



3.2.17

Dear Licence review committee,

I have been working in fish farming since 1982 , starting with Fanad fisheries (now Marine Harvest Ireland) when they put the 1<sup>st</sup> smolts to sea in Mulroy Bay in Co Donegal and have been with the company since.

It has been and still is a great success story in Fanad and surrounding areas, and is great to be part of this company. The expansion year on year from 1982 until mid 1990's was great and the company invested heavily in the necessary equipment to keep expanding then, and employing lots of people from the locality, and all the spin off jobs it created. Unfortunately this all came to a standstill due to licencing issues, and we ended up without enough sites to put all our own produced smolts to sea, and in turn they were sent over to Scotland to on grow and create jobs there ,that are much needed here. We also have to send fry and ova overseas as there is no demand here, and we produce a very high quality fish which other farmers in Scotland and elsewhere continue to want to grow in the many sites available to them. Our Scottish colleagues continue to grow and expand in an industry that is well regulated and controlled.

We are exporting our stock and in turn the many jobs that could be created around our coastal communities.

Marine Harvest Ireland is a fantastic company to work for, putting their employees wellbeing first, eg safety as priority at all times, and work very much in line with all the standards required , leading the blue revolution, and keeping the environment they operate in healthy pristine manner which fish need. Fish will only thrive in a healthy environment, and it is paramount that it is kept like that to have a successful business. Having more licences will ensure the company is able to implement best following practices at all times.

I would ask you to look at trying to resolve the backlog and issue new licences in a timely manner that will keep us in the business here, it would be a terrible shame to see such a good company not being able to keep production at volumes where they can provide work all year to the staff in remote rural locations in Ireland rather than exporting the jobs to other economies.

Marine Harvest has put a lot of jobs and money into the local economy where they operate since 1979 and in turn many Families were able to stay in the areas, build houses send their children through schools and college which would not have been the case without the much needed work.

Regards,

H Mc Ginley.