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**From:** Michaela O'Hara [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2017 16:19  
**To:** aquaculturereview  
**Subject:** Oyster farm on Linsfort beach

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To whom it may concern,

The aquaculture license that was granted for Linsfort beach, Buncrana, Co. Donegal was placed in a newspaper, The Donegal Democrat which has a very limited local readership. It was not placed in any of the local papers that have a wide circulation. For this reason the license was awarded before any of the local community became aware of the situation, and this is the reason that there were no objections in the Linsfort, Buncrana area. Had the local community been aware, there WOULD have been thousands of objections.

The planting of trestles has had a devastating impact on the environment in the Linsfort area. Every time I personally go for a walk on the beach it makes me so angry when I see the beach littered with oyster bags which is not only dangerous for the wildlife in the water but for anyone exercising their horses. This in my view is disgraceful. Because it upsets me, the much needed walk to decrease stress causes me much distress. It is taking the look of beauty away from a once beautiful beach. It also presents a clear danger to the hundreds of children and adults who bathe there in Spring and Summer due to the massive, rusty iron construction, which is partially or wholly submerged depending on the tide.

The way this has been handled so far gives primacy to bureaucracy over democracy. The majority of the people in Linsfort, Buncrana and even visitors are utterly opposed to the construction and to being excluded (as explained above) from any of the decision making process in relation to the construction or not of the oyster farm. Democracy is not an abstraction if people are excluded from the process of decision making which effects their lives. Then there is a denial and an absence of democracy.

Therefore we appeal to the relevant authorities (aquaculture review) to allow the people of the local community to be involved in the decision making process on whether or not the oyster farm at Linsfort, Buncrana should be allowed to continue.

If you would kindly let me know that you received my e-mail, it would be much appreciated and I would welcome any news about this matter.

Regards,

Michaela O'Hara, [REDACTED]