

**AP2/7/2015**

**MESSRS  
HARRINGTON/O'SULLIVAN/  
MURPHY/FORKER**

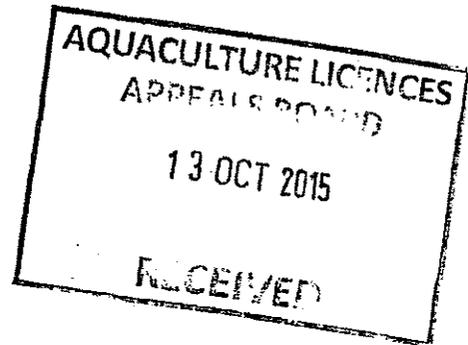
**APPEAL**



**NOTICE OF APPEAL UNDER SECTION 40(1) OF  
FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT 1997 (NO. 23)**

Name and address of appellant:

**Chris Harrington  
Chair  
Glengarriff Tourist Development Association  
Glengarriff  
Co. Cork.  
Mob: [REDACTED]**



**Yvonne O'Sullivan  
Harbour Queen Ferries  
Glengarriff Pier  
Glengarriff  
Co Cork.  
Mob: [REDACTED]**

**Peter Murphy  
Blue Pool Ferries  
Glengarriff  
Co. Cork. 66013218  
Mob: [REDACTED]**

**Chris Forker  
Carbery Sailing  
Ahakista  
Durrus  
Co.Cork  
Ireland  
Tel: +353 27 29101  
Mob: +353 [REDACTED]  
Email: chris.forker@carberysailing.com**

Subject matter of the appeal:

**Decision to grant a salmon farm licence at Shot Head Bantry Bay. Copy of public notice:**

**FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1997 (NO. 23) & FORESHORE ACT, 1933 (NO. 12)  
NOTICE OF DECISION TO GRANT AQUACULTURE AND FORESHORE LICENCES.  
The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has decided to grant an Aquaculture  
Licence and a Foreshore Licence to, Bradán Fanad Teo t/a Marine Harvest Ireland,  
KINDRUM, FANAD, LETTERKENNY, CO. DONEGAL, REF: T5/555 for the cultivation  
of Atlantic Salmon; Salmo Salar on a site on the foreshore at SHOT HEAD, BANTRY**



**BAY, CO. CORK.** The reasons for this decision are elaborated on the Department's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing/aquaculturelicencedecisions/cork/> An appeal against the Aquaculture Licence decision may be made in writing, in accordance with Section 40 & Section 41 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act within one month of date of publication, to **THE AQUACULTURE LICENCES APPEALS BOARD** Kilminchy Court, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, by completing the Notice of Appeal Application Form available from the Board, phone (057) 8631912, e-mail at [info@alab.ie](mailto:info@alab.ie) or website [www.alab.ie](http://www.alab.ie) A person may question the validity of the Foreshore Licence determination by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986). Practical information on the review mechanism can be obtained from the Citizens Information Board, Ground Floor, George's Quay House, 43 Townsend Street, Dublin 2. The documentation upon which the Minister determined the application is also available on the Department's website as set out above and may be inspected free of charge at the Department's Offices in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, by contacting the Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division on 023 8859500.

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION** "Determination of Aquaculture/ Foreshore Licensing Application – 42.49 hectares Bradán Fanad Teoranta t/a Marine Harvest Ireland (MHI) has applied for an aquaculture licence for the cultivation of salmon on one site totalling 42.49 hectares at Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork. The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has determined that it is in the public interest to grant an Aquaculture/Foreshore Licence for site numbered T5/555. This determination takes into consideration that the proposed aquaculture will be located in suitable waters, has potential economic benefits, will have no significant ecological effects on wild fisheries, natural habitats, flora and fauna or the environment generally."

