

Supporting information

**Marine Licence Application for a Shellfish Site.
Eilean mo Shlinneag, Loch Sunart
March 2020**

**Fassfern Mussels Ltd
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Garvan
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Figure 1 Map showing the location of the proposed site in Loch Sunart.



Site location

The location of the proposed development is on the south shore of Loch Sunart, to the south of Eilean mo Shlinneag, approximately 10km west of the head of Loch Sunart

Site equipment

The centre of the proposed equipment is 56°41.676'N, 5°42. / NM 72643 62045 / 56.69463 -5.71481.

The proposal is to install six 220m longlines. These will consist of 32mm head-rope, with floatation in the form of Gem 300lt longline floats. The moorings will consist of 40mm rope with 2 x 7000kg concrete blocks or 500kg anchors with 27m of 32mm chain. The moorings will measure approximately 120m to the south end of the longlines and up to 140m to the north. The longlines will be installed approximately 30m apart. The total area of seabed within the moorings is approximately 180m x 500m (approximately 90,000m²). Figure 2 shows the proposed longline and anchor construction.

Figure 2 Diagram of longline and mooring structure

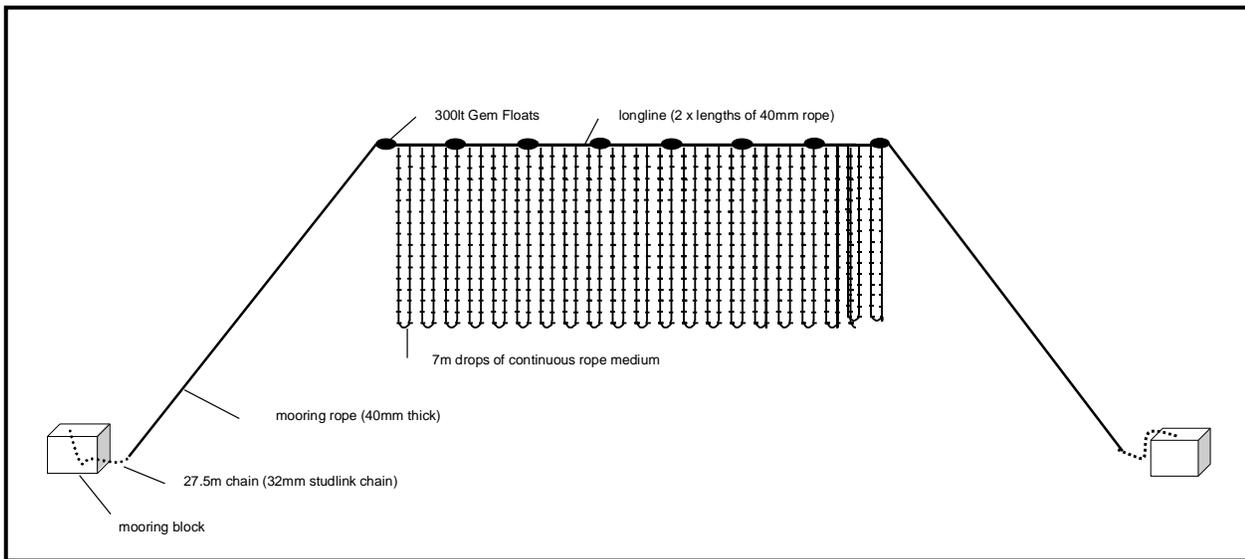
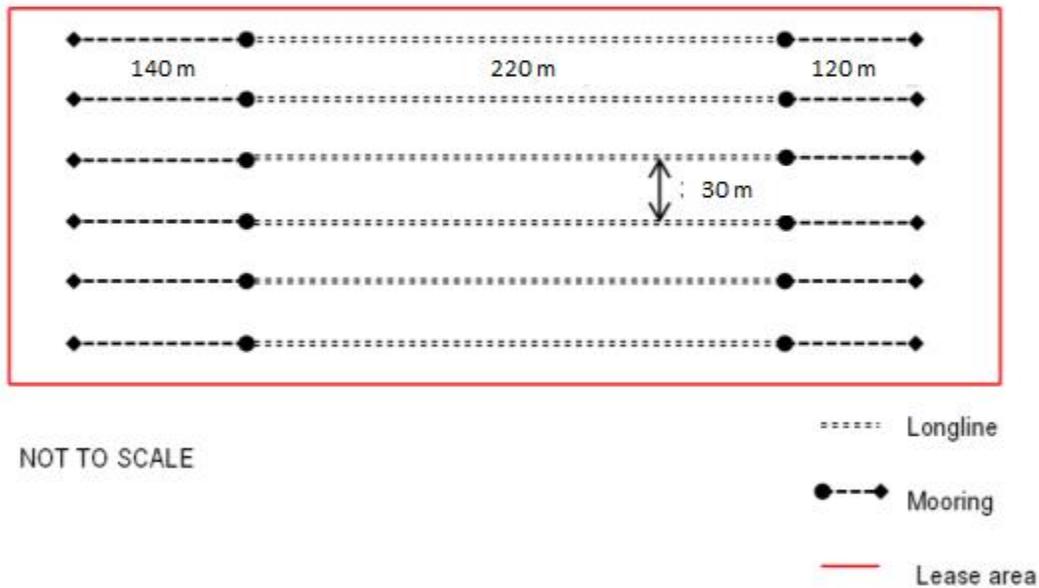
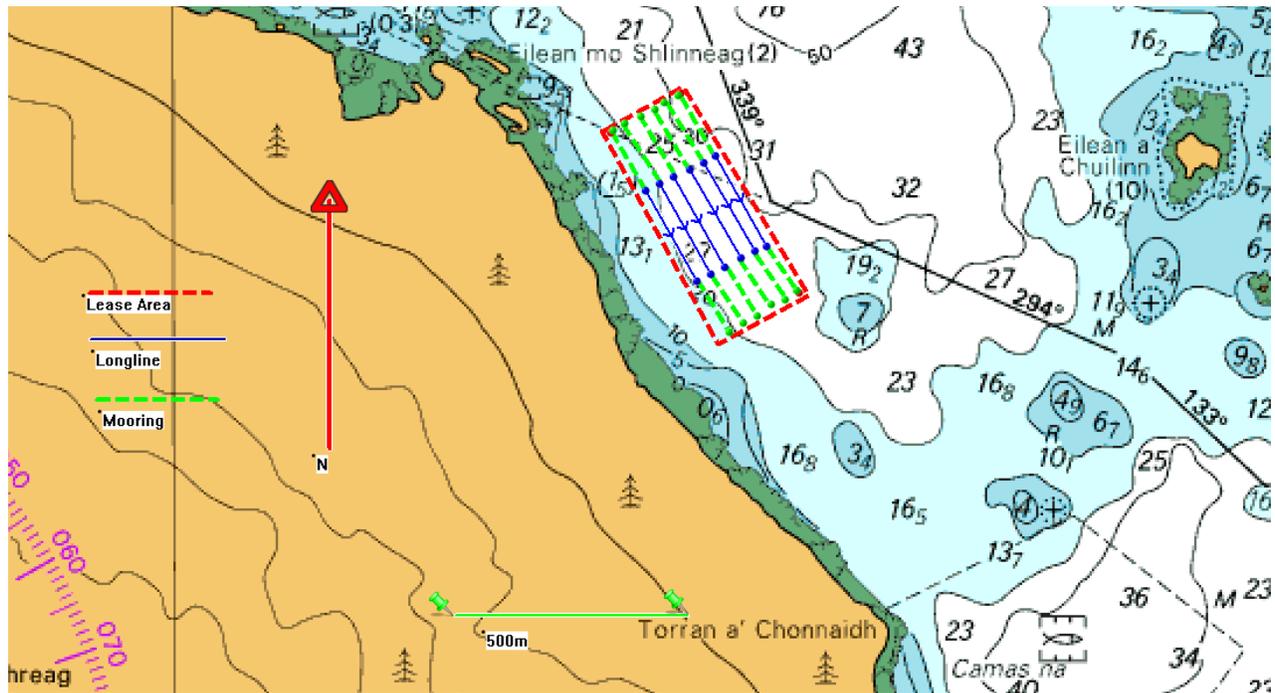


