

"Determination of Aquaculture/Foreshore Licensing Applications – T05/432B and T05/432C

Crookhaven Fishermen's Association Ltd., c/o Jimmy Newman, Crookhaven, Co. Cork have applied for further authorisation to cultivate Scallops using cages on the seabed and reviews to add the cultivation of native Green, Brown and Red Seaweeds using floating longlines on two sites numbered T05/432B (6.0647 ha) and T05/432C (14.4895 ha), totalling 20.5542 ha on the subtidal foreshore in Crookhaven Harbour, Co. Cork.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that it **is in the public interest** to grant a variation of the Aquaculture Licence renewals and reviews sought and associated Foreshore Licences for these sites i.e. only Scallops seeded onto the seabed without any structures will be permitted. The proposed floating Seaweed longline structures, as applied for in the reviews, are not being permitted due to potential impacts on navigation and safe access into Crookhaven Harbour, the existing beneficial usages of this area and visual amenity in an area renowned for its unspoilt views and natural landscape.

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 statutory provisions. The following are the reasons and considerations for the Minister's determination to **grant a variation** of the licences sought:-

- Technical advice is to the effect that the waters are suitable for the production of bottom culture scallops and not suitable for the proposed floating seaweed longline structures which would restrict safe access into Crookhaven Harbour and conflict with the significant sailing and marine leisure related activities which take place within the harbour;
- The proposed longline structures have the potential to negatively impact the visual amenity of this area of Crookhaven Harbour. However, no visual impacts arise from bottom culture scallops at these sites;
- The scallops shall be seeded onto the seabed without the proposed cages or any other structures as both sites extend over and have the potential to conflict with an existing subsea pipeline;
- There should be no significant impacts on the marine environment and the quality status of the area should not be adversely affected by aquaculture at these sites;
- The aquaculture at these sites should have a positive effect on the economy of the local area;
- The sites are not located within a designated Natura 2000 site. The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Crookhaven Harbour and Toormore Bay (which is available on the Department's website) found that the cultivation of shellfish and seaweeds in Crookhaven Harbour should have no significant effects on the qualifying features/interests of the adjacent Natura 2000 sites;
- The measures set out in the draft Marine Aquaculture Code of Practice prepared by Invasive Species Ireland shall be fully implemented as required in the licensing conditions;
- All issues raised during the public and statutory consultation phase;
- The updated and enhanced Aquaculture and Foreshore licences contain terms and conditions which reflect the environmental protection required under EU and National law."