

EIA SCREENING ASSESSMENT T12/461		
1. Applicant Details		
Name	Brendan Boyle	
Address	Ballymanus	
	Kincassilagh	
	Letterkenny	
	Co. Donegal	
2. Characteristics of Project		
a) Species cultivation proposed	Pacific oysters (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)	
b) Method	Trestles culture	
c) Production in intertidal zone	Yes	
d) Production beyond intertidal zone	No	
e) Source of seed/spat etc	France Nissian.	
f) Is a non-native species to be cultivated?	Yes, <i>C. gigas</i> . With the exception of Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation EC 708/2007 does not apply to the production of <i>C. gigas</i> .	
g) Annual Production Estimates - Tonnes	Year 1 10 tonnes	
	Year 2 12 tonnes	
	Year 3 15 tonnes	
	Year 4 20 tonnes	
3. Location of Project		
a) File No.	T12/461	
b) No. of sites	1 site	
c) Location	Braade Strand, Gweedore Bay	
d) Hectares	Total 4.194 ha	
e) Shellfish Waters Designation	Yes	
If yes, identify area as per S.I. 268 of 2006/S.I. 55 of 2009	S.I. 55 of 2009	
If yes, Name of designated area - Map No. & Date of Map	Gweedore Bay - Map 26 (August 2008)	
f) Natura 2000 site	Yes	
If yes, identify site and type	Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (Site Code: 001141)	
4. Development Plan		
a) County Development Plan	Yes - Donegal County Development Plan	
Chapter 8 - Tourism and Marine - The Council will support the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector to maximise its contribution to economic growth within the county. In particular, the Council acknowledge the development and expansion of the oyster farming industry in the county and its potential in terms of employment and product export.		
If yes, identify relevant sections	2012-2018	
If yes, period covered	No	
b) Local Area Plan	No	

c) Other	No	
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T12/461			
EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST			
Is it an ANNEX II project?		Yes	
Is the project located on or adjacent to a Natura 2000 area?		Yes – The project is located within the Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (Site Code: 001141)	
If yes, has the appropriate assessment been carried out?		Yes. An Article 6 Assessment of aquaculture activities in Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (Site Code: 001141) was carried out by the Marine Institute and published on 16 th February, 2016. An Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement for aquaculture activities in Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (Site Code: 001141) has been carried out by the Licensing Authority and is available on the Department's website.	
1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1)		Yes/No - Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? – Why
(a) Size of project			
Will the project be out of scale with the existing environment?		No. The development (4.194 ha) is not out of scale relative to the body of coastal water within which it is located.	
Will it lead to further consequential development or works (e.g. new roads, landing facilities, provision of new water supply)?		No. Existing infrastructure will be used and no additional infrastructure developments are needed.	
(b) Cumulation with other development			
Are there potential cumulative impacts with existing aquaculture projects or with other licensed aquaculture projects but which have not		Yes. There are potential visual, navigational, benthic and nature conservation impacts.	No. The impact will be on the benthos and this will be localised and confined to the footprint

yet begun?			of the site. The impact on navigation will be mitigated by appropriate navigational markings on the boundaries of the sites. There will be no significant impact on other sensitive receptors e.g. air quality, water quality, cultural heritage, visual amenity.
Are there potential cumulative impacts with existing foreshore projects or with foreshore projects licensed but which have not yet begun? T12/461	No.		
1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1) cont'd	Yes/No - Briefly describe		Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why
(b) Cumulation with other development contd			
Should the application for this project be regarded as an integral part of a more substantial project? If so, can related projects which are subject to separate applications proceed independently?	No.		
(c) Use of natural resources			
Will installation or operation of the project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply? • land (especially undeveloped or agricultural land)? • water? • energy including electricity and fuels? • any other resources?	Yes. The proposed cultivation of oysters on the foreshore will use naturally occurring marine phytoplankton present in the seawater in the area.		No. High levels of plankton occur naturally at the location and shellfish cultivation at this scale will not result in limiting plankton growth or its abundance.
(d) Production of waste			
Will the project produce wastes during installation or operation or decommissioning? • municipal waste (household and/or commercial)?	Yes. The cultivation of oysters will produce faeces and pseudofaeces. Grading and removal of mortalities will result in shells being discarded. Trestles and bags associated		No. The amount of produced faeces and pseudofaeces will be small and the impacted area will be limited to the area directly beneath the trestles. The sites are well flushed

