

Submission Document

Consultation on Management Arrangements for the Irish Sea Mussel Seed Fishery

The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views of those with an interest in the Irish Sea mussel seed fishery regarding the management arrangements for this fishery.

This Submission Document **REQUIRES A RESPONSE FROM YOU** to the questions provided. The Submission Document has two parts these are:

- Part 1 - Tell us about you
- Part 2 - Give us your views (questions are directly linked Parts 1 to 3 of the companion Discussion Document).

This is your opportunity to ensure the issues which are important to you are included in policy developments for this sector.

You can complete and submit the Submission Document online at the following webpage:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F6FJYGK>

Submission Documents will also be accepted:

- by email to: inshore@agriculture.gov.ie (with the subject line “Mussel Seed Fishery Consultation”), or
- by post to: Mussel Seed Fishery Consultation
 Marine Programmes Division
 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
 National Seafood Centre
 Clonakilty, Co. Cork P85 TX47

The closing date for responses is: Tuesday, 31 December 2019.

Freedom of Information and Data Protection

Any comments/submissions received are subject to the Freedom of Information Acts and/or the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 and may also be published on the Department’s website (excluding contact details). Please advise us if any of the detail you have provided is sensitive on the basis that it is personal, confidential or commercially confidential. Please identify this detail and give clear reasons why you think it should not be released. The Department will, where possible, consult with you about any information which you have identified as sensitive information before making a decision in response to a request for release under the Freedom of Information Acts.

Part 1 – Tell us about you

Please read the Discussion Document in full before making a submission

1. I am making this submission:

- On my own behalf On behalf of an organisation/group

2. I am a:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottom grown mussel operator | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of general public |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fisherman | <input type="checkbox"/> Political representative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of fishermen association | <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of an environmental NGO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of state body | <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of trade association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scientist / technical expert | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

3. My contact information is:

Name	
Address	
Phone number (optional)	
Email address (optional)	

If you are a fisherman:

Sea-fishing boat name	
Sea-fishing boat registration	
Home port	

If you are a bottom grown mussel operator:

Location(s) of your bottom grown mussel operation(s) (e.g., Wexford, Carlingford Lough, etc.)	
Most recent year that you participated in the Irish Sea mussel seed fishery	

Part 2 – Give us your views

On the following pages of this document:

- Please indicate the level to which you agree with the statements set out on the following pages using a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being “strongly agree” and 5 being “strongly disagree”.
- Please use the text boxes provided to explain the responses you make and/or to insert any additional comments or information – including supporting data or research – you may wish to share.

INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION (DISCUSSION DOCUMENT, PAGES 5 TO 11)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Industry's views are well represented through the Bottom Grown Mussel Consultative Forum	1	2	3	4	5
There is effective communication with the industry regarding management of the mussel seed fishery	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments:

HARVEST STRATEGY (DISCUSSION DOCUMENT, PART 2.1)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The Irish Sea mussel stock should continue to be managed as a single stock (please include supporting data or research in comments box below)	1	2	3	4	5
Some seed beds in the Irish Sea “overwinter” from one year to the next (please include supporting data or research in comments box below)	1	2	3	4	5
More research is needed on the topics raised in this part of the Discussion Document	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments:

STOCK ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING (DISCUSSION DOCUMENT, PART 2.2)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Current stock survey methods are adequate	1	2	3	4	5
The current level of industry engagement in mussel seed surveys is appropriate	1	2	3	4	5
An improved industry survey methodology should be agreed to provide better data and assist stock assessment	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments:

HARVEST CONTROL RULES (DISCUSSION DOCUMENT, PART 2.3)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The best time to fish for mussel seed is in the autumn, therefore the mussel seed fishery should only take place in the autumn	1	2	3	4	5
Seed fishing in the Irish Sea should be limited by a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) each year based on surveys of seed beds	1	2	3	4	5
Fishing in a seed bed should be limited to a portion of the seed available to protect spawning potential	1	2	3	4	5
Seed fishing should only be allowed on seed beds that have been surveyed	1	2	3	4	5
A new method for allocating seed fishing opportunities to eligible operators should be explored	1	2	3	4	5
Operators that repeatedly fail to take up allocated fishing opportunities should have their access to the fishery restricted over time	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments:

FISHERIES CONTROL (DISCUSSION DOCUMENT, PART 2.4)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM), to estimate the volume of catch on board, should be made operational on all vessels fishing mussel seed	1	2	3	4	5
Electronic log books should be introduced on all vessels involved in the fishery	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments:

RESEARCH (DISCUSSION DOCUMENT, PART 3)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The current research topics being pursued are correct and will be useful in informing possible new harvest control rules	1	2	3	4	5
The key areas of research need have been identified	1	2	3	4	5
The Discussion Document has considered the key aspects of the mussel seed fishery	1	2	3	4	5

Additional comments:

Do you have any other comments you would like to make in relation to this consultation?

Additional comments:

