Alab, Info

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To: Alab, Info
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To whom it may concern,

I wish to openly express my support for the local foreshore licence applicants that were granted permission by licence to cultivate oysters on the Magheroarty side of Ballyness bay. There has be a wicked campaign of exaggerated lies and defamation plotted against these local men by a notorious opposition group. The scale of their proposed sites that were advertised in public (social media etc..) to begin with was the first and most obvious misinformation from the said group that I've noticed. I have also noticed that this has stirred up a lot of anger in certain people which in turn was directed towards the local approved applicants. This public anger, not surprisingly, fizzled out when the majority of local people began to delve into the truth for themselves and inevitably became supportive of the local applicants. Another extremely important aspect that I would like to highlight is that the notorious opposition group did not make any effort to communicate with the local applicants since the start of their campaign. They haven't once tried to talk to any of the applicants. They have made baseless scientific claims that oyster cultivation is going to destroy the bay without having any scientific evidence at hand to prove this. It is also claimed that diseases can occur in oysters which is true, but measures such as modern early detection testing (which is a low-cost and rapid process) can be put in place to ensure containment and eradication. oyster diseases are not known to spread to other marine life such as fish, seals, birds etc..I would also argue the point that, humans plants and animals also carry diseases that are more of a threat to our personal and environmental wellbeing. I would stress the point that the cultivation of oysters in Ballyness Bay would, without a doubt, be of great benefit to the area both environmentally and economically. Why would any fisher person wish to destroy the environment that pays their income? On the contrary, oyster cultivation in Ballyness Bay would only promote an abundance of marine life and well-being, which in turn would attract more fish, seals, otters etc.. , bird life (Science has proven this time and time again), if you consider the efforts of Chesapeake bay programme or the Billion oyster project in Newyork. The results speak for themselves. We should work with nature and not against it. This has always been the ethos of the inshore fishing community in Ballyness Bay for generations and still is. Not surprisingly, support for the notorious opposition group has dwindled dramatically since it was established, with more and more local people realising the false information and baseless scientific claims that have been put forward for the publics attention in an attempt to stall the local approved foreshore licence applicants efforts to be able to make a living in their own community whilst at the same time promote a healthy marine environment. I would hope that they above facts are taken into serious consideration and that the local foreshore licence applicants are finally able to cultivate oysters in Ballyness Bay in a way that will promote the environmental wellbeing of the area for generations to come.

Mise le meas,

Eoghan Ó Fearraigh.