



5-1-17

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF AQUACULTURE LICENCING PROCESS

To whom it may concern,
After hearing about the recently announced review of the Irish aquaculture licencing process i felt it my duty to write a submission of my own as my business relies heavily on the local Marine Harvest business in my local area.

As a qualified carpenter and now a local contractor my work over the last number of years has mainly been with marine harvest doing maintenance work etc. This business accounts for

over 90% of my yearly trade and I can say without doubt that if it hadn't of been for this business my business would no longer exist and I may of had to emigrate.

My work in this fishing sector has grown steadily and if this company + other companies in Ireland are granted extra licences it will without doubt increase my work load + other contractors work load which in effect will enable contractors like myself to increase employment which will allow more people from the local areas gain employment + be removed from the dole queues.

This added work will increase spend in the local area along with increased employment. As of now there is very few houses in the Farad area who have no employment by marine harvest. If it wasn't

for this company + the fish sector there would be no employment here in Farad. The majority of new houses cars etc bought in this area is directly from the fish sector but there is potential for serious growth. As of now there a state of the art salmon processing factory in Farad but sadly over the last few years it has to close for a number of months due to lack of fish but for example if there was more Licences granted it would allow this factory + its employees to work all year round and not to have to sign on the Live register.

In this area alone the Marine Harvest Company has invested heavily in youth groups, health drives, sports businesses etc. The local pubs, hotels, shops, filling stations all gain heavily

by marine harvests: employees + guests etc that come to the company on business.

But not only does the marine business increase employment in the area it has a knock on effect on other areas of employment + businesses. For example myself since working in this fish sector i have been able to expand my farm by increasing stock numbers + investing in animal sheds + machinery and this would not have happened had it not been of my employment by Marine Harvest and i am 1 of many who can say this.

Companies like this are the back bone of rural communities all over Ireland which keeps the youth in work + youth in Ireland which in return keeps businesses booming, schools open, which increases

car sales, beef sales, machinery sales, land sales etc, which all in there own way are increasing the return to the Irish Exchequer and if you research the aquaculture sector online etc in other European countries you can easily see how the aquaculture sector is thriving + is boosting the finances of each country which i hope will soon come to Ireland if Licences are granted much more easily to companies with a proven track record of employment + no environmental damage.

To summarise i believe that this review will see the effect the inadequate aquaculture Licencing has on business growth ~~has~~ on businesses like myn + others throughout the country, business such as marine harvest, hotels, transport etc

I am just one example of many who know that if extra licences are granted my business will grow which will increase my employment level + encourage me to spend more in areas such as my farming Enterprise increase purchases of new tools, transport etc.

I hope my views may be of assistance to you + help you come to a positive outcome in your current review

Regards
John J McElwee