

This project includes sites T12/244, T12/353A, T12/383A and T12/454A

Ministerial Determination in relation to EIS requirements for 4 Aquaculture Licence applications for the cultivation of shellfish by William Coffey in Trawbreaga Bay, Co. Donegal

I, Michael Creed, 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 this Aquaculture project to culture shellfish is likely to have significant effects on the environment and would require the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Mr. Coffey's new and renewal aquaculture licence applications are being treated as a project for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening purposes.

I have considered the proposed and existing aquaculture activity and determined that it is not likely to have significant effects on the environment and that an EIS is not required in relation to this application for the reasons outlined below.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

I had 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);
- iii. The criteria specified in Annex III of Directive 2011/92/EU
- iv. The guidance contained in the European Commission document entitled "Guidance on EIA, Screening" June 2001
- v. The Article 6 Assessment of Aquaculture and Fisheries in North Inishowen Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Trawbreaga Bay Special Protection Areas (SPA) (Natura 2000 sites)

and also to the report and recommendations of the Department's Screening Group (attached) with particular reference to:

- a) the nature and scale of the aquaculture activity project - the development incorporates 2 new and 2 renewal applications (total 3.01 ha) is not out of scale relative to the body of coastal water in which it is located

- 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 project per the Donegal County Development Plan
- d) the low population density of the surrounding area
- e) The sites are not readily visible or have limited visibility from public roads. Overall landscape and visual impact of the development will be of slight or negligible significance.
- f) the non-use of toxic or hazardous substances as part of the proposed aquaculture activity
- g) the minor risk of accidents occurring as result of the proposed aquaculture activity
- h) consideration of the risk posed to navigation (individual site 454A and adjacent sites) will be required prior to a licensing decision
- i) no significant impact on recreational use of the adjoining foreshore
- j) the findings of the Appropriate Assessment in relation to impacts on protected habitats and species.

DATED: 4th April 2017