Rob Ware

Secretary, Sleat Community Council

Tigh a Chiobair

Ord

Sleat

Isle of Skye

IV44 8RN

12th June 2013

Grant Cumming

Farm Operations Manager

Grieg Seafood Hjaltland UK Ltd

Gremista

Lerwick, Shetland

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Dear Grant

**Hjaltland Visit to Sleat, Isle of Skye, 21st May**

On behalf of the Sleat Community Council I would like to thank both you and Elizabeth for taking the time to speak with residents at the drop-in session on 21st May outlining your proposals for aquaculture development in Lochs Eishort and Slapin. I am aware that the people who attended the session at Sabhal Mor Ostaig found the session useful, as I am sure others did in both Elgol and Broadford.

As previously advised it was our intention to hold a public meeting on Thursday 23rd May to inform residents of the proposals to which you were invited to attend. The meeting took place that evening and was attended by 32 people, and we took the opportunity to show the presentation sent to us by Elizabeth, hard copies of which had been made available at the drop-in for which we thank you. The meeting was followed by a comprehensive discussion amongst local residents and Members of the Community Council, and from that there were a number of points that the Council was asked to have put to you, to assist people in their better understanding of the proposals for the three farm sites. In no particular order the points raised are shown below:

* ADD: Do these induce deafness in sea mammals and what is the scientific evidence of the effects of these devices?
* What effect will the fish farms have on the local fishermen and will they be blocked out from these sites?
* Will the 8 jobs promised be spread over the three sites and will all these be based in Skye? If you are unsuccessful in gaining Consent for all three applications what revision of jobs created would there be?
* Do you propose to proceed with all three sites if the necessary Consents are granted or do you anticipate a selection process?
* To what extent will there be heavy road traffic on the Tarskavaig road if you propose a shore base there, and what are the proposals for access beyond the public highway?
* Where will the proposed large storage building be located? How will the visual, environmental and ecological impact of the building be mitigated?
* What are the PARAMETER S prospects for tidal dispersal and problems for visible and invisible particulate movements and excess nutrients?
* Will the Company agree to conditions imposed by SEPA and SNH to minimise impacts?
* What impact will SLICE have on fish/mammals and the sea bed and how will you address concerns regarding excess quantities of this chemical on the sea bed? ALSO WHAT ARE THE AZE’S PROPOSED?
* Criticisms were expressed of the previous application by Marine Harvest for the Loch Slapin site and 91 objections were received. How would you respond to these criticisms and objections?
* Commercial fishing interests have strong concerns about the proposals. How does the Company respond to their concerns?
* Is the timescale of June 2014 for start-up still realistic?
* Would the Company look at the possibility of closed containers rather than open cages?
* Concerns were expressed at your Company's absence from the public meeting which was arranged for the purpose of collectively informing the community. The meeting was conducted in a balanced and informative way and it is disappointing that you chose to decline to attend the meeting despite the fact that you were in Skye at the time. How do you respond to this?
* Concerns were expressed about the use of chemicals/copper solutions/antibiotics and the high incidence recently of gill disease in farmed fish. How would you propose to control these AND WHAT MEDICINES WILL BE USED TO CONTROL SEA LICE?
* Fears were expressed about the loss of the local commercial fishery and that any socio-economic benefit from the fish farms would be cancelled out by the loss of these fisheries. How do you respond to these fears?
* How will the sites be accessed?
* The meeting expressed a wish for hard factual information based on scientific research. Are you able to supply answers based on scientific information?
* The view was expressed that according to the Rio Convention and the ‘Precautionary Principle’, nothing should be deposited on the sea bed without full knowledge of what it is and its possible effects. Do you agree with this and will you adhere to it if these farms go ahead?
* Will you adhere strictly to no more than one common seal kill per year as described in your pamphlet?

In order to keep Sleat residents informed it would be useful if you could keep us updated of the development process of your proposals, or any changes that may be being considered for the introduction of the sites, including the provision to create a shore base in the local area. It is regretted that on your Screening and Scoping exercises it was shown that a shore-base in Raasay was suggested as a service point for the Loch Slapin and Loch Eishort area, which we now know to have been an error.

Your response to the points raised above would be most appreciated and in the meantime we thank you once again for arranging the session at Sabhal Mor Ostaig.

With kind regards

Rob Ware

SECRETARY

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL