

Attention of Ann Smith

and transmission to the Secretary General.

Shot Head Aquaculture Licence application.

Recommendation for approval of Environmental Impact Assessment prepared in connection with the application for an Aquaculture Licence from Bradán Fanad Teoranta t/a Marine Harvest Ireland (MHI) for one site numbered T5/555 at Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork.



Aquaculture Licence Application from Bradan Fanad Teoranta t/a Marine Harvest Ireland,

Shot Head, Bantry Bay.

Environmental Impact Assessment.

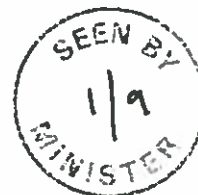
Dr. Beamish, Assistant Secretary.

- 1) Please see the submission hereunder and supporting documentation in respect of the above ~~matter. The applicable legislation requires the Minister, in cases such as this, to ensure that~~ an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out which assesses the Environmental Impact Statement submitted by the applicant and other relevant matters as set out in the legislation. A specific group comprising officials from DAFM, the Marine Institute and BIM was established to conduct the EIA and to prepare a report containing the outcomes of the assessment. The report of the group is at TAB 1 hereunder for the Minister's consideration.
- 2) The submission hereunder and the supporting documentation sets out the comprehensive nature of the EIA in respect of this application. As will be seen, the overall conclusion of the EIA is that the installation and operation of the salmon farm as proposed in the application is not likely to have a significant negative impact on the local environment. It was further concluded that there are no substantial environmental grounds for refusing to approve this application.
- 3) The Minister's approval of the draft EIA is recommended.

Submitted Please,

 $\frac{7}{8/15}$

John Quinlan
Principal Officer
AFMD



Kenai Aise,

The Ministers consideration is required of the attached EIA. The Ministers approval is sought of the draft EIA as recommended above and in the attached submission.

to Beamish
28/8
cc  1/9/15
Secretary General

Recommendation for approval of Environmental Impact Assessment.

J Quinlan, PO

Dr Beamish, Asst. Secretary.



A O'Driscoll, Secretary General.

Rúnaí Aire.

Agreed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shu Caveney".

DECISION SOUGHT

The Minister's approval is sought in respect of an Environmental Impact Assessment prepared in connection with the application for an Aquaculture Licence from Bradán Fanad Teoranta t/a Marine Harvest Ireland (MHI) for one site numbered T5/555 at Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork. (see TAB 1)

In support of this submission the following documents are attached:

- TAB 1 EIA Document
- TAB 2 Application Form
- TAB 3 Copy of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- TAB 4 S.I. 236/1998

BACKGROUND

In June 2011, Bradán Fanad Teo T/A Marine Harvest Ireland submitted an application, accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for an Aquaculture Licence and a Foreshore licence for a 3,500 tonne salmon farm in Bantry Bay. (Copies of the application and EIS at TABS 2 & 3 respectively).

LEGISLATION

Section 4A of S.I. 236/1998 – Aquaculture (Licence Application) Regulations, 1998 sets out the circumstances in which an application for an aquaculture license must be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The application by Bradán Fanad Teo T/A Marine Harvest Ireland for an Aquaculture License at Shot Head falls within the scope of Section 4A (2)(a) of SI 236/1998. (See TAB 4 for a copy of S.I. 236/1998)

SUMMARY OF THE EIA PROCESS.

The Department established a group comprising of the following to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment report on the proposed development at Shot Head.

Aengus Parsons	The Marine Institute
Dave Jackson	The Marine Institute
Terry Mc Mahon	The Marine Institute
Donal Maguire	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Tony O'Sullivan	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Tommy Power	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Kevin Hodnett	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

The group met on a number of occasions to review the information under consideration and corresponded as required. The assessment was carried out in accordance with S.I. No. 410 of 2012, European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Aquaculture) Regulations 2012. All documents and information relevant to the application from the date of receipt to the date of conclusion of the EIA were made available to each of the group members.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) examined, analysed and evaluated the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development on the following:

- (a) human beings, flora and fauna,
- (b) soil, water, air, climate and the landscape
- (c) material assets and the cultural heritage, and
- (d) the interaction between the factors mentioned in (a), (b) and (c) above.

The material is comprehensive and sets out chapter by chapter the relevant issues and the conclusions drawn.

The final conclusion of the Environmental Impact Assessment is that, the installation and operation of the salmon farm as proposed in the application is not likely to have a significant negative impact on the environment.

RECOMMENDATION

All the relevant issues have been comprehensively addressed in the EIA and it is recommended that the Minister approve the draft EIA. Finalisation of the EIA is a pivotal component in the overall determination process.

Submitted for approval, please.

Kevin Hodnett



Assistant Principal,
Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division.

Date. 31 July 2015