

"Determination of Aquaculture/ Foreshore Licensing application –T05/612A

Wild Atlantic Sea Products Ltd has applied for authorisation to cultivate seaweeds using a longline grid system on the sub-tidal foreshore on a 28.75 hectare site (T05/612A) on an area of foreshore at Mehal Head, adjacent to Leahill Jetty along the north shore of Bantry Bay, Co. Cork

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that it is in public interest to grant a variation of the licence sought. The Minister recommends granting a 20.68 hectare site, and not the 28.75 hectare site which was applied for, to reduce the impact on the shrimp potting lines in the area. 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 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 were given consideration and addressed as necessary;*
- e. *The possible effects on the man-made environment heritage of value in the area have been taken into consideration;*
- 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. *There are 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."*