

Margaret Carton  
Secretary to the Board  
Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board  
Kilminchy Court  
Dublin Road  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois  
R32 DTW5

By email [info@alab.ie](mailto:info@alab.ie)

**Re: Appeals against decisions of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to Aquaculture Licences to bottom cultivate mussels at sites on the foreshore at Wexford Harbour. AP34-48/2019 (546 01.2024)**

Site Refs: T03/030E; T03/035A, B, C, F & G; T03/091A; T03/048A; T03/030A2, T03/030B, T03/030C, T03/030E, T03/030/I, T03/099A; T03/046A, T03/046B, T03/046C; T03/047A, T03/047B, T03/047C, T03/083A, T03/085A; T03/049A, T03/049B, T03/049C, T03/049D, T03/077A; T03/052A, T03/052B; T03/055E

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Ms Carton

We have reviewed your letter of the 01/02/24, subsequent extension to the deadline and the submissions relating to these appeals. Given the longstanding economic and social contribution of the bottom mussel industry in Wexford Harbour and the catastrophic implications of a blanket refusal on the mussel industry, we believe this merits further consideration prior to final decision.

We acknowledge that the decision to hold an oral hearing is at the absolute discretion of the Board. However, in line with the ALAB guidelines on Oral hearings (Rev 17 October 2024) we respectfully suggest that based on the following criteria that an Oral Hearing is both appropriate and founded:

- I. the appeals relate to projects of significant public importance in the Wexford region.
- II. there appears to be conflicting technical information on relevant and significant aspects of the appeal i.e. concerns relating to the adequacy of the management response in relation to bird species.

We trust that you will consider our comments.

Yours Sincerely,



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Caroline Bocquel  
Chief Executive Officer