



Marine Institute
Foras na Mara

Rinville,
Oranmore,
Co. Galway
Tel: 091 387200

Date: 14 May 2018

Therese O'Keeffe
Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Clogheen,
Clonakilty
Co. Cork.

Advice on Aquaculture Licence Application

Applicant	Killian Tighe, Marc Perdriel and Michel Mousset
Application type	New Application
Site Reference No	T05/545A
Species	Pacific Oysters – Bags and Trestles
Site Status	Located within the Ballymacoda Bay SPA (Site Code 004023) and immediately adjacent to the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (Site Code 000077) Located within the Ballymacoda Bay designated Shellfish Growing Waters Area.

Dear Therese

This is an application for a new aquaculture licence for the cultivation of pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) using bags and trestles at Site T05/545A on the foreshore at Ballymacoda Bay, Co. Cork. The area of foreshore at Site T05/545A is 11.25Ha.

The site is located within the Ballymacoda Bay designated Shellfish Growing Waters Area.

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 T05/545A is located within the Ballymacoda Bay SPA (Site Code 004023) and immediately adjacent to the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (Site Code 000077). We note the findings of the Appropriate Assessment report² and the Department's draft Natura conclusion statement³ in regard to the impacts on the Conservation Objectives within the Ballymacoda Bay SPA and the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC.

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 <http://agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessments/cork/AABallymacodaBayNaturaSites160418.pdf>

³

<http://agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/appropriateassessments/cork/21AAConStBallymacodaBaySPASAC160418.pdf>

In particular we note the conclusion which states that “ *Given the potential impacts of the proposed new aquaculture sites (T05/482B, T05/517A, T05/517B, T05/545, T05/575, T05/595) on Habitats and the potential disturbance on Wigeon, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Gull, it is not proposed to licence these sites.*

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Terry McMahon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

