I wish to object to the above mentioned proposed development for the following reasons:

1. The proposal lacked transparency from the commencement of the project. The public notices by the Marine Institute/SmartBay never mentioned that offshore windfarms, a wide range of renewable energy devices and novel marine sensors which are unknown and yet to be developed would be placed in the vicinity of a valuable marine habitat and a world recognised precious scenic tourism location. The staff members from the Marine Institute and SmartBay were unable to answer questions from the public and elected public representatives, as the Marine Institute and SmartBay do not know as yet what they intend to put in Galway Bay, during the proposed 35 years lease period.

2. The Environment Assessment and Mitigation Study is deeply flawed. It is a desk top study carried out by a company and paid for by the developers of the project ie Marine Institute/SmartBay Ltd. No scientific assessment is included in the study of the effects the last ten year lease and the ongoing work carried by the Marine Institute and its partners during this ten year period, including Wavebob Ltd., has had on this valuable marine and wildlife habitat. Those of us that have lived, walked and fished this foreshore for over 60 years, are aware that sea mammals and other wildlife have all but disappeared in the last 10 years since The Marine Institute and its private partners have placed their devices, in a much smaller area of the proposed site development.

3. The proposed application is for a 35 year lease to allow the deployment of a whole wide range of renewable energy devices, novel marine sensors, unknown and as yet undeveloped technologies and devices, in a substantial area of Galway Bay and the county Clare coast line. It is not possible for the Aquafact Ltd to access the environmental damage that the testing of unknown and yet undeveloped devices over a 35 year period would have on a valuable marine habitat and on a historic, cultural, and tourist area and region. For this reason I also strongly object to a 35 foreshore lease.

4. The Marine Institute/Smart Bay Ltd and Aquafacts Ltd, admit and agree that their proposed project has the potential for contamination from the use of anti-fouling compounds, oil leakages and the erosion of sacrificial anodes, and this will happen if they are granted a licence, in the vicinity of one of the most densely populated areas west of Galway City.

5. The visual impact of the proposed project will have a very negative effect on a prime tourist location on The Wild Atlantic Way and will therefore have a negative impact on the tourism and auxiliary industries in the west Galway region.

If the deadline for the receipt of objection I wish to inform you that I will be presenting further a further objection.

Please confirm receipt of this objection.

I am a native Irish speaker but as none of the personnel involved in the project speak Gaeilge I have had to present my objection in English.
Is mise
From:  
Sent:  
To:  foreshore  
Subject:  Foreshore Lease Application FS006566  

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming me,

I reserve the right to add further information should an extension be granted.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object for the following reasons:

- The location is not viable and completely unsuitable – the area is a ‘Protected View Area’.
Many of the stakeholders have not been consulted correctly. Any decision that has such an impact on the living environment requires an extensive consultation process with those stakeholders that will be affected. Any process that does not take this into account should be deemed invalid and contrary to the rights of stakeholders.

Our country is still recovering from a recession, it has been said that our friends in Iceland, who suffered a similar financial crash, are attributing their recovery to a huge increase in tourism. This fact cannot be ignored by our still struggling economy. The West Coast of Ireland depends hugely on tourism for employment and I believe this Test Site will ruin our beautiful landscape, millions have already been spent on the Wild Atlantic Way, one of the biggest tourism successes in the most recent years—why would anyone want to damage our landscape??It will also have an impact on our neighbours across the bay – the UNESCO listed World Heritage Site. The potential loss of this listing will result in financial and socioeconomic consequences for the region.

It is certainly very short term thinking on your organisations behalf.

The close proximity of the proposed development to residents of the area will have a devastating impact on their rights and well being.

Why is there no Environmental Impact Statement? Surely this is a mandatory requirement for a proposal such as this.
• I believe our indigenous wildlife will be adversely affected and call for the Precautionary Principle to be invoked.

• I am objecting to this development - the location is wrong, it’s too big, it’s too close to the shore, the lease is too long, what is the reason for a 35 year lease?

I am calling for a reversal of this decision and would encourage appropriate, robust and transparent consultation with all the stakeholders.

Kind regards,

Signed:

Sent from my iPhone
To whom it may concern.

Please register my object to the above mentioned proposed development. I object to the development for a number of reasons. The main ones are:

1. The proposal did not provide the necessary to the public and therefore lacked transparency. The public notices by the Marine Institute/SmartBay did not advise that the development will include offshore wind farms, different renewable energy devices and marine sensors in the vicinity of a valuable marine habitat. Furthermore, for instance, the marine sensors are as yet unknown and have yet to be developed.

Representatives from the Marine Institute and SmartBay were unable to answer questions raised by the local public and elected public representatives, as they, the Marine Institute and SmartBay do not know as yet what they intend to put in Galway Bay, during the proposed 35 years lease period. How can permission be granted for a development where the developers themselves do not know precisely what the development will be in the future.

2. The area in question is also in full view of a world recognised precious scenic tourism location. This is being marketing widely, particularly internationally, and has already lead to an increase in tourist numbers in the area. Tourism is a vital industry to the area.

3. The Environment Assessment and Mitigation Study is deeply flawed. It is a desk top study commissioned by the developers of the project i.e. Marine Institute/SmartBay Ltd. The scientific assessment does not include any study of the effects of the last ten year lease and the ongoing work carried by the Marine Institute and its partners during this ten year period has had on this valuable marine and wildlife habitat. Anyone who has lived, walked and fished this foreshore for many, many years, are aware that sea mammals and other wildlife have all but dissappeared in the last 10 years since The Marine Institute and its private partners have placed their devices, in a much smaller area of the proposed site development.

4. The proposed application is for a 35 lease to allow the deployment of a whole wide range of renewable energy devices, marine sensors, unknown and as yet undeveloped technologies and devices, in a substantial area of Galway Bay and the County Clare coast line.

It is not possible for the Aquafact Ltd to access the environmental damage that the testing of unknown and yet undeveloped devices over a 35 year period would have on a valuable marine habitat and on a historic, cultural, and tourist area and region. For this reason I also strongly object to a 35 foreshore lease.

5. The Marine Institute /Smart Bay Ltd and Aquafacts Ltd, admit and agree that their proposed project has the potential for contamination from the use of anti-fouling compounds, oil leakages and the erosion of sacrificial anodes. This will happen if they are granted a licence, in the vicinity of one of the most densely populated areas west of Galway City.
Yours sincerely
Submission made to: Marine Planning Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co Wexford.

Email: foreshore@environ.ie

Data/Date: 18/16

Seolta ag/From:  

Seoladh/Address:  

Guthan/Tel/Riphost/email:  

Submission regarding Application Number: - F5006566
Applicant: The Marine Institute
Application: "Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station"

A chara,
I refer to the above planning application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

- View obstruction
- Not enough input from local
- Not enough studies carried out. "Do an visual impact on the study?"
- Lease too long
- 
- 
-
Signed

*I reserve the right to add to this submission should the deadline be extended.*

*I would like to receive a confirmation, by email, that my submission has been received*
Submission made to: Marine Planning Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co Wexford.

Email: foreshore@environ.ie

Date/Date: 13/6

Seolta ag/From:

Seoladh/Address:

Guthan/Tel/Rlphost/email:

Submission regarding Application Number: - F5006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: "Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station"

A chara,

I refer to the above planning application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

- It will affect the view's along the wild Atlantic way
- Lease is too long
- No generating choices allowed within a 5km distance of the shore???
- Not enough information on the lease so it constrains
-
Signed:

"I reserve the right to add to this submission should the deadline be extended."

"I would like to receive a confirmation, by email, that my submission has been received"
Submission made to: Marine Planning Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co Wexford.

Email: foreshore@environ.ie

Data/Date: 11/8/16

Seolta ag/From:

Seoladh/Address:

Guthan/Tel/Riphost/email:

Submission regarding Application Number: - F5006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: "Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station"

A chara,

I refer to the above planning application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

- Notification too vague
- Locals not informed
- What size is it?
- Lease in too open
- 
*I reserve the right to add to this submission should the deadline be extended.*

*I would like to receive a confirmation, by email, that my submission has been received*
Reference number FS006566.

Submission to Foreshore lease application for the testing of prototype wind, wave and tidal energy devices.
Location: Galway Bay marine and renewable energy test site, Spiddal Co Galway.
Applicant:
Marine Institute
Rinville
Oranmore
Co. Galway.

I would have grave concerns about granting this foreshore lease based on the information provided in this application as it stands.

The process is of itself inadequate.

The Minister who states publicly that he is in favour of this development is the one making the decision.

This allows for sloppy preparation and science more akin to PR than real science.

The project should stand on merit, clearly outlined, with precise goals and scrupulous scientific argument designed for the project to stand alone whether the minister is personally in favour or not.

The way that this process has been carried out to date does not display such attention to detail, clearly presented facts and interpretation of them with logical argument.

When one considers that it has been prepared by the Marine Institute it is a bit frightening.

Unfortunately for us, the taxpayers of Ireland, and indeed Europe It has!

If anything positive should arise from this Consultation, it should be that a re-appraisal of the running of the said Marine Institute, with a particular focus on the Board, and Management of the Institute, be embarked on as a matter of urgency.

Such a shoddy presentation, with basic errors like,
- Height of structures being related to chart datum, then to sea level,
- Photographs to suggest that the structures would be practically invisible, taken in dull weather from low focal planes,
- Splitting of applications to try and confuse the public,
- Looking for a generating station too close to the shore,
- Being coy about closeness of SACs,
- Inadequate noise level information,
- Dumping copious amounts of paperwork on us with little time to adequately check claims.
¼ scale of what? This should be precise.
- Why have the expense of trawl proof equipment where fishing is prohibited on the site?
- There seems to be a vague intention to “test” aquaculture.
- Sound from this site needs to be tested in relation to its effect on wild salmon.

