

## RITCHIES OF ROTHESAY

SALMON SMOKERS

Smokehouse:37 Watergate,Rothesay,Isle-of-Bute.PA20 9AD

Shop; 111 Montague Street,Rothesay,isle-of-Bute.PA20 OHW

Tel/Fax: 01700/505414

To. John Doyle  
Inquiry Coordinator  
Competition Commission  
Victoria House  
Southampton Row  
LONDON  
WC1B 4AD

August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006

Dear Mr Doyle,

I thank you for your letter requesting information regarding the merger of Pan Fish and Marine Harvest and I hope I can contribute.

Ritchies of Rothesay have been smoking salmon for the past fifty years and up to fifteen years ago only smoking wild fish. From that time we have been purchasing farmed fish from Murray Seafoods at Toward by Dunoon and were very pleased with the quality, price and service from them. During this time we have observed the systematic purchase of surrounding fish farms by Pan Fish and eventually in 2005 they acquired Murray Seafoods. We then had to purchase salmon from Pan Fish at their processing plant at Cairndow.

I feel that if the planned merger goes ahead there will be considerable less competition between fish farms in Scotland and therefore choice, as in this area, Will not be there.

I trust this information is relevant to your inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Ritchie