An appeal against the decision of the Minister, to grant/refuse an Aquaculture Licence application, may be made in writing within one month of the date of publication of the decision in one or more newspapers circulating in the area to which the decision relates. Details of the appeal should be sent to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB), Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, by completing the Notice of Appeal Application Form available from the Board. Contact details for ALAB are as follows: phone 057 8631912, e-mail [info@alab.ie](mailto:info@alab.ie) or on their website at [www.alab.ie](http://www.alab.ie)

Site Reference Number:-

**T5/555. See above for full notice.**

Appellant's particular interest  
in the outcome of the appeal:

**We request the licence be withdrawn.**



Outline the grounds of appeal (and, if necessary, on additional page(s) give full grounds of the appeal and the reasons, considerations and arguments on which they are based):

**Bantry Bay is already home to two salmon farms, an oil terminal, numerous mussel lines, fish processing plants, a quarry and wind turbines. To add yet another salmon farm to the area is to push the development of the area beyond the limit.**

**Government has clearly realised the value of this remote, wild and beautiful environment. This can be seen in the millions of Euro the government investment behind the recent initiative of the Wild Atlantic Way. For here the government has branded our unique environment in a bid to draw tourists from all corners of the globe.**

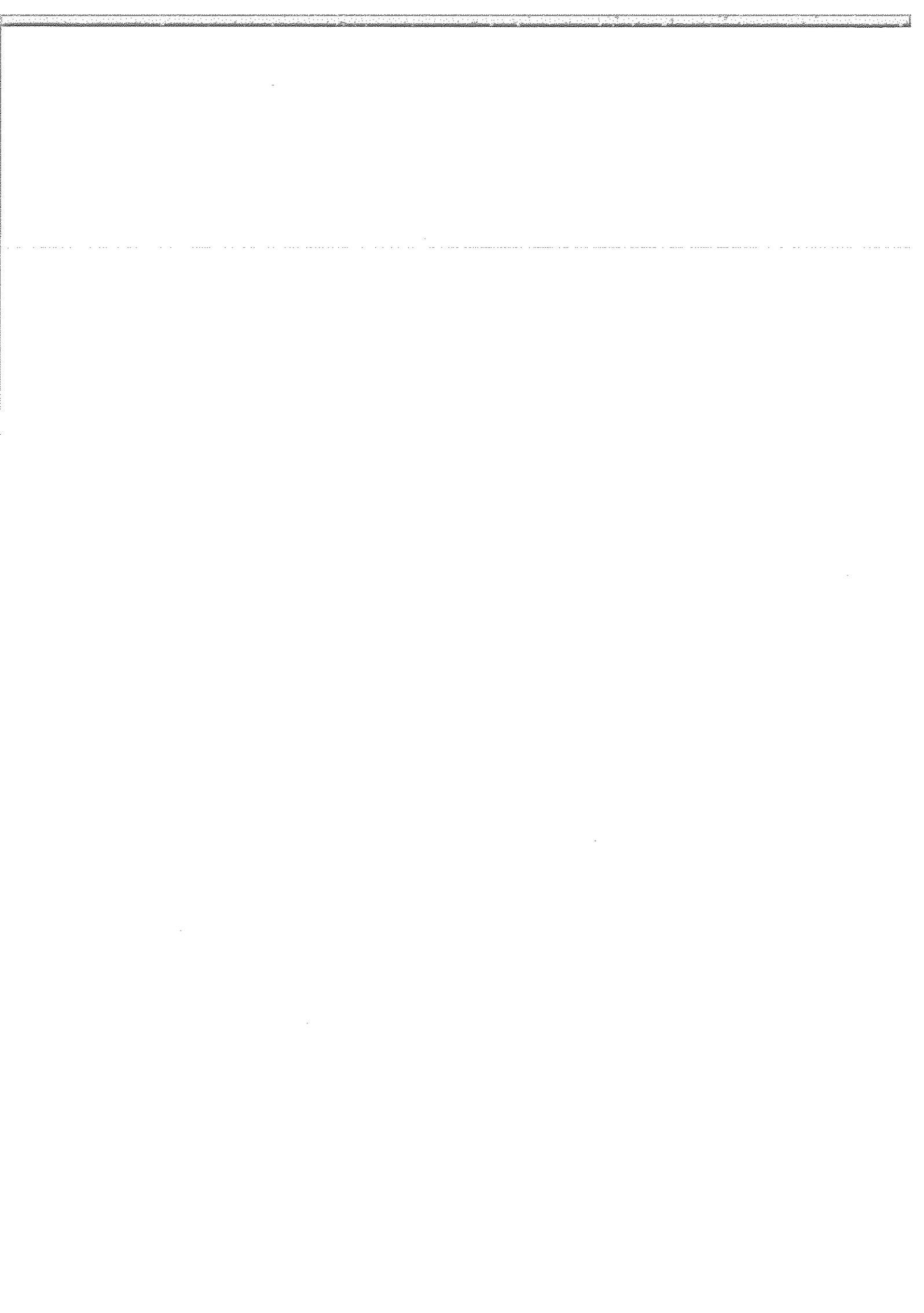
**On the official website visitors are told the Wild Atlantic Way is 'Where land and sea collide. Where untamed beauty abounds. Welcome to unforgettable experiences...'**

