CUMANN IASCAIRÍ CHLOICH CHEANNFHAOLA
CLOUGHANEELY ANGLING ASSOCIATION
[redacted]
Chairman: Colm Gallagher [redacted]
Hon. Secretary: Noel Duddy [redacted]

15 October 2026

AQUACULTURE LICENCES
APPEALS BOARD
15 OCT 2026
RECEIVED

Mr Karl Brogan
Secretary to the Board
Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board
Kilminchy Court
Dublin Road
Portlaoise
Co. Laois
R32 DTW5

A Chara

I refer to the Board's public notice invitation for submissions re proposed granting of licences for aquaculture in Ballyness Bay, Co. Donegal. Cloughaneely Angling Association (CAA), in partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), manages the fishery in the catchment of the rivers Ray, and Tullaghobegley, encompassing the rivers and associated tributaries, hill loughs, and Ballyness Bay.

The Natura Impact Statement prepared by AQUAFACT, mentioned in the public notice, makes reference to the use of the Bay for sea trout angling and states that the proposed aquaculture sites will not impact negatively on this activity. (NIS pages 62, 92). AQUAFACT reached this conclusion based on a map on CAA's website showing recommended areas for angling, based on anglers' experience.

I must advise you that this map, which was included when the website was first set up, is in fact out of date and misleading. Since then, there has been a steady growth in angling for sea trout in the bay. We attribute this partly to our promotion of this element of the fishery, and partly to a decline in salmon stocks and associated angling in the rivers system, with anglers increasingly turning their attention to the Bay. I enclose an updated map reflecting the current reality. Unfortunately, we have been delayed in uploading this map to the website due to serious illness on the part of our IT consultant who deals with these matters on our behalf. We are intent on replacing the outdated map as soon as possible.

While sea trout angling in the Bay is a long established feature of the fishery and part of IFI's national promotion of the sport, it has assumed greater importance for CAA as other aspects of the fishery come under stress. It is a key factor in the package we are able to offer both to local anglers and, most importantly, to visiting anglers. Angling tourism is an important contributor to CAA's finances and to the local economy generally. For this reason, we are opposed to the use of the Bay for aquaculture with all the damaging consequences it entails.

Is mise le meas

Colm Gallagher

Colm Gallagher, Chairman CAA

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