

Oilean Glas Teoranta

reply to

The Seaweed Prescribed Bodies Observations

The concern regarding the time span of application dating back to 2014 needs clarification as follows.

The details pertaining to the Seaweed Licence application was completed in 2014 resulting from meetings, recommendations, and changes to the content over a 12 month under the instructions of the relevant personal within the foreshore unit in housing. The costs involved for Oilean Glas Teo was substantial, as this was the first commercial licence application relating to *Ascophyllum nodosum*. Since completion of the application the company has worked closely with the regulatory foreshore team, spending further substantial sums of money to research and clarify the issue of Seaweed rights and ownership of same. There is now sufficient information available to protect the seaweed rights of stakeholders within the content of a new licence agreement for Oilean Glas Teo.

Sustainability

The company has been harvesting seaweed since 2005 in the areas specified in the licence application and has gained immense knowledge in relation to best practices for regulating the harvesting activities, while ensuring crop sustainability. As part of the due diligence process relating to the licence application, representatives from the foreshore unit in Housing visited the OGT factory and the foreshore to see for themselves how efficiently the harvesting plans were working. A similar visit was also conducted by a representative from the National Park and Wildlife and both bodies were satisfied with the process and plans in place to protect the sustainability of the crop.

Employment

The area pertaining to the licence application is identified as a disadvantaged area where the creation of any new jobs should be welcome. Locating a factory and carrying on a business in West Donegal is very challenging with poor internet and high transport costs to market are only a few of the challenges. Despite this Oilean Glas Teo has created 40 full time jobs and work for 30 local harvesting contractors. The benefits of this statistic seems to get lost in the substantial body of information required in our licence application.

Conclusion

The Seaweed Industry as it stands needs a regulatory authority to provide licences to entrepreneurial companies and individuals who are currently caught in a time trap of indecision. Licences are provided for the fishing and aquaculture industries and a similar template can be structured to accommodate development in the Seaweed industry.