• surplus product? • construction or demolition wastes? • redundant machinery or equipment? • any other solid wastes? • liquid or solid wastes in suspension?	with the growing process may need to be discarded/recycled.	and a build-up of excess organic matter on the sites is not considered likely. Damaged bags and trestles will be recycled and the discarding of old bags, trestles or other material into the sea or on the foreshore will not be permitted.
T12/461		
2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1) cont'd	Yes/No - Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why
(e) Pollution and nuisances contd.		
Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic, or noxious substances to air? Emissions from: • combustion of fossil fuels from stationary or mobile sources? • Construction activities including plant & equipment? • any other sources.	Yes. There will be emissions associated with husbandry and harvesting of shellfish from tractors or other machinery. There will be no release to the air of other hazardous, toxic or noxious pollutants.	No. The emission levels will not be significant.
Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light? • from operation of equipment e.g. engines? • from blasting or piling? • from construction or operational traffic? • from lighting or other systems? • from any other sources?	Yes. There will be noise associated with husbandry and harvesting of shellfish from tractors or other machinery.	No. Noise levels will not be significant.
(f) Risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used		
Will there be any risk of accidents during installation or operation of the project which could affect human health or the environment?	Yes. There will be a minor risk of physical injury while working on-site, but no risk to human health.	No. There is a minor risk to the environment from on-site accidents.
Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	No. There will be no chemicals or hazardous substances used during the production process.	

Will the project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to people or the environment (flora, fauna, water supplies)? • use of hazardous or toxic substances? • potential changes in occurrence of disease or effect on disease carriers (e.g. insect or water borne diseases)?	No. The cultivation of oysters depends on naturally occurring marine resources. No harmful substances or materials will be used.	
T12/461		
1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1) cont'd	Yes/No - Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why
(g) Will installation, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc)? • dredging? • coastal structures (seawalls, piers)? • offshore structures? • facilities for storage of goods or materials? • facilities for treatment or disposal of solid wastes or liquid effluents? • new road, rail or sea traffic during construction or operation? • new road, rail, air, waterborne or other transport infrastructure including new or altered routes and stations, ports, airports etc? • closure or diversion of existing transport routes or infrastructure leading to changes in traffic movements? • new or diverted transmission lines or pipelines? • transport of personnel or materials for construction, operation or decommissioning? • decommissioning or restoration works? • introduction of alien species?	Yes. Trestles will be placed on the foreshore. Transport:- Yes. Personnel and materials will be transported across the foreshore to Site 461A by tractor and trailer. Yes, <i>Crassostrea gigas</i>. With the exception of Articles 3 and 4, Regulation EC 708/2007 does not apply to the production of <i>C.gigas</i> i.e. exempt from the risk assessment requirement of the Regulation.	No. The development can be considered as minor and reversible as all structures can be removed. No. Transport operations are limited, and are of short distance and duration and dependent on tides. No. The risk of reproduction of the Pacific oyster and the formation of naturalised populations within Gweedore Bay is considered low due to the high algal cover allied with a short residence time of approximately eight days. However, the Appropriate Assessment recommended that their recruitment status be kept under surveillance.

• loss of native species or genetic diversity? any other changes?			
(h) Inherent social changes			
Will the project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	It is anticipated that 1 full-time job will result from this project.	No. The impact will be locally beneficial but not significant.	
T12/461			
2. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III			
(2)			
(a) Existing land use			
Are there existing land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project, e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, water catchments, functional floodplains, mining or quarrying?	Yes. Braade Strand is used for recreational activities, such as horse riding, walking etc. Yes. There is some seaweed harvesting on rocky intertidal shorelines on and near the sites but trestles should not significantly impede access for such activity. There is a low level of fishing and potting activity in the Gweedore River estuary.	No. Oyster culture at site 461A is not expected to have a significant impact on existing beneficial usages of the local shore area. No. The likely spatial overlap of intertidal aquaculture on the sites and seaweed harvesting activities is low. Significant impacts of fishing in the area are not considered likely.	
Are there any areas on or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, which could be affected?	No.		
Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area?	No. There is other shellfish production in the bay.	No.	
(b) Relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area			
Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce	Yes. There is tourism and marine leisure in the	No. Given the nature and scale of the	

