

AQUACULTURE LICENCES APPEALS BOARD

BOARD MEETING 21.05

Virtual @ 9.30 1

April 2021

Minutes

Present: Imelda Reynolds (Chairperson), Michael Sweeney, John Evans, Micheál Ó Cinnéide Michael Mulloy, Bill Sweeney, John Ward.

In attendance: Mary O’Hara (Board Secretary of ALAB), Ciar O’Toole (ALAB Technical Advisor) Margaret Brennan (ALAB), Ciara Murphy (ALAB) Bryan Deegan, Altemar Limited, Technical Advisor for item 6.

21.05.01 Conflicts of Interest/Section 31 Declarations

All Board members confirmed that they had no conflict of interest in any of the appeals before the Board for consideration at the meeting other than John Ward who had previously mentioned his conflict in relation to Loughros Mor appeals (Agenda Item 8). The Secretary confirmed Mr Ward did not receive any information or meeting papers concerning this appeal.

The Board noted that Micheál Ó Cinnéide is involved with a review of NPWS but this involvement has no connection to any appeals to the Board.

The Board members and administrative staff confirmed that no communications had been received by any of them for the purposes of seeking to improperly influence the consideration by the Board of any appeals or decisions before the Board at this meeting, in breach of Section 31 of the Act.

21.05.02 Approval of draft Minutes

[Redacted]

21.03.03 Matters arising

[Redacted]

21.05.04 Consent Agenda

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21.03.05 AP2/1-14/2015 - Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co Cork

Appropriate Assessment

The Board noted in detail the response dated 2 March 2021 from MOWI in response to the Board's section 47 Notice dated 15 February 2021, and the documents provide with same.

The Board noted cost quotation from MERC received on 30 March 2021 regarding ALAB's request of Merc to advise the Board further on the gannet issue. It was agreed to permit Merc to engage DMP STATS, Scotland to carry out statistical modelling concerning gannet mortality to allow Merc deal with the issues raised during the public consultation. The Board required slightly varied terms of reference which the ALAB TA will communicate to Merc.

Freshwater Pearl Mussel

The Board heard from the ALAB TA regarding her site visit to the Dromagoulane/Trafrask River catchment, undertaken as part of further investigation of the potential effect of the proposed activity on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). The ALAB TA advised the Board that the catchment is composed of a number of small narrow tributaries joining together in the lower portion to form approx. 1km of a small river before flowing into Bantry Bay. This river was very shallow in its observable portions and was never seen to be wider than 2m. The tributaries were never observably wider than 50 cm, and in many places were far narrower than this. The catchment is on a steep gradient with a number of complex falls composed of bedrock. Further up the catchment there are larger stretches of exposed bedrock. Due to the nature of the growth over the narrow tributaries, it was only possible to observe from the roadside and bridges. However, even given this limitation, the ALAB TA advised it was possible to revisit the sites electrofished by IFI team in 2017 and to observe the habitat above and below the tributary where the majority of pearl mussels were observed in 2008 by Ross, as well as revisiting the areas of the sites where they failed to observe freshwater pearl mussel

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

21.05.07 AP23/2020 Aughinish

[Redacted]

21.05.08 AP24&25/2019 Loughros Mor, Donegal

[Redacted]

21.05.09 AP12-18/2019 Kilmakilloge Harbour

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

21.05.10 AP13-44/2018 and AP 52&53/2019 Castlemaine Harbour

[Redacted]

21.05.11 Financial Matters

[Redacted]

21.05.12 AOB

[Redacted]

21.05.13 Dates of Next Meetings

[Redacted]

Meeting concluded at 1.30pm

Dated the 29th day of April 2021

Imelda Reynolds

Imelda Reynolds CHAIRPERSON