

[REDACTED]

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As a resident in Donegal, I'd like to voice my unease at the development of the massive oyster farms being planned for Donegal. I've been following the controversy in the news. The one I'm most familiar with is the development planned for Carrickfinn.

According to the minister for agriculture who signed the license, no environmental impact study needs to be done as it's an unpopulated area. That's my understanding of what I've read so far.

1. The reality is that this area of the North is very much heavily populated as can be checked in the census. And that's only the humans!
2. Carrickfinn beach also is host to protected bird species such as curlews and corncrakes but to name a few. What's the impact of the work and traffic on these animals?
3. Not least of all, the species of oyster they want to cultivate is not our native Irish one but the Pacific oyster. What are the effects going to be on the native population of oysters and mussels, the quality of the water, growth of seaweed etc?
4. As regards the visual aspect: Donegal airport has been voted in to the top 10 of most scenic airports in the world. Oyster farms the size of 5 football pitches are certainly going to have a visual impact.
5. Donegal relies heavily on tourism and the WAW to earn a living. How many local people are going to be employed by these French farms and how many locals are going to be affected by tourism going elsewhere because of reduced visual impact and possibly restricted access to normally open beaches because of "health and safety issues"?

Regards,

Tine Verbeke