

Notice of Ministerial consideration and determination of the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in respect of an Aquaculture Licence Renewal application by Coomhola Salmon Trust Ltd, Coomhola, Bantry, Co. Cork at Mill Little, Coomhola, Bantry, Co. Cork.

T05/126

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 the Aquaculture Licence application listed above for the cultivation of salmon and trout at Mill Little, Coomhola, Bantry, Co. Cork, is likely to have significant effects on the environment and would require the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement.

I have considered the proposed aquaculture activities, and determined that they are not likely to have significant effects on the environment and that an EIS is not required in relation to the application listed therein.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having 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 and amended by Council Directive 2014/52/EU);
- iii. The criteria specified in Annex III of Directive 2011/92/EU;
- iv. As the screening for this application commenced before the 16th May, 2017 (date for Member States implementation of the 2014 Directive), it is being carried out in accordance with the provisions of the 2011 Directive;
- v. The guidance contained in the European Commission document entitled "Guidance on EIA Screening"- June 2001 and the "Interpretation of definitions of project categories of Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive" -2015.

And having regard to the report and recommendations of the Department's Screening Group with particular regard to:

- a) The nature and scale of the proposed aquaculture activity which would take place within the existing land-take and visual envelope of the site.
- 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, and the screening of the site by native trees and hedging.
- e) Industry standard disinfectant and other chemicals will be used as required but due to the scale of the operation, there will be no significant impact.

- f) The minor risk of accidents occurring as a result of the proposed aquaculture activity.
- g) The site is located within 15 km of a number of Natura 2000 sites, the nearest being the Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC (Site Code 001873) which is circa 2.3 km from the project. It is located circa 4 km from the Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (Site Code 00090), 6.6 km from the Caha Mountains SAC (Site Code 00093) 12.5 km from the Maulagowna Bog SAC(Site Code 001881) and 14.4 km from the Clonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC(Site Code 001342).

It is considered that the proposed aquaculture activities listed above are not likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation and submission of an Environmental Impact statement is not required.

12th June 2018