

Date: 06.02.2017

Ref: Independent review of Aquaculture Licencing Process

Dear Licence Review Committee Members,

My Name is Brideen McKenzie, I live in Co. Donegal, I work for Marine Harvest Ireland and have done so for the last 5 months. I am located in their headquarters in Fanad Co Donegal and I am employed as a Receptionist.

I am delighted that you are in the process of reviewing the current aquaculture licencing system because to my mind it is not working as we are currently unable to supply our customers with product and our employees are in a lay off situation for over two months

We shipped our final order to our customers on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will not recommence supply until March 2017. As you can imagine any break in supply is difficult for our customers to deal with but this extended closure of over 10 weeks makes it near to impossible to continue to choose Irish Organic salmon as a core product. The lack of continued supply has a negative effect in our customer service and a negative effect to our customers business. Customer's growth is being inhabited by lack of supply and it is inevitable that customers will look to other products to replace Irish Salmon if this situation continues , they require a product which is available fifty two weeks of the year and able to enable their growth.

If our company had more sites then we would be able to provide more volumes to our customers and supply for longer periods throughout the year. The provision of new sites would also mean continued work in our business unit, we are located in a rural area and salmon farming has supported out area for the past 38 years, this is an invaluable resource for our local community.

During the recession it was widely reported that exports would strongly help the Irish economy. Marine Harvest currently export up to 85% of their stock. With more licences the value of these exports will increase.

70% of the Planet is covered in water but only 2% of the world's food comes from the sea. As a country we are under utilising our oceans wealth to produce healthy and sustainable food source. We need our aquaculture licensing to be sound efficient and effective.

Sincerely

*B. McKenzie*