This does not inspire confidence that any results from testing on the site will be any more carefully prepared.

This application should be nearly perfect in every detail.

It is not.

It leaves a lot to be desired and should be withdrawn and re drafted.

To grant such a long term lease based on a presentation like this would be foolhardy indeed.

A 35 year lease is a dangerous instrument to put in the hands of the applicant. There is a danger that the funding required may not materialise, as was the case with the research vessel, and that the applicant will be reduced to selling off or otherwise privatising a resource which is a public asset.

I would suggest tying the lease to a three to five year research grant funding cycle.

A clear mechanism needs to be in place to have it renewed as necessary, based on proofs that concrete achievements had been made within that cycle, with practical knowledge gained and practical application of that knowledge measurably extant in the real world.

This is not a house that planning is being sought for.
- It is a serious intrusion into local people’s lives, Into a valuable amenity, Into fishing activities, Into nature.
- Altering Galway Bay for future generations and putting in place an industrialisation of it without a serious long term strategy acceptable to those who live along the coastline.

This needs to be looked at in relation to planning application lodged in relation to Galway Port, which seems to have escaped those preparing this application, which is strange since the Marine Institute is deeply involved with the Galway Chamber of Commerce!

This seems very similar to the recent attempt by BIM, with the assistance of a suitable report from the Marine Institute, to install a massive Salmon Farm in two locations in Galway Bay.

That proposal was very badly prepared and led to serious issues for existing operations in relation to so called “organic” certification and other private certifications like ASC, as well as issues with protection of wild salmon, its value to the economy, and presented the Minister concerned with a serious problem.
This seems similar at first glance, which is all that can be afforded by the limited nature of the consultation, if this can be called a consultation!
This will present the Minister, who, incidentally, is the same person in a different portfolio, with a similar problem.

We object to the granting of this foreshore lease based on this application and would respectfully suggest that this process be suspended swiftly and a new application prepared that would meet the needs of all stakeholders.
It is extremely important that this be done properly at the outset, since we are all in favour of sustainable energy, of research into new and better technologies, and of reputable institutions presenting reliable scientific opinion, it beggars belief that anyone could present an application that would be as seriously flawed as this.

On cursory examination of various companies involved in the periphery of this, the same names keep appearing with depressing regularity. This is public information, it is not illegal, but it puts an added onus on all concerned to be scrupulous about doing this correctly for the benefit of the State and not for a favoured few.

In light of the recent BREXIT experience, it seems obvious that ticking boxes to fit into current funding systems from the EU, at the expense of pure research and indeed of practical applied science may not be in the best interests of the economy in the long term.

Sincerely.
To Whom it May concern:

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and **strongly object** to the proposed development. I object on the grounds below:

The consultation process is deeply flawed - not fair or impartial - stakeholders left out. More time is needed - none of my neighbours are even aware of the development. Lots of misleading, untrue, dated and biased information supplied to the public.

This is not the site for an INDUSTRIAL project: Area a National & International & internationally significant Tourist & environmental Attraction; Burren - UNESCO World Heritage Site - clearly visible on the wild atlantic way - sl chonamara - and is contrary to the objectives of the Galway Development Plan.

There should be an EIS (environmental IMPACT statement) assessment required to ensure this sensitive area NOT DAMAGED.

I request an individual acknowledgment of this email

Regards,
Tabhair admháil dom maidir leis an ngearáin seo.
Gearáin maidir le hIarratas ar Láir FS006566

Tá mé ag cur in aghaidh an t-iarratas thuasluaite.
Mar gheall nach bhfuil aon turgnamh ag maireachtáil nos faide n-Éireannach dhá bhliain, ní aon ghá le tróimhse nos faide n-Éireannach sin ar an lár. Ní sásta a thabhairt a gcúirf isteach ar dearadh na glóanta atá le tocht. Ní féidir liom an infheistíocht sheasta ar an tsú umh agus molaim tróimhse 5 bliana ar an iomlán. Máis rud òg go bhfuil rath mar ar an obair agus go mbeidh muintir na h-Eile agus an pobal i gcoitinne sásta le himeachta, is féidir leis an fhorbrír cur ísteach ar athnuachan ansin.
I do not support and industrialization on the bay, for energy or other purposes. Please leave our natural heritage in place as created. It is now ours to destroy.

Sent from my iPhone
Subject: Fwd: Lease Application Number FS006566

From: foreshore@environ.ie
To: foreshore@environ.ie
Subject: Lease Application Number FS006566
Date: Sun, 31 Jul 2016 19:29:31 +0000
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: foreshore@environ.ie.
Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: ______
____________________
Seoladh/Address___

Guthán /Tel/riomhphost /email

____________________
Data: _____ 2nd
August 2016____________________

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming me,
I reserve the right to add further information should an extension be granted.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566
Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

A chara,
I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:
Firstly , it is believed that the Consultation Process was not adhered to in the correct manner. Apparently 500 brochures were distributed in October , however nobody in the locality received them - who got them? Why was there no consideration given to locals, who's lives are impacted by it! Why is there no Environment Impact Statement? Also ;
• The location is completely unsuitable – the area is a ‘Protected View Area’.
• The locals – stakeholders – have not been consulted correctly. This is being rushed in and we are being told that this is in our best interests – I think we have the right to make our own decisions.
• How do you not know that the locals depend on tourism in this area for employment and I believe this Test Site will ruin our beautiful landscape, millions has been spent on the Wild Atlantic Way – why would anyone want to damage our landscape??It will also have an impact on our neighbours across the bay – the UNESCO listed World Heritage Site.
• It's far too close to residents of the area and will have a devastating impact on our lives and well being.

• I believe our indigenous wildlife will be adversely affected and call for the Precautionary Principle to be invoked.

• I completely object to this "development" - the location is all wrong, the" development" is too big, it’s too close to the shore, and the lease is too long. Please stop this travesty.

Signed:
-----Original Message-----
From:
Sent: 02 August 2016 12:20
To: foreshore
Subject: Objection to spiddal turbines

Please see attached letter
I object strongly
Signed
**Under E.U. Law, these 3 areas have to be taken into consideration:**

**SIZE:**
- Project Splitting – combination of: Cable, site, Onshore Station
- Suggestions of expansion in various reports which we don’t have time to investigate, due to time constraints.

**LOCATION:**
- According to Sustainable Energy, there should be no generating devices allowed within a 5km distance from the shore – this proposed test site is 1.2km from shore.
- Although the Marine Institute have been in the site for 10 years, the site has been ‘underused and underdeveloped’, and ‘has been largely lying idle for a number of years’ – according to IWEDA.
- The Burren – UNESCO site, have been excluded.
- It is against the Galway Strategic Plans.
- The proposed location is on the Galway County Scenic Route, and on a ‘Protected View Area’.
- Businesses in the locality depend on tourism financially.
- Lots of residents in the locality are not on the map supplied by the Marine Institute.

**NATURE:**
- We are calling for the Precautionary Principle to be invoked, as set down by OSPAR.
- Not using up-to-date laws to assess the impact – are using old E.U. laws.
- There is no mention of the impact the turbines and trellises will have on the birds.
- The risk to seals being injured by the devices in the Bay.
- Is the Grid connected?? The Minister says it is, but the Marine Institute say it is not.
- There is no Environmental Impact Statement, so the impact to the whole environment cannot be assessed, plus the nature of ‘yet to be invented’ devices, which may be used on the site, cannot be assessed.
- The test site is too close to areas of special conservation and its effect on the environment has not been investigated.
From: foreshore
Sent: 02 August 2016 10:56
To: foreshore
Subject: Objection to Application Number: - FS006566

Submission to: Marine Planning Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co Wexford.

Data/Date: __________

Seolta ag/From:

Address:

Submission regarding Application Number: - FS006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: "Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station"

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above planning application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the grounds of the following points:

- There is currently no Environmental Impact Statement on this proposed development, so the impact to the whole environment cannot be assessed

- According to Sustainable Energy, there should be no generating devices allowed within a 5km distance from the shore – this proposed test site is 1.2km from shore

- The proposed location is on the Galway County Scenic Route, and on a ‘Protected View Area’

Signed:

*I reserve the right to add to this submission should the deadline be extended.*

*I would like to receive a confirmation, by email, that my submission has been received*
From:
Sent: 02 August 2016 12:36
To: foreshore
Subject: Fwd: Foreshore Lease Application FS006566

A chara,

I refer to the above proposed planning application and strongly object.

Please see attached the reasons outlined for my objection.

Regards
Under E.U. Law, these 3 areas have to be taken into consideration:

**SIZE:**
- Project Splitting – combination of: Cable, site, Onshore Station
- Suggestions of expansion in various reports which we don’t have time to investigate, due to time constraints.

**LOCATION:**
- According to Sustainable Energy, there should be no generating devices allowed within a 5km distance from the shore – this proposed test site is 1.2km from shore.
- Although the Marine Institute have been in the site for 10 years, the site has been ‘underused and underdeveloped’, and ‘has been largely lying idle for a number of years’ – according to IWEDA.
- The Burren – UNESCO site, have been excluded.
- It is against the Galway Strategic Plans.
- The proposed location is on the Galway County Scenic Route, and on a ‘Protected View Area’.
- Businesses in the locality depend on tourism financially.
- Lots of residents in the locality are not on the map supplied by the Marine Institute.

