

**CONSOLIDATED PRESCRIBED BODIES OBSERVATIONS ON THE HARVESTING  
OF SEAWEED AT BLACKROCK, BALLYHEIGE, CO KERRY (REF: FS006905) BY**

**ÍON ORGANICS**

**OBSERVATIONS OF THE MARINE INSTITUTE**

On the basis of the information provided by the applicant the Marine Institute is of the view that considering the nature, scale, and location the proposed activity , impacts on the marine environment are not likely to be significant.

The proposed seaweed harvesting area is located with the boundaries of the Tralee Bay

Oyster Fishery Order Area (T06/004). Given that the proposed harvesting would take place

on the rocky intertidal Forehsore, an area which is not suitable or used for oyster, or any other aquaculture; production impacts on aquaculture activities in the area as a result of the proposed activity is not likely. Similarly impacts of seafisheries are also not likely.

The Marine Institute has no objections to a licence being granted.

It is recommended that the following Conditions should be attached to any licence that is granted:

1. The Licensee shall use that part of the foreshore, the subject matter of this Licence, for the purpose of undertaking hand-harvesting of seaweed on the foreshore and for no other purpose whatsoever.
2. The Licensee shall only harvest the species and quantities of seaweed as set out in licence application.
3. The use of mechanical methods of harvesting is prohibited.
4. No structures shall be placed on the foreshore.
5. No materials or harvested seaweed shall be stored on the foreshore
6. The Licensee shall keep and maintain in the State for inspection on demand, by the Minister, records of all seaweed harvesting operations, including in particular, the quantities of each species harvested and the location of the harvest area. These records shall be produced by the Licensee on the demand by the Minister.

**OBSERVATIONS OF WATER MARINE ADVISER IN THE DEPARTMENT**

If the harvesting is conducted in accordance with the documentation submitted with the application there are no significant impacts on the public use or enjoyment of the foreshore nor are there adverse impacts upon navigation or fisheries and there will no significant adverse impacts on the environment. Considering that the harvesting of seaweed in a sustainable manner supports sustainable employment in remote rural locations the granting of this licence would be in the public interest.

I recommend approval of this application subject to the following;

- The Map Titled Foreshore Lease Map 1, Date:11/07/2019Drg. No.: CCO-SW-001 Rev.: A shall be attached to and referenced in the Licence Document.
- The harvesting shall be conducted in accordance with documents and drawings submitted by the applicant.
- The Department shall be notified two weeks prior to any works proceeding.

#### **OBSERVATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE**

On the basis of the information provided the Department recommends that the following observations should be included in any licence:

- The Tralee Bay Oyster Society should be consulted regarding the application.
- There should be no interference in the periwinkle picking activities.

#### **OBSERVATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, HERITAGE, REGIONAL, RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS**

The Department has no comment to make on this application.

#### **OBSERVATIONS OF INLAND FISHERIES OF IRELAND**

The AA – Natura statement is comprehensive and IFI concurs with findings.

The mitigations proposed in the Natura statement should be complied with and should form part of the foreshore licence conditions.

IFI notes comment as to value of the habitat created by the seaweed for a range of fish species. The nature of the sampling and the extent of harvesting are not likely to have an adverse impact on any fish species using the habitat area.

The Blackrock area is a well know shore angling location between Fenit and Kerry Head and a potential issue would be conflict with leisure fishing for bass and the several other species including the occasional salmon in the Black Rock area. This should not be an issue particularly if harvesting is confined to low tides. IFI would wish the applicant to be made aware of this concern.

Licence consent should contain a clause confining seaweed harvesting to low tide situations, as proposed by the applicant.

IFI has no issues with this proposed application.

### **OBSERVATIONS OF THE MARINE SURVEY OFFICE**

I refer to the above foreshore application and wish to advise that in the absence of any adverse impact to navigational safety, this office raises no objections.

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### **OBSERVATIONS OF THE SEA FISHERIES PROTECTION AUTHORITY (SFPA)**

#### 1. Wild Fisheries

The applied area is within the intertidal area of Tralee Bay and therefore wild fisheries are restricted to intertidal species (Periwinkle, *Litorina litorea*) and shellfish which should not be affected by the harvesting of seaweed subject to the outlined harvesting frequency and quantity on a weekly basis. The application will not interfere with the SFPA conducting fishery control operations within the area.

#### 2. Shellfish Production Areas

The applied area is within the assigned area operated by the Tralee Bay Oyster Society, it is unlikely that the applicant will encroach on the oyster operations however the applicant

should inform the society of its operations. The application will not interfere with the SFPA conducting shellfish monitoring operations within the area.

### 3. Seafood Safety

The methodology and species harvested should not be a cause for concern with regard to food safety on harvested fish and shellfish in the greater area of Tralee Bay.

## **OBSERVATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no submissions from members of the public.