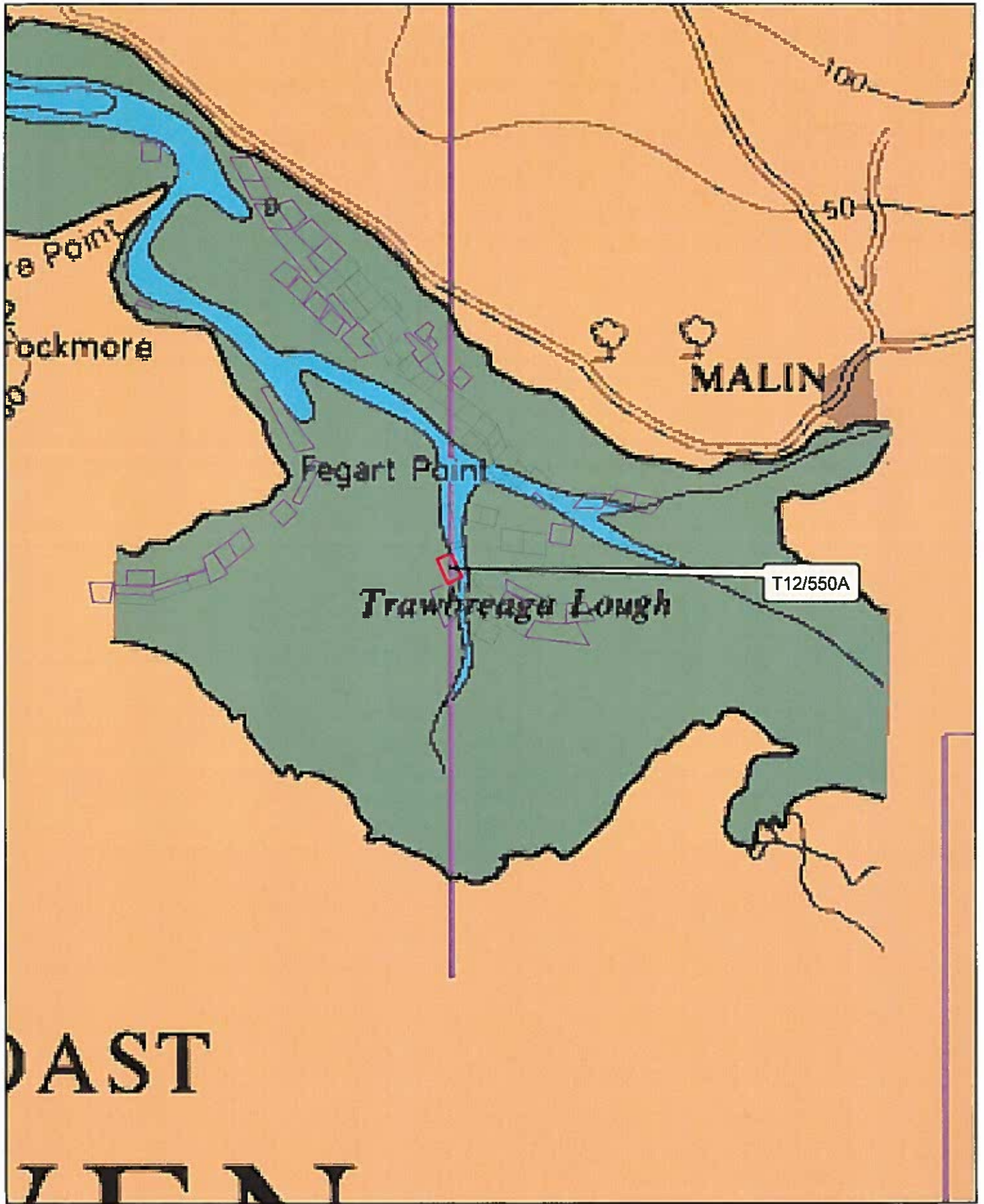
**Co-ordinates & Area**

**Site T12/550A (0.8982 Ha)**

The area seaward of the high water mark and enclosed by a line drawn from Irish National Grid Reference point

245043, 449225 to Irish National Grid Reference point  
244992, 449339 to Irish National Grid Reference point  
245056, 449367 to Irish National Grid Reference point  
245111, 449257 to Irish National Grid Reference point





