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

**Marine Engineering Division**

**Report on Aquaculture Licence Application**

## Application Reference No: T05-214N1

| | |
|---|---|
| **Report Prepared by:** | **Jerome McCarthy** |
| **Date:** | 16th May 2024 |
| **Applicant** | Fundy Shellfish Products Ltd. |
| **Location** | Bantry Bay, Co. Cork |
| **Applicant Type** | Aquaculture/Foreshore Licence Renewal & Review |
| **Site Area (Ha)** | 4.6 |
| **Species** | Blue Mussels (Mytilus edulis) |
| **Cultivation Method** | Rope longlines |
| **Intertidal/Non-Intertidal** | Non-intertidal |
| **Source of Seed / Spat** | Natural spat collection on collection rope. |
| **Annual Production Estimates** | 50 tonnes |
| **Shellfish Waters Designation** | Yes ☒ No ☐ |
| Reference: | Bantry Shellfish Waters Directive Area, SI 200 of 1994. |
| **Environmental Designation** | Yes ☐ No ☒ |
| Reference: | Not applicable |
| **Development Plans** | Yes ☒ No ☐ |
| Reference: | Cork County Development Plan 2022, Sections 7.26 and 8.20 |
| **Pre-Consultation Meeting** | Yes ☒ No ☐ |
| Date: | Various, 2022 and 2023 |

# Drawing Validation Sheet

**OSI Maps** **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

Comment: 1:10,560 scale OSI map prepared by GIS unit

**BA Chart** **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

Comment: 1:24,000 scale BA Chart prepared by GIS unit

**Farm Layout Drawing** **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Directional Arrow | Yes | ☒ | No | ☐ |
| Scale | Yes | ☒ | No | ☐ |
| Title Block | Yes | ☒ | No | ☐ |
| Date | Yes | ☒ | No | ☐ |

Comment: Drawing submitted is suitable.

**Drawings of structures** **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

Comment: Typical floating longline detail supplied.

**Details of Proposed Navigation Marking** **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

Comment: A group marking scheme is in place.

**Site Access Indicated** **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

Comment: Drawing submitted is suitable

**Site Co-Ordinates Indicated** **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

Comment: Site co-ordinates included on site layout drawing

**Site Overlap** **Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

Comment: The site overlaps existing site T05-214N1, which is licensed, and is being renewed and reviewed.

**Oyster Fishery Order Overlap** **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

Comment:

☒ **The application is submitted with each of the requirements listed and is therefore deemed to be a valid application.**

☐ **AFMD should be aware that insufficient details have been submitted as per above.**

# Site Suitability Assessment

**Site Location**
The application is for the renewal and review of an existing site located in a relatively sheltered location in Inner Bantry Bay, Co. Cork. The aquaculture in this part of Bantry Bay has been in existence for many years, which indicates that the hydrodynamic regime is suitable for this type of aquaculture.

**Site Management**
The applicant has been operating at this location for a number of years and is an experienced mussel farm operator. The site was inspected in June 2023 and no issues were noted.

**Proposed Site Layout and Structures**
The structures at this site have been in place for a number of years and consist of the floating longline method. The layout for the renew and review application consists of 2 blocks of lines, the western with 4 no. 90m lines and 1 no. 110m line. The eastern block has 11 no. 110m floating longlines. This represents an increase of 4 no. 110m longlines on site from what is licenced at present.

The flotation barrels should be battleship grey in colour - any white or non grey barrels must be changed as required.

This application includes a minor change of the site boundaries to facilitate the existing site operations.

**Land Based Facilities / Site Access**
Bantry Pier is used by mussel farmers on a daily basis to access sites and carry out operations associated with the aquaculture industry. The pier is suitable as an access point for this site.

**Navigation**
The proposed site does not impact significantly on navigation routes in the bay. There is commercial shipping including cruise liners, oil tankers and fishing as well as marine leisure in the area. The site lies within the existing Special Uniform Marking Scheme (SUMS) for the area operated by BIM and this SUMS reduces the impact of the aquaculture on navigation in the area.

**Visual Impact**
This site and the other aquaculture sites in Inner Bantry Bay can be seen from the adjacent N71 route south of Bantry, and between Bantry and Glengarriff. This route forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way and is designated as scenic route S111 in the Cork County Development Plan 2022. The surrounding area is designated as high value landscape. In general, the sea views are obscured and limited from the scenic route. The aquaculture in Bantry Bay has been in place for some time and has become embedded in the landscape.

The proposed farm layout and type of structures adheres to the best practices outlined in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of Marine Aquaculture, 2001.

**Impact / Cumulative Impact**
There is commercial shipping including cruise liners, oil tankers and fishing, as well as marine leisure activity in the area. The focus of marine leisure in this area is mainly around

Whiddy Island and Bantry Harbour. The group marking scheme reduces the impact of the aquaculture on navigation in the area.

The aquaculture in this part of Bantry Bay has been in place for some time and there is no increase in impact due to the renewal and review of this licence with regard to site boundaries.

**Marine Engineering Division has no objection to the licensing of this site subject to the above.**