Alab, Info

From: Avril Hutchinson [redacted]
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I object to the total disregard shown by the Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB) to the opinions of the vast majority of the community in their total opposition to shellfish farming in Ballyness Bay. Rather, there seems to have been noticeable bias by those two organisations in favour of the oyster licence applicants all during the licensing and appeals process.
I object to ALAB's disregard of the well founded concerns that have been expressed for the natural environment in the bay, coupled with their ignoring of the most basic of the EU Directives to protect its rare and endangered wildlife. A particularly dangerous threat is the introduction of non-native species of Clams and Pacific Oysters into the Bay and the denial of the well documented possibility of these to revert to spawning and colonise the surrounding area.

Ballyness Bay is a much cherished amenity in the community. It provides a health-giving location for walking, swimming, boating, angling, art, windsurfing etc, to the community and to visitors alike.
Industrial scale shellfish farming will add pollution, litter, noise and daily and night time disturbance on the bay and on access roads.

Ballyness Bay is an increasingly popular beauty spot along the Wild Atlantic Way. That translates into tourism income that is a very important addition to the local economy. Arrays of oyster trestles would be an unacceptable visual blot on the bay as well as reducing its appeal to visitors and locals alike.

Wide experience from other areas all point to a marked deterioration in the local environment once commercial shellfish farming is introduced. I don't want Ballyness Bay to follow the same pattern.

This is a hugely important issue for both the local community and the numerous regular visitors to this area.

For all these reasons outlined and many more, I strongly object to the granting of aquaculture licences in Ballyness Bay.

Regards

Avril Hutchinson