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**From:** Daniel O'Donnell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 February 2017 21:51  
**To:** aquaculturereview  
**Subject:** Aquaculture Consultation

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

Dear Sir/Mam,

In response to the recent avalanche of applications for aquaculture licences in West Donegal. The Rosses, we are advised that a review committee has been set up and wish to make a submission. In October of last year it was sprung upon us that two applications had been submitted, Keadue Strand, T12/474 and Cruit Strand T12/458. I use the term `sprung` as only for an eagle eyed member of the community both applications would have gone through unnoticed. The Keadue Strand application was subsequently withdrawn, the Cruit Strand one still pending. Now we learn that another application has slipped through for a location at Braade Strand, adjacent to Donegal Airport. `Sprung and slipped` exactly the only terms that can describe the back door way these applications are submitted. No local consultation, no site notices, just a small notice in a paper and as the Minister merrily told us in the Dail last week a notice placed in the local Garda stations.....!!!! There are NO Garda stations in The Rosses , we used have three, but the`ve all been closed apart from Dungloe, which has a green button the door that you talk into. Skulduggery is to good a term.

One wonders why. Aquaculture is to be welcomed , but sited in a relevant location, unlike the present applications that threaten the very heart and soul of West Donegal, our pristine beaches and thriving tourism industry. The huge effort in the promotion of The Wild Atlantic Way, the proximity of the 8th most scenic airport in the WORLD , all under threat at the stroke of a pen. And all being done in the present format with a sleight of hand.

We have sent in our submissions regarding the unthinkable madness of granting T12/458 at Cruit Bridge, one of the most scenic areas in Ireland. Likewise Braade Strand. Hand in hand with this is the resulting removal of a local beach from the local community, you cannot walk , swim go boating or horse riding through acres of trestles . The impact on tourism would be huge, no doubt resulting in job losses. On who ? The local community.

So our call is for TRANSPARENCY. You cannot build a house unknown to the public. Likewise the threat of removal of a local beach and handing it over to an individual or individuals for financial gain. must not be attempted without proper consultation AND a proper time window allowed. Can the Minister or the Department give one good reason why this cannot be done ?.

The whole system needs urgent review. Some antique act from the 30`s, notices in Garda stations miles away from the location. All we ask is to be treated with respect , not contempt. Aquaculture by all means, but respect our natural beauty, and what is ours, and the rewards it brings.

With thanks,  
Danny and Marie O'Donnell,  
[REDACTED]

Co Donegal.