

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 February 2017 09:57
To: aquaculturereview
Subject: FW: Aquaculture Consultation

From: Stella Kavanagh [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 February 2017 22:57
To: Aquaculturelicensing
Subject: Aquaculture Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

Here are my comments that I would like considered as part of this consultation.

I am concerned about the negative visual impact of aquaculture. This ruins tourism. It needs to become more difficult to get planning permission in areas of outstanding natural beauty and any sites that are visible from the Wild Atlantic Way.

There needs to be a recent, thorough environmental impact study for all applications. The minister should not have the right to waive this requirement. This aspect of the current system is susceptible to corruption and bias.

Many of these areas have narrow or winding roads. Heavy vehicles and increased traffic can damage the roads and be a hazard to other road users.

If an area is used for swimming, aquaculture must not be allowed due to the harmful effects on the health of swimmers. This is particularly important in areas that are also used for water safety courses. Consideration should also be given to the use of an area for other water sports including rowing, kayaking, diving etc. as well as other beach users including those who walk, jog or run. The health and well being of people should not be ignored and opportunities to keep fit and active should not be disregarded.

If there is more than one application for an area, the collective impact must be considered.

The impact on traditional industries such as fishing, including for crab, lobster, shrimp and seaweed harvesting must also be considered. It is unfair that a new business could be allowed to destroy the livelihoods of locals. This is particularly important as many oyster farms use Pacific oysters. This is a non native species and ghat could upset the existing ecosystem.

Aquaculture will decrease the attractiveness of an area. The pollution will also lead to a decrease in participation in swimming and water sports. Together this will decrease the economic benefits from tourism and related activities. This includes income and employment in accommodation, catering and leisure facilities.

Planning applications must give adequate notice. Currently some notifications are hidden in local papers with low circulation and can be easily overlooked. Sometimes the location/address information is deliberately misleading - this should not be allowed. Timelines for objections should also be extended to allow adequate time to respond constructively with concerns or to make an official objection.

Yours sincerely
Stella Kavanagh