

# **EIA SCREENING ASSESSMENT T12/301 & T12/384 & T12/352 & T12/444**

## **1. Applicant Details**

Name

Address

Philp M. Doherty

Slievebawn

Malin Head

Co.Donegal

## **2. Characteristics of Project**

a) Species cultivation proposed

b) Method

c) Production in intertidal zone

d) Production beyond intertidal zone

e) Source of seed/spat etc

Pacific Oysters

trestles culture

Yes

No

French Hatcheries Naissain

f) Is a non-native species to be cultivated?

g) Annual Production Estimates - Tonnes

Yes. With the exception of Articles 3, 4 Regulation EC 708/2007 does not apply to the production of *C. gigas*.

Year 1 Estimated annual tonnage 80 tonnes ( 4 sites)

Year 2 Estimated annual tonnage 80 tonnes ( 4 sites)

Year 3 Estimated annual tonnage 80 tonnes ( 4 sites)

Year 4 Estimated annual tonnage 80 tonnes ( 4 sites)

## **3. Location of Project**

a) File No.

b) No. of sites

c) Location

d) Hectares

e) Shellfish Waters Designation

If yes, identify area as per S.I. 268 of 2006/S.I. 55 of 2009

If yes, Name of designated area - Map No. & Date of Map

f) Natura 2000 site

T12/301 , T12/352 (both renewals) T12/384, & T12/444 (new applications)

4 sites T12/301, T12/352A, T12/384A & T12/444A

Trawbreaga Bay

T12/301 -.85 ha, , T12/352 - .84 ha, T12/384 - .42ha, T12/444 – 2.04ha

Yes

SI 55 of 2009

Trawbreaga Bay – Map 29 August 2008

Yes.

North Inishowen Coast SAC (Site Code 002012) and Trawbreaga Bay SPA (Site Code 004034)

## **4. Development Plan**

a) County Development Plan

Yes. Donegal County Development Plan

If yes, identify relevant sections

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

If yes, period covered  
 b) Local Area Plan  
 If yes, identify relevant sections  
 c) Other

industry in the county and its potential in terms of employment and product export.	
2012-2018	
No	
No	

<b>T12/301 &amp; T12/384 &amp; T12/352 &amp; T12/444</b>		
<b>EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST</b>		
<b>Is it an ANNEX II project?</b>	<b>YES</b>	
<b>Is the project located on or adjacent to a Natura 2000 area?</b>	<b>Yes The project is located within North Inishowen Coast SAC (Site Code 002012) and Trawbreaga Bay SPA (Site Code 004034)</b>	
<b>If yes, has the appropriate assessment been carried out?</b>	<b>Yes. An Article 6 assessment of aquaculture activities in North Inishowen Coast SAC and Trawbreaga SPA has been carried out and published on the Department's website</b>	
<b>1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1)</b>	<b>Yes/No - Briefly describe</b>	<b>Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why</b>
<b>(a) Size of project</b>		
Will the project be out of scale with the existing environment?	No. The development 4.15 ha (in total for 4 sites), 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>(b) Cumulation with other development</b>		
Are there potential cumulative impacts with existing aquaculture projects or with other licensed aquaculture projects but which have not yet begun?	Yes. There are other aquaculture projects in the bay involving the cultivation of oysters. There are potential navigational, visual and benthic impacts.	No. The impact on the benthos will be localised and limited to the area directly beneath the trestles. The impact on navigation (site T12/444A) will require assessment and possibly mitigation by appropriate navigational marking/ site area reduction or other measures to be determined. Cumulative