**The Wild Atlantic Way has been a great success with numbers of visitors increasing significantly throughout the south and south west. In the Bantry Bay area we have witnessed a dramatic change with many more tourists coming to the area. In particular there's an increase in numbers from Ireland itself with the rise of the 'staycation', as well as from the UK, Continental Europe, the USA and even further afield.**

**We cannot therefore comprehend the decision to grant the licence for a third salmon farm in Bantry Bay. The scale of this farm at 42.5 hectares, with 3,500 tonnes of fish being farmed in up to 14 pens is vast and undermines the very principle of the Wild Atlantic Way initiative. Such industrial sea cage farming of salmon is not what tourists are drawn to.**

**A further €24 million is also to be spent on the redevelopment of Bantry Harbour in the hopes of encouraging more cruise line business. Berths for 150 yachts will be created. Between the cruise ships and yachts, vast numbers of visitors will be drawn to the area, again spending their money in local businesses. Yet, all these visitors will pass directly by the new salmon farm.**

**In the consultation exercises, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) no solid evidence is site to back the claims made that this salmon farm will not impact upon tourism. Some analysis is made of land based viewpoints from which the salmon farm can be seen, but no analysis is given the sea based vantage points from which it can be seen. This is wholly inadequate given the vast investment in sea based tourism being planned for the area. Indeed, why would tourists come to an increasingly industrialised bay? This is not what brings them to this area.**



The EIA goes on to make assumptions about the impact of the salmon farm on the local tourism economy, and the recommendation to Minister Coveney to approve the licence does the same. However none of these claims are based on research to determine how the tourists will really respond. In fact it seems no research has actually been completed in the area at all, and these claims have no basis.

We have therefore approached a number of people we know to have recently stayed in the area. These are the responses we received:

"I am shocked by the news that a license to build another salmon farm in Bantry Bay has just been granted by the authorities. As a regular visitor to the area, I fail to understand how anyone could sacrifice even the smallest portion of the genuine and remote natural beauty of the bay to this or any other type of big industry, destroying at the very same time the "green" touristic appeal of the area that has so far formed the basis and the reason for all our visits there. Such a shame, and I so hate to think of the consequences for the many local businesses who rely on tourism for their income!" Peter Rombaut, Poststraat 98, 9160 Lokeren, Belgium. Email [REDACTED]

"We visited the area in summer 2010 for a friend's wedding. Having family links to Cork, she chose it for her wedding to show everyone the stunning countryside and beautiful coastline. We stayed on for a family holiday in Bantry Bay and were taken aback by the hedgerows full of flowers and the rural idyll of the cottage by the sea we stayed in. It is such an area of natural beauty with a way of life almost unknown in England. It is such a shame to think of this natural heritage being destroyed by commerce." Emma Allen, [REDACTED]