1:24,000

**Aqua Culture Sites**  
 <all other values>  
**Site\_Status**  
 Application  
 Licensed

Sites highlighted in red denotes Application

Part of Admiralty Chart No =2811-0  
 Not to be used for Navigation



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

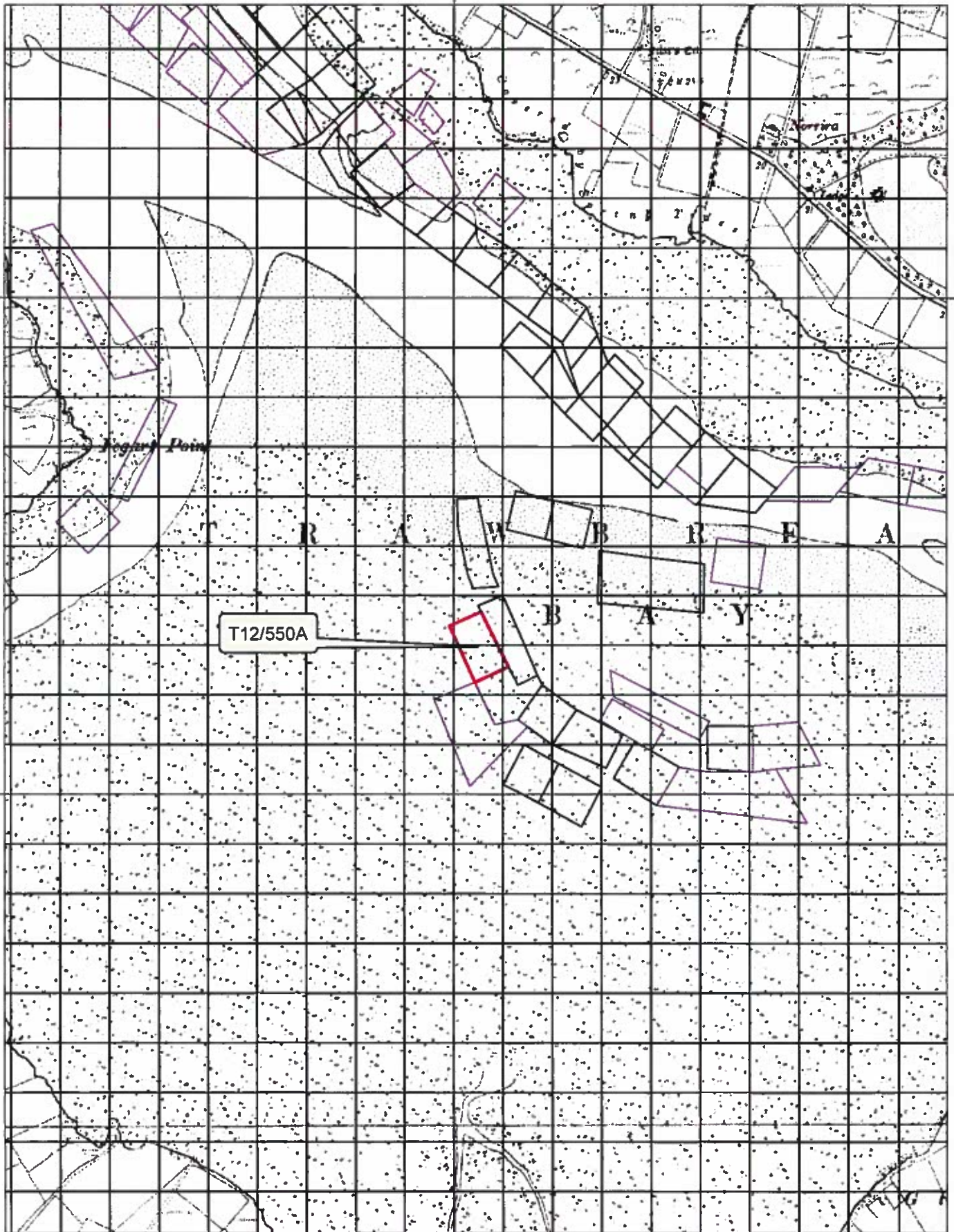
245000

450000

450000

449000

449000



245000

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**Aqua Culture Sites**

<all other values>

**Site\_Status**

Application

Licensed

100 Meter Reference Grid

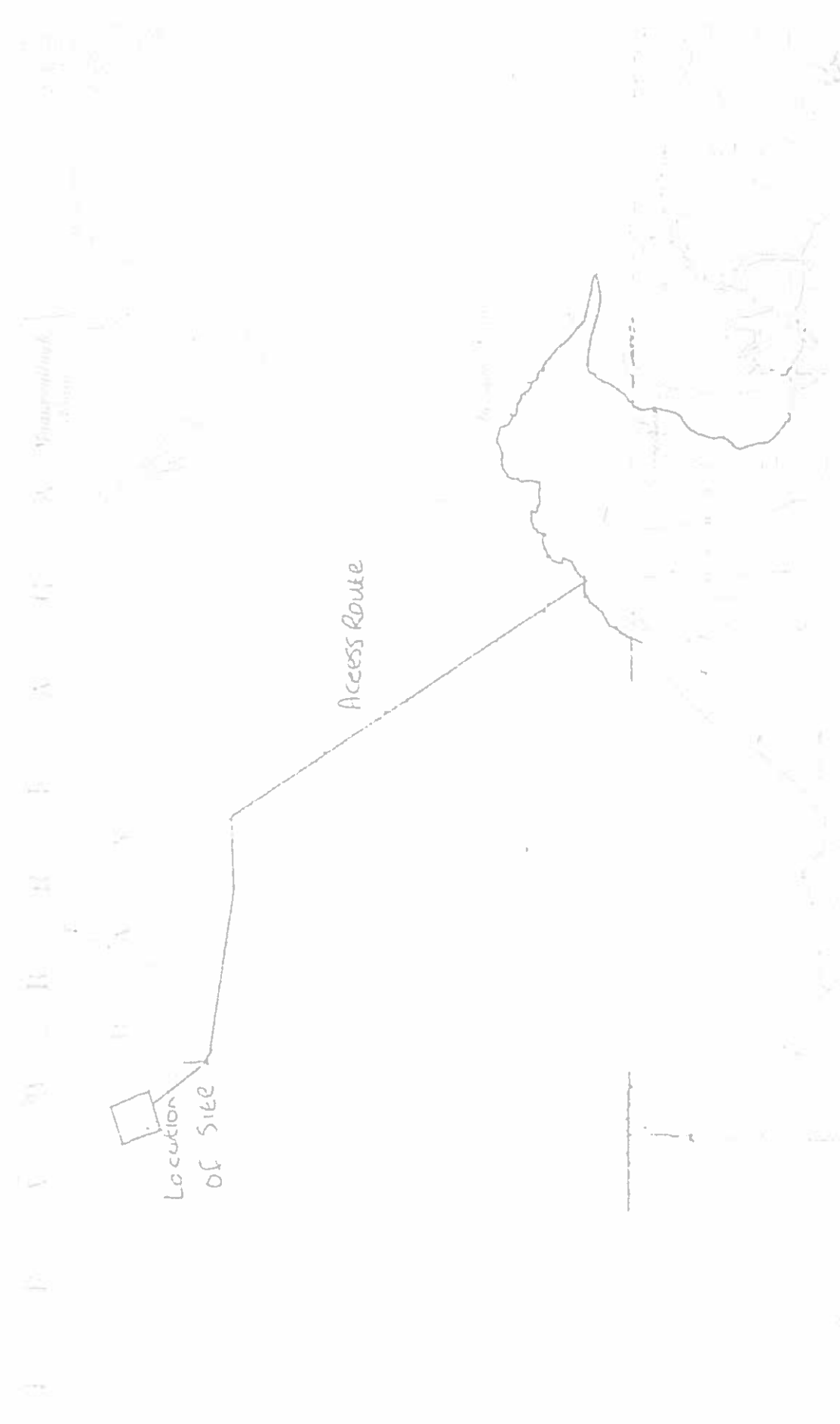
Sites highlighted in red denotes Application

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. EN 0076419  
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An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

T12/550.



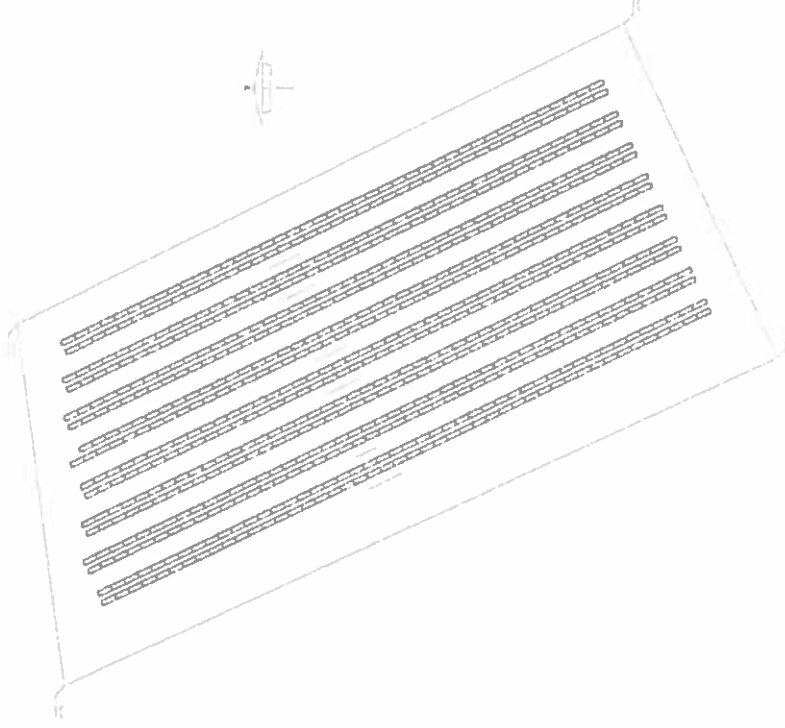
## **SCHEDULE 2**

**Schedule 2 contains:**

- **the approved plans and drawing(s)**


**DRAFT**

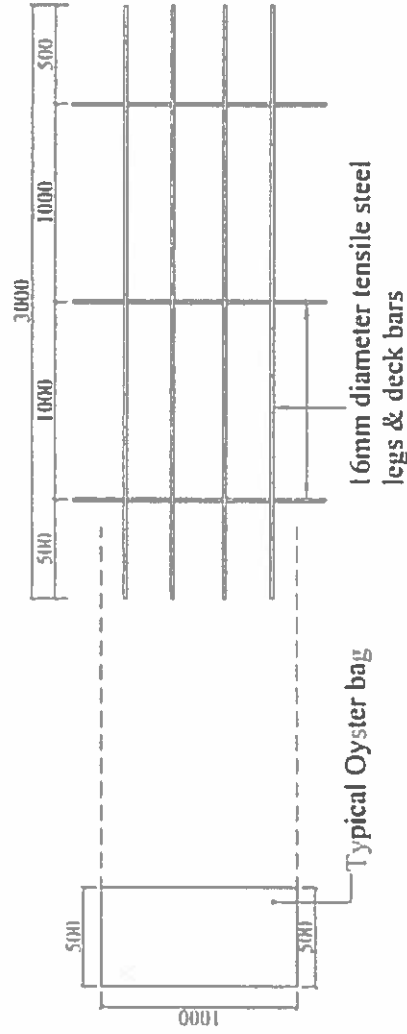
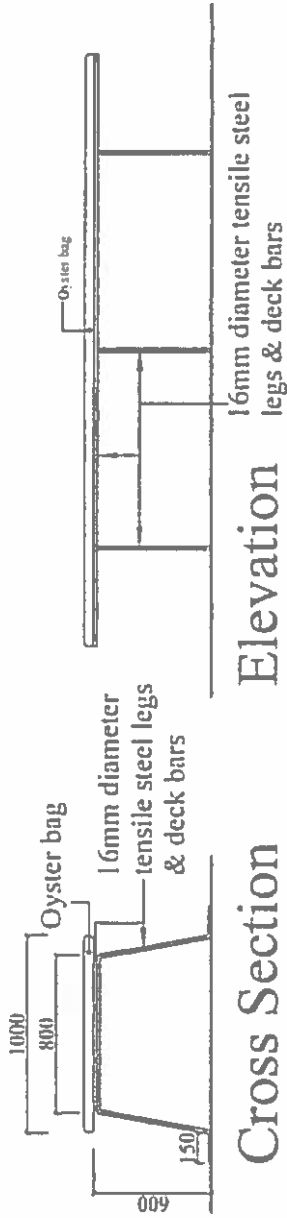
Updated maps and drawings  
will need to be requested  
once Ministers Determination is made  
due to variation from original application.



## Proposed Trestle Layout Scale: 1/1000

(Original Page Size A3)

Agriculture License Application		
Licence No. A10016819 Certificate No. A10016819, Government of Ireland		
<b>DESIGNER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	
O'Connell October House Design Ltd. The Mullins Knacker Rd Ballyshannon Co. Donegal Ballyshannon Ballyshannon Ballyshannon Ballyshannon	1/1/2019 1/1/2019	
		
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine 10, Malpas Street, Dublin 6 Telephone: 01-469 2333 Fax: 01-469 2334 Email: <a href="mailto:licensing@agriculture.gov.ie">licensing@agriculture.gov.ie</a> Website: <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.ie">www.agriculture.gov.ie</a>		
<b>TITLE</b>		
Trestle Layout For Site T12/530 on behalf of Ask Oysters Ltd.		
<b>DRAWING</b>		
1:1 (scaled 1/1000) 1/1/2019		
<b>SCALE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESIGNER</b>
1:1	1/1/2019	O'Connell



Plan (Oyster bags not shown for clarity)

Typical Trestle Detail  
Fig. 1

Scale: 1/25 (Original Page Size A3)

Aquaculture Licence Application  
 (Ordinance Survey Ireland Licence No. A80016818)  
 © Ordnance Survey Ireland, Government of Ireland

DESIGNER  
 O'SHEA  
 028751011

CLIENT  
 October House Design Ltd.  
 The Mallins  
 Knauck Rd  
 Ballyshannon  
 Co. Donegal  
 Ireland, A62 27718  
 Tel: 02875 10111

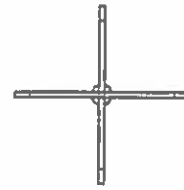
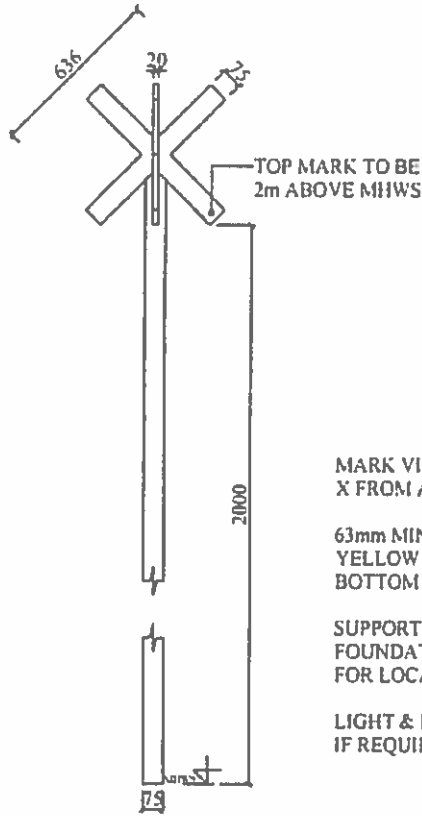
DATE  
 11/11

TIME  
 Trestle & Special Mark Beacon  
 Detail For Site T12550 on behalf  
 of Ask Oysters Ltd.