**NATURE:**
- We are calling for the Precautionary Principle to be invoked, as set down by OSPAR.
- Not using up-to-date laws to assess the impact – are using old E.U. laws.
- There is no mention of the impact the turbines and trellises will have on the birds.
- The risk to seals being injured by the devices in the Bay.
- Is the Grid connected?? The Minister says it is, but the Marine Institute say it is not.
- There is no Environmental Impact Statement, so the impact to the whole environment cannot be assessed, plus the nature of ‘yet to be invented’ devices, which may be used on the site, cannot be assessed.
- The test site is too close to areas of special conservation and its effect on the environment has not been investigated.
From:  
Sent: 02 August 2016 13:07  
To: foreshore  
Subject: Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566

Marine Planning and Foreshore Section,

Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government,

Newtown Rd.,

Wexford, Co. Wexford.

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: `  
Seoladh/Address:

GuthÆn /Tel /romhphost/email

DÆta/Date: 2 Lúnasa/August 2016

Please confirm receipt of this individual submission referencing the above name.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566                  Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)
A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and **strongly object** to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

1. Lack of and misleading information given by the Marine Institute, the Applicant, at an 'Information' meeting in January and at 2 subsequent meetings.

   At the first information meeting in January there was no mention of wind turbines but much time was given to describing the various types of wave/current energy devices that were and could be tested on the proposed site at An Spidéal. The wording of the application was not available to us on the night.

   At this first meeting, members of the public present at the meeting were given the impression that the application was for a license, made it very clear that an application for a 35 year license was much too long and would not be acceptable to the community (the stakeholders). This was ignored by the Applicant. When asked at that meeting, we were assured a 'license' could not be sold on or transferred. However at the third and last meeting in July, TD and barrister Catherine Connolly informed the meeting that as the application was for a 'lease' and not a license it could be sold and/or transferred. This is a very serious public concern. Generally 3-5 years is sufficient time for research projects. As a consequence, The Marine Institutes’s actions has created public mistrust and a profound lack of confidence in the integrity, openness and transparency and professionalism of the institute.

   At this last meeting in July, the Institute failed or were unable to provide answers to several specific questions related to the proposed application. One instance was the size the site could be as opposed to what the size of the site 'appeared' to be; the range in size of some of the devices/technologies would also be of a greater size. The one point on which the Marine Institute did concede was that once planning approval was granted, the Institute would not need any further approval for the testing of 'Novel Technologies’. Thenature of ‘these yet-to-be invented devices’ and cannot be assessed must not be pre-approved. This process would exclude the public/stakeholders from further participation in the activities going on in their bay, their environment. I strongly object to this as we do not know what these novel devices will be, how damaging they may be to the marine ecosystem or general environment, or if they could be a public health hazard.

2. Testing of offshore wind turbines.

   Testing of offshore wind turbines, seems to be a futile and expensive exercise at this late stage of an established industry. There’s already available research data from around the globe on wind energy, on and offshore that any further testing would be wasteful of public monies. To date the general conclusion is that they are unsustainable, damaging to the environment and to the
populations that live in close proximity to them and more significantly that they divide communities. Offshore wind turbines are twice as expensive as onshore ones, therefore doubly unsustainable. The proposed site for the turbines at An Spidéal is 1.2km from the shore and a populous area and is therefore contrary to SEAI own regulations. A full EIA is required and The Marine Institutes’s assertion that there would be a minimum disruption or effect on the marine ecosystem, the environment and the people of An Spidéal and Na Forbacha is neither scientifically proven, correct nor truthful.

3. Location of the proposed development and Tourism.

Coastal tourism was excluded from the consultation process. An Spidéal, gateway to the Conamara Gaeltacht and the Aran islands is on The Wild Atlantic Way. The effect of the proposed development would be the industrialisation of iconic Galway Bay, a principal asset, and in stark contrast to Fáilte Ireland’s development of the West of Ireland as a clean, unpolluted, industry-free, ecological area. The proposed site forms part of an internationally significant landscape area; the Burren and UNESCO listed World Heritage Site and the Burren Global Geopark. The fact that there has been no consultation with the relevant stakeholders in tourism, culture and heritage, I must note with alarm and consider totally unacceptable. As was the lack of consultation with other agencies that are safeguarding the environment.

I am asking you to reject this planning application in favour of a more open and transparent process where stakeholders and the general public are informed in a truthful fashion, are consulted by further planning applications if required and that approval or refusal be only considered after the relevant EIAs and Appropriate Assessments are carried out. Indeed I would ask that The Precautionary Principle be invoked, as set down by the UN OSPAR Convention.

Is mise le mas,
Reference FS 006566

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you expressing a major concern in relation to the site location of this project. I believe that the project is worthwhile but the site location could be changed. It would not need to be changed drastically, possibly a mile or so further near Galway. The reason for the issue with the current/proposed location is that it is in the middle of prawn grounds that a number of smaller trawlers fish during the year. This number has become more significant as the catches have increased in this area in the last two years. Surveys carried out by the Marine Institute show a high density of prawns in this location.

I would propose that the MI sit down with the boats who are members of Galway and Aran Co-op in order for them to determine what areas are fishing grounds and which are not, in this area. I am certain that this approach would be beneficial to both parties.

I can be contacted at any stage to facilitate a meeting with the fishermen in question.

Kind Regards

Sean Griffin

General Manager
Galway and Aran Fishermen’s CO-OP Ltd

00353 87 9050345
To whom it may concern,

I object to the below reverenced project principally because it does not, to my judgement appear to meet the legitimate needs rights and constitutional protections of persons and families in the neighbouring community.

My concerns are based on the information below which has come to my attention. My submission continues as follows:

Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: foreshore@environ.ie.

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: ______________
Seoladh/Address______________________________
Guth/En/Tel/romhphost /email_____________________________ Data: _______________________

Please treat this submission as an individual submission and confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.
Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566 Applicant: The Marine Institute Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station” (Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission)

A chara,
I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

Lack of time given to the public to gather the correct details – a sea of information /public consultation process described publically by politicians as ‘a mess’ / Minister Coveney’s lack of & delayed response to public & political calls to extend the submission deadline - MISLEADING to the public? Object to the IMPARTIAL way the Minister is involved in the process, stated in Dáil (17/7) I would like to see Galway Bay continue as a Test Bed - & he will be DECIDING the outcome– CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Access to information
Little notification of public meeting; few notices, no attempt to notify stakeholders by email, social media or in the ‘post’. Facebook / social media after June 14th meeting.
Notifications too vague & did not include reference to the fact that the meeting was in relation to a foreshore lease application.
Costal Tourism excluded from the consultation process as were other key stakeholders- Developers seeking meeting with local stakeholders only this week - (July 29th!).
Untruths told at a public meeting (June 14) regarding which local stakeholders consulted – CSS named, yet, when checked, the club had not been consulted. This brings into question how the public could or should TRUST any information the developer supplies.
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Not available online as Gaeilge as requested on June 23th - until the 30th June
Access to documents limited – local library not open fulltime.
Garda Station in Salthill needs one to have transport into Galway – not easily accessible to all – and NO Gaeilge version available until late in the process.
APPLICATION is still incomplete – information not available to public – still awaiting replies from those who were required to comment on the project … misleading information on the application (exclusion zone and connection to the grid questions remain unclear to the public – conflicting information given at meetings; still awaiting reply to our questions asked at the last meeting).
Incorrect information on the application form; SACs missing and measurements of nearest dwellings incorrect …
Other developments on Galway Bay NOT included in assessment, the cumulative impacts as required by law. Galway Port Development noted as not having applied for planning! Untrue – and ALL developments need to be included in environmental assessment.

LOCATION: I strongly object in order to protect our most iconic landscapes … (Costal Tourism is the area’s industry …);
The proposed site forms part of an internationally significant landscape area; the Burren and UNESCO listed World Heritage Site and the Burren Global Geopark
The Connemara landscape is one of the principal assets for tourism in County Galway. The proposed Site location would be a blot on Galway Bay’s ICONIC Landscape – The Burren (idyllic – Auginish Island and castle / Black Head Lighthouse) across the bay; this proposed development on this SITE is COMPELEATLY out of character for the area;
Contrary to Galway County Plan’s objective to ‘support and facilitate the wild Atlantic way in conjunction with stakeholders …”
On the WILD Atlantic Way – close to the sore and clearly visible from Barna to Spiddal on one of the top 5 drives in Galway as quoted in the Wild Atlantic Way – ‘Coast Road into the Heart of the Gaeltacht.’
The site is contrary to development allowed in the Galway County Development Plan:
The site is clearly visible while on the Galway County Scenic Route from Barna TO Baile an tSleibhe.
The site is visible on the ‘Galway County PROTECTED Focal Points and Views’
The site is located in an area of High Sensitivity where development is curtailed
Site located where wind-farm development ‘not normally permissible area’ in the Galway county plan
The site is surrounded by sensitive areas; SACs and SPAs and NHA – from the Aran Islands, around Clare coast, inner Galway site Connemara Bog complex and the various protected Water areas in the Bay. Increased activity and potential accidents will impact negatively on the surrounding areas - Any accident; oil/chemical spills will be washed inshore, and in towards inner Galway bay, towards sensitive marine and bird life protected by law. Introduces NOISE pollution which was not adequately assessed in application reports, as discussed in public meeting on Aug 12. Still awaiting answer to public questions asked. Incorrect and dated maps – looks like no humans or animals live near the site! According to Sustainable Energy, there should be no generating devices allowed within a 5km distance from the shore – this proposed test site is 1.2km from shore- this is NOT a suitable location for this development. Although the Test Site have been in the site for 10 years, the site has been ‘underused ‘– according to IWEDA (Irish wind energy development association) which is why people have not objected to its operation in the past. The proposed development brings VAST changes in site activities and visual effects. Local consultation & the application is questionable when this site was located in this area in the first instance.

