

**Fisheries and Environment Division**  
Aquaculture, Fish Health and FCILC Branch



Department of  
**Agriculture and  
Rural Development**

[www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Talmhaíochta agus  
Forbartha Tuaithe**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Fairs an  
Kintra Fordèrin**

**Issued to: Consultees on the Carlingford  
Lough consultation list.**

Donard Room,  
Downshire Civic Centre,  
Downshire Estate,  
Ardglass Road,  
Downpatrick,  
Co. Down,  
BT30 6GQ

Telephone 028 44618033  
Colette.Connor@dardni.gov.uk

12 February 2016

Dear Consultee

## **FISHERIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1966, AS AMENDED**

### **MR. STEPHEN O'HARE - APPLICATION TO AMEND FISH CULTURE LICENCE FOR A SITE NEAR MILL BAY IN CARLINGFORD LOUGH**

I am writing to inform you that Mr. Stephen O'Hare, 40 Leestone Road, Maghereagh, Kilkeel, Co. Down, BT34 4NW (known as Knockshee Oysters) has applied to the Department to amend the Fish Culture Licence granted to him on 27 August 2013. Mr O'Hare has applied for two amendments to his Licence, namely:

- to add mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) to the list of species authorised to be cultivated; and
- to increase the number of trestles authorised to be placed on the licensed area from 1,000 to 3,000.

A chart of the licensed area, which totals 29 hectares, is attached for ease of reference. The proposed amendments will not increase the size of the site.

The owner of the seabed, Mourne Country Park Ltd, has confirmed it has no objection to the increase in the number of trestles to be placed on the site. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has also confirmed that it has no objection from a navigational point of view.

If you have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via Text Relay.  
Making a call from a textphone dial 18001 + number.  
Making a call from a telephone dial 18002 + number.



The existing Fish Culture Licence authorises the trestle culture of Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) and European or Native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*). Mr. O'Hare proposes to also cultivate Mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), in bags on trestles, sourced from on-site naturally occurring spat settlements.

As is currently the case, Mr. O'Hare will only be permitted to cultivate triploid or sterile Pacific oysters. In addition, servicing the site will continue to be limited to 30 hours per month, spread over seven low tides, and will be undertaken at a time and in a manner that minimises disturbance to birds.

In accordance with the provisions of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, DARD commissioned assessments, carried out by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), on both the potential individual and cumulative impacts of Mr. O'Hare's proposed amendments on the Carlingford Lough Special Protection Area (SPA). These assessments concluded that the proposed amendments will not have a negative impact on the SPA conservation features of the Lough. In addition, an assessment carried out by AFBI on the potential impacts of the proposed amendments on the Carlingford Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) features concluded that the proposed amendments will not negatively impact the designated ASSI features of the Lough.

The Department is therefore minded to amend Mr. O'Hare's Fish Culture Licence. In accordance with the provisions of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966, as amended, notice of Mr. O'Hare's application is being published in the *Newry Reporter*, *Mourne Observer* and *Belfast Gazette*. A copy of the Notice is attached for your information.

Any comments you may wish to make on the proposed Licence amendments should be submitted, in writing, to DARD Fisheries Division, The Donard Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick, BT30 6GQ on, or before, **8 April 2016**.

A copy of this consultation letter and the Assessments carried out by AFBI, can be found on the DARD website at [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk) under "Consultations". Alternatively, information on the application can be obtained by contacting Jarlath Finnegan at [Jarlath.Finnegan@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:Jarlath.Finnegan@dardni.gov.uk) or by telephone on 028 44 618055.

### **Freedom of Information**

In line with the Department's policy of openness, at the end of the consultation period, copies of the responses we receive may be made publicly available. The information they contain may also be published in a summary of responses, which will be placed on the internet at

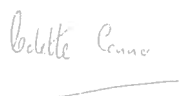
[www.dardni.gov.uk/index/index/consultations.htm](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/index/consultations.htm)

This summary will include a list of names of organisations or sectors that responded but not personal names, addresses or other contact details.

If you do not consent to this, you must explicitly request that your response be treated confidentially, detailing your reasons for this request. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

You should also be aware that there might be circumstances in which we will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office, or visit its website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colette Connor". A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

**COLETTE CONNOR**  
**AQUACULTURE, FISH HEALTH AND FCILC BRANCH**

**Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966, as amended  
An Tacht lascaigh (Tuaisceart Éirann) 1966, Mar Iarratas**

In accordance with the provisions of the above Act, notice is hereby given that Mr. Stephen O'Hare, 40 Leestone Road, Maghereagh, Kilkeel, Co Down BT34 4NW, known as Knockshee Oysters, has applied to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to amend his Fish Culture Licence to add Mussels to the species cultivated and to increase the number of trestles on site from 1,000 to 3,000. The Fish Farm is located near Mill Bay in Carlingford Lough.

A consultation package providing details of the application can be found on the DARD website at [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk) under "Consultations". Alternatively, information can be obtained by contacting Jarlath Finnegan at [Jarlath.Finnegan@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:Jarlath.Finnegan@dardni.gov.uk) or by telephone on 028 44618055.

**Any comments you may wish to make on the proposed amendments to the Licence should be submitted in writing to DARD Fisheries Division, Downshire Civic Centre, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick, BT30 6GQ on, or before, 8 April 2016.**

Application to amend a Fish Culture Licence for Stephen O'Hare (known as Knockshee Oysters)