DRAWN  
 11/11

DATE  
 11/11

SCALE  
 1/25



Plan:  
Special Mark Beacon

MARK VISIBLE AS YELLOW  
X FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.

63mm MIN DIAMETER POLE -  
YELLOW FOR 2 METERS BELOW  
BOTTOM OF CROSS.

SUPPORT STRUCTURE &  
FOUNDATION SUITABLE  
FOR LOCATION.

LIGHT & RADAR REFLECTOR  
IF REQUIRED.

Elevation:  
Special Mark Beacon

# Special Mark Beacon Detail

## Fig. 2

Scale: 1/25  
(Original Page Size A4)

Aquaculture Licence Application			
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© Ordnance Survey Ireland, Government of Ireland			
DRAWN BY		CHECKED BY	
© COPYRIGHT OF October House Design Ltd.			
The Mullins Knader Rd Ballyshannon Co. Donegal			
F Martin McLaughlin B. ENG (Hons), C. ENG, M. IET Mobile: (086) 2207173 Email: info@octoberhouse.org			
No dimensions to be scaled from this drawing. All dimensions to be checked by the contractor and any errors or discrepancies to be reported to the engineer in charge.			
TITLE Trestle & Special Mark Beacon Detail For Site T12/550 on behalf of Ask Oysters Ltd.			
DRAWING Trestle & Special Mark Beacon Detail			
SCALE: 1/25	a.s. ref.	DRG NO.	REV
DATE: July 2019		04	



## SCHEDULE 3

Schedule 3 contains:

- **requirements of CIL**

- That the applicant secures Statutory Sanction from the Commissioner of Irish Lights for the aids to navigation that are required and approved by the Marine Survey Office. These aids should be in place before the development on the site commences.

- **requirements of the MSO / the navigation marking detail.**

- Site to be marked in accordance with the requirements of the Special Unified Marking Scheme (SUMS) for Trawbegga Bay. The agreed site marking should be in place before the development on the site commences.

DRAFT

## SCHEDULE 4

### Schedule 4 contains:

- Any areas of the site with surface stone (one area centre of the site 15m radius, second area north of the site 10m radius) should be left visible and undisturbed by aquaculture operations with no trestle placement or no vehicle movement on these areas (this is in order that natural protection afforded against erosion by these surface stones is not lost).
- Only Triploid stock to be used on this site.
- The source of seed, where applicable, must be approved by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine.
- Any change to the source of seed must be approved in advance by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine.
- Prior to the commencement of operations at the site the Licensee is required to prepare a Contingency Plan for the approval of the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine 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.
- The Licensee must comply with any Code of Practice developed in agreement with NPWS.
- The access route over the intertidal habitat must be strictly adhered to, in order to minimise habitat disturbance.



**T12/550**

**FORESHORE LICENCE**

**Ask Oysters LTD**

**Leenan**

**Kiel**

**Co.Donegal**

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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO FORESHORE LICENCE**

**SEAL OF OFFICE AND SIGNATURES**

***SCHEDULE 1***

**DRAFT**

**FORESHORE LICENCE IN RESPECT OF A SITE**  
**(NUMBERED T12/550A) AT Trawbreaga Bay, CO. Donegal**

AGREEMENT made on the **XX XXXXXXXX 20XX**, between the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (hereinafter referred to as the “Minister” which expression shall include his Successors or Assigns where the contract so requires or admits), of the one part, and

**Ask Oysters Ltd**

**Leenan**

**Kiel**

**Co. Donegal**

(hereinafter referred to as the “Licensee”) of the other part, whereby the Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 3 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 (No.12 of 1933) hereby grants to the Licensee licence to use and occupy that part of the foreshore at **Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal** (numbered **T12/550A**) detailed in the attached schedule and more particularly delineated on the map annexed hereto and thereon coloured red for the purpose of the cultivation set out in Aquaculture Licence Number **XXX** on the terms and conditions set out in the attached pages.

This Foreshore Licence shall remain in force for a maximum period of **ten (10)** years commencing on **XX XXXXXXXX 20XX**, provided for so long as the Aquaculture Licence Number **XXX** granted on **XX XXXXXXXX 20XX** under the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (No. 23 of 1997) in respect of the same site for the purpose referred to is in force.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO FORESHORE LICENCE

1. The Licensee shall pay to the Minister the annual sum of € **XXXXX (XXXXX euro XXX cent)**, such payment to be made on the **XX** day of **XXXXXXXXXX** in every year during the continuance of this Licence, the first of such payments to be made on the signing hereof.
2. The Licensee shall use that part of the foreshore, the subject matter of this Licence, for the cultivation set out in Aquaculture Licence Number **XXX** only and for no other purpose whatsoever.
3. The Licensee shall comply fully with all terms and conditions of Aquaculture Licence Number **XXX**.
4. The Licensee shall indemnify and keep indemnified the State, the Minister, his officers, servants or agents against all actions, loss, damage, costs, expenses and any demands or claims however arising in connection with the construction, maintenance or use of any structures, apparatus, equipment or any other thing used in connection with the licensed operation in the licensed area or in the exercise of the rights granted under the licence and the Licensee shall take such steps as the Minister may specify in order to ensure compliance with this condition.
5. The duty of maintenance and responsibility for the upkeep and safety of the site rests with the Licensee.
6. The Minister shall be at liberty at any time to terminate this Licence by giving to the Licensee three months notice in writing ending on any day, and upon determination of such notice, the Licence and permission granted shall be deemed to be revoked and withdrawn without the liability for the payment of any compensation by the Minister to the Licensee.
7. Any notice to be given by the Minister may be transmitted through the Post Office addressed to the Licensee at the last known address of the Licensee.
8. The Licensee shall not carry out any operations authorised by the Licence in the licensed area in such a manner as to interfere unreasonably with fishing or navigation in the vicinity of the licensed area and shall comply with any direction given to the Licensee in that regard by the Minister.
9. In the event of the breach, non-performance or non-observance by the Licensee of any of the conditions herein contained, the Minister may forthwith terminate this Licence without prior notice to the Licensee.

**AND IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT:**

1. For the purpose of the stamping of this Instrument that this is an Instrument to which the provisions of Section 53 of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act 1999 (No. 31 of 1999), do not apply for the reason that the entire of the property involved comprises Foreshore and contains no Buildings.
2. The Family Law Acts of 1976, 1981, 1989, 1995 and the Family Law (Divorce) Act 1996 do not affect the Property.

**SEAL OF OFFICE AND SIGNATURES**

**PRESENT when the Seal of Office of the MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE was affixed and was authenticated by the Signature of:**

**WITNESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OCCUPATION:** CIVIL SERVANT

**SIGNED on behalf of Licensee**

**in the presence of:**

**WITNESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OCCUPATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
A person so authorised under Section 15(1) of the Ministers and Secretaries Act, 1924 to authenticate the seal of the Minister.

\_\_\_\_\_

## **SCHEDULE 1**

**Schedule 1 contains:**

- **the co-ordinates of the site based on the Irish National Grid Co-ordinate System and the area of the site**
- **site map(s)**
- **a chart showing the location of the site in relation to the surrounding area.**