		impact on visual amenity is slight to moderate. There will not be a significant impact on other sensitive receptors e.g. air, water, cultural heritage
Are there potential cumulative impacts with existing foreshore projects or with foreshore projects licensed but which have not yet begun? <b>T12/301, T12/352, T12/384 &amp; T12/444</b>	No.	
<b>1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1) cont'd</b>	<b>Yes/No - Briefly describe</b>	<b>Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why</b>
<b>(b) Cumulation with other development contd</b>		
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?	Yes Production involves 4 sites T12/301(expired 2010), T12/352(expired 2015) are renewal applications , T12/384 and T12/444 are applications for new sites	
<b>(c) Use of natural resources</b>		
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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>land (especially undeveloped or agricultural land)?</li> <li>water?</li> <li>energy including electricity and fuels?</li> <li>any other resources?</li> </ul>	Yes. The proposed cultivation of oysters on the foreshore will use naturally occurring marine phytoplankton present in the seawater.	No. High levels of plankton occur naturally at the location and shellfish cultivation at this scale will not result in limiting plankton growth or abundance.
<b>(d) Production of waste</b>		
Will the project produce wastes during installation or operation or decommissioning? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>municipal waste (household and/or commercial)?</li> <li>surplus product?</li> <li>construction or demolition wastes?</li> <li>redundant machinery or equipment?</li> </ul>	Yes. The cultivation of shellfish will produce faeces and pseudofaeces. Grading and removal of mortalities will result in shells being discarded. Trestles, bags, associated with the growing process may need to be replaced.	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 site is well flushed and build up of excess organic matter on site is not considered likely. Discarding of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any other solid wastes?</li> <li>liquid or solid wastes in suspension?</li> </ul>		damaged old bags, trestles or other material into the sea or on the foreshore will not be permitted.
<b>T12/301 T12/352&amp; T12/384 &amp; T12/444</b>		
<b>1.CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1) cont'd</b>	<b>Yes/No - Briefly describe</b>	<b>Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why</b>
<b>(e) Pollution and nuisances contd.</b>		
<p>Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic, or noxious substances to air? Emissions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>combustion of fossil fuels from stationary or mobile sources?</li> <li>Construction activities including plant &amp; equipment?</li> <li>any other sources.</li> </ul>	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 emissions levels will not be significant.
<p>Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>from operation of equipment e.g. engines?</li> <li>from blasting or piling?</li> <li>from construction or operational traffic?</li> <li>from lighting or other systems?</li> <li>from any other sources?</li> </ul>	Yes. There will be noise associated with husbandry and harvesting of shellfish from tractor and other noise.	No. Noise levels will not be significant.
<b>(f) Risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used</b>		
Will there be any risk of accidents during installation or operation of the project which could affect human health or the environment?	Yes. There may be a minor risk of physical injury while working onsite but no risk to human health.	No. There is minor risk to the environment from onsite 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. No chemicals or hazardous substances will be used during the production process.	
<b>T12/301,T12/352, T12/384 &amp; T12/444</b>		



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of native species or genetic diversity?</li> <li>any other changes?</li> </ul>	not apply to the production of <i>C. Gigas</i> .	because of the short water residence time and heavy cover of macroalgae in intertidal areas. The continued use of triploid oyster stock will further reduce the risk. Additionally, the continued use of triploid stock in Trawbreaga Bay will also reduce the risk of establishment of non-native oyster species in the adjoining Lough Swilly area.
<b>(h) Inherent social changes</b>		
Will the project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	It is anticipated that job opportunities will result from this project.	No. The impact will be locally beneficial but not significant
<b>2. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (2)</b>	<b>Yes/No - Briefly describe</b>	<b>Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why</b>
<b>(a) Existing land use</b>		
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?	No. Terrestrial land use will not be affected and there is no spatial overlap with other users of the inter-tidal foreshore.	
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. This is in relation to two renewal applications (T12/301 and T12/352) and 2 new applications T12/384, T12/444 and there is other shellfish production in the bay.	
<b>T12/301 ,T12/352, T12/384 &amp; T12/444</b>		

