Alab, Info

From: Eamon [redacted]
Sent: Sunday 1 November 2026 21:10
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Oyster farming Balliness Bay

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To whom it may concern,

I have lived in this area all my life and have a deep personal connection to Ballyness Bay. It has always been a special part of my life and a much-loved natural amenity, enjoyed by generations of local people and visitors alike. It offers a beautiful setting for a wide range of recreational activities, including kayaking, leisure boating, swimming, pier jumping, angling and windsurfing. It is a place where people can relax, enjoy nature and appreciate the natural beauty of our coastline. I feel strongly that this very special place must be protected and preserved for future generations.

We object to the total disregard shown by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB) for the views of the overwhelming majority of the local community, who are opposed to shellfish farming in Ballyness Bay. Instead, there appears to have been a noticeable bias in favour of the oyster licence applicants throughout the licensing and appeals process.

We are particularly concerned by ALAB's apparent disregard for the well-founded concerns raised about the natural environment of the bay, as well as the failure to give proper consideration to the fundamental EU directives designed to protect its rare and endangered wildlife.

A particularly serious concern is the introduction of non-native species, including clams and Pacific oysters, into the bay, and the dismissal of the well-documented possibility that these species could reproduce, spread and colonise surrounding areas.

Ballyness Bay is a much-cherished amenity for the local community. It provides a health-giving environment for walking, swimming, boating, angling, art and windsurfing, and is enjoyed by visitors from near and far. Commercial shellfish farming would bring additional pollution, litter, noise and both daytime and night-time disturbance, fundamentally changing the character of this special place.

Ballyness Bay is also an increasingly popular beauty spot along the Wild Atlantic Way. This brings valuable tourism income to the area and makes an important contribution to the local economy. Rows of oyster trestles would be an unacceptable visual intrusion on the natural beauty of the bay, diminishing its appeal to both visitors and local people.

Experience from other areas raises serious concerns about the deterioration of the local environment following the introduction of commercial shellfish farming. We do not want Ballyness Bay to suffer the same fate.

This is a hugely important issue for our community. Our concerns are genuine, strongly held and shared by the vast majority of local people. We believe that the natural environment, wildlife, recreational value and beauty of Ballyness Bay must take priority over commercial interests.

For all of these reasons, and many more, **we strongly object to the granting of aquaculture licences in Ballyness Bay.**

Eamon Ó Cuireáin.

Anne Giblin Curran