**DRAFT**



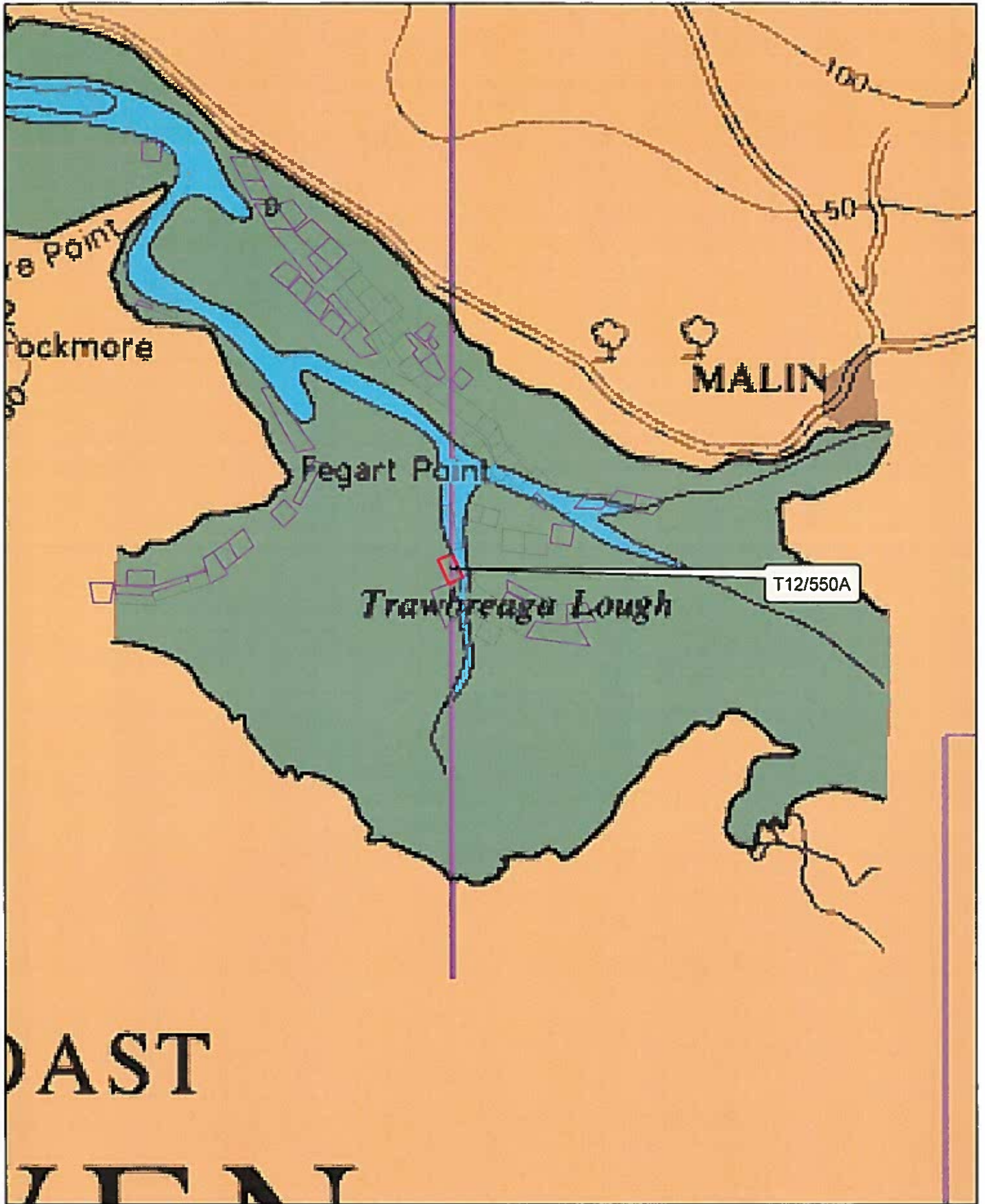
**1 NO. SITE AT TRAWBREAGA BAY CO.DONEGAL**

**Co-ordinates & Area**

**Site T12/550A (0.8982 Ha)**

The area seaward of the high water mark and enclosed by a line drawn from Irish National Grid Reference point

245043, 449225 to Irish National Grid Reference point  
244992, 449339 to Irish National Grid Reference point  
245056, 449367 to Irish National Grid Reference point  
245111, 449257 to Irish National Grid Reference point



1:24,000

**Aqua Culture Sites**  
 <all other values>  
**Site\_Status**  
 Application  
 Licensed

Sites highlighted in red denotes Application

Part of Admiralty Chart No =2811-0  
 Not to be used for Navigation



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

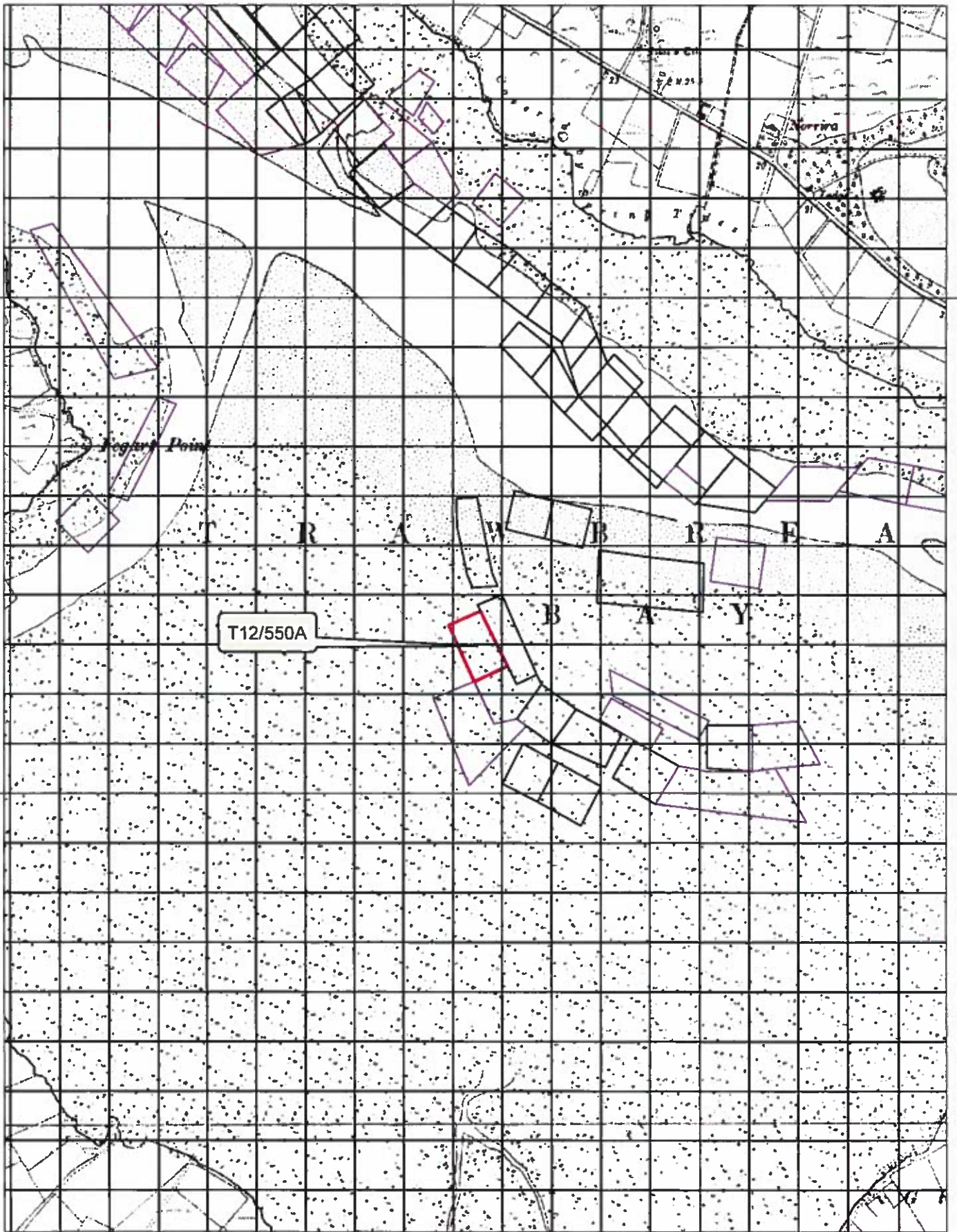
245000

450000

450000

449000

449000



245000

1:10,560

**Aqua Culture Sites**

<all other values>

**Site\_Status**

Application

Licensed

100 Meter Reference Grid

Sites highlighted in red denotes Application

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

**Final Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement by Licensing Authority for aquaculture activities in the North Inishowen Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (002012), and Trawbreaga Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) (004034) (Natura 2000 sites)**

This Conclusion Statement outlines how it is proposed to licence and manage aquaculture activities in the above Natura 2000 sites in compliance with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. Aquaculture in these Natura sites will be licensed in accordance with the standard licence terms and conditions as set out in the aquaculture licence templates. These are available for inspection on the Department's website at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/>.

The licences will also incorporate specific conditions to accommodate Natura requirements, as appropriate, in accordance with the principles set out in this document.

Appropriate Assessment reports relating to aquaculture in the North Inishowen Coast Special Area Conservation (SAC) (002012) and Trawbreaga Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) (004034) have been prepared to inform this process. The reports assessed the potential ecological impacts of aquaculture activities on Natura features in both the SAC and the SPA. In addition to the target Natura sites, there are a number of other SACs proximate to the proposed aquaculture activities and a screening was carried out on their likely interactions with aquaculture.

**Aquaculture activity in the SAC and SPAs**

Current aquaculture activities within the North Inishowen Coast SAC and Trawbreaga Bay SPA occur at Trawbreaga Bay and focus exclusively on the cultivation of the Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas* on trestles in intertidal areas. The profile of the aquaculture industry in the Bay, used in this assessment, was prepared by BIM and is derived from the list of existing licences and applications for aquaculture at the time which was provided to the MI in May 2019.

**North Inishowen Coast SAC (002012)**

The North Inishowen Coast situated on the north Donegal coast of is designated as a SAC under the Habitats Directive. The SAC stretches from Crummies Bay in the west up to Malin Head and back down to Inishowen Head to the East. The marine area is designated for Mudflats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140) which support a variety of soft sedimentary communities and community complexes. The area is also designated for the otter (*Lutra lutra*).

