



Clare Island Community Co-op Ltd.

Clare Island, County Mayo.

www.clareisland.ie

Wednesday, 08 February 2017

Public Consultation on Aquaculture Review

The development office has received notification from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine that it is to conduct an *Independent Review of the Aquaculture Licensing Process and associated Legal Framework*.

The board makes the following observation on behalf of the island community:

Submission by Clare Island Community Co-operative Society Ltd.

As the representative community organisation on Clare Island, Co. Mayo, we support the objectives of the review, particularly the aim as outlined in Objective (1.) of the review, namely to: "deliver licence determinations in a timely manner, having regard to international best practice and applicable EU and national law."

We are also strongly in favour of Objective (3.), namely to "facilitate enhanced transparency in the licensing process for all stakeholders". We believe this will enhance the ability of community stakeholders and organisations such as our own to participate more fully, fairly and openly in critical decisions affecting coastal communities.

Our community has had a 30 year experience with a small scale locally based aquaculture industry, which has provided important year-round jobs.

With that in mind, we encourage any changes to the aquaculture licence process and its associated legal framework that will facilitate an easier administrative/regulatory process for operators seeking to establish similar job-creating initiatives in coastal areas, while ensuring that all environmental rules and standards are strictly adhered to.