

Leonard, Brona

From: Jack Power [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2019 09:49
To: Alab, Info; Jack Power
Subject: Ballinskelligs submission

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Dear Sir/Madam

Regarding the appeal against the Minister's recent decision on salmon farming at a site east of Deenish Island, Ballinskelligs Bay, Co Kerry, T06/202 held by Silver King Seafoods Ltd I wish to submit the following and encourage you not to restore the licence.

- 1) Restoring the licence in the face of such a flagrant, considered breach of the terms of that licence would undermine the integrity of the licencing process beyond repair. That would set a terrible precedent and encourage those who show no regard for the legally imposed limits designed to protect the environment - and not just in this sector. Restoration of the licence could be used as a defence in a court by an offender in any sphere.
- 2) At a time when environmental responsibility becomes ever more important, as was recognised by the recent climate emergency declaration by our Government, this would be at best hypocritical and at worst reckless. It would fly in the face of ever-growing demands for far better stewardship of shared resources;
- 3) It would sustain an out-dated, destructive process rejected by more and more countries as environmentally unsustainable;
- 4) It would suggest to the offending investors that they need not develop alternatives like on-land or sealed units for salmon farming marking Ireland as an outlier in the urgent move towards sustainable aquaculture;
- 5) And, for me the most emotional reason as I am an angler, I remember what Lough Currane was like before the salmon farm opened. It was truly a national treasure, one we have abused and neglected for far too long. The arrival of the salmon farm and the collapse of Currane's once almost boundless stocks is not, no matter how loudly the salmon farmers protest, coincidental. That situation is echoed from Donegal to the Ballinskelligs. To suggest otherwise is not realistic and a dereliction of our duty to future generations - human and salmonoid. There are many reasons for the salmon population collapse but this is most certainly a major one.

For all of the above reasons - and there are many more which I'm sure you are familiar with - I urge you to reject the appeal. But most of all I urge you to reject it because Ireland can be much better than a gullible, misused host for an international business increasingly seen as a pariah by more and more of our peers.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Jack Power
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