Figure 3 Longline and mooring layout – not to scale



The longlines are positioned approximately 30m apart and the overall area of the moorings is approximately 500 x 180m.

Figure 4 Location



Production Cycle

It is proposed to install the equipment into the site in early July 2020 to facilitate the movement of spatting ropes before the spat is too large to move by August. Future spat collection will be carried out at the site by deploying spat catching rope in the April / May in time to catch the spring spat settlement which occurs naturally in the loch. The mussels will then be ongrown for 2 to 3 years with harvesting beginning in 2022. The mussels will be harvested in the following 12-month period and the cycle will be repeated with spat collectors being deployed again on the empty lines.

Commercial Fishing

No dialogue has been undertaken with the fishermen directly as Fassfern Mussels believe this is one of very few suitable sites available for shellfish farming for the following reasons:

- Fassfern Mussels is not a large company and does not have a large infrastructure or range of equipment available. As a result we require a site which is reasonably close to shore access and which is not too geographically distant to the infrastructure already utilised.
- The Marine Special Area for Conservation and the Marine Protected Area designations further restrict the choice of sites which would be available for development as a shellfish farm.
- This development competes in the demand for spatial resources, and as mentioned above, there are very few locations that are available for development for shellfish aquaculture due to the constraints imposed on aquaculture sites. This site has favourable depth and shelter characteristics for a shellfish farm. It has reduced visual impact due to the secluded location away from roads and houses and in the specific case of Loch Sunart, dictates that the development can only be situated in areas where there is no reef habitat, thus, over mud habitat which is the area utilised by fishermen.

Navigational Issues for other loch users

Preliminary enquiries have been made to the Northern Lighthouse Board and no issues regarding navigation have been raised. Marking requirements will be given as a result of the Marine Licence Application process, an application for which will be submitted simultaneously with this application.