



## **Regulation 6(3) amendment of**

### **the *Fisheries Natura Plan for Mussel Seed (*Mytilus edulis*) in Castlemaine Harbour, 2016-2023***

#### **1. Amendment of Fisheries Natura Plan**

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine received a request in September 2019 to amend the *Fisheries Natura Plan for Mussel Seed (*Mytilus edulis*) in Castlemaine Harbour, 2016-2023*. The request was submitted on behalf of industry members in Castlemaine Harbour by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), which provides the Secretariat for the Bottom Grown Mussel Consultative Forum.

The Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred on him under regulation 6(3) of S.I. No. 290 of 2013 (European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations) as amended, and on the basis of the Minister's Determination that that an Appropriate Assessment of the proposed amendment to the Fisheries Natura Plan is not required as the proposed amendment will not have significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites, amends the Fisheries Natura Plan as set out in the amendment request.

#### **2. Reason for decision**

The Minister made a Determination, in exercise of the powers conferred on him under regulation 4(2) of S.I. No. 290 of 2013 as amended and regulation 42(7) of S.I. No. 477 of 2011, that an Appropriate Assessment of the proposed amendment to the Fisheries Natura Plan is not required as the proposed amendment will not have significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

In making his Determination, the Minister took account of the following:

- The report submitted by the Marine Institute on screening the amendment request for an Appropriate Assessment,
- The recommendation made by the Marine Institute regarding the need for Appropriate Assessment of the proposed amendment, and
- The rational management of the mussel seed fishery resource.

Having considered the above, the Minister was satisfied that an Appropriate Assessment of the proposed amendment to the Fisheries Natura Plan is not required as the proposed amendment does not represent a significant material change to the Fisheries Natura Plan and will not have significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

On that basis, the Minister agrees to amend the Fisheries Natura Plan as set out in the amendment request.

1 October 2019