

## **Independent Review of Aquaculture Licencing Process**

My name is Liam Doherty. I have worked in the Aquaculture Industry for 28 years. This industry has given me the choice to remain Living in Ireland and allowed me to bring up my Family as Irish. I know a lot of People has to emigrate against their wishes because of the lack of work in Ireland. We all have the chance to improve this now and give a lot of people the chance to stay in Ireland

Ireland has great potential to increase it aquaculture industry safely and environmentally friendly

We have the Technology , Experience's and people to do this work

**Aquaculture has been regressing instead of Progressing over the last 20 years. This industry has massive potential if organised and supported properly as it should be.**

### **The Situation**

- Back log of over 600 Aquaculture Licence Applications, not moving
- More Licence applications awaiting decision now than in 2011

### **Potential**

- Up to 2000 jobs from Aquaculture Production and Processing Product
- Additional half a Billion in export revenue
- Copper fasten the Irish Organic in the world Market

### **Issues that are holding up Progress**

- No focus on processing licence application
- Too busy trying to penalise genuine operators when the problem are created by the non-activity in Licencing
- Public and private Investment of ??? million has been lost in the past five years due to delays in producing licences, badly needed investment that would support Rural communities
- This complete lack of any progress in Licencing has turned away very interested foreign investors in the Irish Aquaculture while Irish Individuals are just giving up

### **Suggestion to help improve the situation**

- Only one Office should have control over Processing Aquaculture Licences not several Departments and Bodies as is now the case.
- Set up an Aquaculture Licencing section in the Office of the new Department of Rural development
- Employ experts to Administer Aquaculture licence Applications in an appropriate time frame with guidance from the Marine Institute and BIM

### **Facts**

- Departments have failed to make progress in Licencing .
- All licences are out dated to new Technology , Equipment and best Environment practice
- No sanction on Departments or Agencies for non-performance on Licencing
- Talented people with skills and Knowledge are leaving the industry with frustration at the lack of progress

Yours Sincerely

*Liam Doherty*

*6-2-2017*

**Liam Doherty**