



7/02/2017

To the Independent Review Group,

I note with much interest the Minister for the Marine has (finally) appointed an Independent Review Group to look at the increasingly frustrating area of Aquaculture Licensing.

A native of Fanad in Co Donegal, I have worked in Marine Harvest Ireland for almost 30 years. Donegal has rightly been named amongst the coolest places on the planet, and Fanad Head Lighthouse is one of the iconic & most photographed locations on the Wild Atlantic Way but sadly, over the past 30 years I have seen the decimation & depopulation of the whole of west Donegal. Fanad was given a huge boost in 1979 when Fanad Fisheries began operating a salmon farm here. Over the years & several name changes later, it has become a major employer in Donegal with significant sites also in Mayo, Cork & Kerry. The value of Marine Harvest's investment in this area cannot be imagined as it goes well beyond the actual workforce & associated contractor services and has become part of the fabric of the parish, actively supporting many community, sporting & voluntary organisations.

In order to maximise efficiency & best practice in the industry Marine Harvest have applied for new licenses & for the renewal of existing licenses over the last decade. As in all farming, planning for the future is vital for a successful aquaculture industry and Marine Harvest are anxious to be allowed to take on the many challenges ahead. The staff & wider community of Fanad are not asking for hand-outs, we are asking to be allowed to get on with what we have always done, carving out a livelihood. I would urge the Review Group to take on board the changes required & to recommend the speedy resolution of the current stalemate.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maire Callaghan".

Maire Callaghan

