

*Marine Institute*  
Foras na Mara

Rinville,  
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Co. Galway  
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Date 18 July 2018

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

**Advice on Aquaculture Licence Application**

Applicant	Irish Mussel Seed Company Ltd
Application type	New
Site Reference No	T32/027A
Species	Mussels ( <i>Mytilus edulis</i> ) – longlines
Site Status	Not located within a Natura 2000 site Not located within a designated Shellfish Growing Waters Area.

Dear Ann

This is an application for an aquaculture licence to cultivate mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), using longlines, at Site T32/027A on the foreshore in an area between Clogga bay and Kilmichael Point, Co. Wicklow. The area of foreshore at Site T32/027A is 65.996Ha.

The Marine Institute understands that the site will only be used for the collection of mussel seed occurring naturally at the site. The mussel seed collected at the site would be ongrown at other licenced aquaculture sites elsewhere in Ireland. The mussels seed collected at the site will not be for direct human consumption.

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

The cultivation of shellfish at this site will produce faeces and pseudofaeces. Any impact will be limited to the area of the site. The build-up of excess organic matter beyond the footprint of the sites is not considered likely.

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

Site T32/027A is not located within a designated Shellfish Growing Water Area. It is recommended that the implications of licencing sites that are not located within a designated Shellfish Growing Waters Area should be fully considered by DAFM as part of the licence determination process.

Site T32/027A is not located within a designated Natura 2000 site. There are 2 Natura 2000 sites, the Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC (Site Code 001742) and the Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC (Site Code 000729), within 15Km of the proposed aquaculture site. The proposed aquaculture site is located circa 1.0Km north of the nearest boundary of the Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC and circa 8.3Km south of the nearest boundary of the Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC (Site Code 000729).

The Features of Interest of the Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC are:

- Annual vegetation of draft lines
- Embryonic shifting dunes
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)

- Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes

The Features of Interest of the Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC are

- Annual vegetation of draft lines
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- Embryonic shifting dunes
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)
- Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)
- Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*)
- Humid dune slacks
- Alkaline fens

Given the principally terrestrial nature of the Features of Interest at these Natura sites the Marine Institute is of the view that significant impacts on the adjacent Natura 2000 are not likely. There will be no habitat loss and no habitat or species fragmentation within the Natura 2000 sites. Similarly there will be no adverse impact on sensitive habitats or species.

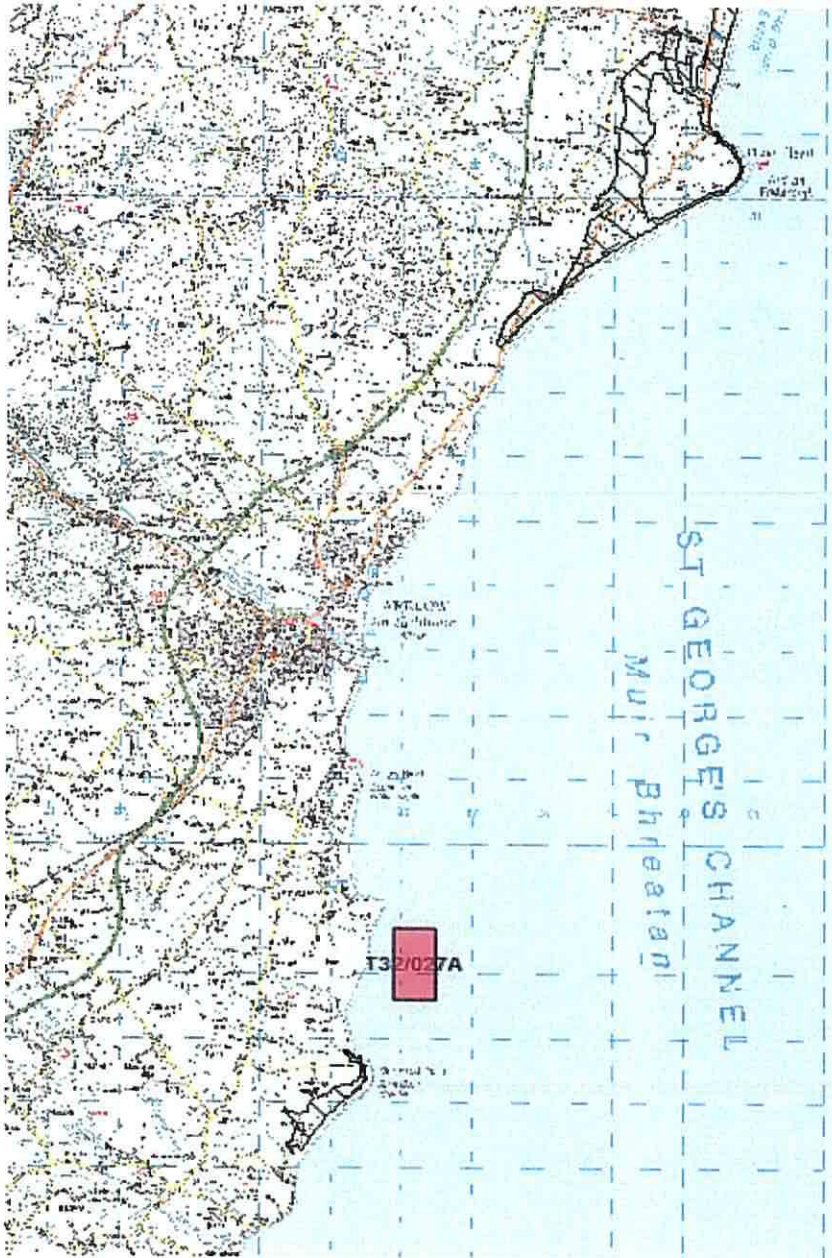
It is statutory requirement that a Fish Health Authorisation as required under Council Directive 2006/88/EC be in place prior to the commencement of the aquaculture activities proposed.

Kind regards,



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



Shellfish Waters Directive Area



Aquaculture Site



Special Area of Conservation



Special Protection Areas