"I've just heard that the license for another salmon farm in Bantry Bay has been granted. What a shame! I frequently visit the area and I'm still surprised by its remote beauty every time. I'm a big fan of the Beara Peninsula and Bantry Bay and was fondly spreading the word about the natural beauty of the area here in Belgium. Such a pity that this sad news now comes to spoil my enthusiasm. I'll have to think twice now before recommending the region to my friends and relatives, as this type of industry will definitely destroy the balance and tourist appeal of the area." Danny Matthyssen, [REDACTED]

"Cannot believe permission has been granted for a salmon fish farm in this beautiful spot. It can only harm the indigenous wildlife and marine environment and will probably impact on the area's economy as tourism will be affected." Kate Partridge, [REDACTED]

"The news has reached me that the license for another salmon farm in Bantry Bay has been granted. As a visitor to the area, I was always very excited about the natural beauty of the bay. Imagine what the industry will do to it, destroying the touristic appeal and unspoiled remote beauty of the region. Now, I'll have to consider going to other destinations to enjoy



the beauty of nature. Such a pity!" Ingrid Waegeman, Dendermondse Steenweg 54, 3000 Gramme, Belgium. (Email) [ingrid.waegeman@skynet.be](mailto:ingrid.waegeman@skynet.be)

"How many more times does natural beauty have to suffer defeat against big money? Today, more than ever, everybody is convinced that we need to respect and protect the nature that is still left to us. Humans need the peace and quiet of nature to survive the hectic lives they're forced to lead by the pursuit of wealth and money. This is also the main reason why I adore coming to Bantry Bay and the surrounding region. But like so often, when hidden agendas and money come into play, the consequences of decisions taken by some people can be so extreme that they end up destroying natural beauty, the ways of living of others, and the delicate balance so important to making life beautiful and worth living. I cannot express how appalled and disenchanted I am by this decision and by the fact I will now have to find my peace and quiet elsewhere." Nicole Gijssels, Meloustraat 54, 3000 Gramme, Belgium. (Email) [n.gijssels@telenor.be](mailto:n.gijssels@telenor.be)

"I am most upset to hear about the proposed development of a fish farm at The Wild Atlantic Way. I was lucky enough to holiday there last summer and words cannot express how wonderful a place it is. It is totally unspoiled, and is a location that should be treasured for this reason. A development of the kind proposed would have a devastating impact on the wild and natural beauty of the place, and upon the indigenous wildlife. It would remove all that makes the place so valuable to the region in terms of the tourist industry. It would be a terrible thing for this development to be passed."

Sian Shaw, [sian@shawfamily.com](mailto:sian@shawfamily.com), Tel: +44 (0) 500 016 744

"More than ever we talk about 'saving the planet' and yet we still do not hear or listen. Building this salmon factory in Bantry Bay will mean that once again a beautiful piece of nature will be disgraced. And it is just that beautiful and unspoiled nature that brings me to places like Bantry Bay, where I won't be going back to if that salmon farm is built there. It brings tears to my eyes." Christine Marchand, [christine.marchand@telenor.be](mailto:christine.marchand@telenor.be), 2100 Honoret, Belgium.

"We visited Adrigole in May 2015, and stayed in a beautiful holiday cottage overlooking Bantry Bay. We are shocked to learn a vast salmon farm has been approved, and will be sited in this stunning environment. Surely this contradicts the concept of the 'Wild Atlantic Way', one of Ireland's key tourist attractions?" Craig Lancaster, [craig@lancaster.com](mailto:craig@lancaster.com), (0) 87537 434150

"I have travelled from my home in London to visit the profoundly beautiful wilderness of the Adrigole area of Bantry Bay several times over the years. It is somewhere unique and was wholly unspoilt. It was with great shock and extreme disappointment that I learned that the proposed industrial scale salmon farm has been approved, over the objections of the community and despite the environmental impacts and knock-on effect on local businesses. I question whether I will ever bring my tourist 'dollars' to the area if it does go ahead." Chris Grieve T: +44 (0) 20 9202 5222, [chris@midlandairline.com](mailto:chris@midlandairline.com)

