

Cork County Council Submission to the Independent Aquaculture Licencing Review Group

Cork County Council welcomes the opportunity to make a late submission to the Independent Aquaculture Licencing Review Group.

Cork County Council acknowledges & supports the comprehensive submission which has already been made by the County & City Managers Association.

Please see below Cork County Council's comments/observations in respect of the following four areas:

1. Delivering licence determinations in a timely manner, having regard to international best practice
2. Supporting achievement of the actions and priorities of Food Wise 2025 and the National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development
3. Facilitating enhanced transparency in the licensing process for all stakeholders
4. Ensuring legally robust licence determinations having regard to EU and national law

1. Delivering licence determinations in a timely manner, having regard to international best practice;

- Introduce statutory timelines for processing of licence applications similar to those which currently apply to Planning Applications or IPPC licence applications. This will give certainty to all stakeholders as to the timescale involved in determining a licence application.
- Include the public in the licence deliberation process at the time of initial licence application by requiring the applicant to publish press notices & install site notices at the time the initial application is made. The public are not included in the deliberation process until much later in the current system.
- Include Irish Water as a statutory Consultative Body in any revised licencing process. At present the Local Authority has to refer aquaculture licence applications to Irish Water for comment.
- Introduce an online licence application system which will assist in making all documentation more easily available to the relevant stakeholders during the licence determination process.

2. Supporting achievement of the actions and priorities of Food Wise 2025 and the National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development;

No further comments.

3. Facilitating enhanced transparency in the licensing process for all stakeholders.

The proposals under item 1 above will assist in making the licencing process more transparent for all stakeholders.

4. Ensuring legally robust license determinations having regard to EU and national Law.

No further comments.

Louis Duffy,
Director of Environmental Services.

17/2/2017