SIZE:
Project Splitting – combination of: Cable, site, Onshore Station – split applications means that the size of the project is not apparent to stakeholders and has SERIOUS implications in terms of the environmental assessments necessary –(larger project entails more rigorous assessment – not done for this application) – thus environment at risk of potential damage Suggestions of expansion in various reports which we don’t have time to investigate, due to time constraints. Upgrading and expansion references suggest a larger size than that disclosed. Suggestions in application to PILING INTO THE SEA BED – suggests further expansion Devices included in the application are NEARSHORE devices – again suggesting SIZE EXPANSION Application includes every possible device, even includes devices “TO BE INVENTED YET” (ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT) SUGGESTION LARGER EXPANSION IN THE FUTURE (currently only one device at 4m allowed) PHOTOS of development suggest a smaller size; do not show all the infrastructure – photos are misleading and DECEPTIVE –they even manage to HIDE Co. Clare! Since the public cannot visualise the project – I object to this unknown development on the bay.

NATURE:
35 Years is too long – why is this length needed? Most research grants 3-5 years. I object as I believe an EIS statement is required; current EU environmental laws are not being implemented in this application. Call for The Precautionary Principle to be invoked, as set down by the UN OSPAR Convention: there are reasonable grounds for concern that the activities of this project may bring about hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine ecosystems, damage amenities or interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea; therefore, therefore I object to this development, I deny consent and call for consideration of alternative plans and that no development takes place
until all the proper environmental assessment carried out, as per current law, to establish that NO possible harm is done to human health or to the sensitive marine ecosystem in Galway Bay. Possible risks mentioned in the (little) environmental study done for this application:

The risk to seals and other mammals colliding with devices on site – causing injury or death – calls for the Precautionary Principle – I reject this application and call for the precautionary principal

No assessment of turbines under water – or the references to

There is no Environmental Impact Statement, so the impact to the whole environment cannot be assessed, plus the nature of ‘yet to be invented’ devices, - ... scale of infinity– can’t be assessed.

The test site is too close to areas of special conservation; areas LEFT/not declared in application thus effect on the environment has not been investigated.

There is no mention of the impact the turbines & base trellises will have on the birds – Annex 1 Merlin is on this flightpath – THEREFORE CALL FOR THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE.

Is the Grid connected? Unclear where electricity generated is to go? – THEREFORE, HOW IS THE IMPACT OF THIS ASSESSED? The Minister says PROJECT IS GRIDED CONNECTED, but the Marine Institute say it is not. TOO much confusion and misleading information.

Q 23: Application already granted from Galway County Council in relation to Cable (electrical and data) connections (REF 13/947) – thus site connected to the grid. SEAI made previous applications to connect to the Grid – there questions remain unanswered.

FAILURE TO DECLARE AND TO ASSESS OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BAY AREA, AS REQUIRED TO DO SO BY LAW – Port Development in Galway City has gone through planning stage – yet, it was declared as not having gone to planning in application documents. By law, the cumulative of ALL documents need to be assessed. Thus I reject this application.

2/8/2016
Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: 2 August 2016 15:15:02 GMT+01:00
To: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford.

2 Lúnasa 2016

Please acknowledge receipt of this individual submission referencing the above name.

Aighneacht mar gheall ar Foreshore Lease Application Uimhir: - FS006566  Iarratsir: Foras na Mara

Application / Iarratas “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”
A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

We, the owners and craft workers in , are very aggrieved at the lack of public consultation regarding the above project.

is directly opposite the beach in An Spidéal and overlooking the beautiful Galway Bay. We pride ourselves on having such a beautiful location, with unspoilt views of The Burren and the bay, and our livelihoods depend on this eye-catching scenery. The Wild Atlantic Way in it’s first couple of years is beginning to attract more visitors to the area, and we are concerned that the development of the proposed project on such a large scale will adversely affect our area and it’s attractiveness.

We have neither been consulted or contacted about the proposed project, which may have a very big impact on the viability of our businesses. Is it right that the long established businesses in the area should be sacrificed?

As far as we are aware there is no Environmental Impact Statement, so the impact to the whole environment has not been assessed.

We demand that no decision should be made on this project until the impact to the environment and to the local community has been fully assessed and to this end a full consultation process put in place. Therefore the deadline for consultation must be extended.

Le meas,
To whom it may concern,

I write in response to the public consultation on proposed development activity at the Galway Bay Marine and Renewable Energy Test Site, Spiddal, County Galway.

1. I welcome government funding of renewable energy research and furthermore the continued siting of this research site on the Atlantic seaboard.
2. I specifically welcome the opportunity afforded by this research site to produce and enhance industrial and research capabilities within Ireland.
3. As with any research output or innovation, new modes of renewable energy have the potential to contribute to public good objectives such as a clean environment.
4. Conversely, renewable energy technologies and indeed innovations more broadly are not inherently ‘good’ things. Social, environmental and economic ‘bads’ may also occur. Will a framework for evaluating positive, negative and unknown outcomes of the research be in place before the proposed research activities and technological deployments commence?
5. In any evaluation I urge you to consider social as well as environmental considerations.
6. With regard to societal processes and evaluation of research activities, I will make a number of observations on both the ongoing research activities proposed and nature of this public consultation.
   a. I note the limited and linear nature of the consultation in which certain segments of the local population have been consulted in a time bound manner (e.g.
newspaper reading people, who must submit a response by August 2nd). Given the limited specificity of the application itself with regard to technological deployments, this once-off consultation is somewhat deficient; it is virtually impossible for local residents and businesses to know potentially years in advance, the appropriateness of siting unspecified technologies nearby.

b. There is an implicit assumption that role of the public, and specifically local residents, is to either ‘accept’ or ‘reject’ the proposed activities in full before the event. No provision is given to how local people may shape or inform ongoing deployments or research activities.

c. Such an assumption risks decontextualising subsequent research; people’s lived experience with, and familiarity of energy technologies plays an important role in both the ongoing development and diffusion of those technologies.

d. Furthermore, the imposition from outside of energy infrastructures, in a top down manner and though limited consultation may at once alienate local communities, and may miss important ongoing questions of what role local people can and should have in the governance of their energy sources. I note this is an important question for all aspects of energy research in Ireland.

e. Spiddal offers a wonderful site not only for technology deployment, but for observing interactions between engineering professionals, natural and social scientists, the public and businesses. Indeed, the opportunity at hand is for a local community to be proud of the world leading marine research off its shore. However, I am fearful that without more sustained interaction and open ended communication and dialogue, all parties will miss out.

I look forward to reading outcomes of what I hope is an initial phase of public consultations and dialogue on this exciting research site,

Yours sincerely,

Cian O'Donovan

Research Fellow
Sussex Energy Group
SPRU – Science Policy Research Unit
University of Sussex
Submission to Foreshore Lease Application for the testing of prototype wind, wave and tidal emery devices
Location: Galway Bay Marine and Renewable Energy Test Site, Spiddal Co Galway.
Your Ref: FS006566

by email to: foreshore@environ.ie

Submission on Foreshore Licence Application

Dear Sir/Madam;

It is our submission that due to the diverse operations proposed and their interactions with the environment over such a long period of time in such a sensitive location the proposed projects’ anticipated effects on the environment cannot be measured without an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Yours, etc.

Tony Lowes,
Director
A Chara,

Is mian liom cur i gcoinne an t-iarraitas seo a leanas:
'Foreshore Lease to construct an electricity generating station' on Galway Bay - application no: FS006566 agus an léas 35 bliain atá á iarraidh.

I wish to object to the application for 'Foreshore Lease to construct an electricity generating station' on Galway Bay - application no: FS006566, on a number of grounds:

- I object firstly on the grounds that the consultation process is flawed. To me it seems neither fair nor impartial. Important stakeholders ie local people looking out on the bay, living in the vicinity of the site have been left out of the consultation process to a large extent. It also appears that no tourist stakeholders have been adequately informed. The information supplied to the public has been misleading, untrue, dated and biased.
- Secondly, in my opinion this is not the site for an industrial project. It is an area of national & international tourist significance and is a precious environmental attraction. The Burren is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is clearly visible on the Wild Atlantic Way. It is also within sight of Slí Chonamara, a publicly accessible seashore walkway. Such a development is also contrary to the objectives of the Galway Development Plan. A 35 metre high wind turbine would indeed be a ghastly blight on our beautiful bay.
- I also wish to highlight that current environmental laws are not being enforced by the Department of the Environment. There are already issues in the area in relation to unsightly dumping of machinery that are not being addressed. How can we be assured that this site will be likewise unmonitored by the dept. of the environment?
- There has been no EIS (environmental impact statement) issued which is required required to ensure this sensitive area is not damaged by the development. Our foreshore is home to a precious and fragile ecosystem.
- We the locals of the area call for precautionary principal to be invoked. We request that there be no action on the development until we are sure no damage is done. It is my understanding that that damage to mammals has already been identified in the report.
- No indication of noise pollution has been offered. Data was mentioned at the last public meeting in relation to road noise levels etc, but all this data was historic. No information was given as the the noise levels of the wind turbine which is envisioned for the site, which would be incessant and running 24/7.
- The length of the lease is too long. I understand that are strict rules governing the licence which is being granted, but there is no guarantee that the lease will not nor could not be sub-leased. Also, a maximum of three devises can be tested according to the application, but there are devices that span a great distance that would still only constitute one devise. This concerns me greatly.

I hope you will take my concerns into consideration.
I mise le meas.
Submission made to: Marine Planning Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co Wexford.

