REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)

ON

APPLICATION FOR FORESHORE LICENCE FOR HAND HARVESTING OF SEAWEED ON THE FORESHORE AT BRANDON BAY, CO. KERRY

Dr. Terry McMahon
Chair, Marine Licence Vetting Committee
17 February 2011

Mr. Seamus O'Grady, Fahamore, Castlegrerory, Co. Kerry – Application for a Foreshore Licence for hand harvesting of seaweed at Brandon Bay, Co. Kerry (MS51/9/605)

Background

In January 2009 Mr. Seamus O'Grady, Fahamore, Castlegrerory, Co. Kerry made an application to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (DAFF) for a foreshore licence to facilitate the hand harvesting of storm cast seaweeds (including *Laminaria* and *Fucus* species) on the foreshore at Brandon Bay, Co. Kerry. The applicant was asked to provide additional information on the proposal e.g access routes to the foreshore and impact on Conservation Objectives of the area as the proposed harvesting site is situated in Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (Site Code: 002070)

MLVC Considerations

Following the receipt of additional information from the applicant no objections to a permit being issued were raised by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Marine Institute, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Marine Survey Office, Engineering Division of DAFF, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Kerry County Council.

The MLVC is satisfied that, given the nature and scale of the proposed works, they will not have significant effects on the marine environment and will not interfere with other legitimate users of the area in question and will not have a significant impact on the Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC

Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the nature and scale of the proposed works the MLVC considers that, subject to compliance with the specific conditions set out below, they would not have a significant negative impact on the environment and it is recommended that a permit be issued. In view of the recurring nature of the activity the MLVC is of the view that it is appropriate to issue a multi- annual permit for a period not exceeding 5-years.

Proposed Specific Conditions

1. Public access to the designated licenced area shall not be restricted.

2. No machinery or equipment shall be left unattended on the foreshore.

3. Only the collection of seaweed deposited on the sandy foreshore shall be permitted.

4. The collection or harvesting of seaweed from the rocky area between mid to low tide shall not be permitted.

5. Seaweed attached to the marine substrate shall not be removed.

6. The use of mechanical methods of harvesting is prohibited.

7. No structures shall be placed on the foreshore. No materials or harvested seaweed shall be stored on the foreshore, nor shall the foreshore or any beach material be interfered with in anyway.

8. Access and egress to and from the site shall be solely from points marked in blue on Drg. No. "SOG-SW-001 Rev.:A"

9. Following the removal of seaweed, the collected material shall be moved to an appropriate facility or outlet for end use.

10. No sorting of seaweed shall take place on the shore.

11. No material shall be disposed of back into the marine/foreshore

12. Any activities that occur outside of the foreshore shall be suitably licensed.

13. The Licensee shall ensure that the harvesting of seaweed in the area defined in red on Drg. No. "SOG-SW-001 Rev.:A", does not interfere with the operations of the Tralee Bay Oyster Society for the development of oysters in the area

14. This Licence does not confer upon the Licensee exclusive entitlement to harvest seaweed and the Minister at all times reserves the right to License other seaweed harvesting operations and any other legitimate activity in the said area if it is in the public interest to do so.

15. This Licence does not preclude and the Licensee shall not have the right to interfere with the exercise of any other rights or the undertaking of any other activities permitted by Law in the area defined at Condition 14