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Licensed Work and Passenger Vessels. H.S.E. Professional Diving Services, Qualified Marine Operators for Salvage, Survey, Mooring Installation and Maintenance. General Support Service for Aquaculture, Private and Semi-State Organisations.

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01/02/17

Ref. Independent Review of Aquaculture Licencing Process

Public Consultation

Submission from Diving/Marine Services Subcontractor to Marine Harvest Ireland

To secretary to independent review group Deirdre Morgan

Introduction

Since 1987 a salmon farm was started at Clare Island Clew Bay producing superior quality fish from a very tough environment. The reputation for the quality of 'Clare Island farmed Salmon' was formed and endures to this day.

Over the years, the site at Clare Island, because of its very exposed location and strong ocean currents, has required the most challenging technology, skills, and practises employed by a local workforce in order to maintain such a site.

Since Marine Harvest Ireland took over the site over 17 years ago the correct level of investment and methods of operation were introduced by this company. MHI have the most experience in salmon farming along the west of Ireland, and because of this, salmon farming in Clew Bay continues to be a major success, providing valuable work locally.

My Story

From my point of view, I have been a diver at Clare Island from the start. I have experienced many situations, gained a lot of knowledge on methods that work, and methods that fail. I enhanced my training with the company (MHI) over the years and now I work continuously within a team of very capable and experienced marine operators. The various skills required to run a salmon farm are very specialised. These skills are transferable to other sites, allowing best practices and safety to prevail wherever a new site is developed. The experience, knowledge, and skills developed over the years has also allowed me to start a subsidiary marine services company (Clew Bay Marine Services). This service which employs 3-4 marine operators also provides required skills and services to a wider range of marine investors along the west of Ireland. County Councils, ESB, leisure organisations, island developers etc. We have invested in Irish made licenced workboats, training in order to provide a unique marine service directly as a result of skills obtained from the salmon farming industry and specifically from the work provided by MHI.

In order for the salmon farming industry to continue to exist and thrive, new sites along the west of Ireland are needed in order to maximise the environmental conditions that salmon farming requires.

Further investment by all concerned is assured as long as there is certainty of continuity in this industry.

Therefore I as a subcontractor who developed a successful side business, support the positive review of the licencing system.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Mac Donagh (representing families of 4)

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