Email: foreshore@environ.ie

Data/Date: 2nd August 2016

Seolta ag/From:

Seoladh/Address:

Guthan/Tel/Ríphost/email:

Submission regarding Application Number: - FS006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: "Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station"

A chara,
I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

a. Access to information

i. Little notification of public meeting; few notices, no attempt to notify stakeholders by email, social media or be ‘post’. Facebook postings only following June 14th meeting.

ii. Notifications too vague & did not include reference to the fact that the meeting was in relation to a foreshore lease application.

iii. Locals who live beside the development not informed.

iv. Costal Tourism excluded from the consultation process as were other key stakeholders.

v. Untruths told at a public meeting (June 14) regarding which local stakeholders consulted – CSS named, yet, when checked, the club had not been consulted. This brings into question how the public could or should TRUST any information the developer supplies.

vi. Application incomplete – still awaiting information regarding Bird Watch’s response to the development

vii. Vast volumes of information.

viii. Not available on line as Gaeilge as requested on June 23th - until the 30th June


x. Garda Station in Salthill needs one to have transport into Galway – not easily accessible to all – and NO Gaeilge version available.

b. Public Participation in decision-making:

c. Government Accountability and environmental protection
d. APPLICATION is incomplete – information not available to public – still awaiting replies from those to comment on the project … misleading information on the application (exclusion zone and connection to the grid questions remain unclear to the public – conflicting information given at meetings).

e. Other developments on

2. LOCATION: I strongly object in order to protect our most iconic landscapes …

a. The proposed site forms part of an internationally significant landscape area; the Burren and UNESCO listed World Heritage Site and the Burren Global Geopark

b. The Connemara landscape is one of the principal assets for tourism in County Galway. The proposed Site location would be a blot on Galway Bay’s ICONIC Landscape – The Burren (idyllic – Auginish Island and castle / Black Head Lighthouse) across the bay; this proposed development on this SITE is COMPLETELY out of character for the area;

c. Contrary to Galway County Plan’s objective to ‘support and facilitate the wild atlantic way in conjunction with stakeholders …”

d. On the WILD Atlantic Way – close to the sore and clearly visible from Barna to Spiddal on one of the top 5 drives in Galway as quoted in the Wild Atlantic Way – ‘Coast Road into the Heart of the Gaeltacht.’

e. The site is contrary to development allowed in the Galway County Development Plan:

i. the site is clearly visible while on the Galway County Scenic Route from Barna TO Baile an tSleibhe.

ii. The site is visible on the ‘Galway County PROTECTED Focal Points and Views’

iii. The site is located in an area of High Sensitivity where development is curtailed

iv. Site located where wind-farm development ‘not normally permissible area’ in the galway county plan

f. The site is surrounded by sensitive areas; SACs and SPAs and NHA – from the Aran Islands, around Clare coast, inner Galway site Connemara Bog complex and the various protected Water areas in the Bay. Increased activity and potential accidents will impact negatively on the surrounding areas. Any accident; oil/chemical spills will be washed inshore, and in towards inner galway bay, towards sensitive marine and bird life protected by law.

4. NATURE:

1. I object as I believe an EIS statement is required; current EU environmental laws are not being implemented in this application.

2. Call for The Precautionary Principle to be invoked, as set down by the UN OSPAR Convention: there are reasonable grounds for concern that the activities of this project may bring about hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine ecosystems, damage amenities or interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea; therefore, I object to this development, I deny consent and call for consideration of alternative plans and that no development takes place until all the proper environmental assessment carried out, as per current law, to establish that NO possible harm is done to human health or to the sensitive marine ecosystem in Galway Bay.

Possible risks mentioned in the (little) environmental study done for this application:

* The risk to seals and other mammals colliding with devices on site – causing injury or death – calls for the Precautionary Principle – I reject this application and call for the precautionary principal

* No assessment of turbines under water – or the references to

* There is no Environmental Impact Statement, so the impact to the whole environment cannot be assessed, plus the nature of ‘yet to be invented’ devices, - ¼ scale of infinity – can’t be assessed.
* The test site is too close to areas of special conservation; areas LEFT/not declared in application thus effect on the environment has not been investigated.

* There is no mention of the impact the turbines & base trellises will have on the birds – Annex 1 Merlin is on this flightpath – THEREFORE CALL FOR THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE.

* Is the Grid connected? Unclear where electricity generated is to go? – THEREFORE, HOW IS THE IMPACT OF THIS ASSESSED? The Minister says PROJECT IS GRIDED CONNECTED, but the Marine Institute say it is not. TOO much confusion and misleading information.

* Q 23: Application already granted from Galway County Council in relation to Cable (electrical and data) connections (REF 13/947) – thus site connected to the grid. SEAI made previous applications to connect to the Grid – there questions remain unanswered.

* FAILURE TO DECLARE AND TO ASSESS OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BAY AREA, AS REQUIRED TO DO SO BY LAW – Port Development in Galway City has gone through planning stage – yet, it was declared as not having gone to planning in application documents. By law, the cumulative of ALL documents need to be assessed. Thus I reject this application.

FINALLY: This development is a proposed testing site for devices – thus IS NOT KEY TO MEET THE INITIATIVES SET OUT IN the Government objective of producing 50GW from ocean energy 2050. Indeed the developer states it is not grid connected! There are other established testing sites available; France / Scotland/ Cornwall.

Signed:
From: foreshore
Sent: 02 August 2016 18:18
To: foreshore
Subject: Re: template form to make an objection to the galway bay wind energy project

----- Original Message -----
From: 
To: " 
Sent: Sunday, 31 July, 2016 21:20:08 
Subject: Fwd: template form to make an objection to the galway bay wind energy project

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> From: 
> Date: 31 July 2016 at 18:56:35 IST 
> To: 
> Subject: template form to make an objection to the galway bay wind energy project 
> 
> > Hi 
> > 
> > you can copy this form to email your objection regarding the galway bay wind energy test site.. 
> > you can fill one out on behalf of anybody who wishes to object, the more people who submit an objection the better. 
> > 
> > Email your objection to --- foreshore@environ.ie 
> > Closing date -- tuesday 2/august/2016 11-59 p.m. 
> > 
> > ===================================================================================================
> > ===================================================================================================
> > 
> > 
> > 
> 
> > Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, 
> Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: foreshore@environ.ie. 
> 
> > 
> > Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: __ 
> > ________________________________________________________________ 
> > Seoladh/Address__________ 
> > 
> >
Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566  
Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A Chára,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

.the development would be visually intrusive in an area of great natural beauty.

.noise intrusion has not been assessed and nearby residents have not been given sufficient information to judge this important issue.

.no environmental impact assessment has been conducted and/or shared with the residents.

.there has been insufficient consultation with residents.

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.
From:  
Sent: 02 August 2016 22:35  
To: foreshore  
Attachments: eSubmissionTemplate.docx; Points for consideration.docx

Please find attached my submission. I am dated 02/08/16. I wasn’t able to type my details into the submission itself. Many thanks,
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: foreshore@environ.ie.

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: _______________________________________________________________________

Seoladh/Address_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Guthán /Tel/riomhphost /email______________________________________ Data: __________________

Please treat this submission as an individual submission and confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566 Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: "Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station"

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:
Fb – ‘Protect Galway Bay’s Wild Atlantic Waves’ for more information; one must be clear the submission is an objection; state what you want; i.e. ‘I do not consent to this application being granted’ & outline why. Below are some points one might raise: Any Point is valid; one or many; simple, short and sweet is also good. Just act! Four heading outlines ... just suggestions.

THE PROCESS

Lack of time given to the public to gather the correct details – a sea of information /public consultation process described publically by politicians as ‘a mess’ / Minister Coveney’s lack of & delayed response to public & political calls to extend the submission deadline - MISLEADING to the public? Object to the IMPARTIAL way the Minister is involved in the process, stated in Dáil (17/7) he would like to see Galway Bay continue as a Test Bed - & he will be DECIDING the outcome– CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. Access to information
   a. Little notification of public meeting; few notices, no attempt to notify stakeholders by email, social media or in the ‘post’. Facebook / social media after June 14th meeting.
   b. Notifications too vague & did not include reference to the fact that the meeting was in relation to a foreshore lease application.
   c. Costal Tourism excluded from the consultation process as were other key stakeholders- Developers seeking meeting with local stakeholders only this week - (July 29th).
   d. Untruths told at a public meeting (June 14) regarding which local stakeholders consulted – CSS named, yet, when checked, the club had not been consulted. This brings into question how the public could or should TRUST any information the developer supplies.
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   f. Not available on line as Gaeilge as requested on June 23rd – until the 30th June
   g. Access to documents limited – local library not open fulltime.
   h. Garda Station in Salthill needs one to have transport into Galway – not easily accessible to all – and NO Gaeilge version available until late in the process.

2. APPLICATION is still incomplete – information not available to public – still awaiting replies from those who were required to comment on the project ... misleading information on the application (exclusion zone and connection to the grid questions remain unclear to the public – conflicting information given at meetings; still awaiting reply to our questions asked at the last meeting).

3. Incorrect information on the application form; SACs missing and measurements of nearest dwellings incorrect ...

4. Other developments on Galway Bay NOT included in assessment, the cumulative impacts as required by law. Galway Port Development noted as not having applied for planning! Untrue – and ALL developments need to be included in environmental assessment.

