

The Minister has decided that it is in the public interest to issue a licence to Coomhola Salmon Trust Limited, Mill Beag, Coomhola, 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 there are no new impacts due to this application.

- (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 located circa 2.3 km from the Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC (Site Code 001873), 4.0 km from the Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (Site Code 00090), 6.6 km from the Cahal Mountains SAC (Site Code 00093), 12.5km from the Maulagowna Bog SAC (001881), and 14.4 km from the Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC (Site Code 001342).

- (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 will provide 1 full time and 3 part time jobs in the 1st year and it is anticipated this will rise to 3 full time and 8 part time jobs after 4 years.

- (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.

- (f) the effect on the environment generally

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

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

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