Alab, Info

From: Charles Mc Fadden [redacted]
Sent: Friday 16 October 2026 13:15
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Ballyness Bay - Letter of support for the approval of the aquaculture licences

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally express my strong support for the approval of the aquaculture licences currently under consideration for Ballyness Bay. While I understand there are concerns locally, I believe this development is vital for the survival and future of our community for several key reasons.

1. Creating Sustainable, Year-Round Employment
Our community cannot survive by depending solely on seasonal summer tourism, which leaves the area quiet for most of the year and forces us to rely heavily on state support. We are facing a severe population crisis as our youth continuously leave the area in search of work—some temporarily, and many never to return. Over the last 18 months, we have already witnessed the closure of four national schools across Donegal. Based on current dwindling enrolment figures, an additional 5 to 7 schools are predicted to close within the next 18 months. Furthermore, our local sports clubs are losing players at an unsustainable rate to countries like Australia. Providing secure, long-term, year-round coastal employment is the only way to allow our young people to build lives here, keep our schools open, and ensure our community thrives rather than vanishes.

2. Sustaining the Irish Language and Culture
Emigration is the greatest threat facing the Gaeltacht today. When young families are forced to leave because there are no jobs, our language and culture go with them. Keeping young people in the locality directly secures the future of our local Gaelscoileanna and ensures the Irish language is successfully passed on to the next generation.

3. Ecological Benefits and Cleaning the Bay
From my own research, oysters offer significant environmental benefits to the marine ecosystem. Unlike other forms of food production, oysters grow naturally without the need for artificial feeds, antibiotics, or chemicals. Instead, they act as natural filter feeders that actively improve water quality. The immense success of using oysters to clean up environments like New York Harbor, and closer to home in Belfast Lough, demonstrates the positive ecological impact this industry can have.

4. Historic Precedent and Addressing Local Misinformation
Aquaculture is not a new concept for Ballyness Bay. During the 1980s, state bodies like Údarás na

Gaeltachta actively promoted aquaculture in our local parish halls, and several locals successfully held licences and worked the bay for years. Many people today are unaware of this history because they are being fed scare stories about beach closures, blocked roads, and constant noise pollution. When asked for specifics on which roads or beaches will actually be affected, those spreading these stories cannot provide an answer.

For our language, our economy, and the future of our youth, we need sustainable coastal industries. I strongly urge the Board to approve these licences.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Mc Fadden