An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Aquaculture Licence Application
Marine Engineering Division Report

Site T-Reference:	T06-314A
Application ID:	35031
Report Prepared By:	Noel Dillon
Date:	21 January 2026

Application Details

Applicant(s)	Liam O'Connor, Tulligbeg, Killorglin, Co Kerry
Location	Castlemaine Harbour, Co Kerry
Application Type	Aquaculture/Foreshore Licence **Renew and Review**
Site Area (Ha)	1.0
Species	Pacific Oysters (Crassostrea Gigas)
Cultivation Method	Typical bag and trestle
Source of stock	French Hatchery (Grainocean)
Annual Production Estimates	12 Tonnes.
Shellfish Waters Designation	The site is approximately 850m outside the Shellfish Designated Waters SI 268 of 2006 Cromane, Co Kerry
Development Plans	Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 Chapter 9 - Economic Development Chapter 11 - Environment Cromane Local Area Plan
Pre-Consultation Meeting	No

Site Description

Site Location

The site is located on the southern shore of Castlemaine Harbour, Co. Kerry, near the Douglas Strand area. The site abuts site T06/289A, which is also licensed to Mr O'Connor. The site is approximately 850m from designated Shellfish Waters, SI 268 of 2006 Cromane, Co Kerry. In Section 9.7.6.2.4 of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 – Fishing/Aquaculture, Kerry County Council recognises the importance of the aquaculture industry and states its support for the sustainable development of the operations of the industry.

Site History

This is a renewal and review application for the cultivation of oysters using typical bag and trestle. The ground conditions have deteriorated over time, leaving the surface soft and silty and difficult to work on.

Proposed Development

Site Management

This is a renew and review application for the cultivation of oysters using typical trestles and bags. The applicant had proposed moving the site to an alternative location, however that alternative application is not currently progressing.

Site Layout and Structures

The site layout drawing indicates that 1,014 trestles will be deployed to site. The density of trestles proposed for this site would appear to be unrealistic, based on the site size.

Site Access

The site will be accessed by boat from the end of local road L7056.

Potential Impacts

Navigation

The site is situated inside the Single Unified Marking Scheme (SUMS) for the harbour. This marking scheme was previously agreed between B.I.M., Marine Survey Office, Commissioners of Irish Lights and Marine Engineering Division.

Landscape and Visual

The site is not in an area that is likely to be highly visible to many people. Population density in the area is low and trestles will only be visible at times of low tide. There are no features of high landscape or scenic value that will be impacted upon. Visual impact of oyster cultivation is generally low if carried out in accordance with the best practices outlined in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of Marine Aquaculture, 2001.

Environmental

The site is located in the Castlemaine Harbour SAC (000343) and SPA (4029) and this is to be assessed as part of the application process.

Other Beneficial Uses

N/A.

Cumulative Impact

Oyster and mussel aquaculture activities are well established in Castlemaine Harbour. The cumulative impact of these activities is to be assessed as part of the application process.

Conclusion

Ground conditions at this site have deteriorated since the previous licence was granted. The applicant has indicated that he would continue to use this site until an alternative site is identified. Marine Engineering Division has no objection to the renewal of this aquaculture licence.