Alab, Info

From: Ciaran Quigley [redacted]
Sent: Monday 2 November 2026 16:39
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Fwd: Ballyness Bay, Donegal

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Fao The Secretary
Aquaculture Licenses Appeals Board
Kilminchy Court
Dublin Rd
Port Laoise R32 DTW5

Ref Active appeals Ballyness Bat Co. Donegal

A Dhuine Uasal

I wish to make a submission re the above appeals by way of attaching a copy of a letter I sent to the then Minister in July 2019.
Allowing for the passing of time since that letter, I wish to reiterate all the points which I made therein. We have been living in Lower Killult as a second home for over 22 years, which I think gives us a particular qualification to promote the beauty of Ballyness Bay. To allow the construction of what would effectively be unsightly industrial plants in the Bay would amount to ecological vandalism, never mind the damage to tourism and the local economy, all for the sake of activities that would generate limited financial benefit. I would urge that, before any decision is taken in regard to this matter, the members of the Board visit this area in order to appraise themselves of the innate beauty of Ballyness Bay, and then perhaps visit Mulroy Bay to understand the damage that unfolds when this type of operation is permitted.

Lemeas mór

Ciaran Quigley
[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ciaran Quigley [redacted]
Date: 27 July 2019 at 14:41:42 GMT+1
To: [redacted]

[redacted]

Subject: Ballyness Bay, Donegal

Minister

I write in reference to the various applications for aquaculture licences at Ballyness Bay, Donegal.

My wife and I are from Belfast but we have a second home in close proximity to the bay. We have owned our property at Lower Killult for over 15 years.We use it extensively at all times of the year, we pay all taxes and we have heavily invested in the property using local tradesmen over the period of our ownership.

Ballyness Bay is one of Ireland's environmental jewels. As you know, the Bay is a Special Area of Conservation, as recently confirmed by the European Union Habitats (Ballyness Bay Special Area of Conservation 001090)Regulations 2018. Those regulations capture the importance of the Bay from an ecological and an environmental perspective. However, the innate beauty of the bay can only really be appreciated by personal visual experience and you would be welcome, Minister, to join us at our home at any convenient time to get an opportunity to observe the beauty of the bay at close hand. We are a field away from the southern lung of the bay . Curlews and other protected species feed on the exposed sands between the tides and, this year, we have had corncrakes calling in the three fields surrounding us. From our kitchen window, we watch the seals hauling up on the northern section of the bay. The other evening,I watched Irish hares exploring the adjacent field All kinds of bird life pay us visits, including the kestrel, wheatear, buzzard, wrens, dunnocks, goldfinches and numerous others. Where we are is basically a little bit of heaven on earth!..and which we think deserves the utmost protection from spoliation.

But it not only from a personal vested interest that we urge you, Minister, to reject the moves to cause untold damage to the Bay. The economic advantages to be gained from aquaculture exploitation of the Bay would pale into insignificance compared to the damage that would be inflicted to the tourism economy of this part of Donegal. This Gaeltacht region is heavily dependent on tourism, and on its reputation for its breathtaking scenery. To allow the installation of what are effectively small industrial estates in the Bay would have an enormous negative impact on the visual amenity of the area, with resultant untold damage to Donegal's tourism reputation.The county can ill-afford such an adverse development, particularly at this present time when the threat of Brexit looms imminently. The county has benefited enormously from the promotion of the Wild Atlantic Way, and it would be a huge act of economic self-harm to permit activities which would directly and adversely impinge on that marketing campaign.

From an ecological and environmental perspective, the arguments for the protection of the Bay are equally compelling. The Report supporting Appropriate Assessment of Aquaculture In Ballyness Bay SAC seems to be loaded in favour of industrial development of the Bay. It contains an inaccuracy at 5.1 in stating that there was no aquaculture activity, when in fact illegal trestles had been put in place, much to the protest of the local community. The report paid scant attention to the adverse effects that the proposed industrial operations will have on wildlife, and protected birds in particular. The report completely ignored the adverse visual impact of the proposals. It

largely ignores the enormous collateral damage that would be caused as a result of vehicular activity, especially the proposal in relation to Ranaghmore Island, where there would be a direct threat to the on-going attempts for the re-establishment of the corncrake. The proposal to establish clam culture activities on the southern side of the Bay would amount to destruction of the feeding grounds of the curlews and other marine birds.

Minister, we do hope that you will understand all the potential negative impacts of the aquaculture proposals. There is much local opposition to these, but the proposals pose wider threats to the overall economy of the county region. It is indeed no coincidence that the protective regulations are made under the auspices of European Law, thus reflecting the broader EU interest in preserving the diminishing number of areas of outstanding natural beauty in our Emerald Island!

Le meas mór

Ciaran Quigley

