Alab, Info

From: sean gallagher [redacted]
Sent: Sunday 1 November 2026 17:20
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Appeal of Applications for Aquaculture licenses
Attachments: appeal.docx

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Appeal against application for aquaculture Licences under the Fisheries (Amendment) Act,1997(ref. AP2-AP11/2025 attached

[redacted]

October 30th 2026

Re: AP2-AP11/2025

Appeal against decision to allow the cultivation of pacific oysters in Ballyness Bay,Co Donegal.

Dear Secretary

We take a strong objection to any permission for aquaculture projects in Ballyness Bay, Co Donegal. Any disturbance would have a significant detrimental outcome on the purpose of such a designated site under Natura 2000 network. Their protection are there to safeguard the habitat and species therein as outlined in the Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC.

These well-founded concerns are further put under danger by any introduction of nonnative species that would colonize this important ecological area. The damage to a pristine unique amenity including the tidal mudflats, sandflats, important estuarine features, the unique fauna and flora would be significant

The area also has important significance towards the local economy helping to support many small businesses by its appeal to visitors because of its visual beauty, enjoyed also by the local population. The National Landscape Convention obliges Ireland to protect and manage the environmental values embedded in such a landscape

It should be noted Ireland has delayed the introduction of designated Marine protected areas therefore failing to provide the adequate spatial safeguards outlined in European Directives. On May the sixth 2026 the European commission sent a formal notice on these failures to designate appropriate marine protected areas. To allow such an ecological damaging application would contradict the promise of an effective MPA legislation and it is now obvious that that this negligence has unforeseen consequences, not only financial. A MPA status for Ballyness bay could help in the important fight against climate change and legally protect and restore this habitat, its species and ecosystem. It has to be underlined Ireland has committed to protecting 30% of its seas by 2030 however, less than 10% of Irish waters are currently designated as protected. The opportunity exists at Ballyness to promote seagrass growth adding to a healthy biodiversity that would help to build fish stocks. Therefore, such visionary

projects would absorb large quantities of CO2 from the atmosphere without detrimental effect and add to a natural ecosystem that would encourage many species

Defending Environmental Wealth(DEW) are totally opposed to this shortsighted aquaculture plan.

Yours sincerely

Sean Gallagher

Gerard Moyne

Cormac Conaghan

Julian Theseira