



**ALAB**

An Bord Achomhairc Um  
Cheadúnais Dobharshaothraithe  
Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board

Loch Garman Harbour Mussels Ltd.  
Solicitors: William Fry Solicitors  
2 Grand Canal Square  
Dublin 2  
D02 A342

[REDACTED]

27 March 2025

Our Ref: AP43/2019  
Site Ref: T03/083A

**Re: Appeal against the decision by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to grant (with variations) an Aquaculture Licence to Loch Garman Harbour Mussels Ltd. on site Ref: T03/083A for the bottom cultivation of mussels on a site on the foreshore at Wexford Harbour, Co Wexford.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the Notice of Appeal regarding the above decision of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine received by the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board on 16 October 2019.

Section 49(5) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 provides as follows:

"(5) Where the Board is requested to hold an oral hearing of an appeal and decides to determine the appeal without an oral hearing, it shall serve notice of its decision on the person who requested the hearing, on each other party to the appeal and on each person who, in accordance with section 45, made submissions or observations to the Board in relation to the appeal."

The Board carefully considered the request for an oral hearing in respect of this Appeal and having done so concluded that it would proceed to determine this Appeal without an oral hearing.

The reason for the Board's decision to exercise the absolute discretion conferred on it pursuant to Section 49(1) of the Act and determine not to hold an oral hearing is that, having considered the Minister's file, the Appeal (including all submissions and observations made in respect of the Appeal, and the response to the Notices issued by ALAB) and ALAB's own technical advice, the Board concluded that the identified gaps in the data required to carry out an appropriate assessment could not be addressed by way of an oral hearing.

Yours sincerely

Karl Brogan  
Secretary to the Board

Mr Martin Heydon TD  
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Agriculture House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

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Secretary to the Board

*CC: Brian Batt, Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division*