



Work Safely with Us

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Independent Review of Aquaculture Licensing

c/o Deirdre Morgan,

Secretary to the Independent Review Group,

Department of Aquaculture Food and the

Marine National Seafood Centre,

Clonakilty

Co. Cork.

7th February 2017

Independent Review of Aquaculture Licencing Process

Thank you for taking time to read my submission to your review committee which I will keep brief and to the point.

By way of introduction, I work for a Safety Distribution Company Ark Safety Equipment Limited and have been dealing with Marine Harvest for over 15 years.

For the past number of years Marine Harvest have had to reduce their workforce because of the lack of product from Irish suppliers (which has a knock on effect with reduced supply to them from ourselves and similar Irish owned companies). Their customers have to go further afield to purchase salmon. It is surprising that an Island such as ours should have to import salmon from other countries and continents with the loss to the economy and unnecessary carbon footprint which this creates. There is obviously a major obstacle to farming and growing our own organic salmon. Are we unable to issue licences, if so, why?



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It seems to me that we are missing an open goal in terms of the opportunity to produce a niche product in our own country for which the market is prepared to pay a premium. Why is this the case, why is it so difficult to obtain a licence in Ireland? Is it a resources issue, is it a mindset, why are we paying lip-service to supporting a sector which we would appear to be working against?

I would therefore implore your committee to examine and resolve whatever log jam has developed in the Irish aquaculture regulatory system. You'll be acutely aware of the raft of ambitious targets which Government has set for itself in terms of the Blue Economy, it would appear that we are a long way from delivering on these.

Sincerely,

Ark Safety Equipment Limited.



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