

EIA SCREENING ASSESSMENT T5/487**1. Applicant Details**

Name

Michael O'Neill

Address

Lickbarrahan, Cahermore, Beara, Co Cork

2. Characteristics of Project

a) Species cultivation proposed

Red & Green Abalone, Red Seaweed, Salmon, Tilapia, Sea Urchin, Lump Sucker, Wrasse, Native and Pacific Oysters and hand harvesting of wild seaweeds in the intertidal zone.

b) Method

Production will take place in a land based recirculation system. Abalone & Seaweed in raceway tank system. Salmon, Tilapia, Lump Sucker and Wrasse in circular tanks. Sea Urchin, Native and Pacific Oysters in existing raceway system. Hand harvested seaweed will be used as food source for abalone production.

c) Source of stock

All stock will be sourced from disease free sources,

d) Annual Production Estimates – Tonnes

Abalone 30 tonnes. Salmon smolts 10 tonnes. Salmon and Sea Urchin 5 tonnes each. Seaweeds 75 tonnes. Tilapia, Lump Sucker, Wrasse, Native and Pacific Oysters 10 tonnes each. It is estimated that circa 84 tonnes of seaweed will be hand harvested annually

e) Is a non-native species to be cultivated

Yes. *C. gigas* and Tilapia. With the exception of Articles 3 and 4 Regulation EC 708/2007 does not apply to the production of *C. gigas*. Movements of alien species to be held in closed aquaculture facilities are not subject to the prior environmental risk assessment requirements of Regulation EC 708/2007.**3. Location of Project**

a) File No.

T5/487

b) No. of sites

1 Production site and 1 seaweed harvesting area.

c) Location

The production site is land-based and located at Lickbarrahan, Cahermore, Beara, Co Cork. The proposed seaweed harvest area is located in Bere Sound, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork

d) Hectares

The production site covers an area 1.5 hectares while the seaweed harvesting site covers an area of 41Ha.

e) Natura 2000 site

Yes

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| EIA SCREENING CHECKLIST | | |
| Is it an ANNEX II project? | YES | |
| Is the project located on or adjacent to a Natura 2000 area? | Yes. The land based production site is not within a Natura 2000 site but is surrounded by the Beara Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004155) and is approx 5km from the Kenmare River SAC The proposed hand harvesting site is not located within a Natura area. The site is located circa 8Km from the nearest boundary of the Sheep's Head SAC (Site Code 00102) & Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA (Site Code 004156), circa 11 Km from the nearest boundary of the Kenmare River SAC (Site Code 002158), circa 4 Km from the nearest boundary of the Beara Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004155). | |
| If yes, has the appropriate assessment been carried out? | No. | |
| 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1) | Yes/No - Briefly describe | Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why |
| (a) Size of project | | |
| Will the project be out of scale with the existing environment? | The aquaculture activity will take place entirely within an existing land based facility. The facility has full Planning Permission and a current Effluent Discharge licence granted by Cork County Council The hand harvesting of seaweed will take place on the rocky intertidal foreshore over a linear distance of circa 5.5Km | No |

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| <p>Will it lead to further consequential development or works (e.g. new roads, landing facilities, provision of new water supply)?</p> | <p>Existing infrastructure will be used and no additional infrastructure developments are needed.</p> | <p>No</p> |
| <p>(b) Cumulation with other development</p> | | |
| <p>Are there potential cumulative impacts with existing aquaculture projects or with other licensed aquaculture projects but which have not yet begun?</p> | <p>No.</p> | <p>No. As the aquaculture activity will take place entirely within an existing land based facility there will be no interactions with existing aquaculture activity in the area. Impacts of hand harvesting of seaweed will be confined to the harvesting site. There will be no significant impact on other sensitive receptors e.g. air, water, cultural heritage, visual amenity.</p> |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>No</p> | <p>No</p> |

