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Dear chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to wish you well and thank you for taking time to read my submission to your review committee which I will keep brief and to the point.

My company Irelandfish has been engaged with Aquaculture operators in the Northwest and West of Ireland since 1974. From first-hand experience I see that aquaculture is extremely important and is often the only industry in these remote, coastal areas, providing much needed jobs to people and families who would have had no alternative but to leave the area.

I observed your recently published notice to review the aquaculture licensing process and I welcome such a review as operators need to be able to expand their business in order to meet the demand of Irish produced aquaculture products and thus provide more employment. I know that some businesses have applied for new and renewed licences and the progress has been either extremely slow or non-existent.

As a service provider to the industry, my own business would benefit from growth in the aquaculture industry and I encourage the committee to resolve the logjam that has developed in the Irish aquaculture regulatory system.

My main concerns would be in the following regions,

- How other European countries seem to be able to work legislation to their advantage while we bog ourselves down in this same legislation.
- How this legislation is used by our European partners to promote rural communities, industries and small enterprises, while the same legislation here in Ireland is either nonexistent or seems to be used to stall or stunt growth in rural Ireland.

Sincerely,

Hal Dawson

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