

### Will the Corrib Scheme help the local economy?

**No. Only a handful of jobs would be created for the area, and none of the profits from the gas would be invested locally.** The scheme would greatly damage the local tourism industry, since toxic waste from the refinery will be dumped in the sea and pollute Broadhaven Bay. Holidaymakers would stop coming to the area if they were faced with the prospect of spending time near a dangerous experimental gas pipeline, a giant refinery and dirty beaches.

North west Mayo is a naturally beautiful part of Ireland, with many prehistoric sites and scenic areas. There is an unbroken tradition of using the Irish language in daily life. This attractive, historic region is threatened by Shell's unreasonable refusal to clean and process the gas offshore.

### What can people do to help the Shell to Sea campaign?

**Visit the area** and see for yourself what's going on. Call in to the Shell To Sea HQ on the roadside at **Bellanaboy**, drop in to the Solidarity Camp in **Glengad** (on the pipeline route) and tour **Pollathomish** and **Rosspport** to see the impact already felt on the ground (see map on back page).

To reach the area by public transport, take a train or bus to **Ballina** or **Castlebar**, and continue by private bus with a company like McGrath's. Call (097) 87842 for a timetable and details and arrange your trip.

For more directions on how to get to the camp look at the website: [www.struggle.ws/rsc/](http://www.struggle.ws/rsc/)

**Get in touch** with your local Shell to Sea group. We need people to help with writing and distributing leaflets, designing posters, and organising protests. We also need people to help raise money and get equipment for the solidarity camp in Glengad.

**Raise this issue** with local media. Text or call in to radio shows whenever you get a chance. Write to the newspapers. **Don't buy petrol from Shell or Statoil** until they deal with the safety concerns of the scheme. Make sure you're **registered to vote** (the form can be picked up at any post office) and **contact your local TDs**. You can go to one of their constituency clinics or you can write a letter saying something like this:

*"As a registered voter, I am considering how I will vote at the next election. I am very concerned at the Government's support for Shell's plan to build a gas refinery and high-pressure pipeline through villages in County Mayo against the wishes of the local community. Since you are my elected representative, I wonder where you stand on this issue?"*

Let us know if you get a reply, and what it says

**Donate money** to the campaign:

Account Name: Shell to Sea  
Account Number: 39986853  
Sort Code: 939021  
EBS, Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2.

**Read** the Centre for Public Inquiry report on the Corrib controversy: [www.publicinquiry.ie](http://www.publicinquiry.ie)  
Copies are also available at most bookshops and local libraries

Check for updated information:

[www.indymedia.ie](http://www.indymedia.ie)  
[www.shelltosea.com](http://www.shelltosea.com)

# Shell to Sea



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# Shell to Sea



## Protect Irish Natural Resources

# Shell chun Sáile



[www.shelltosea.com](http://www.shelltosea.com)

### What's going on in Mayo, and how does it affect the rest of the country?

**Three multinational companies, Shell, Statoil and Marathon, have formed a consortium to exploit the Corrib natural gas field off the west coast of Ireland.**

The usual way to process gas is to do so on a rig off shore. Shell, the leaders of the consortium, have chosen not to do this. Instead they want to build a dangerous, experimental pipeline and pump raw, untreated gas straight from the seabed over land to a huge refinery which they plan to build 6 miles inland in the Mayo Gaeltacht. To do this, it would be necessary for them to go through a residential area, against the wishes of the local people.

**The Irish government has made it easy for Shell from the start.** They've changed the law in several ways. They have granted the company the power to issue compulsory purchase orders against the local people, and have changed regulations so that the pipeline won't need planning permission. In April 2005 Shell was awarded a High Court injunction against the people of the area to prevent them from protesting against the scheme, and five men who refused to agree to this were sent to prison at the end of June. These men became known as **The Rossport Five** and they eventually spent over three months in high-security conditions in Cloverhill Prison before finally being released at the very end of September last year.

**This is the first time in Ireland that a private company has been allowed to use compulsory purchase orders like this.** In the past, they were used for public projects such as schools, hospitals and roads. The new rules mean that compulsory purchase can now be used for schemes that do not benefit the public.

If Shell get their way in Mayo, then other companies will also be allowed to force people to sell their land, property and even their homes. **If this is allowed to happen, then everyone in Ireland is at risk of facing the same problems as the people of Rossport.**



*Bertie Ahern leaves Liberty Hall where he had made a speech on socialism - September 2005*

### Is Shell's scheme in the national interest? Will it benefit the people of Ireland?

**No. The Irish Government has given all the gas to the consortium, and the State will not make any money from its sale.** Shell has been given such a good deal by the government that they will only pay a tiny amount of tax, if any, on their profits. The way things stand, the economy won't gain anything from the huge natural gas reserves off our coast and the Irish consumer will be forced to pay the international market rate for Corrib gas. Strangely, since Statoil is largely owned by the Norwegian government, the people of Norway will benefit from this deal, while the people of Ireland get nothing.

**Corrupt politicians have also played a part in this rip-off.** It was Minister **Ray Burke** who in 1987 - against the advice of his

own department - abandoned the 50% public stake in any find of oil or gas in Irish waters. The two men most closely linked with the scheme when the deal was sealed between 2000 and 2002 were Taoiseach **Bertie Ahern** and the Galway West T.D. and Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources **Frank Fahey**. As recently as last summer, while The Rossport Five were in prison, Minister **Noel Dempsey** signed yet another deal to give away oil and gas exploration rights for a huge area off the Sligo, Erris and Donegal coastline.

When an independent group, the Centre for Public Inquiry, published a report critical of the Corrib Gas Project in November 2005, the government immediately launched a smear campaign against the director of the centre, and eventually used its influence to cut the group's funding and kill off future publications.

**The Corrib gas field off the west coast of Ireland is worth billions, and there are many more fields of natural gas and even oil in Irish waters.** The global price of oil and gas is increasing all the time, but this won't be of any benefit to Ireland, as Shell will sell to the highest bidders on the international market.

**All of this makes it clear that the deal should be thrown out and renegotiated.**

### What usually happens with Natural Gas? What's unusual about the Corrib scheme?

Normally, because gas is extracted from the sea-bed in a dangerous, unstable form, it is normally treated on an offshore rig before being brought to land. When it is clean and relatively safe an odour is added so that leaks can be detected. The pressure of the gas is reduced, and then finally pumped ashore to enter the Bord Gáis network.

**In the Corrib gas scheme, Shell wants to lay its pipeline from under the seabed directly to the refinery miles inland.**

The gas would be odourless. It would also be corrosive and would contain many harmful substances. Of course, this would be much cheaper for Shell, but it also means the local people would have an extremely dangerous gas pipeline running right past their houses. In Rossport, the pipe would be laid under the public road. The pipeline would also have to run through bog land, which is waterlogged and unstable. There have been many landslides in the area in recent years.

**A number of recognised experts have predicted that an explosion is very likely in the working life of the pipeline.** The pressure of the gas would be up to seventy times the maximum operating pressure of a domestic gas pipeline. Even according to the recent Government-backed safety report, in the event of an explosion everyone within a quarter of a mile would be killed.



*The Rossport Five make their views on Minister Noel Dempsey plain at the rally in Dublin to mark their release from prison - 1st October 2005*