Alab, Info

From: Daniel Sweeney [redacted]
Sent: Sunday 11 October 2026 18:54
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Objection to the proposed Pacific oyster farm in Ballyness Bay, Falcarragh, County Donegal

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed establishment of a Pacific oyster farm in Ballyness Bay, near Falcarragh, County Donegal.

Ballyness Bay is an important part of our local natural environment, coastal heritage and community. It is valued for its scenic beauty, wildlife, biodiversity and contribution to the livelihoods and recreation of people in the surrounding area. I am deeply concerned that the introduction of a commercial Pacific oyster farm could have lasting negative consequences for this sensitive coastal environment.

1. Environmental and ecological concerns

I am concerned about the potential impact of introducing and cultivating Pacific oysters (*Magallana gigas*, formerly *Crassostrea gigas*) in Ballyness Bay. This species is non-native to Ireland and can establish itself in the wild under suitable conditions. Any proposal should be carefully assessed for the risk of spread beyond the farm, competition with native species and changes to the natural balance of the bay.

2. Impact on wildlife and protected habitats

Ballyness Bay and the surrounding coastline provide valuable habitats for coastal wildlife, including birds and other marine species. I request a thorough assessment of the potential effects of the proposed development on protected habitats, feeding grounds, water quality and the wider marine ecosystem. Any uncertainty regarding these impacts should be properly investigated before a licence is granted.

3. Impact on the local community and coastal landscape

Ballyness Bay is a valued natural amenity for residents and visitors alike. I am concerned that oyster-farming equipment, access arrangements, servicing activities and associated infrastructure could

affect the appearance, tranquillity and recreational use of the bay. The potential consequences for local tourism, coastal activities and the character of the area must be fully considered.

4. Water quality and cumulative environmental effects

The bay's water quality and ecological condition must be protected. I request clear information on the proposed farm's potential effects on sediment, marine habitats, shellfish health and the wider water environment. Any existing activities and other pressures on the bay should also be considered as part of a comprehensive assessment.

5. Public consultation and the precautionary principle

I believe the concerns of local residents, community groups and other affected parties deserve serious consideration. Before any decision is made, the relevant authorities should ensure that all necessary environmental assessments, scientific evidence and consultation requirements have been completed.

Where there is a risk of significant or irreversible environmental harm, the precautionary principle should be applied.

Request to the Commission

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that the proposed Pacific oyster farm in Ballyness Bay be refused unless the applicant can demonstrate, through robust independent scientific evidence and all required assessments, that the development would not cause unacceptable harm to the environment, protected habitats, local amenities or the interests of the community.

I ask that the ecological importance of Ballyness Bay and the long-term interests of the people of Falcarragh and the surrounding area be given full and careful consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my objection. I trust that these concerns will be properly examined before any decision is reached.

Yours faithfully,

Name: ____Daniel sweeney_____

Address: [redacted]

Date: _____11/10/2026_____