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Dear Deirdre,

I observed your recently published notice to review the aquaculture licencing process and I welcome such a review. Living and working from a coastal community, the dependency of the fishing industry is critical to maintaining these coastal communities economic stability. The aquaculture industry over the past decade has created jobs both directly and indirectly.

Our company **KER Group** established in 1995, has been engaged with Aquaculture operators in the Northwest and West of Ireland since 1999. Our turnover and jobs sustainability over the past few years has depended largely on the Aquaculture industry.

I know that some operators 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 business would benefit too as if the industry grows then so too does my business.

With Food Wise 2025 in mind, Ireland can and will become a world leader in efficient and environmentally-friendly production of Aquaculture products, this can only happen if the process is efficient from the application of a license to the processing of the harvest, the operators are continually investing in new efficient and enhanced ways of production to deliver a higher quality product. They then must receive the support of the authorities in order to receive decisions on new or renewed licenses in a timelier manner.

I trust that your review will take into account these points.

Kind regards,

Derek Mc Brearty

MARINE

ENVIRONMENTAL

HOSPITALITY
& RETAIL

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& COMMERCIAL