

"Determination of Aquaculture/Foreshore Licensing Application – T05/432D

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 a review to add the cultivation of native Green, Brown and Red Seaweeds using floating longlines on a site numbered T05/432D totalling 17.485 ha on the subtidal foreshore at Castle Point, Toormore Bay, 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 renewal and review sought and associated Foreshore Licence for this site i.e. reducing the footprint of the site slightly from 17.485 ha to 16.475 ha in order to provide adequate access for all marine users to the local landing pier situated east of the development.

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 cultivation of both Scallops using cages on the seabed and native Green, Brown and Red Seaweeds using floating longlines;
- The site area has been reduced slightly to allow adequate access for all marine users to the local landing pier situated east of the development;
- In general, the views of the proposed seaweed longlines will be obscured and limited from scenic routes;
- There are fishing and marine leisure activities in the area. However, public access to recreational and other activities can be accommodated by this project;
- The aquaculture at this site should have a positive effect on the economy of the local area;
- 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 this site;
- The site is not located within a designated Natura 2000 site. The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Toormore Bay and Crookhaven Harbour (which is available on the Department's website) found that the cultivation of shellfish and seaweeds in Toormore Bay 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."