



# Whitestrand United Football Club

Drumhallagh Lower, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal

10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Independent Review of Aquaculture Licencing,  
C/o Deirdre Morgan,  
Dept. of Aquaculture Food and the Marine Natural Seafood Centre,  
Clonakilty,  
Co. Cork.

Anney,  
Rathmullan,  
Co. Donegal

## **RE: Independent Review of the Irish Aquaculture Licencing Process**

Dear Ms. Moylan,

Whitestrand Utd Football Club, established in 1982, is situated approximately 6 kilometres North of the town of Rathmullan on the R268 Regional Road. The club currently plays in the CT Ball Division 2 of the Donegal Junior Soccer, Sunday League. The club's grounds, known as Mc Garvey Park, situated on the banks of Lough Swilly, on the route of the Wild Atlantic Way, provides an important sport and recreational facility for the disadvantaged rural area, including St. Garvan's National School which is less than 2km away.

As with any voluntary organisation, the club has to raise a significant sum of money annually to cover our running costs for the year. As chairperson of the club, with approximately 40 members, I can confirm that this proves to be quite a challenge in our small rural community. However, our task has been made a great deal easier in recent times due to the support and sponsorship of Marine Harvest Ireland. With a workforce of approximately 200 employees in the area, we acknowledge that Marine Harvest Ireland supports numerous community, sporting and voluntary organisations and realise that we are extremely fortunate to be one of those groups, having benefited from an allocation of funding over the past 4 years.

We are conscious that we can only avail of sponsorship from businesses like Marine Harvest Ireland when they are in a position to build a sustainable business entity in the community. Regrettably, many local companies, which had supported us, no longer are in business due to the economic downturn so we are extremely grateful to Marine Harvest Ireland for their generous sponsorship year after year.

We wish to express our support for your review and for the future development of aquaculture in Ireland, particularly in this area of North West Donegal. I have little expertise in the area of aquaculture but am aware of the ongoing review and of the massive difficulties in the current licencing process. I understand that it can take a considerable period of time to acquire a licence in Ireland when compared to countries like in Scotland and Norway, where the aquaculture industries continue to grow and blossom.

**Please reply to : The Chairman, Whitestrand United Football Club,  
Anney, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal.**

Aquaculture is an important industry in our local area and several members of our club are either employees or the children of employees working in the aquaculture sector.  
On behalf of Whitestrand United Football Club, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to you to further develop and grow the Irish aquaculture industry.

Yours sincerely

*James Kelly*

James Kelly  
Chairman  
Whitestrand United Football Club  
Tel. (087) 2236923

**Please reply to : The Chairman, Whitestrand United Football Club,  
Anney, Rathmullan, Co. Donegal.**