

Dear Mr Meredith,

Re: Camel Fish Ltd Appeal - APP/ML/25/04

I wish to inform you that I object to the proposal for a seaweed farm in Port Quin Bay, and strongly believe that the appeal lodged by Camel Fish Ltd should be dismissed. I endorse the evidence compiled by the community, entitled 'SPQBG Public Consultation Submission', which was submitted to the Marine Management Organisation in November 2024. I believe this evidence to still be relevant.

I have followed the protracted process over the last nearly two years, and am shocked that, despite the MMO's definitive rejection of the application earlier this year, a further attempt at this ruinous plan is being staged.

As briefly as I can I will set down my thoughts about this appeal attempt:

- The change from Band 2 to Band 3 is appropriate in complex cases such as this, considering costs and environmental impact on protected sites.
- The MMO followed the licensing process to the letter, as they should, giving the appellant multiple opportunities to defend their proposal. There were three rounds of consultation, and many of the concerns from the final MMO Decision Report were included in the previous rounds of consultation.
- Whilst I am sure that the new fishing data looks impressive, the Camel Fish Ltd survey of vessel usage in the bay this September was not comprehensive enough.
- The fishing data covers over 20 pages of the document, and reeks of desperation. We have been at the receiving end of Dr Mead's overlong documents in the past, and this is no different. These documents are designed to be time-consuming to digest and are mainly quantity over content.
- Dr Mead is not a reliable source. Her claims of expertise and experience are overblown.
- Paul Blewett of Camel Fish Ltd does not need to diversify to survive, he is an extremely successful exporter of shellfish. He has two businesses in the area, and another in Falmouth, and his boats travel all over the country to harvest his products.
- I do not believe that the introduction of a seaweed farm will have any meaningful impact on employment in the area. Seaweed farming is seasonal, meaning that employment will be sporadic and part time, and is likely to be offered to lowest-cost workers. This is also true of a considerable percentage of the commercial fishing industry, with the International Transport Workers' Federation reporting that migrant fishers "now make up the majority of deckhands in the UK fleet". Research by the University of Nottingham Rights Lab found that average pay for migrant fishers was £3.51 per hour, which is well below the UK's National Minimum Wage (currently £12.21 for over 21s).
- The anchored infrastructure will not survive the conditions in the bay. There will be gear loss, which will impact marine wildlife and the environment. Gear loss of existing UK seaweed farm infrastructure is reported even in relatively calm conditions.
- I don't believe that Camel Fish Ltd have plans for a processing facility, or access to a viable market for seaweed based products. They will also struggle to land a harvest at Padstow as they quay is overloaded already. Also, Padstow Harbour Commissioners are not supportive of the seaweed farm proposal.
- The images in the 'Visual Impact Assessment' in the appeal document are not taken from the closest available position on land available to the public. In fact, it could be argued that the photographer couldn't get much further away from the farm site and still be in Port Quin Bay! I don't believe that the images are representative of the true visual

impact, particularly at night. Also, presumably the visual impact of the farm will be substantially increased in the growing season with the addition of 58 lines of dark brown seaweed. This has not been factored in.

- If upheld, would this appeal be the end of it? I doubt it. With precedence set and Dr Mead still in the frame, I believe that a further application to expand the farm site in Port Quin Bay would be forthcoming. Dr Mead attempted this in Torbay in 2023.
- An overwhelming majority of local coastal communities do not want this project to go ahead. The appellant and Dr Mead have not sought Social License to Operate (SLO), and it certainly has not been granted. According to the Scottish Association for Marine Science's Dr Suzi Billing, "*...it is important that seaweed farming learns lessons from more established forms of aquaculture. There must be a relationship between the operator and the community before a seaweed farm goes to the planning stage so that people know what they're getting. It is difficult to do that retrospectively, as the operator is seen as less trustworthy. Considering social license to operate in the early planning makes the planning application stages easier for all stakeholders*".

Considering the mountain of evidence already submitted to the licensing authority with regard to a seaweed farm proposal in Port Quin Bay, I am flabbergasted that the appellant is still trying to push it through. Is it sour grapes? Is Camel Fish Ltd attempting to recover costs? Or is this simply an attempt to cause further chaos and concern to their detractors, and considerable cost to the taxpayer?

What a waste of time.

I urge you to dismiss this appeal.

Kind regards,