

Michael J O' Driscoll and Laura O'Donovan, T/A Ballinskelligs Sea Farms, Reen, Ballinskelligs, Killarney, Co. Kerry have applied for authorisation to cultivate seaweeds using longlines on a 14.7258 hectare site (T06/520A) on an area of foreshore in Ballinskelligs Bay, Co. Kerry.

*The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that **it is in the public interest** to grant an Aquaculture/Foreshore Licences for this site. 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 the statutory provisions. The following are the reasons and considerations for the Minister's determination to **grant** the licences sought:*

- a. *Scientific advice is to the effect that the waters are suitable;*
- b. *Public access to recreational and other activities can be accommodated by this project;*
- c. *The proposed development should have a positive effect on the economy of the local area;*
- d. *All issues raised during Public and Statutory consultation phase;*
- e. *There are no effects anticipated on the man-made environment heritage of value in the area;*
- f. *No significant effects arise regarding wild fisheries;*
- g. *The visual impact of the site will be minimal. The site is over 3km from the N70 the views of the seaweed lines and navigation markers will be obscured and limited.*
- h. *significant impacts on any features of adjacent Natura 2000 sites are not likely."*