

[REDACTED]

From: FINIAN O' SULLIVAN. [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 January 2017 10:02
To: aquaculturereview
Subject: FW: Aquaculture Consultation.

From: FINIAN O' SULLIVAN. [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2017 22:13
To: 'mailto:aquaculturereview@agriculture.gov.ie'
Subject: FW: Aquaculture Consultation.

From: FINIAN O' SULLIVAN. [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2017 22:02
To: 'mailto:aquaculturereview@agriculture.gov.ie'
Cc: 'O'Riordan, Brenda'; 'Ian Lawler.'
Subject: Aquaculture Consultation.

A chara,

As part of our ethos is to support the fishery and aquaculture sectors in the sustainable development of coastal fisheries and aquaculture areas **FLAG South** welcomes at last the appointment of an independent Aquaculture Licensing Review Group which was an action point on the seafood sector set out in Food Wise 2025 launched in July 2015.

Whilst the legislative process in applying for an aquaculture licence has been further complicated by Natura 2000 clearly the implementation of the **Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997** as it pertains to aquaculture licences need to be reviewed. The long delays between an application for an aquaculture licence and the granting of same indicates a major logjam in the process. The targets set out in our **National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development** require that this logjam be freed up. The good reputation of Irish seafood combined with the economic importance to coastal regions is a clear indication to support this sector and encourage more production of seafood through aquaculture in peripheral coastal regions.

Setting out a clear timeline between receipt of an application and a decision on same is fundamental to attracting young people in to an industry which has an aging profile. Who would expect any young person showing an interest in getting in to mari-culture as a career to wait for up to 8 years for our cumbersome licencing regime to deliberate on his or her licence application. Every job that can be created either part time or full time in our coastal regions is important in building a critical mass of enterprise in remote rural areas. **FLAG** is one of the tools being used over the next 5 years to help create this critical mass in our coastal communities. The objectives of the **FLAG Strategies** are to promote the economic, environmental and social sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture areas, and to maintain and improve employment prospects in fisheries and aquaculture areas. The implementation of **Community Lead Local Development (CLLD)** in fisheries and aquaculture dependent areas is focussed on promoting innovative approaches to create growth and jobs in those areas, mainly by adding value to raw material produced by fishers and aquaculture operators and diversifying the local economy towards new economic activities, in particular those offered by 'blue growth' and the broader maritime sectors.

Thus at a **South FLAG** level we will work to implement a strategy which targets the challenges and find innovative ways to meet the needs of our coastal region. Having identified mechanisms to address the challenges we can adapt measures that allow us to fund activities as specified in the **EMFF**. So we commend you and your group in your efforts to finding a solution to this very real problem of getting an aquaculture licence application processed in a realistic time frame, as the results forthcoming from such a solution will complement the efforts being made by **FLAG** and similar type local community and local government lead initiatives which will dovetail to further improve the quality of life of our rural coastal communities.

Yours Sincerely,
Finian O'Sullivan.Chair FLAG South..

F.L.A.G. South.