### **Qualifying Interests (SAC)**

The SAC is designated for the following habitats and species, as listed in Annex I and Annex II of the Habitats Directive:

- 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
- 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)
- 21AO Machairs (\*priority habitat in Ireland)
- 4030 European dry heaths
- 1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior*
- 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra*

### **Conservation Objectives for North Inishowen Coast SAC**

The conservation objectives for the qualifying interests (SAC) were defined by NPWS. The natural condition of the designated features should be preserved with respect to their area, distribution, extent and community distribution. Habitat availability should be maintained for designated species and human disturbance should not adversely affect such species.

### **Trawbreaga Bay SPA (004151)**

Trawbreaga Bay SPA includes a very large area of intertidal habitat sheltered within the bay, with some narrow tidal creeks which develop into wider subtidal channels towards the mouth of the bay. Areas of terrestrial habitat include saltmarsh, coastal beach, dune, grassland, shingle banks and coastal cliffs. The SPA also includes Glashedy Island and the waters surrounding it, west of Doagh Isle.

The SPA has a total area of 1,549 ha. Around 80 % of the bay area is exposed at each low tide with intertidal sediment composed mainly of a mix of mud and sand flats with some stony/rocky substrates. Green algae mats occur on open flats and *fucoïd* seaweeds grow on the stones.

### **Qualifying features**

The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the Trawbreaga Bay SPA include non-breeding populations of Barnacle Geese and Light-bellied Brent Geese. In addition, both breeding and non-breeding elements of the Chough population are also SCIs. The wetlands habitat contained within Trawbreaga Bay SPA is an additional conservation feature.

Two further SPAs are located within 15 km of Trawbreaga Bay SPA; these are Malin Head SPA (004146) and Inishtrahull SPA (004100). The Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of the Inishtrahull SPA are non-breeding populations of Barnacle Goose and breeding populations of Shag and Common Gull, while the Special Conservation Interest (SCI) of Malin Head SPA is a breeding population of Corncrake. A further five Special Protection Areas are located beyond the 15 km search area recommended by guidance, but are included due to potential interchange that may occur between the sites due to the mobile nature of birds. Sites considered were: -

- Lough Foyle (both ROI and NI managed sites) (15.3 km to the southeast of Trawbreaga Bay SPA) (site codes 004087 & UK 9020031, respectively);
- Lough Swilly SPA (004075; 21 km to the southwest of Trawbreaga Bay SPA);
- Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194; 16.8 km west of Trawbreaga Bay SPA);
- Fanad Head SPA (004148; 20.5 km to the west of Trawbreaga Bay SPA); and
- Greers Isle SPA (004082; 24.5 km west of Trawbreaga Bay SPA).

### **Conservation Objectives for Trawbreaga Bay SPA**

The SCIs of the Trawbreaga Bay SPA include non-breeding populations of Barnacle Goose and Lightbellied Brent Goose. In addition, both breeding and non-breeding elements of the Chough population are taken as Special Conservation Interests. In addition the wetland habitat within Trawbreaga Bay SPA is an additional qualifying interest.

### **SCI species**

The overall conservation objective for the non-breeding populations of Barnacle Goose and Lightbellied Brent Goose is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of the species. The favourable conservation conditions of these non-breeding species in Trawbreaga Bay SPA are defined by various attributes and targets, (i) population trend, and (ii) distribution.

### **Wetlands and waterbirds**

The conservation objective for wetlands and waterbirds is to “maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Trawbreaga Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that use it”.

### **The Appropriate Assessment**

The function of the Appropriate Assessment is to determine if the ongoing and proposed aquaculture activities are consistent with the Conservation Objectives set for these Natura sites. In

the case of SPAs, also those neighbouring sites where there is the potential usage of aquaculture areas by birds for which these SPAs have been designated. The NPWS provides guidance on the interpretation of the Conservation Objectives which are, in effect, management targets for habitats and species in the sites. The assessment of aquaculture activities was informed by this guidance, which is scaled relative to the anticipated sensitivity of habitats and species to disturbance by the proposed activities.

### **Screening of Adjacent SACs**

In addition to the North Inishowen Coast SAC there are a number of other SAC sites proximate to the proposed activities. As it was deemed that there are no *ex-situ* effects and no effects on features in adjacent SACs, all qualifying features of the adjacent SAC sites were screened out.

### **North Inishowen Coast SAC**

In the North Inishowen Coast SAC the likely interaction between aquaculture activity and conservation features (habitats and species) of the site was considered. An initial screening exercise resulted in a number of habitat features and species being excluded from further consideration. None of the aquaculture activities (existing and/or proposed) overlaps or likely interacts with the following features or species, and therefore these 5 habitats and 1 species were excluded from further consideration in the assessment:

- 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
- 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)
- 21A0 Machairs (\*priority habitat in Ireland)
- 4030 European dry heaths
- 1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior*

Of the four constituent community types recorded within the qualifying interest of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140) one was shown to have no overlap or likely interaction with aquaculture activities and was excluded from further consideration. This community type is:

- *Zostera*-dominated community

A full assessment was carried out on the likely interactions between current and proposed aquaculture operations and the feature Annex 1 habitat Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140). The likely effects of existing and proposed aquaculture activities were considered in light of the sensitivity of the constituent communities of the Annex 1 habitat.

The appropriate assessment finds that existing and proposed aquaculture activities (in-combination with other non-aquaculture activities-see below) do not pose a risk of significant disturbance to the conservation of the designated habitat feature of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140) or constituent community of Muddy sand to coarse sediment with *Pygospio elegans* community complex, Fine to medium sand with *Eurydice pulchra* community complex and Sand with *Angulus tenuis* and *Scoloplos (Scoloplos) armiger* community complex.

The aquaculture activities do not present a barrier to movement or a risk to the attributes for the Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and therefore, was considered non-disturbing to Otter.

### **Trawbreaga Bay SPA**

A screening exercise was carried out to screen out SCI species that did not show any potential spatial overlap with effects from any of the proposed aquaculture activities being assessed. This was undertaken across all SPAs being assessed.

All of the SCI species for Trawbreaga Bay SPA were carried forward for full Appropriate Assessment.

The remaining sites were addressed as follows: -

- Inishtrahull SPA (004100) – this site is designated for Barnacle Goose, Shag and Common Gull. Barnacle Goose at this site is considered in full in and the potential for impacts on Shag and Common Gull were screened out.
- Malin Head SPA (004146) & Fanad Head SPA (004148) are designated for breeding populations of Corncrake; both were screened out.
- The qualifying interests of Greers Isle SPA (004082) are Sandwich Tern, Black-headed Gull and Common Gull. Each was considered in detail and screened out.
- Lough Foyle (IE004087) & Lough Swilly (004075) are designated for a diverse range of wintering waders and wildfowl as well as breeding Sandwich Tern and Common Tern in the case of Lough Swilly. The former were screened out based on distance, site use etc.; while the potential for impacts on Sandwich Tern and Common Tern was considered in detail in and screened out.



- Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194). As for Inistrahull, Barnacle Goose at this site is considered in full. This site is also designated for Chough. Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA supports an important population of breeding which favour grassland. No impact from intertidal aquaculture is predicted and accordingly Chough at this site was therefore not considered further.

Other SCI species, namely Peregrine and seabirds (i.e. Fulmar, Cormorant, Shag, Kittiwake, Guillemot and Razorbill) were considered and screened out.

### **In-combination effects of aquaculture and other activities**

The Appropriate Assessment reports considered the cumulative impacts of the combined effects of the aquaculture and other activities within the SPA, notably fisheries, seaweed harvesting, residential and recreational developments, hand collection of shellfish, bait digging and effluent discharge.

### **Findings and Recommendations of the Appropriate Assessment of Aquaculture Trawbreaga Bay SPA**

#### **Chough**

The proposed scale of oyster cultivation along with the lack of any significant use of intertidal habitat by Chough and the separation of proposed oyster cultivation from known foraging, roosting or nesting sites indicates it is unlikely that the intertidal oyster would have a negative impact on Chough using Trawbreaga Bay SPA.

#### **Barnacle Geese**

- The Barnacle Geese population at Trawbreaga bay would appear to be closely linked with the wider Malin flock and should be considered as a single unit. Unlike Light-bellied Brent Geese, Barnacle Geese do not feed on intertidal habitats, but favour terrestrial grassland or saltmarsh. Placement of trestles will not therefore result in direct habitat loss. While there is evidence for intertidal roosting, observed flocks have been small and ample alternate intertidal habitat exists to accommodate such day-time roosting. The main potential for conflict is from access points where there may be increased activity close to feeding birds and / or from increased levels of activity on the shoreline; key areas noted include risk of disturbance to Barnacle Geese at Magheranaul / Strath; close to Malin and close to the Glassagh access point. While the risk of negative impacts cannot be entirely discounted,

geese are likely to habituate to repeated patterns of work at trestles on the intertidal close to foraging fields. The Department, in conjunction with key stakeholders will aim to develop, as soon as practicable a code of practice to address issues that arise.

### **Light-bellied Brent Geese**

- The site conservation condition for Light-bellied Brent Goose at Trawbreaga Bay SPA has been assessed as favourable based on the increasing population. The favourable conservation status of the species; large area of available suitable habitat; foraging opportunities provided by green algae on trestles and displacement of birds feeding in and around trestles during the course of routine maintenance all combine to determine how Light-bellied Brent Geese would be impacted by oyster cultivation. On this basis, it is not considered that the species will be significantly impacted by the existing or proposed culture activities.
- The Department, in conjunction with key stakeholders will aim to develop within six months a code of practice to address issues that may arise.

