



Marine Engineering Division
Report on Aquaculture Licence Application

Application Reference No: T32/027

Report Prepared By: Raphael Crowley

Date: 17 September 2018

Applicant: Irish Mussel Seed Company, 22 Church View, Arklow,
Co Wicklow

Location: Arklow, County Wicklow

Applicant Type: Aquaculture/Foreshore Licence Application

Sites:

A	Total
66	66

Site Area (Ha):

Species: Blue Mussel (*mytilus edulis*)

Cultivation Method: Longlines (Spat Collection)

Intertidal/Non-Intertidal: Intertidal

Source of Seed / Spat: Naturally Occurring

Annual Production Estimates: 3,840 Tonnes

Shellfish Waters Designation Reference: Yes No

Environmental Designation Reference: Yes No

Development Plans Reference: Yes No
Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022, Section 5.6: FSH1, FSH2

Pre-Consultation Meeting: Yes No
Date: Various

Drawing Validation Sheet

OSI Maps
Comment:

Yes No
Maps provided by GIS Mapping Section.

BA Chart
Comment:

Yes No
BA Charts provided by GIS Mapping Section.

Farm Layout Drawing

Yes No
 Directional Arrow Yes No
 Scale Yes No
 Title Block Yes No
 Date Yes No

Comment:

North and South indicated on drawing by "N" and "S".

Drawings of structures
Comment:

Yes No
Drawings submitted are suitable.

Details of Proposed Navigation Marking
Comment:

Yes No
Drawings submitted are suitable.

Site Access Indicated
Comment:

Yes No
Access route is indicated.

Site Co-Ordinates Indicated
Comment:

Yes No
Correct

Site Overlap
Comment:

Yes No

Oyster Fishery Order Overlap
Comment:

Yes No



The application is submitted with each of the requirements listed and is therefore deemed to be a valid application.



AFMD should be aware that insufficient details have been submitted as per above.

Site Suitability Assessment

Site Location

The site is located south of Arklow off the coast of Wicklow in the Irish Sea in exposed waters. There is no aquaculture on this section of the Irish coast. MED had significant reservations regarding the suitability of this development from a hydrodynamic perspective. MED has held extensive discussion with the applicant who has endeavoured to address concerns regarding the suitability of this site by undertaking detailed hydrodynamic modelling of the site and detailed design of the structures and the moorings.

The site location map and admiralty chart provided with the application as advertised are suitable for licensing.

Site Management

There is no aquaculture activity on the location of this site. This application proposes to collect and harvest mussel spat for onward sale to the mussel industry. The applicant has submitted details of the proposed management of the site including the Code of Practice, and Installation and Operation Procedure which address the main aspects of the proposed development. The site will be developed on a phased basis over a number of years.

- **Due to the exposed nature of this location, the site must be operated and maintained as set out in the application documentation including the Code of Practice.**
- **Records of operation and maintenance of the site should be provided on request to the Department to ensure the facility is operated and maintained as set out in the application documentation.**
- **Any change to the management and operation of the site from that outlined in the application documentation must be approved by the Department prior to being implemented.**
- **MED recommends annual inspection of this site to ensure compliance with licence conditions.**

Proposed Site Layout and Structures

This application proposes using the New Zealand continuous longlines system to collect mussel spat. The farm layout has been configured to facilitate navigation, farming operations, and visual impact.

The applicant has carried out detailed hydrodynamic modelling of the site and detailed design of the structures to be placed on the site. The drawings of the farm site layout and detail of structures are suitable for attachment to any licence issued. The layout drawing indicates longline layout, spacing and orientation, number of lines and access route to the site as well as detail of the structures including moorings to be maintained on the site.

Land Based Facilities / Site Access

Details of the access routes were included with the application. The applicant is finalising land based facilities subject to granting of an aquaculture licence.

Navigation

The location of this site has been modified from original proposals to allow for navigational concerns raised at that time. A marking scheme for the site is provided in the site layout

drawings. The observations of the MSO would be important as there are no offshore obstructions at this location of the Irish coast.

Visual Impact

The Wicklow County Development Plan indicates that this site is located offshore of the Southern Coastal Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, however the site is not highly visible and does not impact on any Views or Prospects of Significant Amenity Value or Special Interest. This site is visible from Kilmichael Head to the south. In general, the views are obscured and limited from scenic routes.

The current farm layout and type of structures adhere to the best practices outlined in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of Marine Aquaculture, 2001. The licence conditions will specify the orientation and colour of the structures on the site to minimise the visual impact.

Impact / Cumulative Impact

This application is for new aquaculture in a previously undeveloped area. There is fishing and marine leisure in the area. The navigational marking scheme reduces the impact of the aquaculture on navigation in the area. The site is not located within a Natura 2000 site and the Marine Institute has advised that there is no significant environmental impact due to this proposal.

Marine Engineering Division has no objection to this application subject to the above recommendations.