



ARKLOW
MARINE SERVICES
Incorporated under Rappel Enterprises Limited

SHIPBUILDERS, DESIGNERS
MARINE & GENERAL ENGINEERS

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Our ref: BT/MT

7th February, 2017

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.

Re: Aqua Licence Review

Dear Sir/Madam,

We refer to Minister Michael Creed's recent call to carry out an independent review of the Aquaculture Licencing process here in Ireland which we feel is long overdue. As a service company who has been engaged in the Fishing & Aquaculture business for the last 150 years we have seen first-hand the opportunities available to us in other European countries having recently built 2 Fish Farm vessels for Scottish Sea farms in the UK which resulted in a big increase in jobs and a huge local spin off for suppliers & subcontractors not to the mention the winning of export work & extra revenue to the State.

In the recent past we have designed and built vessels for both the Mussel & Salmon Farming industries here in Ireland albeit at a very slow pace i.e. 3 boats in 20 years. If we look at our neighbours in the UK & Norway these 2 countries have managed to plan, develop and create a vibrant sector creating local jobs an areas where there are very little job opportunities. Also these developing businesses have created opportunities for local shipbuilding enterprises, engineering companies, local suppliers & are a net contributor to the State coffers

The difficulty with foreshore licencing to commence these businesses is immense and the difficulty of dealing with State Bodies and timescales involved are horrendous. There does not seem to be any one body readily able to deal with this issue and instead the process goes through several Government Bodies resulting in years of bureaucracy and delays. If these rules could be changed or amended the opportunities available to these companies could be fantastic not only in manufacturing but also in tourist related activities with tours etc.

Bis Permetiri Secare Semel

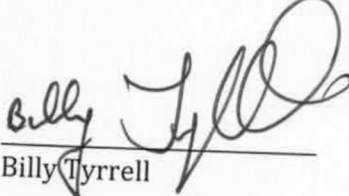
We have recently won an order for a small 17.5m Fish Farm vessel from Marine Harvest from Fanad in Co. Donegal (currently under construction at our yard here in Arklow) which will enhance their business, increase their production & result in further employment in their operations around the coasts of Ireland and in badly needed rural areas. This is the first home won contract in the last 5 years as our main market is the UK & Europe. With changes to legislation, a commitment from State employees to engage with the real world and a commitment for Government to develop this industry the job opportunities in this sector, the renewable sector & other areas of the ocean are immense.

We hope & pray that the nettle is grasped and at long last somebody in Government wakes up to the scope that the Marine World can offer our Island Nation and stop paying out to areas who have been beneficial receivers but with little gain back.

We hope that the foregoing will be considered as part of the review and if you have any further questions or require any further information feel free to contact us.

All the best.

Yours faithfully
For and on behalf of
Arklow Marine Services


Billy Tyrrell