

"Determination of Aquaculture/ Foreshore Licensing application – T05/547A

Bantry Marine Research Station Ltd has applied for a review of an Aquaculture Licence to authorise cultivation of additional species of seaweeds using longlines on the sub-tidal foreshore on an existing six hectare site (**T05/547A**) in Gearhies, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that it is in the public interest to grant the amendment to the licence 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 grant the amendment to the licence 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 proposed aquaculture activities do not spatially overlap with Natura 2000 sites and there should be no significant impacts on the nearest Natura site(s).*
- h. *No significant impacts on the marine environment and the quality status of the area will not be adversely impacted;*
- i. *The updated Aquaculture and Foreshore licences contain terms and conditions which reflect the environmental protection now required under EU and National law."*