### **Cumulative impacts**

This assessment considered the cumulative impacts of the combined effects of the aquaculture.

The presence of additional people on the shore either harvesting seaweed or bait digging etc. could increase the level of disturbance on Light-bellied Brent Geese above that arising from aquaculture activities. However, there is insufficient information in the Seaweed Harvesting to comment on the proposed timing, level and spatial distribution of activity associated with proposed seaweed harvesting. While the potential for management of *Ascophyllum* to provide feeding opportunities for Light-bellied Brent Geese by encouraging the growth of smaller green / purple algae in short-term cycles before *Ascophyllum* regrows and out-competes them cannot be discounted, the risk of increased patterns of disturbance could result in significant negative impacts

The risk of establishment of non-native oyster species is considered low in Trawbreaga Bay. However, Trawbreaga Bay effectively flows into the broader Lough Swilly presenting a risk to the Lough Swilly SAC. Any licences issued will contain a recommendation that triploid oysters continue to be used in North Inishowen Coast SAC in order to minimize any risks to Lough Swilly SAC.

There is unlikely to be in-combination impacts among fishery activities, seaweed harvesting, pollution pressures and aquaculture activities.

## Issues Raised During the Aquaculture Licensing Process For Sites In North Inishowen Coast SAC and Trawbreaga Bay Special Protection Area

### 1. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

**Summary:** This submission addresses a number of issues, including conservation of the *Zostera*-dominated community, build up of sediment, coastal erosion and a code of practice relating to the disturbance of Barnacle Geese and Light-bellied Brent Geese.

**Response:**

*In relation to the *Zostera* bed area in this Natura site has an area of 0.91 hectares as defined in the NPWS Conservation Objectives November 2014. The *Zostera* bed does not overlap with the aquaculture sites and does not overlap with the designated aquaculture traffic access route from Glashagh Point with a distance of >600m calculated as the closest likely interaction (with access route). The Department's Marine Engineering Division have been in contact with DCHG and are actively investigating this issue.*

*In relation to the build-up of sediment, without providing specific details on the nature of the accumulation, i.e., duration, location and season, it is difficult to comment. Sediment has been noted to build up beneath the trestles and still not result in a change in constituent communities, this is particularly the case in areas where there may be highly mobile sediments which tend to be impoverished from a faunal (i.e., community constituent) perspective. In addition, during periods of calm weather, sediments can build up only to be dispersed with the arrival of more unsettled weather.*

*In relation to coastal erosion, reference is made to a coastal erosion study for the Trawbreaga Bay mouth area that Donegal County Council has carried out. The Department is conscious of the need to avoid sitting aquaculture structures in areas of mobile sand and strong hydrodynamics such as on soft sand bar areas in the main low water channel. However, it is not anticipated erosion will impinge significantly on the inner Bay sites. The potential negative impact that proposed development would have locally on hydrodynamic process has been considered in the assessment of aquaculture licence applications.*

*In relation to the disturbance of Barnacle Geese and Light-bellied Brent Geese, it should be noted that the assessment of interactions between Brent Geese and aquaculture activities in the SPA AA report is considered conservative, robust and the process is communicated in some detail. In relation*

*to a code of practice for interactions between geese species and aquaculture operations, the Department agrees with the value of creating this code of practice and in conjunction with key stakeholders has begun this process and will aim to develop this code of practice within six months to address issues that may arise. Adherence to any polices which arise from the code of practice will be a licence requirement of any new licence that issues.*

## **2. An Taisce**

**Summary:** This submission addresses a number of issues, including, percentage of habitat affected, reasonable doubt, bird displacement and triploid oysters.

### **Response:**

*In relation to percentage of habitat affected, it should be noted that the process of preparing the AA reports is to first identify any potential interactions between the activity under considerations and the constituent (habitat) features. If interactions are noted, then the activity is brought forward for more detailed analysis in the process. It should also be noted that during more detailed analysis it was considered that the aquaculture sites under consideration in Trawbreaga Bay were unlikely to interact negatively with those habitat conservation features with which they overlapped, i.e., they were considered unlikely to be subject to the persistent pressure outlined above. This is likely due to tidal flushing of organic and fine sedimentary material from underneath the trestles. These conclusions are borne out by scientific investigations published in peer reviewed journals.*

*In relation to reasonable doubt, this appears to be focused on challenging commonly used and accepted scientific terminology (within the AA Reports) and using this to present An Taisce's interpretation of case law. It should be pointed out that in natural systems, certainty can never be presented at 100%. We would suggest that the scientific literature cited does remove reasonable scientific doubt. Where this is not the case this is acknowledged and communicated that there are no obvious measures possible that might mitigate or reduce the risk.*

*In relation to bird displacement, the statement that negative impacts are likely to be lower is informed by our growing understanding of the relationship between Light-bellied Brent Geese and oyster trestles. The assessment undertaken relies heavily on Gittings & O'Donoghue (2012), "The effects of intertidal oyster culture on the spatial distribution of waterbirds". This was based on low tide observations of shorebirds, including Light-bellied Brent Geese. However, activity patterns across the tidal cycle are relevant in the case of Light-bellied Brent Geese due in part to their ability to forage in shallow subtidal waters. Furthermore, it should be noted that as we have considered*

*additional coastal SPAs since 2012 we have also had access to a greater number of observations of Light-bellied Brent Geese in the context of trestles. When considering the potential for negative impacts on Light-bellied Brent Geese, issues to be considered include overlap of proposed trestles with known foraging habitat; disturbance from onsite activities; and the degree to which algae growing on the trestles provides a foraging resource to Light-bellied Brent Geese and how this can change seasonally. Thus, while the spatial displacement, which yields the above figure of 5.71%, is calculated as a 100% displacement of Brent geese from the area of overlap, observations of Brent geese feeding on algae growing on trestles on the flood tide show that 100% displacement is not likely to occur at all times. Furthermore, while birds can be disturbed and displaced by maintenance work on the foreshore; such works occur at low tide, while Brent geese associate with trestles as the tide floods over them, allowing birds to float over the trestles and feed on associated algae. This therefore reduces the extent of disturbance and resultant displacement. It should be noted that Light-bellied Brent Geese numbers are growing both locally and nationally. Finally, it should be noted the 5% threshold as used in the AA reports is a guide only and used in our assessments to identify the potential for negative impacts. It is considered a conservative threshold above which further consideration is given to the likely interactions between the conservation feature and the proposed activities. As above, each case is considered on its merits and communicated as such.*

*In relation to use of triploid stock, this observation and recommendation is consistent with the recommendations in the AA report. All future licences in Trawbreaga Bay will be for Triploid oyster stock and this will be addressed in the terms and conditions of any licence that will issue.*

### **3. Donegal County Council**

**Summary:** This submission has no objection to grant of licenses as proposed activities will not result in significant intensification of the Oyster farming activity and does not represent a visual intrusion in to the scenery of the host sites. The submission notes location of sites should be clearly identified by buoys or other markers so not to obstruct other boat users of Trawbreaga Bay.

**Response:** *Identification of Aquaculture sites by navigational markers such as buoys will be addressed in terms and conditions of any licence that issues.*

### **4. IFI**

**Summary:** This submission addresses a number of issues, including navigational markings, use of triploid stock, bio-security protocols, interference with the passage of migrating salmon and sea trout and visual amenity of the bay.

**Response:** *The Department notes the location of proposed sites in close proximity to the main channel, however the assessment of these Aquaculture licence applications considered the potential impact of proposed oyster farm developments on migratory salmon movement. Use of triploid oysters, navigational markings and compliance with bio-security protocols will be addressed in terms and conditions of any licence that issues.*

## **5. Irish Water**

**Summary:** This submission addresses the coordinates of existing and secondary discharges operated by Irish Water discharging to this designated water, as well as those within 10km of the proposed development.

**Response:** *The locations of applications for aquaculture license proximate to discharge points as highlighted by Irish Water are noted and were considered as part of the assessment of the Aquaculture licence applications.*

### **Public Objections**

**Summary:** Two objections were received relating to visual impact, accumulation of disused gear on the shoreline and orderly development of the bay.

**Response:** *In relation to visual impact, the impact on tourism and the visibility of the proposed development of aquaculture sites was considered as part of the assessment of the Aquaculture licence applications as was orderly development of the bay. In relation to accumulation of disused gear on the shoreline, general licence conditions are included which require that the licensed and adjoining areas shall be kept clear of all redundant structures (including apparatus, equipment and/or uncontained stock), waste products and operational litter or debris, with provisions for the prompt removal and proper disposal of such material will be required for all relevant sites.*

### **Summary of Mitigation Measures and Management Actions that are being implemented as a consequence of the findings in the Appropriate Assessment report**

Taking account of the recommendations of the Appropriate Assessment, as well as additional technical/scientific observations, the following measures are being taken in relation to licensing aquaculture in this SAC:

- All future licences in Trawbreaga Bay will be for Triploid oyster stock in order to minimise any risk to Lough Swilly SAC.

