Determination of Aquaculture Licensing application –T10/028C

North Mayo Oyster Development Co-op Society has applied for authorisation to cultivate Native Oysters using Bottom Culture on the foreshore on a 172.97 hectare site (T10/028C) in Blacksod Bay, Co. Mayo.

The Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that it is in the public interest to **grant** the licence sought. 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 the statutory provisions. The following are the reasons and considerations for the Minister's determination to grant the licence sought: -

a. *Scientific advice is to the effect that the waters are suitable;*
b. *Public access to recreational and other activities can be accommodated by this project;*
c. *The proposed development should have a positive effect on the economy of the local area;*
d. *All issues raised during Public and Statutory consultation phase;*
e. *There are no effects anticipated on the man-made environment heritage of value in the area;*
f. *No significant effects arise regarding wild fisheries;*
g. *An Article 6 Appropriate Assessment was carried out in relation aquaculture activities in the Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC [00470] and Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA [004037]. The Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine previously determined that the proposed project, either alone or in-combination with other projects and with the application of appropriate mitigation measures, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.*
h. *Taking account of the recommendations of the Appropriate Assessment the aquaculture activity at this site is consistent with the Conservation Objectives for the SAC/SPA.*
i. *No significant impacts on the marine environment and the quality status of the area will not be adversely impacted;*
j. *The Aquaculture licence contains terms and conditions which reflect the environmental protection required under EU and National law.*