

Marine Institute
Foras na Mara

Rinville,
Oranmore,
Co. Galway
Tel: 091 387200

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Ann McCarthy
Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Clogheen,
Clonakilty
Co. Cork.

Advice on Aquaculture Licence Application

Applicant	Hook Head Shellfish Ltd
Application type	New Application
Site Reference No	T03/087 A
Species	Pacific Oysters – Bags and Trestles
Site Status	Located within the Bannow Bay SPA (Site Code 004033) and the Bannow Bay SAC (Site Code 000697) Not located within a designated Shellfish Growing Waters Area.

Dear Ann

This is an application for a new aquaculture licences for the cultivation of pacific oysters (*Magallana gigas* – previously called *Crassostrea gigas*) using bags and trestles at Site T03/087A on the foreshore at Bannow Bay. The area of foreshore at Site T03/087A is 2.754Ha.

The sites are not located within a designated Shellfish Growing Waters Area. It is recommended that the implications of licencing sites that are not located within a designated Shellfish Growing Water s Area should be fully considered by DAFM as part of the licence determination process

Oysters in this area currently have a “B” Classification under Annex II of EU Regulation 854/2004.

The cultivation of shellfish at this site will produce faeces and pseudofaeces. Any impact will be limited to the area of the sites. The build-up of excess organic matter beyond the footprint of the sites is not considered likely. On the basis of targeted research¹, the impact of intertidal oyster cultivation using bags and trestles on the majority of community types is considered not significant.

No chemicals or hazardous substances will be used during the production process.

Site T03/087A is located within Bannow Bay SPA (Site Code 004033) and the Bannow Bay SAC (Site Code 000697). We note the findings of the Appropriate Assessment report² and the Department’s Natura conclusion statement³ in regard to the impacts on the Conservation Objectives within the the Bannow Bay SPA and the Bannow Bay SAC. In particular we note the conclusion which states that “On the basis of the Appropriate Assessment findings it is not

¹ Forde, J., F. O’Beirn, J. O’Carroll, A. Patterson, R. Kennedy. 2015. Impact of intertidal oyster trestle cultivation on the Ecological Status of benthic habitats. Marine Pollution Bulletin 95, 223–233.

² <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessmentsscreeningcarriedout/bannowbayappropriateassessment/>

³

<http://agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessmentconclusionstatement/BannowBayConStatement110418.pdf>

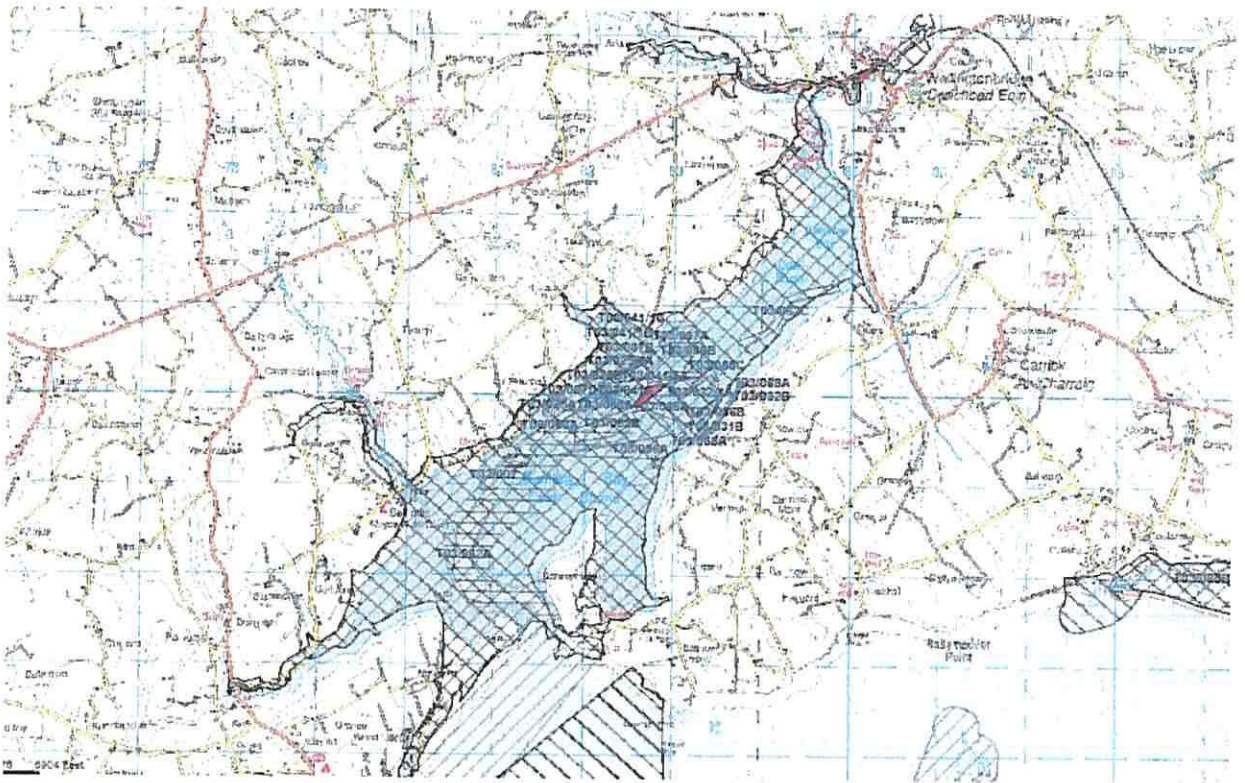
proposed to licence any new aquaculture activity in Bannow Bay as there are no clear mitigation measures available to prevent the risk of the deterioration of the conservation status of the referenced shorebirds"

On the basis of the above the Marine Institute is of view that an aquaculture licence at this site should not be granted.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry McMahon', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Terry McMahon
Section Manager, Marine Environment and Food Safety Services,
The Marine Institute.



Shellfish Waters Directive Area



Aquaculture Site



Special Area of Conservation



Special Protection Areas

