

## MIDLETON SEWERAGE SCHEME CHRONOLOGY

8/3/1963	Shellfish Order granted to Atlantic Shellfish.
5 <sup>th</sup> November, 1970.	Oyster Fishery Order granted by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries to Atlantic Shellfish.
June, 1971.	M.C. O'Sullivan appointed as Consulting Engineer to prepare a preliminary report for Midleton Sewerage Scheme
16 <sup>th</sup> March, 1972.	M.C. O'Sullivan's preliminary report recommends the discharge of comminuted sewage through tidal tanks at Rathcoursey Point.
May, 1973.	Cork Harbour Pollution Report commissioned from M.C. O'Sullivan by Cork County Council, to check the condition of the Harbour as a whole and to estimate the capacity of the Harbour water to accept effluents without damage to the water quality.
January, 1974.	Minister approved Preliminary Report on Midleton Sewerage Scheme but with a modification – as an economy measure – that the outfall would not be taken as far as Rathcoursey but would discharge at Ballinacurra.
May, 1975 to March, 1978.	Tender documents were prepared, land was acquired and a Foreshore Licence was applied for by the Council. A foreshore licence was granted on 13 February 1978: pumphouse at Ballinacurra, trunk sewer across tidal mudflats at Ballinacurra, outfall point at Green Point Ballinacurra.
December, 1977.	Cork Harbour Pollution Report issued. The Report consists of seventeen volumes. It established that an intermittent discharge of effluent at Rathcoursey provided no advantage over a continuous discharge (at

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	the same location) as far as water quality in the harbour was concerned.
November, 1978.	The Minister for the Environment approved the Council's request to locate the outfall at Rathcoursey (without tidal tanks).
December 1979	CCC apply for a further foreshore licence with an outfall pipe at Rathcoursey.
February 1980	Publication of the Council's application for a foreshore licence.
11 <sup>th</sup> June, 1981.	The Minister for the Environment requested that asked the Council have their consulting engineer re-examine the whole scheme and the various options.
December 1981	further to the request a Preliminary Report on Midleton Sewage Treatment was presented in 1981 and which considered 5 separate options. It recommended option "c" the discharge of comminuted sewage at Rathcoursey Point.
17 November, 1982.	The Minister approved the scheme incorporating the Rathcoursey outfall as previously approved in November, 1978, subject to two conditions, i.e. monitoring of receiving water at Rathcoursey and, if monitoring showed it was justified, that secondary treatment would be planned and financed as a priority item.
January, 1983.	The Council applied for a Foreshore Licence.
6 <sup>th</sup> April, 1984.	Department of the Fisheries and Forestry inform Council that it intends to designate part of Cork Harbour (North Channel, East Passage and Rostellan Bay) as an area within which it may be lawful to carry out fish farming under a licence granted by the Minister.
15 <sup>th</sup> May, 1984.	Sworn Inquiry into designation of part of Cork Harbour for mariculture (section 54 fisheries Act 1980) was held in Midleton.

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28 September 1984	Dept., of Communications Marine Division propose that in light of the conflict of views as to the possible impact on the marine environment an Foras Forbartha would be asked to make an objective assessment of the proposed scheme.
December 1984	Report from An Foras Forbartha commissioned to consider all available data and information.
23 <sup>rd</sup> August, 1985.	Department of Communications informed Council of approval of Foreshore Licence application.
September, 1985.	Department of Marine commenced monitoring the bacteriological quality of oysters taken from the North Channel and of the waters of the North Channel.
5 <sup>th</sup> March, 1986.	Foreshore Licence granted to Cork County Council by Minister for Communications for discharge pipe at Rathcoursey Point.
24 <sup>th</sup> July, 1986.	An Foras Forbartha commenced monitoring the bacteriological quality of waters of the North Channel. Monitoring of oyster flesh commenced in 1988.
24 <sup>th</sup> July, 1986.	Cork County Council commenced monitoring the bacteriological quality of waters of the North Channel.
16 <sup>th</sup> December, 1988.	Middleton Sewerage Scheme opened; discharge of comminuted sewage at Rathcoursey Point commenced.
21 <sup>st</sup> May, 1991.	EC Directive 91/271/EEC in relation to Urban Waste Water Treatment was adopted. Given effect to in S.I. 419/1994.
19 <sup>th</sup> March, 1992.	High Court proceedings commenced.
25 <sup>th</sup> March, 1992.	Department of the Marine invoke Condition No. 8 of the Foreshore Licence requiring the Council to provide for the planning and financing of treatment.
1993.	EC Directive 91/271/EEC came into force on 30 June 1993 under which towns with a

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	population equivalent between 10,000 and 15,000 shall be subject to secondary treatment. Cork County Council commission a new report that would include a secondary treatment, and the Council also direct that the report be accompanied by an EIS.
October 1993	MCOS submit the Preliminary Report which recommends that the existing outfall at Rathcoursey Point be retained as a final output point for the treated effluent.
February 1994	EIS prepared.
November 1996	An updated Environmental Impact Statement was prepared and submitted to Cork County Council in November 1996. MCOS were directed to report individually on various impacts of a number of proposed pipelines and outfalls, and an Addendum to the EIS was prepared in October 1997.
26 <sup>th</sup> November, 1996.	High Court proceedings were settled.
16 <sup>th</sup> October, 2001.	The present High Court proceedings commenced.
January 2007	Establishment of the Sea Fisheries Protection Agency (SI 376/2006) (Agency of the FSAI)
December 2007	Waste water discharge licensing commences in Ireland (Waste Water Discharge (authorisation) Regulations 2007 SI 684/2007).
10 February 2009	European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 55 of 2009) designates additional shellfish waters under Directive Council Directive No. 2006/113/EC including Cork Harbour.

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