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| 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1) cont'd | Yes/No - Briefly describe | Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why |
| (c) Use of natural resources | | |
| <p>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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land (especially undeveloped or agricultural land)? • water? • energy including electricity and fuels? • any other resources? | <p>Yes. The aquaculture production activity will take place in an existing facility covering an area of circa 1Ha. The proposed cultivation finfish shellfish and seaweed will involve the use of both pumped seawater and freshwater requiring electricity. Seaweeds will be hand-harvested from the rocky intertidal shoreline.</p> | <p>No. Given the scale of the operation significant impacts are not considered likely.</p> |
| (d) Production of waste | | |
| <p>Will the project produce wastes during installation or operation or decommissioning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • municipal waste (household and/or commercial)? • surplus product? • construction or demolition wastes? • redundant machinery or equipment? • any other solid wastes? • liquid or solid wastes in suspension? | <p>Yes. The production of finfish and shellfish will result in the production of solid and liquid waste.</p> | <p>No, provided that the waste is treated prior to discharge in accordance with the effluent standards set down in the Effluent Discharge licence W.P. (W) 7/04 from Cork County Council. Drum and bio filters and UV treatment are used to treat effluent. All solid wastes arising on the site shall be recycled as far as possible. Materials exported from the site for recovery, recycling or disposal shall be managed at an approved facility and in such a manner as is agreed with the Planning Authority. In any case no such wastes shall be stored on the site except within the confines of the buildings on site. The facility will operate within the constraints of the existing effluent discharge licence.</p> |

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| (e) Pollution and nuisances | | |
| <p>Will the project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic, or noxious substances to air?</p> <p>Emissions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • combustion of fossil fuels from stationary or mobile sources? • Construction activities including plant & equipment? • any other sources. | <p>Yes. There will be emissions associated with production of the fish through the use of electricity for on-site plant and machinery.</p> | <p>No. Given the scale of the operation the emissions levels will not be significant.</p> |
| T5/487 | | |
| 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1) cont'd | Yes/No - Briefly describe | Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why |
| (e) Pollution and nuisances contd. | | |
| <p>Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from operation of equipment e.g. engines? • from blasting or piling? • from construction or operational traffic? • from lighting or other systems? • from any other sources? | <p>Yes. There will be noise associated with production of the fish from the operation of equipment and operational traffic.</p> | <p>No. Given the scale of the operation the noise levels will not be significant.</p> |
| (f) Risk of accidents, having regard in particular to substances or technologies used | | |
| <p>Will there be any risk of accidents during installation or operation of the project which could affect human health or the environment?</p> | <p>Yes. There will be minor risk of physical injury while working on site but no risk to human health.</p> | <p>No. There is minor risk to the environment from on site accidents.</p> |

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| <p>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?</p> | <p>Yes. Pollutants could be released to seawater.</p> | <p>No, provided that the waste is treated prior to discharge in accordance with the effluent standards set down in the Effluent Discharge licence W.P. (W) 7/04 from Cork County Council. The total volume of treated effluent shall not exceed 40 cubic metres/day or 5 cubic metres/hour. The discharge pipeline shall be fitted with a suitable flow monitoring system approved by the Licensing Authority. There shall be no discharge of disinfectants, biocides, antibiotics or any other chemicals in the discharge.</p> |
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| <p>Will the project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to people or the environment (flora, fauna, water supplies)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of hazardous or toxic substances? • potential changes in occurrence of disease or effect on disease carriers (e.g. insect or water borne diseases)? | <p>No. Large quantities of substances that could be harmful to humans or the environment are not used or stored on the site.</p> | <p>No. Veterinary medicines are stored in a locked storage building and are only used in accordance with instructions issued by the Veterinary Surgeon to the hatchery.</p> |
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| 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (1) cont'd | Yes/No - Briefly describe | Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why |
| <p>(g) Will installation, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc)?</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dredging? • coastal structures (seawalls, piers)? • offshore structures? • facilities for storage of goods or materials? • facilities for treatment or disposal of solid wastes or liquid effluents? • new road, rail or sea traffic during construction or operation? • new road, rail, air, waterborne or other transport infrastructure including new or altered routes and stations, ports, airports etc? • closure or diversion of existing transport routes or infrastructure leading to changes in traffic movements? • new or diverted transmission lines or pipelines? • transport of personnel or materials for construction, operation or decommissioning? • decommissioning or restoration works? • introduction of alien species? • loss of native species or genetic diversity? • any other changes? | <p>No. The aquaculture activity will take place entirely within an existing land based facility. The facility has full Planning Permission and a current Effluent Discharge licence granted by Cork County Council The hand harvesting of seaweed will take place on the rocky intertidal foreshore over a linear distance of circa 5.5Km</p> | <p>No.</p> |

