

Determination of Aquaculture/Foreshore Licensing Application –T04/132A

Sean Ó Lonáin has applied for authorisation for the cultivation of Pacific Oysters using trestles and bags in the inter-tidal part of the foreshore on a 2.097 hectare site (T04/132A) in Dungarvan Harbour, Co. Waterford.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that it is not in the public interest to grant an Aquaculture / Foreshore Licence for site numbered T04/132A. Accordingly, this application is being refused.

In making his determination, the Minister considered those matters which by virtue of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997, and other relevant legislation, he was required to have regard. Such matters include any submissions and observations received in accordance with statutory provisions. The following are the reasons and considerations for the Minister's determination to refuse the licences sought:-

- a) The site is located within Dungarvan Harbour Special Protected Area. An Article 6 Assessment has been carried out in relation to aquaculture activities in Dungarvan Harbour SPA, including a subsequent monitoring programme. The Licensing Authority's Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement (2016 Update – available on the Department's website) outlines how aquaculture activities in this SPA, including this site, are being managed so as not to significantly and adversely affect the integrity of Dungarvan Harbour SPA.

The footprint of this site overlaps with an area where it is proposed to introduce a tidal break /corridor in the oyster trestle configuration on the Whitehouse Bank. This management action is being taken to mitigate the risk of the deterioration of the conservation status of birds at site level, in particular the Grey Plover, which is directly attributable to oyster culture operations