

What Happens Next?

In considering an application, the Department may take into account whether the proposals are practical, viable, and in design and location would not have a detrimental effect on other stakeholders' interests.

If the Department is minded to grant a licence it is required to publish, at the applicant's expense, notice of the application in at least 2 newspapers in order to give local interests and the public an opportunity to express their views on the proposals. The Department will also consult formally with known interested organisations.

If the application includes a shellfish fishery licence or a marine fish fishery licence, the Department, under the terms of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966, as amended, is also required to publish, at the applicant's expense, notice of the application in the Belfast Gazette.

The Department will allow a period of at least one month for receipt of written objections. After this period, if no objections are received or if the objections received are deemed vexatious, frivolous or insubstantial, the Department will make a final decision.

Under the provisions of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, as amended, the Department's decision on an application may be appealed (either by the applicant or a third party) to the Water Appeals Commission.

Useful Addresses

For further information on the fish culture licence application process contact:

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Fisheries Division

Annexe 5,
Castle Grounds,
Stormont Estate,
Belfast,
BT4 3PW

Tel: 028 9052 3491

E-mail: jackie.mcquillan@dardni.gov.uk

Cross Border Aquaculture Initiative (CBAIT)

CBAIT is a dedicated support body, committed to playing a leading role in the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry throughout the initiative's remit area of Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic of Ireland.

Contact Details

Unit 14-15
Gray's Lane
Park Street
Dundalk
Co. Louth

Tel: 00 353 429385074

E-mail: michaelfmurphy@oceanfree.net

Fish Farm Licences



A Brief Guide



Department of
**Agriculture and
Rural Development**

www.dardni.gov.uk

Introduction

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for the licensing of all marine, freshwater and land based fish and shellfish farms in Northern Ireland. These responsibilities include the granting of fish culture, shellfish fishery and marine fish fishery licences.

Depending on the nature of the proposed operation, consent from other statutory bodies may need to be obtained as part of the licence application process. These bodies may include the Environment and Heritage Service, Planning Service, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Crown Estate Commissioners. Further details can be obtained by contacting Fisheries Division.



Aquaculture Licences

Under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966, as amended, a licence is required for the cultivation of fish and shellfish.

There are 3 types of aquaculture licence:

- **fish culture licence**

compulsory for all fish and shellfish farms.

- **shellfish fishery licence**

optional additional licence for shellfish farms, providing the holder with exclusive rights to the stock on site, and legislative protection of his/her operation.

- **marine fish fishery licence**

optional additional licence for marine fish farms, providing the holder with exclusive rights to the stock on site, and legislative protection of his/her operation.

How Do I Apply for a Fish Culture Licence?

You must apply on the appropriate form (which can be obtained by contacting Fisheries Division)

- FF1** - for a freshwater inland based fish farm
- FF2** - for a marine shellfish farm
- FF3** - for a marine fin fish farm
- FF4** - for a fin fish enclosed water re-circulation system
- FF5** - for a shellfish enclosed water re-circulation system.



You must submit your application in sufficient time to meet the timescale for development of your business.

Before completing the application form you should consult with the Department's Fisheries Inspectorate staff, or alternatively the Aquaculture Development Officers from the Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative (also known as CBAIT), who will be able to assist you in completing the form and provide you with information on technical aspects of your proposal.

The Department will also be able to advise you on site availability.