

[REDACTED]

From: Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 February 2017 11:38
To: aquaculturereview
Subject: Gaoth Dobhair/ Bráid Bay Co Donegal
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

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A Chara,

Is mise Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, ceoltóir agus múinteoir.

I am a native [REDACTED] and came back to live here over 10 years ago to raise my child in the Gaeltacht and for her to experience growing up in an area of exceptional beauty and culture.

My home is situated on the [REDACTED]

I was recently informed that the bay which I overlook, has been granted several licenses to extend the aquaculture farm 700%.

I feel that the Minister has overlooked the importance of this area while granting this massive expansion.

1. This is a SAC and a SPA site which should not be industrialised.
2. This is an area of monumental cultural importance as it has been written about and has the most literary references in all our Irish literature.
i.e. Seosamh agus Séamus Mac Grianna, Niall Ó Domhnaill, authors
Songs: Méillte Cheann Dubhráin, An Chead Mháirt de Fhómhair Etc etc ...the list is endless
3. There are many rare birds breeding in this bay which should be protected....The red throat diver, chuff, curlew, corncrake in Carrickfinn, to name but a few.
4. Seals swim the channel daily but will not if the place becomes industrialised and overcrowded.
5. The community here in the parishes of Gaoth Dobhair and The Rosses, which is the most important factor of all of this, was not properly informed of this massive development albeit a small advert in the Donegal Democrat (which is not read here) and a posting in the Garda station in Milford? (An hours journey from this area!). Why not post in local library???

This shows a total disregard for our thoughts and opinions on the development of the area.

6. Why did the Minister grant all of the 45 plus licenses on the one day in December 15th 2016 using the same stipulations for granting the licenses to all the sites? Surely every site is unique and would need a proper EIS done to assess its affect on flora, fauna and most importantly on the community.

I personally would like to encourage aquaculture development but with proper consultation with the local communities.

My problem here is the massive scale of this development and how it will affect my life, my daughter's life and my property.

This community has tolerated a small oyster farm in this bay for 25 years without complaint.

But it is the huge industrial size scale in an enclosed area of significant beauty and conservation that I disagree with in this particular location of the Gaoth Dobhair/ Braade bay.

I would urge you, the Independent Review of Aquaculture Licensing to ask Minister Creed to view all of these sites separately and assess the unique importance of these areas.

As every site has a unique eco system and different growth potential.

This is my home , I want to live in peace here.

I want my daughter and I to be safe to walk the strand and not to have to contend with lorries , trestles,workers etc etc.

Donegal is known for its beautiful unspoilt beaches. It was voted the "coolest" place to visit by National Geographic. And our Airport which is adjacent to this bay, was voted the 7 th most scenic airport in the World.

These are the accolades we want to entice visitors to our area.

I don't want a factory or the equivalent of factories outside my window, that is not fair. Would you personally or the Minister like this to be landed at your door step without proper consultation???

I think not.

I feel that there has been a few issues overlooked here and I would willing like to help remedy the matter.

Is Mise le Meas,

Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh

PS I have attached photograph of the bay with the oyster farm as it stands. I think it is imposing even at this scale.