

"Determination of Aquaculture/ Foreshore Licensing application –T08/115

Sliogeisc Siar Teoranta has applied for authorisation to cultivate Native and Pacific Oysters using Bags and trestles, float and bag, moulded baskets and longlines on the inter-tidal and sub-tidal foreshore on a 17.754 hectare site (T08/115A) in Aughinish Peninsula, Co. Clare.

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 Minister also had regard to the findings of the Departments advisors and the Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement. The following are the reasons and considerations for the Minister's determination to refuse the licences sought: -

- Due to the presence of the native oyster, *Ostrea edulis* as well as the presence of the non native invasive seaweed *Sargassum muticum* at Site T08/115A and the risk of the dispersal of *Sargassum muticum* beyond the boundaries of the site.
- The physical suitability of the site for trestles is questionable only parts may be suitable. At the southern end of the site the substrate consists of mobile sands. The development as proposed would be likely to cause disturbance to the habitat if the boulder lines or parts of the boulder lines on the site were to be moved to allow trestle placement.
- The site is located within the Galway Bay SAC. An Article 6 Appropriate Assessment has been carried out in relation to aquaculture activities in this SAC. Taking account of the recommendations of the Appropriate Assessment the proposed aquaculture activity at this site is not consistent with the Conservation Objectives for the SAC.
- The potential risks from licensing the proposed aquaculture activities at this site, on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site cannot be discounted."