

Philip O'Sullivan



Co. Senegal

Independent Review of Aquaculture Licensing Process

To whom it concerns

I have worked in the aquaculture industry for 32 years having originally trained in Letterkenny. On the back of my hard work I have raised and educated 3 children - two boys, Ullay and my daughter Ornath without any state aid what so ever. Sustainable jobs in rural communities are required to keep our townlands alive.

I as an Irishman and a European expect the same level playing field as my European neighbours i.e. a proper functioning progressive transparent Licensing Process.

If you take the force Islands - 5 times the size of Achill Island with the population of Fermanagh producing 70,000 tonnes of Salmon this represents double the income of the Cod Industry which has had a revival in the North Atlantic - It is their main source of income from a regulated industry which operates in harmony with the fishing industry.

In 2015 approx 13,100 tonnes of farmed Salmon was produced in this country equivalent to 27,000 cattle of 485 kg slaughter Weight.

The value of these cattle would have been at approx 145 million euro at the average price in 2015. The high end Salmon value was 90 million. These are not Donald Trump facts but gleaned from both Dept Web sites and reputable sources.

With proper Licensing comes critical mass which in turn ensures upgrading of both environmental and production technologies.

It's very simple Ladies and Gentlemen each farmer needs to be able to rest a sea site the same as on land to ensure best environmental practice - It's common sense.

Everyone on this panel has the opportunity to help develop a sustainable industry for our coastal communities despite the nay sayers. The Public at large have already voted with their euro's to buy farmed fish in their millions as they see it as a healthy nutritious product. With Global demand for protein say the increase and with the Food Conversion rate of 1:1 - 1 kg in farmed Salmon being at the pinnacle of efficiency, it begs the question as to why it has taken so long to put an effective Process in Place.

The wild Atlantic way has been a wonderful achievement to all concerned but if there is no one to have the cric with why would the same Central Government want to do us any favours so we have to do it ourselves with the help of a proper Aquaculture Licensing Process.

Maele Mear Philip O'Sannell