



Marine Engineering Division

Report on Aquaculture Licence Application

Application Reference No: T10/347

Report Prepared By: Edwina Forde

Date: 21/12/21

Applicant Dooreil Fisheries Ltd., Shane Ginty, Ballycroy, Westport, Co. Mayo.

Location Trawmore Bay, Blacksod Bay
Applicant Type Aquaculture/Foreshore Licence Application

Sites

A
11.0

Site Area (Ha)

Species Pacific Oysters (Crassostrea Gigas)

Cultivation Method Intensive
Intertidal/Non-Intertidal Intertidal

Source of seed Irish and EU hatcheries

Annual Production Estimates 120 tonnes (Year 5) Oysters

Shellfish Waters Designation Yes No
Reference: Blacksod Bay designation map No15

Environmental Designation Yes No
Reference: Blacksod / Broadhaven SPA (004037) and Belmullet SAC (000470)

Development Plans Yes No
Reference: Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020
Section 2 –Economic & Development Policy MF-02 Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 (Councillors agreed to extend the Development Plan review period on the 26th of July 2021, following a commencement order to extend the plan process arising from Covid disruptions (Section 9A of Planning & Development Act (amendment) 2021). The review process is due to recommence on the 1st of February 2022 with the consideration of the Chief Executive’s Report and Draft Mayo County Development Plan

Pre-Consultation Meeting Yes No

Drawing Validation Sheet

OSI Maps

Yes No

Comment:

6" scale maps prepared by GIS Mapping Section.

BA Chart

Yes No

Comment:

BA Charts prepared by GIS Mapping Section.

Farm Layout Drawing

Yes No

Directional Arrow Yes No

Scale Yes No

Title Block Yes No

Date Yes No

Comment: Drawings submitted are suitable.

Drawings of structures

Yes No

Comment:

Drawings submitted are suitable

Details of Proposed Navigation Marking

Yes No

Comment:

No Drawings submitted

Site Access Indicated

Yes No

Comment:

Site access map submitted is suitable

Site Co-Ordinates Indicated

Yes No

Comment:

Site co-ordinates indicated in application.

Site Overlap

Yes No

Comment:

Overlap with lapsed site T10/221A

Oyster Fishery Order Overlap

Yes No

Comment:



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

Suitable site location maps have been submitted with the application. The site is located at Trawmore Bay, Blacksod Bay, Co. Mayo. The Bay is fed by 2 rivers from the Northeast at Bunnahowen and Sraigh. The aquaculture at this location has been in existence for many years, which indicates that the hydrodynamic regime is suitable for this type of aquaculture. The consistency of the seabed at this location is firm intertidal mudflat with a firm substrate and suitable for the aquaculture proposed. A WWTP was opened in Belmullet in 2018. The Wild Atlantic Way surrounds Trawmore Bay with a point of interest at Claggan Island to the south. This site overlaps site T10/221A which was never operational and has since lapsed. There is a water sports leisure centre and Summer College in Elly Bay and any aquaculture activity should not interfere with people using this facility. Nor should any aquaculture activity interfere with the public beaches in the area including Trawmor Beach adjacent to the site.

Site Management

This application is for a 11ha site for the cultivation of oysters at Trawmore Bay, Co Mayo. This is a new application in a previously licensed aquaculture area. This application proposes to cultivate oysters using bags and trestles and hanging baskets. This is a large site and development of the operation should be undertaken on a phased basis. No storage of structures is allowed on the foreshore. Great care is to be taken during fair weather to minimise disturbance to other users. All shells are to be collected, removed from the beach and disposed of in a proper manner.

Proposed Site Layout and Structures

The aquaculture sites in Trawmore Bay in an east to west orientation and have been configured to facilitate navigation, farming operations, and visual impact within the overall aquaculture area. The farm site layout and detail of structures to be licensed for this application have been prepared and are suitable for advertising and attachment to any licence issued for the site.

Land Based Facilities / Site Access

The operator proposes to access the site using the access road to Claggan Island at Trawmore beach from this public roadway and along the foreshore. Details of the access route were included with the application. This access is through a frequently used public amenity, Trawmore beach, it has a long strand and is used often by walkers and tourists to the area. Great care is to be taken during fair weather to minimise disturbance to other users. All shells are to be collected, removed from the beach and disposed of in a proper manner.

Navigation

The proposed navigational marking scheme should be approved by CIL. Applicant is to maintain all navigation markers as specified by the license.

Visual Impact

The Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 and supplementary document Landscape appraisal for Co. Mayo indicates there are vulnerable features surrounding Trawmore Bay. There have been various aquaculture licenses in Trawmore Bay over the last 20 years, none of which are operational at present, phased approach is strongly recommended for this site as all previous operation did not

come to fruition. The proposed 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 of the structures on the sites to minimise the visual impact. All structure not in use will be removed from the foreshore.

Impact / Cumulative Impact

There has been licensed aquaculture activity in Trawmore Bay previously which has since been lapsed. There is however derelict structures in the bay which require immediate removal. This application does not overlap with these structures.

This application is for a large site. It would be prudent for the applicant to introduce structures on a phased basis.

There is fishing and marine leisure in the area. There is a large sandy beach used for bathing and recreation in the south west portion of the bay near the access to Claggan Island which is a public amenity and aquaculture operations should not interfere with this amenity.

The navigational marking will reduce the impact of the aquaculture on navigation in the area. The AA indicates that the shallower portion of the bay contains sand with *Angulus tenuis* and *Pygospio elegans* community complex and the deeper portion is described as fine sand with *Angulus fabula* community complex.

The 2017 report supporting Appropriate Assessment of Aquaculture and risk assessment of fisheries in Mullet/Blacksod Bay complex SAC(site code: 0470) should be consulted for details of the aquaculture activity that may pose a potential significant negative impact on the Mullet Blacksod Bay complex SAC.

Marine Engineering Division has no objection to the licencing of this site subject to the above.