



6th February 2017

To whom it may concern:

Re: Aquaculture Consultation

Thank you for carrying out this review of the present licensing process, or lack thereof. As the manager of a seafood plant in North Mayo, employing seventy staff, I would like to point out the following problem we have regarding the future of this company:

A lack of continuous supply of Irish organic and conventional salmon has resulted in us being unable to commit to regular requests from European retailers. Despite our willingness and plenty of capacity, the lack of raw material to meet these contracts has forced us to let staff go and implement a three day working week. We supply almost all retailers in Ireland including discounters, who have on several occasions requested our products to be tendered to their European counterparts. If we had the raw material to tender for these contracts I can confidently say that we could employ up to one hundred people in full time positions in Killala.

As a person coming from a fishing family, an angler and a seafood processor, my only request is that you put in an efficient process that is timely, fair to all, with clear guidelines and a structure to which people are held accountable. If there is any chance of achieving food wise 2025 targets, this licensing process must be fixed once and for all.

With regard to best practice, please take the time to look at the Faroe Islands salmon industry. I firmly believe that the Faroese success story reflects the possibilities for Ireland of a sustainable, environmentally friendly industry that ensures the continued viability of these remote coastal communities.

Wishing you the best of luck in this endeavour.

Kind Regards

Declan Power
General Manager