

The Minister has decided that it is in the public interest to issue a licence to Murphy's Irish Seafood Ltd, Sans Souci, Dromleigh South, Bantry, Co. Cork for the following reasons:

This consideration is set out below

- (a) the suitability of the place or waters

*There were no objections to the proposal from a technical perspective. This aquaculture facility has been in existence for some time and Marine Engineering Division has confirmed that the site is well managed. Access to this site is from a local county road adjacent to property owned by the Applicant. This site has been in place for some time and has become embedded in the landscape. There are no visual impact issues with this site (Tab G).*

- (b) other beneficial uses of the waters concerned

*Public access to recreational and other activities is not applicable as the site is located on private lands owned by the applicant.*

- (c) the particular statutory status of the waters

*The site is not within a Natura 2000 site but is adjacent to Derryclogher Knockboy Bog SAC (SiteCode 001873). The site is also 20.7 km from Killarney National Park SPA (Site Code 004038) and 24 km from Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (Site Code 004162). (EIA Screening Document Tab L).*

- (d) the likely effects on the economy of the area

*The project should have no adverse effect on the economy of the area. The project employs 4 fulltime and 13 part time staff. (EIA Screening Document Tab L)*

- (e) The likely ecological effects on wild fisheries, natural habitats, flora and fauna

*This aquaculture facility has been in existence for some time, the proposed aquaculture is not likely to have significant effects on the environment. (EIA Screening Document Tab L)*

- (f) the effect on the environment generally

*(i) The Minister has already determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this project. (Tab K)*

*(ii) Marine Engineering Division and The Marine Institute have no objections to this application. (Tab G and Tab I)*

*(iii) This aquaculture facility has been in existence for some time.*