

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 February 2017 19:35  
**To:** aquaculturereview  
**Subject:** 'Aquaculture Comsultation'

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Dear Sirs

I am writing to submit my objections to the aquaculture permits issued by the Minister of Agriculture to the Annagry, Rannafast and Gweedore strand.

My objections are as follows:

Due care was not provided in notifying local communities of planning applications.

The Minister has stated in the Dáil that an advert was placed in the Donegal Democrat, a paper which is largely distributed in Southern Donegal and not in the area affected by the planning permit. The minister has also stated that a notification was placed in a local Garda station, however has failed to state which Garda station the notification was placed nor could he provide documented evidence of the notification had in fact been displayed. It also begs the question how a local unnamed police station could constitute a center point for public notification.

This constitutes an utter failure to disclose properly the permit application and offer local communities a legitimate consultation process on the proposed large-scale oyster farm. This is in total failure in adhering to the European Fishery Advisory Council on Socio-economic consultation Policy. It is evident that the Ministry of Agriculture is failing to comply with the basic norms set out by STECF and other EU stakeholders.

The Minister stated in the Dáil, that he was advised within the Ministry of Agriculture that an Environmental Impact study was not required for the planning application. This raises a number of questions; who were those individuals?

Were those who advised the Minister duly authorized to make such a decision?

Where they scientifically competent to make such a decision?

Why has the Ministry of Agriculture not provided the scientific grounds for not requesting an Environmental Impact study?

Has the Ministry of Agriculture followed EU standard policy and guidance on not providing an Environmental Impact Study in this application?

Finally, I just want to state the proposed oyster farm if granted a permit will destroy one of the most beautiful strands in Ireland and in one of the most densely populated town lands in Europe. The local airport was voted last year as the 7<sup>th</sup> most beautiful airports in the world. The proposed oyster farm will have detrimental effect on the local community and local tourism.

Sincerely

Gabhán Ó Gallachóir