| (h) Inherent social changes | | |
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| Will the project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment? | Yes. The proposed project will create an additional 3 full time and 1 part-time jobs bringing the total employed to 6 full time employees and 1 part-time employee within a year. This will increase to 8 full time and 3 part-time employees within 3 years. | No. The impact will be locally beneficial but not significant |

| 2. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT - ANNEX III (2) | Yes/No - Briefly describe | Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No? - Why |
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| (a) Existing land use | | |
| 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. Existing land use will not be affected. | |
| Are there any areas on or around the locations 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. | |
| (b) Relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area | | |
| <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"> • groundwater resources • surface waters • fisheries • tourism | No | |
| (c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment | | |
| 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>Yes. The site is surrounded by the Beara Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004155) and is approx 5km from the Kenmare River SAC and The proposed hand harvesting site is not located within a Natura area. The site is located circa 8Km from the nearest boundary of the Sheep's Head SAC (Site Code</p> | Significant impacts from the aquaculture operations and hand harvesting of seaweeds on any of the adjacent Natura 2000 sites are not considered likely. |

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| | 00102) & Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA (Site Code 004156), circa 11 Km from the nearest boundary of the Kenmare River SAC (Site Code 002158), circa 4 Km from the nearest boundary of the Beara Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004155). | |
| T5/487 | | |
| 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 |
| (c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment cont'd | | |
| <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"> • wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies? • the coastal zone? • mountains, forests or woodlands? • nature reserves and parks? | <p>Yes. The site is surrounded by the Beara Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004155) and is approx 5km from the Kenmare River SAC and The proposed hand harvesting site is not located within a Natura area. The site is located circa 8Km from the nearest boundary of the Sheep's Head SAC (Site Code 00102) & Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA (Site Code 004156), circa 11 Km from the nearest boundary of the Kenmare River SAC (Site Code 002158), circa 4 Km from the nearest boundary of the Beara Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004155).</p> | <p>Significant impacts from the aquaculture operations and hand harvesting of seaweeds on any of the adjacent Natura 2000 sites are not considered likely..</p> |
| <p>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> | <p>Yes. The site is surrounded by the Beara Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004155) The Qualifying Features of the SPA are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fulmar ➤ Chough <p>The Conservation Objectives of the SPA are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special</p> | <p>Significant impacts from the aquaculture operations and hand harvesting of seaweeds on any of the adjacent Natura 2000 sites are not considered likely</p> |

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| | <p>Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <p>Fulmar (breeding) Chough (breeding)</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. | |

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| 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 |
| (c) Absorption capacity of the natural environment cont'd | | |
| 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 proposed activity the amount of traffic generated will not be significant |
| Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people? | No. | |
| Are there any areas or features of historic, cultural or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected? | No. | |
| Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected? | No. | |
| Is the area densely populated? | No. | |
| 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. | |

On the basis of the above the consensus of the pre-screening group is that 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

| EIS SCREENING GROUP NAMES | DATE OF MEETING |
|--|--|
| Tony O’Sullivan | Department's Engineering Division |
| Gearóid O’Shea | Department's Engineering Division |
| Terry McMahon | Marine Institute |
| Catherine Morrison | BIM |
| Thomas Power | Department's Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division |
| Kevin Hodnett | Department's Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division |
| SIGNED BY ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP | DEPARTMENT'S AQUACULTURE & FORESHORE MANAGEMENT DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE |
| NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS: KEVIN HODNETT | DATE |