

Aileen McGarry

From: Antoinette Kennedy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 10 August 2026 17:33
To: Ann McCullough; Ann Tyre; Anthony McKay; Conor Hughes; Conor Mallon; Damien Mulligan; Denise Dickson; Karen Doyle; Kate Bentley; Kyle Patterson; Melvin Bowman; Paul McDermott; Sharon Mossman
Subject: NILGA Request: Input to inform NILGA Response to AERA Committee Call for Evidence on Fisheries, Aquaculture and Water Environment Bill

For the attention of Council Planning Leads

Dear Council Planning Leads,

The Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (AERA Committee) has issued a Call for Evidence on the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Water Environment Bill and has invited NILGA to submit evidence to this call for evidence. The consultation closes on **11 September 2026**. A link to the Call for Evidence can be found here: [Fisheries, Aquaculture and Water Environment Bill - Northern Ireland Assembly - Citizen Space](#)

As NILGA considers how it will respond to this request, we would greatly welcome input from Council Planning on any aspects of the Bill that may have implications for councils' planning functions, coastal and inland development considerations, environmental regulation, or future aquaculture activity.

In particular, we would appreciate views on:

- *Any planning implications arising from proposed changes to aquaculture licensing arrangements;*
- *Potential interactions between the Bill and existing planning or environmental assessment processes;*
- *Impacts on sustainable development, biodiversity protection, river catchment management, or blue/green infrastructure objectives;*
- *Any risks, opportunities or unintended consequences for councils, communities or local development;*
- *Whether there are any areas where the legislation would benefit from greater clarity or stronger alignment with local planning policy.*

Many thanks in advance for any assistance you can provide.

Kind regards,
Antoinette Kennedy

Antoinette Kennedy

Regional Project Officer



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