"I can't believe that short sighted authorities have granted permission for this kind of industrial fishing development in beautiful Bantry bay. It is specifically the natural



wilderness of the area which brought me to Adrigole in the first place. I have enjoyed wild swimming, fishing and watching the seals and bird life, not to mention the locally caught seafood and crab, all of which is now under threat from this development. It happens all too often that the financial value of this type of tourism for an area is massively underestimated. It is complicated to calculate the exact benefit, whereas it can be very easy for commercial developers to 'massage up' the forecast for the profits and the costs of the inevitable pollution. The truth is only clear once the environment is ruined and the visitors gone elsewhere. Don't let stunning Bantry Bay be added to this list of places, it would be a terrible shame." Rachel Lewsley, London, [REDACTED]

"Damn, this just makes me so angry. May the wrath of every next generation fall upon those responsible for licensing this new salmon farm in Bantry Bay. It will mean the tarnishing of yet another piece of unspoiled natural beauty and the devastation of my favourite holiday destination. Will we never learn?" Daniel De Wilde, [REDACTED] Zelzate, Belgium. [REDACTED]

"As a holiday maker to the region, I am saddened to see that so much area has been given over to a Salmon farm. The effects this will have on the stunning surrounds can only be negative. The rural, remote and unspoilt nature of the region is precious and rare. Any remaining environments we have left of this quality and beauty in the world need to be preserved with more determination and vigour than ever before. I very much doubt the financial impact on the community can ever balance the great loss it will cause in reduction of tourism and appeal of the area. It will be a great loss to a great many (and the environment) and a gain (financially) to just a few." Felicity Morrogh, [REDACTED]

**On top of this there are the wider environmental impacts.**

**The first is the potential devastation of wild salmon and sea trout stocks. There are numerous research studies highlighting the issue of sea lice and the impact on salmon and sea trout populations. If this salmon farm goes ahead, we will see already fragile populations of local wild salmon die out. The result will be angling tourists go elsewhere**

**The second is the impact on sea fishing, another important tourist attraction in the area. Inland Fisheries Ireland promote two hot spots within metres of the salmon farm: 1. Rinn Beag: Fishing for coalfish, conger, mackerel, dogfish, pollock and ballan wrasse; and 2. Serragh Rock: Fishing for bass, coalfish, cod, dogfish, flounder and whiting.**

**Yet the environmental impact assessment has not adequately considered the impacts of the salmon farm on these species locally. It is well known inshore sheltered areas are often important spawning grounds for such fish species, yet no survey of such spawning grounds has taken place. Many anglers, divers, snorkelers and spear gun fishermen have reported seeing young fish species. These are highly vulnerable to the chemicals contained in the veterinary medicines Marine Harvest are planning to**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**use at their salmon farm. The treatments they list contain dangerous substances that are toxic to many species in the aquatic environment. Should these species be impacted, no longer will sea anglers be drawn to the area either.**

**The water quality too could deteriorate. This in turn will determine a sizeable number of visitors who are drawn because of the marine leisure opportunities such as sea kayaking, dinghy sailing, scuba diving, sea swimming, and simply spending time with the family at the sea side.**

**In light of the above impacts, and reactions of recent visitors we ask the licence be withdrawn.**

Fee enclosed: €152.37

(payable to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board in accordance with the Aquaculture Licensing Appeals (Fees) Regulations, 1998 (S.I. No. 449 of 1998))(See Note 2)

Signed by appellant:

*Chris Harrington*

**Chris Harrington  
Chair  
Glengarriff Tourist Development Association**

*Vincent O'Sullivan*

**O'Sullivan  
Harbour Queen Ferries**

*Peter Murphy*

**Peter Murphy  
Blue Pool Ferries  
Glengarriff**

*Chris Forker*

**Chris Forker  
Carbery Sailing**

**DATE: 9 October 2015**

---