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
<b>(b) Relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area</b>		
<p>Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• groundwater resources</li> <li>• surface waters</li> <li>• fisheries</li> <li>• tourism</li> </ul>	Yes. Fisheries and Tourism	Given the location and scale of the proposed aquaculture site significant impacts on the fisheries / tourism in the area are not considered likely.
<b>(c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment</b>		
<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes. This site is located in Trawbreaga SPA (004034) and North Inishowen Coast SAC (002012)</p> <p>The SAC is designated for the habitat feature of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140) including constituent community of Muddy sand to coarse sediment with <i>Pygospio elegans</i> community complex, and Sand with <i>Angulus tenuis</i> and <i>Scoloplos (Scoloplos) armiger</i> community complex</p> <p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) is specified among the qualifying interests of the SAC</p> <p>The SPA aspects are elaborated on below</p>	<p>No. The AA concluded that existing and proposed activities do not pose a risk of significant disturbance to the conservation of the designated habitat feature of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140) or constituent community of Muddy sand to coarse sediment with <i>Pygospio elegans</i> community complex, and Sand with <i>Angulus tenuis</i> and <i>Scoloplos (Scoloplos) armiger</i> community complex</p> <p>The AA concluded that aquaculture activities did not present a barrier to migration and on the (freshwater) attributes for the Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</p>
<p>Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies?</li> <li>• the coastal zone?</li> <li>• mountains, forests or woodlands?</li> </ul>	Yes. The wetland habitat contained within Trawbreaga SPA is identified to be of conservation interest for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it	No. The proposed development will not cause any change in the permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat.



• nature reserves and parks?		
<b>T12/301, T12/352, T12/384 &amp; T12/444</b>		
<b>2. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (2) cont'd.</b>	<b>Yes/No - Briefly describe</b>	<b>Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why</b>
<b>(c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment cont'd</b>		
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 breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected?	<p>Yes. This site is located in Trawbreaga SPA (004034) and North Inishowen Coast SAC (002012)</p> <p>The SPA is designated for non-breeding populations of Barnacle Goose and Light-bellied Brent Goose and both breeding and non-breeding elements of the Chough population</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Chough: The AA concluded that, taking account of the proposed scale of oyster cultivation, lack of any significant use of intertidal habitat by the Chough and the separation of oyster cultivation from known foraging, roosting or nesting sites, it is unlikely that intertidal oyster would have a negative impact on the Chough</p> <p>Barnacle Geese: The AA concluded that as Barnacle Geese do not feed on inter-tidal habitat the placement of trestles would not result in any direct loss of foraging grounds. It also found that the risk of negative impacts at access points to be low</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose: The AA concluded that aquaculture activities, existing and proposed, are not considered disturbing to Light-bellied Brent Geese taking account of the favourable conservation status of the species, large area of suitable habitat, foraging opportunities provided by green algae on trestles etc</p>
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 the project.	
<b>T12/301, T12/352, T12/384 &amp; T12/444</b>		
<b>2. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (2) cont'd</b>	<b>Yes/No - Briefly describe</b>	<b>Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why</b>
<b>(c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment cont'd</b>		
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 sites are visible for a short distance along public road R242 Landscape and visual impact of the individual development would be of slight or moderate significance. Population density in the area is low.	
Are there any areas or features of historic, cultural or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected?	No. No protected structures as per County Development Plan.	
Are there any areas on or around the location	No. Results of monitoring under the Shellfish	

which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected?	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 the 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, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	No.	
<b>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. However, in the case of site T12/444A, consideration of the visual impact of the proposed development (with other developments) will be required prior to a licensing decision</b>		
<b>EIA SCREENING GROUP COMPRISES OF MEMBERS FROM:</b> <b>THE MARINE INSTITUTE</b> <b>THE DEPARTMENT'S MARINE ENGINEERING DIVISION</b> <b>BORD IASCAIGH MHARA</b> <b>REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S AQUACULTURE AND FORESHORE MANAGEMENT DIVISION</b>		Dated <i>4/13/12</i>