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From: [redacted] (DCE)
Sent: Wednesday 18 February 2026 13:50
To: DCEF IFD Public Consultations
Subject: FW: [redacted] licence fee letter to Minister Dooley
Attachments: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday 18 February 2026 11:19
To: [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

As promised please find attached signed letter to from licence holders to Minister Timmy Dooley requesting a reduction in the special local draft net licence fee ahead of the 2026 fishing season.

On behalf of [redacted]

Beartas ríomhphoist an Oireachtais agus séanadh. oireachtas.ie/ga/email-policy/
Oireachtas email policy and disclaimer. oireachtas.ie/en/email-policy/
Disclaimer:

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo, agus in aon cheangaltáin leis, faoi rún agus tá sé dírithe ar an bhfaighteoir/na faighteoirí beartaithe amháin agus níor cheart ach dóibh siúd é a úsáid. D'fhéadfadh an t-eolas seo a bheith faoi réir pribhléid dhlíthiúil agus ghairmiúil. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphoist seo, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo, nó aon chuid di, a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh nó a choinneáil. Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo go hearráideach, cuir an seoltóir ar an eolas láithreach agus scríos gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó chóra(i)s do ríomhaire, le do thoil.

71



12th February 2026

By registered post and email to

Re: Follow-up on request to reduce special local draft net licence duty ahead of the 2026 season

Dear ...

We refer to previous correspondence of 16 October 2025 concerning the need to reduce the special local draft net licence duty for the (and Owentocker tidal waters) ahead of the 2026 season.

That letter outlined a number of key points, including the disproportionate increase in the special local licence duty in 2022; the significantly shorter fishing season on ... compared with other draft net fisheries; the financial pressure placed on a small number of licence holders; and the cultural, social and community importance of this traditional, small-scale fishery. It was also noted that a modest reduction in the licence fee would be a practical and proportionate measure to help sustain the fishery while having minimal fiscal impact.

We wish to draw your attention to updated information that further underlines the urgency of this request. Under the draft 2026 tagging regulations, the combined Owenea and Owentocker fishery is projected to have a reduced harvestable surplus of 147 salmon, down significantly from 540 salmon in 2025. This substantial reduction in available surplus will inevitably limit fishing opportunity and potential income for licence holders.

At present, a special local draft net licence is priced at €545, which is €147 more than the cost of an ordinary draft net licence, despite the significantly shorter season and more limited fishing opportunity on the Loughros Mór estuary. In light of the further reduction in available surplus, the current level of licence duty is increasingly difficult to sustain.

We therefore respectfully request that the special local draft net licence fee be reduced before the 2026 season and aligned with the ordinary draft net licence rate, in recognition of the reduced fishing opportunity and shorter season applying on the

We would be grateful if the Department could give this matter careful consideration in advance of finalising arrangements for the 2026 season, and we would welcome the opportunity to provide any further information that may assist.

Yours sincerely,

Licence Holders

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Date: 11 2 2026

Date: 11. 2. 2026

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Signed: [Redacted]

Signed: [Redacted]

Date: 11. 2. 2026

Date: 11-2-26

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[Redacted]

Signed: [Redacted]

Signed: [Redacted]

Date: 11. 2. 26

Date: 12-2-2026