

McCarthy, Ann

From: Foley Tina
Sent: 16 May 2018 15:09
To: Coakley, John
Cc: DAFM Queries
Subject: Aquaculture & Foreshore Application: T32/27 Irish Seed Mussel Company Ltd - Arklow Head, Co. Wicklow.

Hi John,

Please see below response received from Howth Port in respect of the above application as requested.

Kind regards

Tina

Tina Foley

Clerical Officer

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AN t-ÚDARÁS UM
CHOSAINT
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

An t-Údarás um Chosaint Iascaigh Mhara, Clogheen, Cloich na Coillte, Co. Chorcaí
Head Office, National Seafood Centre, Park Road, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
Eircode: P85TX47

www.sfpa.ie

From: McGabhann, Declan

Sent: 15 May 2018 23:32

To: Foley Tina

Cc: Quigley, Declan

Subject: RE: Aquaculture & Foreshore Application: T32/27 Irish Seed Mussel Company Ltd - Arklow Head, Co. Wicklow.

Hello Tina,

I have reviewed the application T32/27 for the installation of a mussel spat system between Clogga Bay and Kilmichael Point.

From the outset, the application information received is somewhat scant in detail, however with the information provided I can initially confirm the following information,

- Wild fisheries and sea fishing operations:
 - Historically the proposed area would have had naturally occurring aggregations of scallops but the current status of this area is unknown. BIM and or the Marine Institute may be better able to comment on the current status of the area in their response
 - The proposed area has naturally occurring concentrations of crustaceans and gastropods present. Possible conflicts may arise from a restriction in the placement of static fishing gear within the proposed area
 - Seasonal fishing for inshore pelagic species is known in the general area South of Arklow and again the proposed development may restrict access to this fishery
- Shellfish growing areas:
 - There is neither a designated shellfish growing area or molluscan production area within the applied area
 - There is no information regarding the biotoxin or contaminant levels from the immediate area as there is no routine testing on molluscs from the applied area. The river flowing out at Arklow has been known to contain contaminants which may affect the ultimate placing on the market of mussels (the applicant states half grown mussel are to be produced but no size is given and the market for human consumption can vary from 45mm + which may give rise high contaminant loads in the meat)

- The annual mussel seed fishery takes place within the general area of the applied foreshore application and the Marine Institute, BIM and the Irish Bottom Grown Mussel Forum would be in a better position to comment on whether bottom seed is removed from with the applied area
- Seafood Safety:
 - Biotxin status for the area is unknown
 - Contaminants and residue levels are unknown
 - Harvesting to placing on the market for consumption is unknown with regards to duration and length of time whereby the animal can naturally flush any contaminants out before it is placed on the market once it has been harvested from the applied area and moved to an aquaculture site for on-growing/fattening.

Further information regarding the suitability of the site from a food safety perspective is required before any of the above mentioned possible risks to human health can be mitigated for by the SFPA and its remit to ensure all seafood placed on the market is safe.

Kind regards,

Declan

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