Ministerial Determination in relation to EIS requirements for an application by Thomas Henry for an Aquaculture Licence for cultivation of shellfish in Achill Sound South, Co Mayo.

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 individual Aquaculture Licence application to cultivate shellfish is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and would require the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement.

I have considered the proposed 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

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

a) the nature and scale of the proposed aquaculture activity
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 proposed aquaculture activity
d) the low population density of the surrounding area
e) no significant visual impact of the proposed aquaculture activity
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) the low risk of impacts on navigational safety
i) no significant impact on recreational use of the adjoining foreshore

14th September 2016