- The density of culture structures within sites to be maintained at current levels.
- The source of seed and any changes to the source of seed are to be approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in advance.
- A Licence condition requiring strict adherence to the identified access routes in order to minimise species/ habitat disturbance will be in each licence issued.
- A Licence condition will require full implementation of the measures set out in the draft Marine Aquaculture Code of Practice prepared by Invasive Species Ireland (e.g. <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/cops/aquaculture>).
- The movement of stock in and out of Trawbreaga Bay should adhere to relevant fish health legislation.
- The Department in conjunction with key stakeholders have begun the process to create a code of practice for interactions between geese species and aquaculture operations to address any issues that may arise. Strict adherence to any policies which arise from this code of practice will be a requirement of any licence that issues.
- The use of updated and enhanced Aquaculture and Foreshore Licences containing terms and conditions which reflect the environmental protection required under EU and National law

### **Conclusion**

The appropriate assessment and risk assessment finds that the majority of activities, at the current and proposed or likely future scale and frequency of activity are consistent with the Conservation Objectives for North Inishowen Coast SAC and Trawbreaga Bay SPA.

The Licensing Authority is satisfied that from a Natura 2000 perspective, given the conclusions and recommendations of the Appropriate Assessment process, along with implementation of the above measures that will mitigate certain pressures on Natura features, the proposed licensed activities are not likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of North Inishowen Coast SAC and Trawbreaga Bay SPA.

**November 2019**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1997 (NO. 23) FORESHORE ACT, 1933 (NO. 12) NOTICE OF DECISIONS IN RELATION TO AQUACULTURE AND FORESHORE LICENCES

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has made determinations on the Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence applications as set out in the table below in Trawbreaga Bay, Co Donegal:-

Site Reference Number	Name	Species & Method	Decision
T12/367A	James Ball Middletown, Malin Head, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Renewal Licence
T12/520A	Kearney Oyster Ltd 43 Donagh Park, Carndonagh, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Licence
T12/522A	Kearney Oyster Ltd 43 Donagh Park, Carndonagh, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Licence
T12/523A	Kearney Oyster Ltd 43 Donagh Park, Carndonagh, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Licence
T12/511A	Daniel McGonigle Magheranual, Isle of Doagh, Clonmany, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Refuse to Grant Licence
T12/528A	Hurrikayn Oysters Ltd Bree, Malin Head, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Licence
T12/530A	John Friel Roxtown, Clonmany, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Variation Licence
T12/540A	Philip M Doherty Slievebawn, Malin Head, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Refuse to Grant Licence
T12/541A	Cathal McCorkell Cuan Na Mara, Carrowtrasna, Greencastle, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Refuse to Grant Licence
T12/542A	Cathal McCorkell Cuan Na Mara, Carrowtrasna, Greencastle, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Variation Licence
T12/553A	William Coffey Sheskinn Bree, Malin Head, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Variation Licence
T12/547A	Daniel McGonigle Magheranual, Isle of Doagh, Clonmany, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Licence
T12/531A	Oceanic Organic Oysters Harbour View, Greencastle, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Refuse to Grant Licence
T12/532A	Oceanic Organic Oysters Harbour View, Greencastle, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Refuse to Grant Licence
T12/533A	Oceanic Organic Oysters Harbour View, Greencastle, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Refuse to Grant Licence
T12/534A	Oceanic Organic Oysters Harbour View, Greencastle, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Refuse to Grant Licence
T12/543A	Oceanic Organic Oysters Harbour View, Greencastle, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Licence
T12/544A	Oceanic Organic Oysters Harbour View, Greencastle, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Licence
T12/529A	Ask Oysters Ltd Leenan, Kiel, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Refuse to Grant Licence
T12/549A	Ask Oysters Ltd Leenan, Kiel, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Variation Licence
T12/550A	Ask Oysters Ltd Leenan, Kiel, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Variation Licence
T12/551A	Ask Oysters Ltd Leenan, Kiel, Co Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Refuse to Grant Licence

The reasons for this decision are elaborated on the Department's website at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/aquaculturelicencedecisions/donegal>

An appeal against an Aquaculture Licence decision may be made in writing, within one month of the date of its publication, to THE AQUACULTURE LICENCES APPEALS BOARD, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, by completing the Notice of Appeal Application Form available from the Board, phone 057 86 31912, e-mail [info@alab.ie](mailto:info@alab.ie) or website at <http://www.alab.ie/>

A person may question the validity of the Foreshore Licence determination by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Court (SI No. 15 of 1986). Practical information on the review mechanism can be obtained from the Citizens Information Board at: <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/>

[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

[in](https://www.facebook.com/agriculture_ie) [t](https://twitter.com/agriculture_ie) @agriculture\_ie



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

### RECRUITMENT SERVICES



Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council

#### COMÓRTAIS EARCAÍOCHTA

Tá Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar lorg iarratas ó iarratasóirí cáilithe do na poist seo a leanas:

#### AIRÍOCH CÚNTA UISCE/ FUÍOLLUISCE GHRÁD III

#### AIRÍOCH UISCE/FUÍOLLUISCE GRÁD V

#### OIBRÍ GINEARÁLTA - PÁIRCEANNA & SPÁSANNA ALLAMUIGH

Tá sé beartaithe ag an Chomhairle painéal d'iarratasóirí cáilithe a chruthú óna líonfaidh muid folúntais de réir mar a thiocfaidh siad aníos.

Is é an dáta deiridh fá choinne foirmeacha iarratais comhlánaithe a bheith linn ná 12 meán lae:

**Dé Luain, 13 Eanáir 2020**

Tá Foirmeacha Iarratais agus Tuilleadh Eolais ar fáil ag [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

Ní ghlacfar le hiarratais a gheofar mall.

IS FOSTÓIR COMHIONANNAS DEISEANNA Í  
COMHAIRLE CONTAE DHÚN NA NGALL

#### RECRUITMENT COMPETITIONS

Donegal County Council is seeking applications from qualified candidates for the following positions:

#### WATER/WASTEWATER ASSISTANT CARETAKER GRADE III

#### WATER/WASTEWATER CARETAKER GRADE V

#### GENERAL OPERATIVE - PARKS & OPEN SPACES

The Council proposes to form a panel of qualified candidates from which it will fill vacancies as they arise.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 12 noon on:

**Monday, 13 January 2020**

Application Forms and Further Details are available at [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

No late applications will be accepted

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OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

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**BREAKING NEWS**

**DONEGAL  
Democrat**





13th February 2020

Your Ref: **AP68/2020**

Our Ref: **T12/550**

Mary O'Hara  
Secretary to the Board  
Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board  
Kilminchy Court, Dublin Road  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois

Dear Mary

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 to Mr. Michael Creed T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (and copied to Mr. John Quinlan) regarding the appeal against the decision to grant a new Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence in relation to the above file.

The following documentation refers:-

- Submission to Minister for Aquaculture Licence with draft licence(s) and reports received in relation to the application (**attached**).
- Notification of Minister's decision to the applicant, (**attached**).
- Map of sites in Trawbreaga Bay (**attached**)
- Publication Notice of the Minister's decision in the Donegal Democrat (**attached**).

Below is the hyperlink to the Department's website where the AA Report (**July 2019**) on which this application decision was made can be found:-

- the Appropriate Assessment for Trawbreaga Bay:-

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessments/donegal/1NorthInishowenSACandTrawbreagaSPAAAJuly2019Report300719.pdf>

If you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



---

Geraldine Farrell  
Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division  
National Seafood Centre  
Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork  
Phone: 023 8859519  
Email: [Geraldine.Farrell@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Geraldine.Farrell@agriculture.gov.ie)



Ref: [REDACTED] T12/550 [REDACTED]

Ask Oysters Ltd  
Leenan  
Kiel

Co. Donegal

**FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1997 (NO.23)**

**NOTICE OF MINISTERIAL DECISION TO REFUSE / GRANT WITH A VARIATION  
AQUACULTURE LICENCES AND FORESHORE LICENCES.**

Dear Mr Kearney,

I would like to inform you of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Decision on the following aquaculture and accompanying Foreshore Licence applications (see attached information notes and draft aquaculture licences):-

Site Reference Number	Ministerial Decision	Species & Method	Variation	Licence Term
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
T12/550A	Grant Variation Licence	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles only	Reducing the footprint of the site from 1.0702 ha to 0.8982 ha.	10 Years
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

I enclose an extract from the public notice of the decision which the Department has arranged to have published in "Donegal Democrat".

Any person aggrieved by the decision may, in accordance with Section 41 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997, appeal against it in writing to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board. This appeal must be lodged within one month beginning on the date of the publication of the decision.

In addition, a person may question the validity of the Foreshore Licence determination by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Court (SI No. 15 of 1986). Practical information on the review mechanism can be obtained from the Citizens Information Board at: <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/>

The Licences will be issued to you as soon as possible after the end of the period of one month from the date of publication of the notice in "Donegal Democrat", if there is no appeal.

Please also find enclosed the conditions that will apply to any Aquaculture Licence that may be issued by the Minister.

Yours sincerely

**Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division  
05<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**S.12 (3) OF THE FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1997(NO.23)  
INFORMATION NOTE TO APPLICANT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGULATION 18  
OF THE AQUACULTURE (LICENCE APPLICATION) REGULATIONS 1998**

**REFERENCE NO:** [REDACTED] T12/550

**APPLICANT:** Ask Oysters Ltd

**AQUACULTURE TO WHICH  
DECISION RELATES:** Cultivation of Pacific Oysters using bags and  
trestles on sites T12/549A and T12/550A on the  
foreshore in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal.

**NATURE OF DECISION:** Grant Variation Aquaculture Licences

**T12/550A**

Reducing the footprint of the site from 1.0702 ha to 0.8982 ha. This is in line with orderly development policy of the bay. There is a uniform site area approach adopted by the Department in licensing shellfish aquaculture in this bay to date.

