Notice of Ministerial consideration and determination of the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in respect of an Aquaculture Licence Renewal application by Boet Mor Seafoods Ireland Ltd, Cushatrough, Claddaghduff, Co. Galway at Cushatrough, Claddaghduff, Co. Galway.

T09/301

I, Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in accordance with the requirement of Regulation 5(2) of the Aquaculture (Licence Application) Regulations, 1998 have considered whether the Aquaculture Licence application listed above for the cultivation of Native Oysters(*Ostrea edulis*) Pacific Oysters (*Crassotrea gigas*), Native Clams (*Tapes decussates*) Pacific Clams *(Tapes philippinarum*), Scallops(*Pectin maximus*) and Queen Scallops (*Chlamys varia and Chlamys opercularis)* at Cushatrough, Claddaghduff, Co. Galway, is likely to have significant effects on the environment and would require the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

I have considered the proposed aquaculture activities, and determined that they are not likely to have significant effects on the environment and that an EIAR is not required in relation to the application listed therein.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to the provisions of:

i. Regulation 5 of the Aquaculture (Licence Application) Regulations, 1998;

ii. EIA Directives (codified by Council Directive 2011/92/EU and amended by Council Directive 2014/52/EU);

iii. The criteria specified in Annex III of Directive 2011/92/EU;

iv. As the screening for this application commenced before the 16th May, 2017 (date for Member States implementation of the 2014 Directive), it is being carried out in accordance with the provisions of the 2011 Directive;

v. The guidance contained in the European Commission document entitled "Guidance on EIA Screening"- June 2001 and the "Interpretation of definitions of project categories of Annex l and Annex II of the EIA Directive" -2015.

And having regard to the report and recommendations of the Department's Screening Group with particular regard to:

a) The nature and scale of the proposed aquaculture activity which would take place within the existing land-take and visual envelope of the site.

b) The limited magnitude and extent of the direct impacts arising from the proposed aquaculture activity.

c) The absence of any protected structures or recorded monuments in the area of the proposed aquaculture activity.

d) The low population density of the surrounding area.

e) Dissolved and particulate waste will be discharged into Streamstown Bay but the volume of discharge will be small and will not have a significant effect. The minor risk of accidents occurring as a result of the proposed aquaculture activity.

f) The site is not located within a Natura 2000 site but is within 15 km of a number of Natura 2000 sites, the West Connaught SAC (Site code 002998), the Kingstown Bay SAC (Site code 002265), the Omey Island Machair SAC (Site code 001309), the Barnahalla Lough SAC (Site code 002118), High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA (Site code 004144), Cruagh Island SPA (Site code 0041170), Inishbofin, Omey Island and Turbot Island SPA (Site code 004231).

It is considered that the proposed aquaculture activities listed above are not likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation and submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required.

31st March 2021