

Deepdock Ltd
Bwthyn Y Mor
Llanfaethlu
Holyhead
LL65 4HD

Our ref: SC2106

20/08/2021

Dear James Wilson,

SCREENING OPINION UNDER THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2007 (as amended)

Deepdock Ltd, Open Water sub surface Shellfish Cultivation

I am writing further to your request for a screening opinion received on 28/05/2021, made in accordance with The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended) ("The Regulations").

The purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening procedure is to determine whether the proposed works require an Environmental Impact Assessment and submission of an Environmental Statement (ES).

In reaching our Screening Opinion we have considered the proposed works against Schedule A1 and A2 of the above regulations. We have had regard to the information provided in the "EIA Screening Opinion Open Water Sub Surface Shellfish Cultivation", submitted on 28/05/2021, and considered the requirements of Schedule 2 of the Marine Works Regulations. We have also consulted with the bodies that we consider have an interest in the project by reason of their environmental responsibilities, or local or regional competences, as required by the above regulations.

Screening Opinion

It is our opinion that, due to its nature and size, the proposed works constitute an aquaculture activity capable of falling within "Agriculture, silviculture and aquaculture" categories of project listed in Schedule A2 of the above Regulations, specifically paragraph 6. We have considered the proposals against the criteria in Schedule 1 of the above Regulations. The proposed activity uses techniques designed to increase the production of the species in question beyond the natural capacity of the local environment by supplying adequate substrate for mussel spats to settle. Although this changes the natural carrying capacity of the area for the species, there will be no addition of compound feed, medicines or other practices to maintain the higher mussel density.

Our opinion is that the proposed activity as described can be **screened out** of requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment under the Regulations.

We have consulted on the likely significant effects of the project with other relevant stakeholders and you will see from the responses (Annex I) that some significant issues have been highlighted.

Due to the location and size of the proposed works and in light of the responses received, we would encourage you to contact relevant stakeholders including Natural Resources Wales (Marine Area Advice and Management Team, marine.area.advice@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) Technical Experts to receive further pre-application advice to inform your marine licence application.

The works, as described, will require a marine licence under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Further information on the marine licensing process can be obtained on our website [Natural Resources Wales / Applying for a marine licence](#). We will welcome a marine licence application and can provide pre-application advice should you require. The marine licence application will have to be accompanied by a robust Environmental Report addressing the concerns raised during this consultation. In particular we will expect the following information:

- Navigation and Recreation: a navigation risk assessment developed in consultation with Marine and Coastguard Agency, Trinity House and interested parties (e.g. RYA, WFA).
- Natural Environment: a robust assessment with regards to various aspects raised in NRW consultation response, in particular the risk posed to marine mammals through entanglement and impacts on bird features of the protected sites (SPA and SSSI). As mentioned above, we will expect engagement with NRW technical experts on these matters.
- A chapter within an Environmental Report clarifying the level of engagement and advice received at pre-application and how this has been addressed.

This Screening Opinion will be provided to all those bodies that were consulted and will be publicised on our website and on our Public Register.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Alvarez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maria Alvarez
Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales

Cc: All Consultation Bodies

Annex I

A consultation was started on 2 July 2021 for 28 days. The table below shows the organisations consulted and the response received. The relevant responses have been shared as attachments to our Screening Opinion email.

Consultee	Response Date	Comments received
The Crown Estate / Swangrove Estate		
NRW	30/07/2021	Y
MoD - Safeguarding Defence	28/07/2021	
Maritime & Coastguard Agency	30/07/2021	Y
Trinity House	08/07/2021	Y
Royal Yachting Association	27/07/2021	Y
Local Biodiversity Officer		
Local Planning Authority - Conwy LPA	19/07/2021	
Local Harbour Authority		
Local Port Authority		
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)		
Fisheries / Marine Enforcement Officers		
Cadw	26/07/2021	
Welsh Archaeological Trusts	CPAT 05/07/2021 GAT 02/07/2021	
Royal Commission on Historic Monuments Wales	07/07/2021	
Chamber of Shipping		
NERL Safeguarding	08/07/2021	
Department for Transport - wrecks		