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**From:** colette greene [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2017 17:05  
**To:** aquaculturereview  
**Subject:** Aquaculture Consultation

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

To whom it may concern

I would like to add my voice for your consideration regarding the granting of aquaculture licenses, with specific reference to the licenses for oyster farming in at Braade Strand, Gweedore Bay in Donegal.

My family is from one of the local communities impacted [REDACTED] though I was brought up and live abroad I visit regularly especially to catch up with my brothers and their families and abundant relatives in the area. The beach encircling Ranafast has played a central role in every memory that I have as both a child during the long summer visits, and appreciate the profound importance to the local community and visitors alike. The outstanding nature rugged beauty attracts the tourists to this wonderful area, with the gateway of the Donegal International Airport voted the 7th most scenic airport in 2016 and National Geographic traveller nominating Donegal as the number one 'coolest place' in 2017.

Therefore I would like the following points to be included in the discussion:

1. Public consultation

With such amazing publicity it is rather surprising that the Government has decided to limit the touristic potential to the local communities by granting aquaculture licenses to give over a massive and intensive 99 acres of the Braade Strand to private industrial use of oyster farming without any direct public consultation with the local communities who have use and maintenance have kept this area in such pristine condition.

The economic benefits of tourism have been ignored, the economic benefits to the local communities from the Oyster Farms has not been reported.

2. Environmental Impact Assessment

This is an area abundant with native fish and shellfish, unpolluted shorelines and stunning panoramas. The 99 acres is a vast amount in a small area - the impact to the native species through the effluence produced from this industrial level of farming has not yet been assessed and the potential damage to the sand, seabed and environment not taken into consideration.

What will be the impact to the returning salmon swimming up the bay to the spawning grounds, as well as the indigenous sand eels, cockles and mussels which inhabit the sands underneath the proposed site.

The sheer industrial scale of activity will create degradation of the actual site as well as destroying the natural beauty.

Importantly the access to the public areas of sands, water and beaches must not be blocked for the use of the local community and tourist activities currently enjoyed.

3. Simplification of appeals process and broadening the licences application process to include assessment on the local developments and daily life of the community directly impacted. The burden of the cost should not be on the local community but on the licensee applicant.

4. The licensee should be held responsible for their actions and the potential damage that ensues to this fragile ecosystem. Therefore they must be held to highest scrutiny and have to place a surety not to damage amenities with waste, pollution and chemicals and through poor practice and there needs to be accountability.

The local community have for generations been the custodians of this pristine place, retaining the beauty and enjoying the freedoms of the area without spoiling it. To hold these communities as irrelevant is an abandonment of Government responsibility to the Irish communities and Irish lands itself. It is my sincere hope that the appeals process will review the applications in light of the overwhelming opposition of the local communities and safeguard the area for the generations to come.

Your sincerely

Colette Greene