



7th February 2017

Dear Chairperson,

By way of introduction, my name is Anthony Creswell and I am owner of Ummera Smoked Products located in Timoleague in Co Cork. We currently employ 5 people and our company has an annual turnover of €420,000.

We are currently facing a very real challenge as the cost to us of organic salmon grown in Ireland has been increased by 26.5% this year. Whilst a significant factor in this increase has been costs relating to environmental controls in the production of salmon, the other factor is the shortage of supply of salmon which has been created by the inability of the salmon growers to get more licences to meet the demand.

This means that there is a large amount of salmon on the Irish retail market that is imported which could, and should, be supplied by locally produced salmon.

It surprises me that an island nation such as ours would have to import salmon from other countries and continents with the loss to the Irish economy and the ability of my business and that of the Aquaculture sector to provide local jobs for local people.

It seems to me that we are missing an open goal in terms of the opportunity to produce a niche product in our own country for which the market is prepared to pay a premium. Why is this the case? Why is it so difficult to obtain a licence in Ireland? Is it a resources issue? Is it a mind-set? Why are we paying lip-service to supporting a sector which we would appear to be working against?

I would therefore implore your committee to examine and resolve whatever logjam has developed in the Irish aquaculture regulatory system.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Creswell', written in a cursive style.

Anthony Creswell

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