resources which could be affected by the project? • groundwater resources • surface waters • fisheries • tourism	area. Yes. Fisheries.	proposed aquaculture activity, significant impacts on tourism and marine leisure in the area are not considered likely. No. Significant impacts on fisheries in the area are not considered likely.
(c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment		
Are there any areas on or around the location which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. Site T12/461A is located within Natura site 001141 Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC.	No. The Appropriate Assessment concluded that : • With the exception of Annex 1 habitat 1170 (Reefs) none of the aquaculture activities (existing and/or proposed) overlaps or likely interacts with the species or habitats listed as Qualifying Interests of the SAC. • A full assessment was carried out on the likely interactions between existing and proposed culture operations and the feature of the Annex 1 habitat 1170 (Reefs). based upon the spatial overlap and sensitivity analysis it is concluded that existing and proposed aquaculture culture activities (including access route activity) individually and/or in-combination do not pose a risk of significant disturbance to the conservation of the habitat feature of Reefs or the constituent community types of Reef community complex and

		<i>Laminaria</i>-dominated community complex - the existing and proposed clam/cockle and oyster culture operations are considered a low risk for the establishment of non-native species - The current levels of licenced shellfish culture and applications are considered non-disturbing to other conservation features. The current levels of licenced shellfish culture and applications within Gweedore Bay & Islands SAC are considered non-disturbing to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) within the Rutland Island & Sound SAC
T12/461		
2. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (2) cont'd.	Yes/No - Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why
(c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment cont'd		
Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology? - wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies? - the coastal zone? - mountains, forests or woodlands? - nature reserves and parks?	No.	
Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for	Yes.	No.

breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected?	The Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC is designated for the Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>). The Rutland Island & Sound SAC (002283), located to the south of the Gweedore Bay & Islands SAC, is designated for the Habitats Directive Annex II Species Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>). The Harbour seal may migrate into the Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC and could interact with aquaculture activities.	The Appropriate Assessment concluded that: • The current levels of licenced shellfish culture and applications are considered non-disturbing to otter conservation features. • The current levels of licenced shellfish culture and applications within Gweedore Bay & Islands SAC are considered non-disturbing to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) within the Rutland Island & Sound SAC
Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected?	No.	
Are there any groundwater source protection zones or areas that contribute to the recharge of groundwater resources?	No.	
Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected?	No.	
Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected?	No. Public access to recreational and other activities will not be impacted by this project.	

T12/461			
2. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (2) cont'd			
(c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment cont'd		Yes/No - Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why
Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected?	No. Given the scale of production, the amount of additional traffic generated will not be significant.		
Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	No. The site has very limited visibility from public road R266. Magnitude of visual or landscape impact will be medium and sensitivity of viewpoints low .		
Are there any areas or features of historic, cultural or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected?	No. There are no protected structures per the County Development Plan.		
Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected?	No. Results of monitoring under the Shellfish Waters Directive do not indicate water quality issues in the vicinity of the proposed shellfish production area. Oysters in this area currently have a 'B' Classification under Annex II of EU Regulation 854/2004.		
Is the area densely populated?	No. The adjoining area is rural and is not densely populated.		
Is the location of the project susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds,	No.		

which could cause the project to present environmental problems?		
On the basis of the above, the consensus of the Screening Group is that the proposed aquaculture is not likely to have significant effects on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this project.		
EIA SCREENING GROUP NAMES		
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Tony O'Sullivan		Department's Engineering Division
Paul O'Sullivan		Department's Engineering Division
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SIGNED BY (ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP)		DATE
 NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS - BATT WHELTON		 DEPARTMENT'S AQUACULTURE & FORESHORE MANAGEMENT DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE