



LYNCH'S ON THE PIER,  
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To whom it may concern,

My name is Darren Lynch and I own a restaurant in Castletownbere.

I also spent 15 years in the salmon farming business managing and diving on various sites in the southwest.

I was involved in various licensing applications and have also experience of the minefield that was and is currently the situation in acquiring an Aquaculture licence.

Most of what happens in the region revolves around the sea whether it is aquaculture, commercial fishing or processing. There are many aspects to the promotion of Aquaculture in the area:

- The employment provided from aquaculture makes it a very important part of the story on the Beara peninsula.
- Creating a career path whether it is through husbandry or diving with some of the courses provide locally in the BIM centre
- With regard to Salmon farming the creation of more sites spreads the risk of overstocking and allows for implementation of best practice and regular fallowing of sites.
- It becomes part of the fabric of the community apart from direct employment .The money generated in the area stays in the area and it impacts everything from local businesses, schools, hospitality, transport etc.
- The aquaculture industry is thriving in other European countries and should be a far bigger industry than it currently is in this country.

I believe that with the streamlining of Aquaculture licences it would help the industry to grow properly and organically. The licensing process is not any further advanced than it was 20 years ago and seriously needs to be updated. This needs to be a fair process to all parties involved so as to streamline the process in a timely fashion.

Regards,

*Darren Lynch*

**Lynch's on the Pier**