Submission AGR 00863-26: Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination for Six Applications for Extensive Aquaculture in Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (000090), Co. Cork.

TO: Minister of State
STATUS: Completed
PURPOSE: Approval

AUTHOR: Naughton, Maria
OWNER: Naughton, Maria
REVIEWERS: Barry, Karen
McLoughlin, PatrickM (Aquaculture)
Batt, Brian
McSherry, Sinead
Meenan, Edel

DIVISION: Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division
DECISION BY:

Final comment

Minister Dooley's Signature has been provided.

Action required

Appropriate Assessment Screening for Extensive Aquaculture in Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (000090), Co. Cork and signing of six Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination Statements.

Executive summary

Six Renewal (two Renewals and four Renew and Review) aquaculture and foreshore applications for the cultivation of Blue Mussels (Mytilus Edulis) for sites in Glengarriff Harbour, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork are being processed.

As part of the assessment of the applications, the Minister is required to make a Screening for Appropriate Assessment determination in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended.

Having considered all relevant materials, it is recommended that the Minister adopts the '*Report supporting the Appropriate Assessment Screening of Extensive Aquaculture in Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (000090)"* prepared by the Marine Institute and reaches the determination that an **appropriate assessment is required** in accordance with Regulation 42(6) as the applications are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site and it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information following screening, that the applications, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European Site as outlined in the detailed information section below.

Detailed information

Under Section 10 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997 (as amended) and under the Foreshore Act 1993 (as amended), the following aquaculture and foreshore licence applications were submitted :

SITE REFERENCE NO	APPLICANT NAME	SPECIES TO BE CULTIVATED	SITE SIZE AS APPLIED FOR
T05-058N1	Seal Harbour Enterprises Ltd	Blue Mussel (*Mytilus Edulis*)	4.60
T05-058N2	Seal Harbour Enterprises Ltd	Blue Mussel (*Mytilus Edulis*)	17.25
T05-058N6	Seal Harbour Enterprises Ltd	Blue Mussel (*Mytilus Edulis*)	10.36
T05-058N8	Seal Harbour Enterprises Ltd	Blue Mussel (*Mytilus Edulis*)	2.10
T05-276N1	Denis Hourihan	Blue Mussel (*Mytilus Edulis*)	1.60
T05-276N2	Denis Hourihan	Blue Mussel (*Mytilus Edulis*)	3.81

Environmental Assessment

Annex IV Risk Assessment

The Marine Institute has carried out a Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species **(TAB A)**. Following this assessment it was concluded that it is unlikely that any of the identified Annex IV species will be disturbed, injured or killed as a result of the proposed works.

The report conclusion states;

"Following a risk assessment of the proposed extensive aquaculture licence applications in Glengarriff Harbour and Woodlands SAC, Co. Cork, the activities pose no risk to the number of individuals to breed successfully, nor to the survival of the population, and the species natural range is secure and will not be reduced, for the Annex IV species which occur in Ireland and its waters."

Having considered the applications and the Risk Assessment of Annex IV Species report, AFMD agree with and accept the Report and its conclusions. It should be noted that this risk assessment is not part of the Article 6.3 assessment and therefore identification and inclusion of mitigation measures within the risk assessment is appropriate at this stage.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

As part of the assessment of the aquaculture and foreshore licence applications, the Marine Institute has undertaken a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the proposed activities, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect(s) on a European site(s) **(TAB B)**.

The screening assessment has determined, in light of best available scientific data, that the proposed activities are likely to have a significant effect on the conservation features of Natura 2000 sites. All potential adverse effects on conservation features of Natura 2000 sites cannot be screened out.

In accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477, as amended, it is recommended that the Minister adopts the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and reaches the following Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination:

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('The Regulations'), the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has undertaken Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the proposed projects at Glengarriff Harbour, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork (sites as referenced above), individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(6) of the EC (Birds and Natural habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, the Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine has determined following screening that **an Appropriate Assessment is required** as the project individually or in combination with other plans or projects **is likely to have a significant effect on European sites**. The **risk of likely significant effects on European sites cannot be excluded** on the basis of objective evidence. This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the proposed projects and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

A determination is required for each application assessed in the report. A draft of each of the Ministerial determinations is attached for signature if approved **(TAB C)**. These will be published on the Department's website.

Related submissions

There are no related submissions.

Comments

Barry, Karen - 03/07/2026 17:54
It is recommended that the Minister of State makes a determination that an appropriate assessment is required. For your review and

onward transmission, please.

McLoughlin, PatrickM (Aquaculture) - 10/07/2026 14:32
I agree with the recommendation as set out in the submission that the Minister adopts the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and determines that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the applications listed. Draft Determinations are attached for the Minister's signature, if approved.

Batt, Brian - 13/07/2026 09:52
Sinéad, I agree with the recommendation as set out in the submission that the Minister of State adopts the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and determines that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the applications listed. Draft Determinations are attached for the Minister's signature, if approved. Regards, Brian

McSherry, Sinead - 16/07/2026 19:21
it is recommended that the Minister adopts the AA Screening Report and determinations that a Stage two full AA is completed. if adopted 6 determinations are attached.

Meenan, Edel - 20/07/2026 09:59
Approved for submission to the Minister of State by the Secretary General

Deegan, Craig - 04/08/2026 12:49
Minister Dooley's Signature has been provided.

User details

INVOLVED:
Naughton, Maria
Barry, Karen
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Batt, Brian
McSherry, Sinead
Sub Sec Gens Office
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READ RECEIPT:
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