

# THE IRISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION

W0021-02



IRISH FARM CENTRE, BLUEBELL, DUBLIN 12.

Tel: (01) 450 0266 Fax: (01) 455 1043 Email: postmaster@ifai.ie Web: www.ifai.ie

Handwritten initials: DC/PL

DIRECTOR - GENERAL  
Office  
14 DEC 2007

## FAX COVER SHEET

for direct reply.

Attention Ms. Mary Kelly, Director General, Environmental Protection Agency

From Richie Flynn, IFA Aquaculture

Date 14 December, 2007

Fax 053 916 0699

Number of Pages to follow 3

### Message

Re: Attached Letter

For inspection purposes only.  
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

**SCANNED**  
03 JAN 2008



# IFA *Aquaculture*

Home of The Irish Salmon Growers' Association & The Irish Shellfish Association

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12, Republic of Ireland  
Tel: +353 (0)1 4508755 Fax: +353 (0)1 4551043  
Email: richieflynn@ifa.ie Web: www.ifa.ie

13 December 2007

The Manager  
Mayo County Council  
Altamont St  
Castlebar  
Co. Mayo

## Re: Leachate and run-off Water Treatment / Derrinumerra Landfill

Dear Sir,

We are aware of the Council's plans to put in place a contingency arrangement for the treatment of leachate from the Derrinumerra landfill site at the Westport Waste-water treatment plant as per a letter from the landfill manager to our members in the area dated December 4<sup>th</sup>.

As you are aware a similar "contingency plan" caused shellfish producers in Clew Bay a great deal of concern when it was attempted in 2006, due to the potential effects on the food safety of shellfish harvested from the area, the quality of waters under the Shellfish Waters Directive and the potential to cause mortalities or production problems for the local stocks of bivalve molluscs.

The Irish Shellfish Association have verbally informed both the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Department of Environment of our concerns at the latest plan by Mayo Co. Council to repeat the dumping of leachate through a WTTP which was not constructed to deal with this material.

We have confirmation from DAFF that every local authority, including Mayo Co Council, received a letter in 2006 from the Coastal Zone Administration Division clearly outlining their responsibilities and potential liabilities under the Shellfish Waters Directive. It appears to industry, with the limited information available and the short time period for consultation, that the Council has not taken its responsibilities and liabilities into full account in proposing to pump leachate through the Westport plant, where the plume of the outfall covers an area where shellfish are grown and harvested. Based on the precautionary principle at the heart of the Directive, not enough information is available to guarantee that the Directive will not be breached nor that the food safety and animal welfare concerns have been addressed.

The shellfish industry believes that in going ahead with any plans to put leachate through the Westport plant, the Council will be exposing itself to prosecution under the Directive, breaching a key piece of European legislation the Irish Government only recently underwent a severe ECJ court ruling for failing to implement. For the sake of the local environment, for consumer safety, for the avoidance of prosecution of the council by the EPA for breaching the Shellfish Waters Directive and to avoid

**SCANNED**

03 JAN 2008

exposing Ireland as a nation to yet more cases against it for breach of European Law, Mayo County Council cannot proceed with this proposal.

The ISA and local growers involved in the Clew Bay Forum and Clew Bay CLAMS group are available to meet with you at any time to discuss this further.

Yours Sincerely,

*Richie Flynn*

Richie Flynn  
Executive Secretary

p.p.

c.c. Coastal Zone Administration Division, Dept of Agriculture Fisheries and Food  
Mr John Gormley TD, Minister for the Environment  
Mary Kelly, Director General, Environmental Protection Agency

For inspection purposes only.  
Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

**SCANNED**  
03 JAN 2008

\*\*\*\*\* FACSIMILE COVER SHEET \*\*\*\*\*

14-DEC-2007 12:47

Message To:

0539160699

Message From:

IRISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION  
014551043

*For inspection purposes only. Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*

03

Page(s)  
Following This Cover Page

**SCANNED**  
03 JAN 2008

**RECEIVED**  
Time 1137  
14 DEC 2007  
Signature *[Signature]*  
Environmental Protection Agency, HQ  
P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate,  
Co. Wexford.