

Date: 05.02.17

Ref: Independent Review of Aquaculture Licencing Process

Dear Licence Review Committee Members,

Thank you for taking time to read my submission which I will keep brief and to the point.

My name is Hugh Heraghty and I currently work for Marine Harvest in the Marine Department. I have worked for the company since the year 2000 where I started working in Donegal. Throughout my time working for Marine Harvest I have been given every opportunity to progress and I am now the Operations Manager for the Clew Bay sites of Clare Island Co. Mayo.

I have managed sites in Donegal, Connemara and Mayo, which are all based in rural areas and I have seen first-hand the benefits and the business Marine Harvest has brought to these areas through employment of the local staff and purchases in local businesses.

I am delighted to hear you are in the process of reviewing the current aquaculture licencing system because no licences have been granted in a long time in spite of applications being made annually.

The benefit of new licences would be vast not just for the company but to the surrounding areas in which the sites would be granted. New licences would mean more employment, more fish for export which is more revenue and more continuous work in all areas of salmon farming without layoff periods for some of our staff.

I cannot express enough the importance of getting new licences granted and hope within the next year we will see this coming to pass after many years of trying.

I sincerely hope you read this letter and take into account the opportunities that Marine Harvest has given me and many more and the urgent need we face for more licences.

Sincerely,

 05/02/17

Hugh Heraghty

