Strategic Planning and Corporate Services Group
Strategic Support Division

Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe
Depairtment o'
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Your reference
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01 October 2026

Dear Janice,

Anomaly in Clause 15 of the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Water Environment Bill

I am writing to inform the Committee of an anomaly identified by Assembly Researcher Mark Allen within Clause 15 of the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Water Environment Bill. The purpose of this correspondence is to outline the nature of the anomaly and to advise the Committee of the steps being taken to address it.

The issue relates to the proposed new Section 11 of the Bill regarding Aquaculture Licences in its reference to Section 26 at Subsection 11(3)(b). The wording on the current draft of the new Bill reads, *"from the restrictions imposed by regulations made under section 26(**1**)(p) or (q) or by section 111 in so far as those restrictions apply to fish of that kind."* however, it should refer to *section 26(**2**)(p) or (q)*.

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Departmental officials have raised this matter with The Office of Legislative Council (OLC). OLC has advised that the anomaly has most likely resulted from the fact that the current list of examples in Section 26 of the 1966 Act is contained within subsection (1), whereas under the revised provision inserted by Clause 6 of the Bill the list is contained within subsection (2).

The Assembly Bill Office has confirmed that this small cross referencing error will be amended by way of a printing correction. This will be corrected the next time the Bill is printed, be that as a result of amendments at Consideration Stage/Further Consideration Stage or if no amendments are made when the Bill is being prepared as an Act.

I hope this information is of assistance to the Committee in their consideration of the Bill, but should you require anything further please contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,



Paul McGranaghan
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer

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