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b. The Connemara landscape is one of the principal assets for tourism in County Galway. The proposed Site location would be a blot on Galway Bay’s ICONIC Landscape – The Burren (idyllic – Auginish Island and castle / Black Head Lighthouse) across the bay; this proposed development on this SITE is COMPELETLY out of character for the area;

c. Contrary to Galway County Plan’s objective to ‘support and facilitate the wild Atlantic way in conjunction with stakeholders’ ...

d. On the WILD Atlantic Way – close to the sore and clearly visible from Barna to Spiddal on one of the top 5 drives in Galway as quoted in the Wild Atlantic Way – ‘Coast Road into the Heart of the Gaeltacht.’
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   i. The site is clearly visible while on the Galway County Scenic Route from Barna TO Baile an tSleibhe.
   ii. The site is visible on the ‘Galway County PROTECTED Focal Points and Views’
   iii. The site is located in an area of High Sensitivity where development is curtailed
   iv. Site located where wind-farm development ‘not normally permissible area’ in the Galway county plan
f. The site is surrounded by sensitive areas; SACs and SPAs and NHA – from the Aran Islands, around Clare coast, inner Galway site Connemara Bog complex and the various protected Water areas in the Bay. Increased activity and potential accidents will impact negatively on the surrounding areas - Any accident; oil/chemical spills will be washed inshore, and in towards inner Galway bay, towards sensitive marine and bird life protected by law.

g. Introduces NOISE pollution which was not adequately assessed in application reports, as discussed in public meeting on Aug 12. Still awaiting answer to public questions asked.

h. Incorrect and dated maps – looks like no humans or animals live near the site!

i. According to Sustainable Energy, there should be no generating devices allowed within a 5km distance from the shore – this proposed test site is 1.2km from shore- this is NOT a suitable location for this development.

j. Although the Test Site have been in the site for 10 years, the site has been ‘underused ~ according to IWEDA (Irish wind energy development association) which is why people have not objected to its operation in the past. The proposed development brings VAST changes in site activities and visual effects.

Local consultation & the application is questionable when this site was located in this area in the first instance.
SIZE:

k. Project Splitting – combination of: Cable, site, Onshore Station – split applications means that the size of the project is not apparent to stakeholders and has SERIOUS implications in terms of the environmental assessments necessary –(larger project entails more rigorous assessment – not done for this application) – thus environment at risk of potential damage
l. Suggestions of expansion in various reports which we don’t have time to investigate, due to time constraints. Upgrading and expansion references suggest a larger size than that disclosed.
m. Suggestions in application to PILING INTO THE SEA BED – suggests further expansion
n. Devices included in the application are NEARSHORE devices – again suggesting SIZE EXPANSION
o. Application includes every possible device, even includes devices “TO BE INVENTED YET” (ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT) SUGGESTION LARGER EXPANSION IN THE FUTURE (currently only one device at 4m allowed)
p. PHOTOS of development suggest a smaller size; do not show all the infrastructure – photos are misleading and DECEPTIVE – they even manage to HIDE Co. Clare! Since the public cannot visualise the project – I object to this unknown development on the bay.

NATURE:

1. 35 Years is too long – why is this length needed? Most research grants 3-5 years.
2. I object as I believe an EIS statement is required; current EU environmental laws are not being implemented in this application.
3. Call for The Precautionary Principle to be invoked, as set down by the UN OSPAR Convention: there are reasonable grounds for concern that the activities of this project may bring about hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine ecosystems, damage amenities or interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea; therefore, therefore I object to this development. I deny consent and call for consideration of alternative plans and that no development takes place until all the proper environmental assessment carried out, as per current law, to establish that NO possible harm is done to human health or to the sensitive marine ecosystem in Galway Bay.

Possible risks mentioned in the (little) environmental study done for this application:
- The risk to seals and other mammals colliding with devices on site – causing injury or death – calls for the Precautionary Principle – I reject this application and call for the precautionary principal
- No assessment of turbines under water – or the references to
- There is no Environmental Impact Statement, so the impact to the whole environment cannot be assessed, plus the nature of ‘yet to be invented’ devices, - ¼ scale of infinity – can’t be assessed.
- The test site is too close to areas of special conservation; areas LEFT/not declared in application thus effect on the environment has not been investigated.
- There is no mention of the impact the turbines & base trellises will have on the birds – Annex 1 Merlin is on this flightpath – THEREFORE CALL FOR THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE.
- Is the Grid connected? Unclear where electricity generated is to go? – THEREFORE, HOW IS THE IMPACT OF THIS ASSESSED? The Minister says PROJECT IS GRIDED CONNECTED, but the Marine Institute say it is not. TOO much confusion and misleading information.
- Q 23: Application already granted from Galway County Council in relation to Cable (electrical and data) connections (REF 13/947) – thus site connected to the grid. SEAI made previous applications to connect to the Grid – there questions remain unanswered.
- FAILURE TO DECLARE AND TO ASSESS OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BAY AREA, AS REQUIRED TO DO SO BY LAW – Port Development in Galway City has gone through planning stage – yet, it was declared as not having gone to planning in application documents. By law, the cumulative of ALL documents need to be assessed. Thus I reject this application.

FINALLY: This development is a proposed testing site for devices – thus IS NOT KEY TO MEET THE INITIATIVES SET OUT IN the Government objective of producing 5GW from ocean energy 2050. Indeed the developer states it is not grid connected! There are other established testing sites available; France / Scotland/ Cornwall. 17

Expensive Offshore Windfarms not Needed to Meet Ireland's Renewable Energy Targets says

Minister Pat Rabbitte At question time in Dail Eireann, Mr Pat Rabbitte TD, Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, outlined the Irish Government's position with regard to offshore wind energy.
"I am confident that Ireland has the capability to achieve its targets for domestic renewable electricity from the onshore wind projects already in the existing gate processes", he said. "Offshore wind currently costs in the region of €3 million per MW to deploy compared to the cost of onshore wind which is about half of that. ... Offshore wind is at least twice as expensive. I am satisfied, on the best advice available to me that we can make our targets from the development of onshore capacity, biomass and related technologies." http://debates.oireachtas.ie/dail/2012/01/18/00013.asp#N2
Hi,

If you are trying to deliberately antagonize and make the locals paranoid of what you are planning - you are doing a good job.

If you are trying to keep the public genuinely involved - pretty poor job...

see the two mails that were sent out today...

Please advise when you would like to meet me and my neighbors to discuss this development....

Note - I got informed that Spiddal library is actually in Spiddal - well, guess what - I knew that!!!! No mention of meeting people who had a concern.

E-Mail I got sent officially....

Dear Testsite Consultee,

Please note the previous email advertising the locations of the application, and the relevant maps, plans, reports and drawings incorrectly identified Salthill Public Library, An Spidéal as one of the locations.

The location should have read Spiddal Public Library, An Spidéal.

Apologies for any confusion caused.

Regards,

Test Site Consultation Team

Marine Institute,
Rinville,
Oranmore,
Co. Galway.

E-Mail that was sent to me by others – why did I not receive this?? (I checked my spam - it was not there either..., do you have 2 distribution list and if so, why???)

Dear Testsite Consultee,

The public consultation period for the Marine Institute’s foreshore lease application to upgrade the Galway Bay Marine and Renewable Energy Test Site has been extended until **Friday 9th September 2016**.

The decision by the Minister, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, to further extend the consultation was announced today, Tuesday 02 August.

A copy of the application, and the relevant maps, plans, reports and drawings are available to download from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government’s website.

Copies of these documents are also available for viewing at Salthill Garda Station, Salthill Public Library, An Spidéal and Comhlacht Forbartha An Spidéal Teo, An Spidéal untidpm on 9th September 2016.

Public notices advertising the extension to the deadline, and details for lodging submissions, will be placed in this week’s editions of the Irish Times, Connacht Tribune, Galway Advertiser and Galway Independent.

Anyone who wishes to make a submission on the lease applications should do so in writing, giving reasons, **no later than 5pm on 9th September** (quoting ref: FS 006566), to the Foreshore Unit, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford or foreshore@housing.gov.ie.

All submissions received to date will be considered as part of the assessment process.
If you have already submitted observations and wish to submit further observations in light of the new deadline, all submissions received by Friday 9th September will be considered.

The Marine has held three public meetings to date, and during the extension period will meet with individuals who have concerns or queries that they wish to address before the final deadline for submissions.

Should you have any questions for the Marine Institute on the proposed lease application, or would like to arrange a meeting with the Institute, please contact us at:

Test Site Consultation
c/o Ocean Energy Programme Manager,
Marine Institute,
Rinville,
Oranmore,
Co. Galway.
Phone: 091 387200
E-mail: testsite.consultation@marine.ie

Regards,
The Testsite Consultation Team.

On Mon, Jul 18, 2016 at 3:39 PM, foreshore <foreshore@environ.ie> wrote:

Dear

In addition website notifications, it is this Department’s understanding that Newspaper notices, in both Irish and English, advising the public about the extended consultation period were placed by the applicant in several papers - the Irish Times on 28th June 2016, the Galway Advertiser on 30th June 2016, and the Connaught Tribune on 1st July 2016. A notice in English appeared in the Marine Times on 1st July 2016 and I understand that local media have also been informed.
All application documents continue to be made available to the public in paper form in Salthill Garda Station, Spiddal Public Library and Comhlacht Forbartha An Spideal Teoranta, and electronically on the Department’s website. Copies of the documents are also available on CD from the applicant or the Department on request.

Yours sincerely,
Patrick O’Neill
Marine Planning Foreshore Section (MPFS)

From: foreshore; testsite.consultation@marine.ie
Sent: 17 July 2016 15:02
To: foreshore; testsite.consultation@marine.ie
Subject: Re: Marine Institute - Galway Bay Marine and Renewable Energy Test Site - File ref. FS 006566

Patrick,

I must write to again complain at your lack of effort of try to consult with the public in a meaningful way.

Having wrote a mail to you less than 2 weeks ago to complain about the lack of effort to contact the locals, I was dismayed and upset to find out, that another ’public consultation’ is planned for this Thursday - and again, very little effort to notify the locals living in Spiddal.

I only found out due to a chance meeting with someone.

Is the public consultation by ’invite only’?

Please explain how this could have happened, and why the mail below was not sent to me. Am I supposed to check the marine website on a daily basis? Did I get an invite to join the social media forum, that is mentioned on the mail?

