

APPLICATION TO TAKE MUSSEL SEED FROM WITHIN EUROPEAN MARINE SITES, AND SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST*

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE TAKE A DECISION **

1. SOURCE

- (a) Location: Grid references or Lat/Longs. taken from various points on the edge of the bed.
- (b) Approximate area covered by mussel (ha or m²)
- (c) Size composition of mussels (Percentage in each size range (mm)):
<10 % 11-20 % 21-30 % 31-40 % 41-50 % >50 %
- (d) Estimate overall percentage cover by mussel within the area: %
- (e) It will help if you provide a sketch or plan which adequately describes points (a) to (d) above
Is a plan attached Yes No
- (f) Give dates upon which mussels have been found in this location:
- (g) Is there dead mussel shell present? What sizes: _____
- (h) Depth of any mussel mud present? _____

2. APPLICATION

- (a) Proposal to remove (approx): _____ tonnes representing _____ Percentage of bed
- (b) Percentage area of bed to be worked? _____ %
e.g. 100% = all, x% in part
- (c) Proposed method? Hand Vessel
Describe no. of boats, dredges, width, ground penetration, no. of persons, etc _____
- Preferred fishing period (Season): _____
- (d) Likely duration of each fishing session?: _____
- (e) Frequency of operations: _____
- (f) Proposed commencement: _____
- (g) Urgency (giving reasons): _____
- (h) Destination for relaying : _____
- (i) Proposed landing points : _____

3. CHARACTER OF THE SEA BED OR FORESHORE

- (a) Intertidal Subtidal State approximate depth above or below chart datum:
- (b) Composition
Rock/ Scallops % Gravel % Coarse sand % Medium sand % Fine sand or mud %
- (c) Exposure to waves: Fully Partial Sheltered
- (d) Tidal exposure: Strong Moderate Weak
- (e) Bed stability
Have mussels on this bed been known to survive winter storms? How frequently?

Likely stability (before, during and after fishing) of: i) whole bed _____
ii) Mussel patches _____ (iii) substrate _____

4. **CHARACTER OF ECOSYSTEM**

(a) Abundance of competitive species exploiting mussel within this area:

	<u>Not present</u>	<u>Scarce</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>> Average</u>	<u>Abundant</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Lobster						
Crab species						
Star fish						
Eider duck						
Scoter duck						
Oystercatcher						
Plaice/flounder						
Others						

(b) Location of the nearest reef or other features which might be impacted: _____

(c) Non-target species likely to be taken in the dredge and likely damage rates: _____

(d) Intrinsic value i.e. Ecological value of the structure itself and associated benthos _____

(e) List any species which may benefit from mussel removal? _____

(f) How do you propose to monitor the effects of harvesting? _____

5. **FURTHER INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION**

e.g. Possible management options/conditions; reporting; ongoing assessment of the effects of mussel removal; focus of responsibility; applicants previous experience etc.; constraints to fishing:

6. Name of Applicant: _____
Address: _____

Are you applying on behalf of other persons? Please provide details:-

Date of application: _____

For office use only:
Date Received:-

Background Note :

- * A European Marine Site is any area proposed or designated:-
 - ◆ as a Special Area of Conservation under the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC
 - ◆ as a Special Protection Area under the 'Birds' Directive 79/409/EEC

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are subject to restrictions in their management under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended by the Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000).

** The information is required in order that SWSFC may liaise with CCW in order to reasonably ascertain whether the fishing for or taking of mussel seed is likely to have a significant effect on the features for which the site has been designated as being of conservation importance. The SWSFC has a statutory obligation under the Sea Fisheries (Wildlife Conservation) Act 1992, and the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 to have a regard for the conservation of the marine environment and secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, whilst exercising its functions.

NB: Sec 1, 2 and 6 may be deemed to be held in commercial confidence by statutory authorities.

Please complete the form to the best of your ability and return it to:-

South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee, Riverside Centre, Pipehouse Wharf, Morfa Rd, Swansea SA1 2EN