

Homestead,
Sandyford Rd,
Dundrum,
Dublin 16.

8th February 2017

Dear Chairperson

The Independent Review of Aquaculture Licensing Process refers.

At Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) we have worked with Marine Harvest Ireland (MHI) since 2013. A non-profit organisation, we work in partnership with industry to encourage young people to remain in education and help them develop the skills they need to succeed in a changing world. (Junior Achievement is a worldwide organisation working with over 10 million young people each year) JAI was established in 1996 and last year we worked with 3,000 volunteers from across 200 sites around the country to facilitate the participation of more than 60,000 students from 550 schools.

Employing 290 people, MHI is the only organisation in the Fanad area that operates at a scale that allows us to secure both the financial and human resources to run our programmes for local students. In the course of our four year partnership 50 MHI volunteers have facilitated educational activities for about 900 students in seven local schools. This equates to at least 500 hours of voluntary activity during business hours to allow these professionals to serve as role models to local young people during the school day.

By delivering our educational programmes at the invitation of the local school leaders, these volunteers promote the value of studying STEM, life skills such as financial literacy and by serving as positive adult role models, inspire and motivate students to see a future for themselves in the world of work.

As such, and while I underline that I have no expertise in the area of aquaculture, I am compelled to make this submission to ask that every possible measure be implemented to minimise the costs associated with securing licences thus enhancing the business environment for MHI. The support of MHI for our efforts in complementing the work of teachers and families to promote the value of education and the viability of a future career in the locality is highly-valued and would be impossible to replace. (Other local companies, which had supported us, no longer exist due to the economic downturn so we are extremely grateful to MHI for their continuing partnership.)

Thank you for taking the time to review this submission and I wish you every success in your endeavours.

Yours faithfully



Dr Helen Raftery
CEO