I searched and found the website page, then found the ’communication’- only when I knew it existed.
Can you advise how many people actually read this post or shared this - this data is easily found by the admin on the site. It looks like it had 1 like..

Please respond in a respectful way this time, that shows you have actually read the mail - not the almost automated response that I got the last time, that did not even get me added to a mailing list, even though I complained about the lack of public consultation.

Regards,
Is faoi rúna agus chun cèas Èide an t-O n an aon Èn at È luaite leis, a shoeltar an romhphost seo agus aon comhad at È nasctha leis. MÈ bhfuil an romhphost seo tr earr Èid, dÈan teagmhÈil le bhainisteoir an chròis.

Deimhntear leis an bhfo-nta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht romhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearra frithvorais chun vorais romhaire a aimsiù.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager.

This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept by anti-virus software for the presence of computer viruses.
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: foreshore@environ.ie.

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of:

Seoladh/Address:

Guthan /Tel / riiphost / email: _____________________________ Data: ____________________________

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - F5006566 Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

1. The proposed project will harm the visual amenity of our area and in particular along the route of the R336 and the Wild Atlantic Way.

2. The project and documentation is non-leading and incomplete.

3. I am a native home-owner of this area and strongly object to the project on our coastal seas. This project will have a detrimental impact on prospectiv e evaluations over a wide reaching area.

4. This project will be harmful to wildlife and fish.

[Signature]

Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

3 April 2016

Wexford
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: foreshore@environ.ie.

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: ________________________________

Seoladh/Address______________________________

Guthan /Tel / riphost / email_________________________ Data: 29-7-16

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: "Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station"

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

The proposed project will destroy our Area and be harmful to our tourist Industry.

I don't want to see windmills on Garryvoe Bay.

I call for the precautionary principle to be invoked as set down by U.N OSPAR Convention.

Page 58
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford Co. Wexford. Email: 

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: 

Seoladh/Address: 

Guthan /Tel / riphost / email: 

Data: 28/07/2016 

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above. 

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566 Applicant: The Marine Institute 

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station” 

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.) 

A chara, 

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below: 

The project is located too close to shore and very close to some local houses. 

The developers did not assess other developments in Galway Bay area, so no cumulative effect can be assessed.
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: seoladh@eircom.net.

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: ____________________________

Seoladh/Address: ______________________________________

Guthan /Tel / ríphost / email ____________________________ Data: 28/07/16

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

- Local people not informed
- Information not available in Irish/Gaeilge
- Issues with noise from wind mills not assessed

Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

3 Aug 2016

Wexford
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd. Wexford. Co. Wexford. Email: marineplanning@environment.ie

Seolta ar son / On behalf of:

Seoladh/Address

Guthan /Tel / ríphost / email

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566 Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and **strongly object** to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

- Lack of Consultation with locals.
- This project will harm wildlife and marine mammals in Galloway Bay
- The site is unsuited for development.

---

Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

3 Aug 2016
Wexford
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford. Co. Wexford. Email: foreshore@environment.ie.

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: ______________________________________
Seoladh/Address ________________________________________________

Guthan/Tel / ríphost / email _______________________________________
Date: 28/7/16

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566 Applicant: The Marine Institute
Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”
(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

1. The application is located on the "Wild Atlantic Route" a big tourist attraction.

2. Application is misleading + incomplete.

3. The Project location is surrounded by sensitive animal habitat protected by national & international law SAC Areas.

4. Negative effect on the Property, Valuations over a wide area.

5. Strongly against this.

Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government
3 Aug 2016
Wexford
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: planning@environment.ie.

Seoltra ar son: / On behalf of: __________________________________________________________

Seoladh/Address: __________________________________________________________

Guthan /Tel / ríphost / eml.: ___________ Date: ___________ 08/7/16

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566 Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

1. The application is misleading and incomplete.

2. The project location is surrounded by sensitive animal habitats protected by national and international law.

3. The proposed project will harm the visual amenity of the area in particular along the route of the R336 main road & Wild Atlantic Way.

4. The project will harm the tourism and recreational potential of the area.

Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

Wexford

3 Aug 2016

Foreshore Lease Application (FS006566) Submission
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email:

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: ________________________________
Seoladh/Address: __________________________________________

Guthan /Tel / ríphost / email: ________________________________

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.
Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566
Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station
(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

1. These were in consultation with local groups or residents associations so the project is misleading and totally incomplete. Information appears to be given in bits & pieces - no full picture.

2. The proposed project is located in a coastal forest area & lough / peninsula. Wild Atlantic Way that has brought tourists to the area. This project will negatively impact this.

3. The proposed area has protected wildlife & sensitive animal habitat.

4. Prosperity realization will be impacted negatively by this project. This could be detrimental to many people who have invested hugely in their homes.

5. Tourism will drop significantly as it will be detrimental to the local landscape/scenery/vista.

6. Geological coastline is unique as it rests over 6000-year-old marine terrace. The area is identified in many guidebooks - this will change that & it will have irreparable damage.

7. The application & documentation is not available in Irish. This is a Gaeltacht area.

--
Forshore Lease Application (FS006566) Submission
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email:

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: _
Seoladh/Address________________

Guthan /Tel / ríphost / email

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566 Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: "Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station"

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

The proposed project will harm the natural amenity of the area and in particular the wild Atlantic way scenic route.

The project will harm the tourism and recreational potential of the area. It is located in a coastal tourist area.

Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

Wexford

3 Aug 2016
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: foreshore@.environ.ie.

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: ___

Seoladh/Address ___

Guthan /Tel /riphost /email

Data: _31_07_16_

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

This area is a designated place of natural beauty which will be destroyed by the construction of the proposed Offshore Electricity Generating Station.

Is mar le meas,

___

___

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Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

3 At 3 2016

Wexford

1 Foreshore Lease Application (FS006566) Submission
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Email: foreshore@environ.ie.

Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: 

Seoladh/Address: 

Please confirm receipt of this submission naming the individual above.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - FS006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: "Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station"

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

[Handwritten text:]

I object to the high proposed construction, an it will deflect from the Wild Atlantic Way tourist attraction and disturb the local fishing needs and bird life.

---

Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

3 Aug 2016

Wexford
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford.

Email: foreshore@emuron.ie.

Date: 27 - July - 2016.

Seolta ag / From: ____________________________

Seoladh/Address: ____________________________

Guthan /Tel / r/phost / email: __________________

Submission regarding Application Number: - F5006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station

A chara,

I refer to the above planning application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

1. The project will seriously injure the visual amenities of the area and be contrary to the proper planning of the AREA, as in the Galway County Development Plan.

2. The project will be an unduly prominent and obstrusive development when viewed from the coast road i.e. The R336 - which is a County Galway designated scenic route.

3. Having regard to the proximity of the proposed project to the coastline it would have a detrimental impact on the scenic landscapes and seascapes of the coastline, and the Burren, the UNESCO world heritage site list.
4. The length of the lease is too long—what research project gets funding for 35 years?

5. To many Questions still remain Unanswered at the public meeting on August 21st the developer could not answer important Questions relating to my health and environmental pollution (noise). This development could have serious implications for individuals living in the area. I strongly object.

6. Misleading Information was given at the public meeting dated 14-June-16 as to which stakeholders were consulted. Tourism stakeholders have been excluded from the consultation process. I was not informed in time to consider the Application.

7. The Application does not contain an E.I.S. The effect of the whole project (test site, cable and onshore station) could not be assessed.

8. Sea Mammals are in danger of collision with devices on the site. Some of these mammals are protected by law (Annex I. Seals) therefore I am calling for the OSPAR precautionary principle to be enuoted.
Submission made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Rd, Wexford, Co. Wexford.

Email: foreshore@environ.ie

Data: __________________

Seolta ag / From: ________________________________

Seoladh/Address: ________________________________

Guthan /Tel / riphost / email ________________________________

Submission regarding Application Number: - FS006566

Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

A chara,

I refer to the above planning application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

9. The pictures included in the Application were misleading, and do not include all infrastructure on the site. Photos even managed to exclude Co Clare in photos of Galway Bay.

10. Application not available in Irish when I requested it at Salthill Garda Station.
I am a native Galwegian, and walk the prom regularly, swim in the sea a few times a week. I was horrified to hear there are plans in place to put turbines out on the bay to harvest power to export and would like to strongly object to same. Aesthetically this would be ugly and would like this to be logged as a opposition to same

Regards,
You can’t be serious putting such a hazard and eye sore in such a scenic location

what about the dangers to shipping and pleasure craft users

such a structure would not stand the storms of winter and it it were to brake free who would rescue it the RNLI, not a hope

so much for the wild Atlantic way
Ref: F5006566

I am an ordinary man with simple views on life who lives in the area affected by this testing system. This bay is probably one of the most beautiful in western Europe and to have units that do not have a natural blend with the surrounding is wrong. Many years ago my friends from Switzerland stopped coming to my house after seeing the fish farms in front of small outlets in the bay.

Why not look for funding from Europe or wherever, buy a larger boat and have these units a few miles out at sea, west of Aran or somewhere out of view of the people, if you do not have the will of the people you have nothing. All I see in life now is the easy option at every opportunity, whether its this type or windmills. To have this in this beautiful place would be shameful. Society has lost its respect, honesty and shame is a forgotten part of that, I will never have respect for all associated with this if it proceeds at this venue.

Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government

12 AUG 2016

Wexford
To whom it concerns

I’m writing in objection to the foreshore lease application that the Marine Institute with an address at Rinville, Oranmore, Co Galway have submitted for the Galway Bay Marine and Energy test site off the coast of Spiddal, Co Galway with the intention of testing prototype wind wave and tidal energy devices.