**DATE OF DECISION:** 29th November 2019

**CONDITIONS OF LICENCE:** See attached.

**DURATION OF LICENCE:** 10 years

**ISSUE OF LICENCE:** The licence will be dated and issued as soon as practicable after the end of the period of one month from the date of publication of a notice in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the aquaculture, if no appeal is made to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board within that period, under Section 40 and 41 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997.

**Note:** It has been decided to grant the applicant a separate Foreshore Licence under the Foreshore Act, 1933 (No.12), contemporaneous with the Aquaculture Licence, subject to standard conditions applicable to Foreshore Licences.

**FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1997 (NO. 23) FORESHORE ACT, 1933 (NO. 12)  
NOTICE OF DECISIONS IN RELATION TO AQUACULTURE AND FORESHORE  
LICENCES**

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has made determinations on the Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence applications as set out in the table below in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal:-

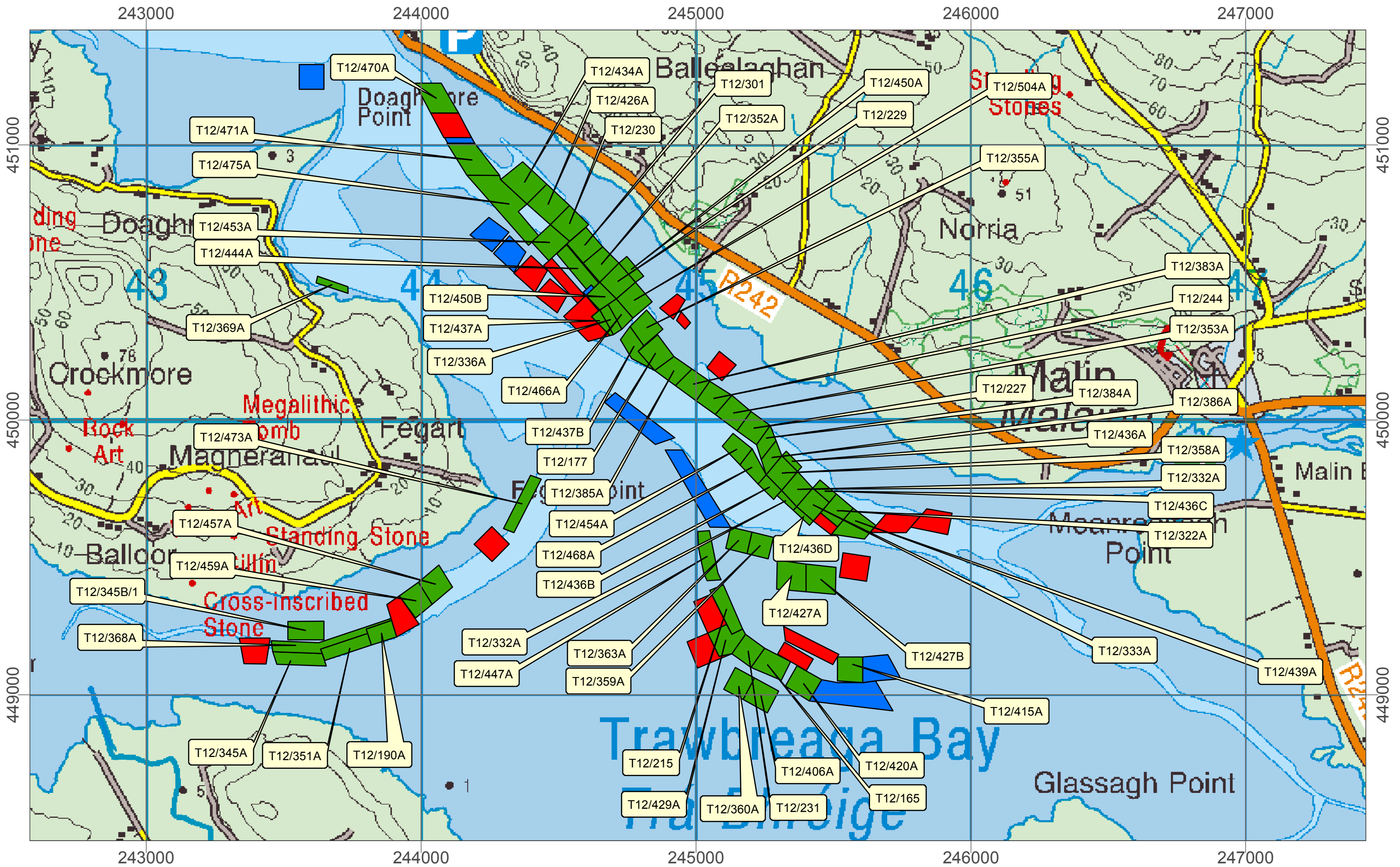
Site Reference Number	Name	Species & Method	Decision
T12/550A	Ask Oysters Ltd Leenan, Kiel, Co. Donegal	Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles	Grant Variation Licence

The reasons for this decision are elaborated on the Department's website at:

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**Legend**  
**Site\_Status**  
█ Licensed  
█ Refused  
█ Under Appeal

**Scale = 1:12,500**

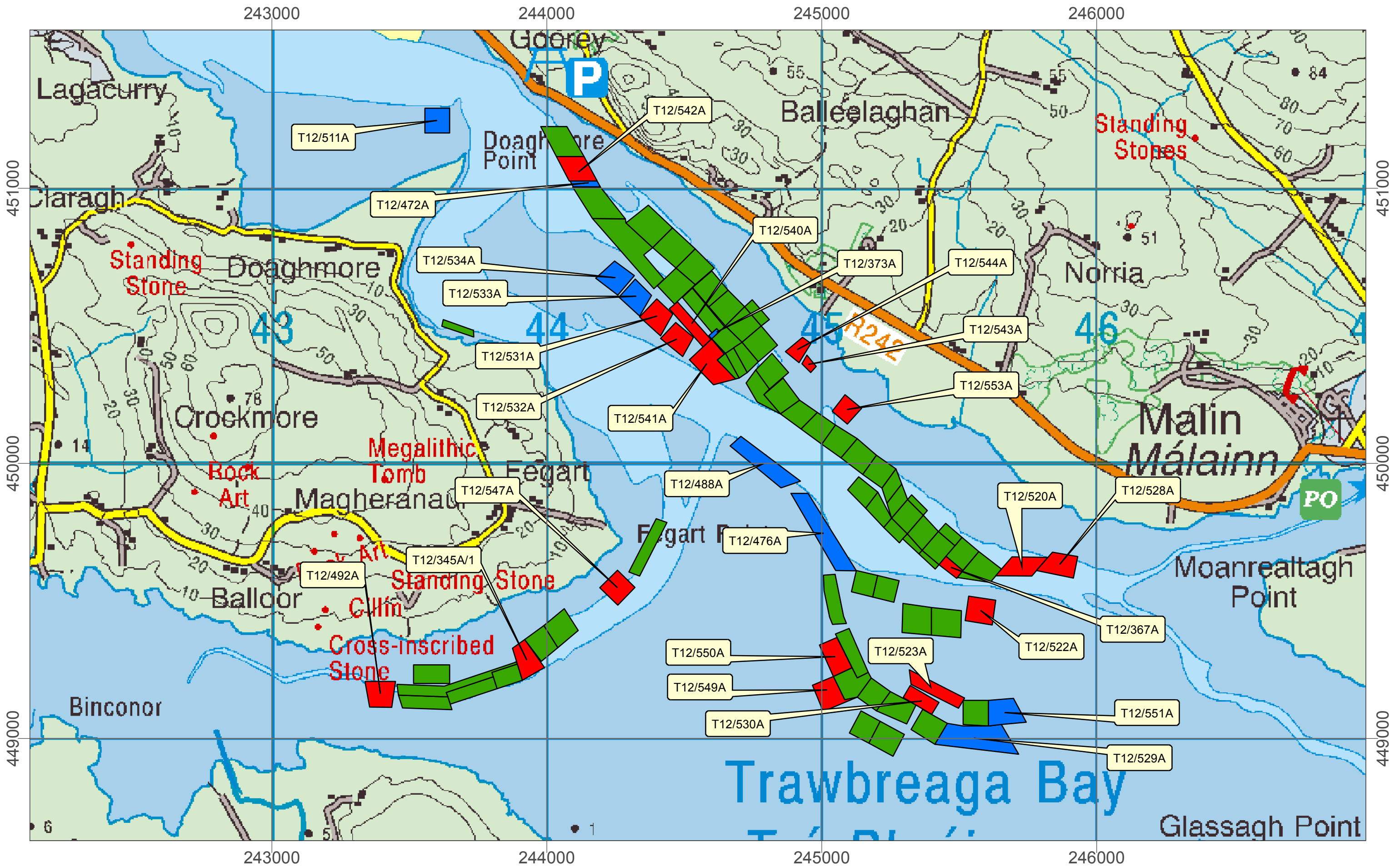
**Drawn : 11-02-2020**

**LICENSED AQUACULTURE SITES  
 TRAWBREAGA BAY, CO. DONEGAL  
 MAP FOR ALAB**

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 Department of Agriculture,  
 Food and the Marine**



**Legend**  
**Site\_Status**  
█ Licensed  
█ Refused  
█ Under Appeal

**Scale = 1:12,500**

Drawn : 11-02-2020

**AQUACULTURE SITES UNDER APPEAL & REFUSED  
 TRAWBREAGA BAY, CO. DONEGAL  
 MAP FOR ALAB**

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