



Mulroy Hoops Basketball Club
Ray Community Centre, Ray &
Rossnakill Tourism / Activity Centre, Rossnakill

7th Feb 2017

Dear Chairperson,

It is our understand that you have requested a review of the aquaculture licence process. We would like to take this opportunity to write in support of the aquaculture industry in our local area.

We are the local basketball club situated in the rural disadvantages area of Ray and Fanad in North Donegal. All our coaches and committee participate in a voluntary capacity in both training and travelling to competitions. We came together over 7 years ago to form the club and we are delighted that the club has grown in numbers and ability since the early days.

In the early days, growing a club was difficult and we approached our local company – Marine Harvest Ireland (MHI), who is the largest employer in the Fanad area for support. We were delighted to receive monetary support from the club back in 2011.

Once again, in 2016, we found ourselves at a major crossroads so approached the CSR committee at Marine Harvest Ireland to support an application for a range of new kits. After doing their diligent research, we were delighted when MHI supported us fully for the sponsorship we required and we were able to expand our kits range considerably and have room for continued expansion of the club. We are quite proud of our club and are extremely grateful for the sponsorship received.

However, we are aware of the drain on local small business of sponsorship and we do appreciate that being the biggest employer in this rural area, MHI are constantly approached from all types of clubs and societies for support and sponsorship. They seriously consider all requests and as a result, the local 7 national schools and numerous sports clubs have been successful in obtaining sponsorship and keeping their clubs feasible.

We understand that the aquaculture area is relative new in comparison to other countries and that the current licensing regime is somewhat strained. What we do not understand is the reason why it takes years for the licensing process to proceed. Perhaps it is time now to look at the reasons behind the lack of progress in the industry and to find an efficient method of progressing. This progression will not only solidify the current investment by companies like Marine Harvest Ireland in our rural disadvantages areas, but also give them and other like-minded business people the opportunities to develop new businesses, new ideas, new products.

This is a good step - the first step in moving the aquaculture industry forward. Please use it well and make it work to the benefit of all our rural communities.

Sincerely,

Brian McGarvey
Chairperson
Mulroy Hoops Basketball Club
Ray Community Centre,
Milford,
Co. Donegal

