

19th February 2020

Joseph Coll
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YOUR REF:- AP12/2020

SITE:- T12/502A

Please find below response to the appeal referenced above.

Public Consultation:- Public consultation was adequate as directed by the DAFM. Application notices were in the Donegal Democrat which is sold in five shops in the local area. A few local people told me they saw the advertisement. This newspaper is extensively used for local Planning Applications as well. A copy of my application was held in the Local Garda Station in Falcarragh and could also be inspected in the Letterkenny Garda Station.

Access Route:- The access route runs from the tarred Council road to the foreshore and onto my site. This route is a right of way and can also be used by the general public for recreational use and other activities.

Otter and Seal Haulouts:- The site will not disrupt otters swimming in the bay or the population of otters. Seal haulout locations are not near my site as outlined by the DAFM. The maps submitted by the appellant have been altered to create confusion.

SAC/SPA:- This site will not have a negative impact on any species in the SAC/SPA area. Oysters feed on plankton which is a re-occurring resource so does not rely on any artificial feeding or chemicals being introduced into the bay. Oyster farming was in operation in the bay up until 2017 and birds were often seen feeding from the oyster bags on trestles there.

Reproduction of Non Native Triploid Oysters:- This oyster seed will be used as it does not reproduce and is commonly used in oyster farms around Ireland.

Impact on Tourism:- Oyster farming will have no impact on tourism as tourists were frequent visitors to the sites previously having a keen interest in how local people make a living in this area.

Fishing Activities:- There is no fishing activity in the bay in contract to the appellants submission.


Conclusion:- Oyster farming will not disrupt habitats or devalue the scenic area. I have lived here all my life and would not want to destroy the area in any way. I walk this bay daily and am fully aware of what happens here regarding wildlife, channels and sand movement etc.

This activity had been in operation for almost ten years without any complaints or concerns from the general public. The majority of locals didn't even know or see it in operation. No damage was done during that time and this will also apply in future if my licence is granted.

Oyster farming can exist harmoniously in the area. Being labour intensive it has potential to create jobs in this disadvantaged rural coastal community which has high unemployment rates. I can confirm that the proposed sites on this bay can produce a top-quality oyster to meet market demand.

None of the reasons presented by the appellant are supported by any of the findings from the Appropriate Assessment which was carried out last year. I encourage the Board to consider the facts stated in making a justified decision.

Regards



Joseph Coll