Alab, Info

From: Emma Coll [redacted]
Sent: Sunday 1 November 2026 13:59
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Oyster licence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This Email originated from Outside of this department. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Otherwise Please Forward any suspicious Emails to Notify.Cyber@agriculture.gov.ie .

I am aware of the campaign to prevent oyster farming in Ballyness Bay. I walk Magheroarty beach and the sand dunes often and I have never seen any problem when oyster harvesting was in operation. It would be such a beautiful place to work and opportunity for the area to be on the map. I had to move to Galway to get work and if the oysters were still running I would still be at home with my family. In Galway Oyster farms such as Kellys and DK Connemara Oysters are thriving and involving the community in festivals and tours of the site.

These licences are local people who've been on this beach all their lives and to not allow them this after 9 years would be a disservice to the locals and putting holiday makers who don't live in the local area's complaints ahead of the needs of the people who grew up on this shore. A large amount of false information was fed on a biased page online, the information was exaggerated for purposes of the campaign.
The men who have submitted these applications would no more than anyone else want any harm or 'eyesores' on the beach. There is no more info that the applicants can provide to the governing authority on this case after 9+ years of a battle.

Having travelled to Australia for work and come back and still have to go down to Galway because there are no opportunities in Donegal is so disappointing in this generation. Giving this opportunity its fair chance could keep young people around for generations. They are not visible on the bay and no one even noticed they were there.

Benefits of Oysters in Magheroarty

Economic benefits

Provides jobs in oyster cultivation, harvesting, packaging, transport and marketing.

Benefits restaurants, hotels, seafood processors and local suppliers.

Attracts investment into rural coastal areas where employment opportunities may be limited.

Social benefits

Reduces rural depopulation: Creates local jobs that may encourage young people to remain in rural Ireland.

Preserves traditional skills: Builds on Ireland's long history of fishing and shellfish cultivation.

Strengthens rural communities: Helps sustain local shops, services and other businesses.

Environmental benefits

Low feed requirements: Oysters filter naturally occurring food from the water and do not need manufactured feed.

Potential to improve water clarity: By filtering suspended particles, oysters can improve water clarity under suitable conditions.

Low carbon potential: Oyster farming can have a relatively low carbon footprint compared with some forms of animal agriculture.

Benefits for Ireland

Ideal coastal conditions: Ireland has many sheltered bays and estuaries suitable for oyster cultivation.

Promotes rural tourism: Oyster festivals, farm tours and seafood trails can attract visitors.

Encourages sustainable development: Helps rural communities develop marine resources while diversifying their economies.

I think that with business like DK oysters and Kellys oysters being the flagship business that the farms in Donegal will be a pillar of the community and something people could be proud to be a part of.

Thank you,

Emma