

From: gavin Kelly [kellyga@errigalenergy.com]
Sent: 24 January 2017 11:50
To: paul.sullivan@agriculture.gov.ie; Alab, Info; Hayes, Paschal
Cc: michael.creed@oir.ie; patthecope.gallagher@oir.ie; pearse.doherty@oir.ie; joe.mchugh@oir.ie; taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie; charlie.mcconalogue@oireachtas.ie; michael.creed@oireachtas.ie; thomas.pringle@oir.ie; gerry.adams@oireachtas.ie; micheal.martin@oireachtas.ie
Subject: T12/438 A & B, T12/430 A & B, T12/ 410 A & B and T12/ 419 A, B & C - Granting of Aquaculture Licences on Braade Strand and Gweedore Bay.

Dear Sirs,

On the 13th January 2017, I attended a meeting in Áislann Rann na Feirste, County Donegal where I was made aware of the devastating news that our beautiful beaches and bay would be destroyed in favour of the farming of Oysters. This is totally unacceptable to me as it affects my family in so many ways and not to mention the fact that the whole Bay is a Natural Area of Conservation. We are using this area regularly for so many different activities such as Kayaking, Boating, Walking, Kiting, Paddle boarding, Swimming, Fishing, Sand Eel fishing, Mussel picking etc and I find it very hard to believe that the Minister could sign off on these applications in agreement with them without first at least consulting with the public to understand their view. It also seems strange to say the least how all these applications managed to get to the approved stage without one person in our local area hearing any news about it going ahead. It is absolutely unbelievable how the Minister can approve such a large scale commercial project such as this in our Bay and in many other Bays around the country without even asking to have an Environmental Impact study carried out.

Our Beaches and Bays around the country are attracting thousands of tourists here every year from near and far and from all the approvals of Oyster farming around the coast line, it is very clear that this influx of tourists will definitely come to an end and the affected areas will lose out on this whole market just for the sake of making a few companies rich. It is also very hard for me to believe that when the Minister looked at these applications along with ALL the other applications, that he didn't see anything wrong with how eventually all our nice quiet Bays around the coast would now be commercialised and taken over by Oyster Farming. What is more alarming is the fact that he approved ALL these applications around our coast at the exact same time in August 2016. Any reasonable person would think that while reviewing such a large number of similar applications all at the same time and for the same reasons that extra care and caution would be taken by the Minister before simply approving without consultation of Local Public, Tourism Boards, Environmental, Planning Authorities etc.

This decision by the Department and the determination given by the Minister to grant four new licences for Braade-Carrickfinn Bay and all the others given around our coast are unacceptable to me and I would request these grants to be overturned and the process for allowing something like this to happen must be changed so as not to put the huge cost for appeal on individuals who may not be able to afford it.

I would like to ask Paul O Sullivan and Paschal Hayes to meet with the community and hear our concerns and listen to all the reasons why it was a mistake to ever approve these applications and how so many points in the determination are based on inaccurate and misleading information.

Regards.

Gavin Kelly
Toin a Bhaile,
Rann Na Feirste,
Co. Donegal