I’m objecting on behalf of myself, a prawn trawler based in , my father and I are second and third generation fishermen with a family history fishing for prawns dating back to the 1960’s, we fish for prawns north south east and west of the site in question, not just to the west of it as the Marine Institute state in their application, we lost a considerable amount of prosperous fishing ground when the original lease was granted without our knowledge in 2006, when we agreed to a site further to the southeast.
I would also like to bring to your attention that the site northern Boys has been moved a extra 80meters to the North, we can provide information and tracks on this as we are not able to work there now. So far in 2016 there has been a considerable amount of trawling done by ten or more vessel’s in the area, vessel’s ranging in size from 10m to 20m not 10 to 15 as stated in the application. As state by the Marine Institute on there camera survey said that Prawns were Abundant in this area.

I also noticed along with the application a list of external bodies consulted there is no mention of any of the fisherman’s organisation’s on it.

Our concern is that if a new lease is granted that the holder’s will increase the area of the site or God forbid seek an exclusion zone around the site without our knowledge just like ten years ago. If the like were to happen it would mean considerable financial loss to our vessel’s, crews and families.

I would like to thank you for reading my submission

Regards

--
Sent from Gmail Mobile

--
Sent from Gmail Mobile
From:  
Sent:  
23 August 2016 11:02  
To:  
foreshore  
Subject:  
Submission on Foreshore Lease Application Number FS006566

My name is
I am very strongly against these wind turbines going up in the bay my views are blocked enough with houses going up around me. Why was every think hushed about all this. I think it is very very unfair that people can come and do this along our Galway Bay.

Sent from my iPhone
I object to the above foreshore lease application number FS006566 for the following reasons.

The Aarhus Convention is a law that requires the government to encourage meaningful public participation in decision-making for environmental development such as that being proposed for Galway Bay. In this case, we believe this burden has not been met for many reasons, including the following:

- There was no meaningful notification of the public meetings. The notifications that were given were vague as to what was involved. Locals that live beside the development were not directly notified. Tourism and environmental groups were not notified, nor were they asked to make an observation regarding the development. Not all of the stakeholders, for example, Bird Watch Ireland have made their submissions to date so we do not know what their opinions are.
- None of the information was available in the Irish language despite the development being located in the Gaeltacht.
- The locations where information was available is not normally accessed by interested parties - the Garda Station in Salthill, the Spiddal and Galway Public Library. At no time were there posters, leaflets, flyers, etc. distributed to local homes, schools, shops, restaurants, GAA clubs, etc.
- The Convention requires public participation in decision-making regarding such issues but at no point in this process were the public asked to participate, rather they were simply fed particular information that did not give the whole picture of what was involved. The government has not been straightforward and has misled the public at the meetings that they did hold, implying that there was only going to be one wind turbine in the bay when, in fact, there will be up to four varying devices on the bay at any time.

2. **Location and Environmental Impact.** Galway Bay is located within several significant environmental and tourist regions that should be carefully used and not spoiled by development.

- The Burren - this is a UNESCO Geopark and is located approximately 6 miles from the potential Galway Bay testing site.
- The Connemara landscape is one of the principal tourism assets in County Galway. As you look across Galway Bay, you will now see many different devices and a permanent sea station and markers. And from County Clare, you will also see it as you look out towards Galway.
- Galway County Development Plan - the site is contrary to the plan. It is clearly visible on the Galway County Scenic Route from Barna to Baile an tSléibhe and the
Galway County Protected Focal Points and Views. The site is located in an area of high sensitivity where development is curtailed and where wind farm development is "..not normally permissible."

• Wild Atlantic Way - this area is advertised as the "Coast Road into the Heart of the Gaeltacht" and contains 14 major Discovery Points along the route including Carraroe, Ros a Mhíl, Spiddal, Barna, Salthill, Inis Mór, Inis Siar, Inis Meain and Renville Park in Galway and Doorus, Flaggy Shore, Ballyvaughan, Murrooghtoohy and Doolin. The Beaches to explore on the Wild Atlantic Way include Carraroe, Inverin, Barna, Salthill, Kinvara, Inis Siar and Inis Mór. The three Aran Islands in the Bay are recommended to visit. Of course, one of the biggest natural landscapes in Ireland is located in Clare in the Burren which is a UNESCO Geopark, affording it international status as a valuable natural landscape.

• Special Areas of Conservation - the site is located next to several designated areas of conservation including in Galway Bay itself, many within the Burren and, of course, the Aran Islands.

• Special Protection Areas - the site is located next to several designated special protection areas including inner Galway Bay, Connemara Bog Complex, Inis Mór and the Cliffs of Moher.

• National Parks - the site is within 6 miles of the Burren National Park.

• National Heritage Areas - the site is near designated national heritage areas including Moycullen Bogs and Cregganna Marsh.

• Noise Pollution - this has not been adequately assessed. Public Input - the public have never been meaningfully consulted with regards the development of the Galway Bay site in the past or for the future.

3. Size. The project size is not being truly portrayed in its totality.

• Project Splitting. The project has been split into many elements. There was a separate cable installation, separate site application, separate onshore application, thereby appearing somewhat less relevant to stakeholders. A larger project may have required a more serious environmental assessment. What is the potential environmental damage? We will not know since an independent environmental assessment was not required.

• There are many suggestions of future expansion in the current and past applications which we have not had time to investigate. The upgrades and expansion referred to suggest a much larger sized project which has not been disclosed.

• The site application refers to possible pile-driving into the sea bed.

• Some of the devices in the application are only possible as nearshore devices suggesting the expansion into the nearshore.
The application has a catch-all clause that allows future devices that have not been invented yet. The photo montage and other photos used in the application are deceptive and do not show all of the possible infrastructure. The photo montage does not even show County Clare in the frame. The public cannot visualise the actual project.

4. **Nature.** There is a need to call for the Precautionary Principle to be invoked as set down by the UN OSPAR Convention.

Ireland is a signatory to the UN OSPAR Convention which is a grouping of many concerned countries to environmentally protect the Atlantic Ocean. The precautionary principle states that "...preventive measures are to be taken when there are reasonable grounds for concern that human activities may bring about hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine ecosystems, damage amenities or interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea, even when there is no conclusive evidence of a causal relationship. A lack of full scientific evidence must not postpone action to protect the marine environment. The principle anticipates that delaying action would in the longer term prove more costly to society and nature and would compromise the needs of future generations."

It is vital that the government stop and consider the potential damage from this site into Galway Bay and the surrounding areas. This is their obligation according to international law.
Submissions can be made to: Marine Planning and Foreshore Section, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or foreshore@housing.gov.ie

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Sender address:

I, , am making the following objection on my own behalf.

I object to the granting of Application F5006566, “Application for a Foreshore Lease for the Construction of an Offshore Electricity Generating Station” on the following grounds:

- EU and Irish Law sets out a process whereby any development likely to have significant effects on the environment cannot be exempt from an EIA, unless a comprehensive screening of the project with regard to its potential impacts on the receiving environment rules out the need for an EIA. This proposed development has not been adequately screened, as required by law. The size, nature, and location of the project must be considered in determining if an EIA is required and this has not been done.
- This project is part of a larger development including Application F5005751, Application F5006611 and Galway County Council Application 13/947. The intention of the EIA Directive is that no project likely to have significant effects on the environment should be exempt and project splitting cannot be used to circumvent the intention of the Directive.
- The cumulative impacts of F5006566, together with the above applications and other developments on the receiving environment of Galway Bay have not been included at the screening stage and therefore have not been assessed as required by law.
- I have been deprived of an Environmental Impact Statement and therefore do not have the information I need to assess the impact this development will have on my quality of life, my health and wellbeing. This application does not provide any External Bodies Consultation information from an independent Environmental NGO to inform me or the Minister deciding on this application.
- The impacts of the proposed development on the sensitive area of Galway Bay, its legally protected species and Habitats, have not been Appropriately Assessed as required by law.
- I do not understand why Tourism has not been considered in this application. The impact on tourism has implications at National and Local level in terms of revenue, employment and rural depopulation.
- I have not been properly informed and I have not been consulted and included in the decision making process with regard to this application as required under the Aarhus Convention.
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- I do not understand why a 35 year Lease is being considered because, if granted, it will shackle future Governments, and subject the public and generations to follow with unassessed and unimagined consequences.

Therefore, I ask the Minister to refuse to grant this application.

Signed, ..

Date: 23/8/2016

I reserve the right to add to my submission, should further concerns arise in light of information not presently available to me.
Seolta ar son: / On behalf of: ____
Seoladh/Address ____

Guthán /Tel /rfomhphost/email ____ átha/Date 23 Aug 16

Please confirm receipt of this individual submission referencing the above name.

Submission regarding Foreshore Lease Application Number: - F5006566  Applicant: The Marine Institute

Application: “Foreshore Lease Application to Construct an Offshore Electricity Generating Station”

(Should an extension to the closing date be granted I reserve the right to add further information to this submission.)

A chara,

I refer to the above Foreshore Lease Application and strongly object to the proposed development. I object on the points outlined below:

* No Consultation with Local People
* No information about project
* Will destroy the image of the area for Tourism

Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government
24 AUG 2016
Wexford

__________________________________________
Foreshore Lease Application (F5006566) Submission
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Therefore, I ask the Minister to refuse to grant this application.

Signed, ...

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Therefore, I ask the Minister to refuse to grant this application.

Signed,

Date: 23/08/2016

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[Image of sender address]

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Therefore, I ask the Minister to refuse to grant this application.

Signed,

Date: 23 August 2016

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Therefore, I ask the Minister to refuse to grant this application.

Signed                                               Date

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Signed, [Signature] 24 Aug 2016

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