

"Determination of Aquaculture Licensing application –T11/25/1

Atlantic Clams Ireland Ltd has applied for authorisation to cultivate *in nursery trays and under nets and Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles on the foreshore on site T11/025A of 10.89 ha on the intertidal foreshore near Lissadell in Drumcliff Bay, Co. Sligo.*

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that it is in the public interest to grant a variation of Aquaculture licence sought i.e. reducing the footprint of the site from 10.89 ha to 10.5157 ha. This is to ensure a 30 m corridor is provided outside the site boundaries for seals to access the breeding area inshore of the 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 a variation of 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. *This is a renewal application for an existing site;*
- d. *The continuation of this aquaculture activity should have a positive effect on the economy of the local area;*
- e. *All issues raised during Public and Statutory consultation phase were given consideration and addressed as necessary;*
- f. *There are no effects anticipated on the man-made environment heritage of value in the area;*
- g. *No significant effects arise regarding wild fisheries;*
- h. *The sites are located within Drumcliff Bay SPA, Cummeen Strand /Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC ('Natura' sites). An Article 6 Assessment has been carried out in relation to aquaculture activities in these 'Natura' sites. The Licensing Authority's Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement (available on the Department's website) outlines how aquaculture activities in this SAC/SPA, including these sites are being licensed and managed so as not to significantly and adversely affect the integrity of Cummeen Strand /Drumcliff Bay SAC and Drumcliff Bay SPA;*
- i. *Scientific observations related to the Appropriate Assessment received during the licencing consultation process are addressed in the Licensing Authority's Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement;*
- j. *Taking account of the recommendations of the Appropriate Assessment the aquaculture activity at this site is consistent with the Conservation Objectives for the SAC/SPA;*
- k. *No significant impacts on the marine environment and the quality status of the area will not be adversely impacted;*
- l. *The updated and enhanced Aquaculture licence contains terms and conditions which reflect the environmental protection required under EU and National law."*