

Determination of Aquaculture/ Foreshore Licensing application – T05/603A

*AG Oyster Ltd has applied for authorisation to cultivate oysters using bags and trestles on the inter-tidal foreshore on a 22.656 hectare site (T05/603A) on the north-western shore of Inchydoney Island at Clonakilty Bay, Co. Cork.*

*The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that it is not in the public interest to grant the licences sought. 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 refuse the licences sought: -*

- This site is located within two designated Natura 2000 sites (Clonakilty Bay SAC [Site Code: 00091] and Clonakilty Bay SPA [Site Code: 004081]). An Article 6 Appropriate Assessment has been carried out in relation to aquaculture activities in this SAC and SPA. This Assessment and its findings were examined by the Department and its scientific/technical advisors. This led to the Licensing Authority (i.e. the Minister) producing a Conclusion Statement which proposed aquaculture activity is likely to have a significant negative impact on the integrity of the Clonakilty Bay SPA and therefore licensing of the current proposed application is not recommend.*
- Taking account of the recommendations from the Appropriate Assessment process, the proposed aquaculture activity is not consistent with the Conservation Objectives for the SPA and could result in significant disturbances to key bird species and reductions in their density and functional foraging habitat area.*
- The potential risks from licensing the proposed aquaculture activity, on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites cannot be discounted.*
- The site's potential to negatively impact the visual amenity of the area.*