

Hi Paul,

Tralee Bay Hatchery is now the only multi species hatchery in Ireland, it supplies much of the local and national oyster industry with high quality seed.

With the valuable assistance of BIM we are now Ireland's most important hatchery.

The future growth and employment in the shellfish industry could partly depend on our production capacity.

We are currently working on producing flat oyster seed (native oysters) this initiative has the potential to sustain the local oyster industry for the foreseeable future. I have attached an information document which highlights the facilities we have and the work carried out at the facility.

We very much welcome the draft NPF 2040 and the proposal for greater connectivity along the Atlantic Economic Corridor – we support this policy objective and would like to be involved if possible.

I would be very grateful if you could please put me in contact with the secretary of the AEC Working Group.

Kind regards,

Keith

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TRALEE BAY HATCHERY

Tralee Bay Hatchery Products & Services

The Hatchery Facility

The hatchery is located at the Maharees on Tralee Bay is the only commercial oyster hatchery in Ireland, and has the following specifications;

- Overall area of 3.25
- Pump house 450 square feet
- Plastic tunnels x 4
- 3 phase power
- 3 phase generator
- Recirculation, heating and filtration systems
- Existing licences
- Algal and larval tanks and bag continuous system
- Buildings of 6,200 square feet
- Holding tank 2005m³
- Labs, hatcheries, tanks and equipment
- Diesel water pump
- Water & aeration systems
- Very good water quality
- Recom facility

Employment

There are currently 4 permanent employees in the hatchery and 2 part-time employees, the company also employs the services of local tradesmen on a regular basis including plumbers, electricians and builders. The company takes on students each year from the IT Tralee as part of their work placement program.

Production

The production of seed in commercial hatcheries is an important element of shellfish aquaculture worldwide. In the hatchery, environmental conditions are carefully controlled during critical stages of the life cycle to meet the specific needs of the species being reared. The oyster spat is then sold to shellfish farmers in Kerry and throughout the country. As Tralee Bay Hatchery is the only commercial scale hatchery in Ireland, and is disease free which is unique when compared to similar ventures in France and the UK, it is of paramount importance to the local shellfish farmers/producers.

Research & Development

Native oysters are notoriously difficult to produce in a hatchery so research being undertaken at the hatchery is of vital importance to the local oyster populations. The local oyster fishermen are assisting Tralee Bay Hatchery with this program as seed produced can be used to help restock the bays around Kerry and indeed other parts of Ireland. Research is also being conducted on other types of shellfish including Scallops and Clams and on Seaweed seeded string which could be supplied to Seaweed farmers throughout the region.