Alab, Info

From: James Boyce [redacted]
Sent: Sunday 1 November 2026 20:56
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Objection – Aquaculture Licences, Ballyness Bay, Co. Donegal

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To the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board,

I am writing to formally object to the granting of aquaculture licences for shellfish farming in Ballyness Bay, Co. Donegal. I live locally in Falcarragh and use the bay regularly for walking, angling and watersports.

My objection is based on the following grounds:

1. Protected site and EU obligations
Ballyness Bay is a Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 001090) under the EU Habitats Directive, designated for its estuary, mudflats, sandflats and dune habitats. It is also an important wintering ground for waders and waterfowl. I do not believe the concerns raised about the effect of intensive trestle farming on these habitats and species have been properly addressed, and I ask the Board to apply the precautionary principle the Directive requires.

2. Non-native species
The proposals involve Pacific oysters and non-native clams. There is well-documented evidence that Pacific oysters can spawn in Irish waters and spread beyond farmed areas. Once established in the wild they cannot realistically be removed. This risk to a protected site is not acceptable.

3. Loss of a community amenity
The bay is used daily by local people and visitors for walking, swimming, boating, angling, windsurfing and art. Industrial-scale shellfish farming would bring pollution, litter, noise, and disturbance by day and night, both on the bay and on the access roads.

4. Tourism and the local economy
Ballyness Bay is a growing attraction on the Wild Atlantic Way, and tourism is an important source of income in this area. Large arrays of oyster trestles would badly damage the view and make the bay less attractive to visitors and locals alike.

5. Experience elsewhere
Other bays where commercial shellfish farming has been introduced have seen their local environment get noticeably worse. I do not want Ballyness Bay to go the same way.

6. Community opinion and the process
The local community has opposed these licences since 2019, with hundreds attending public meetings. I am concerned that these views have been given little weight by the Department of

Agriculture, Food and the Marine and in the appeals process so far, and that the process has appeared to favour the applicants. I ask the Board to give full and fair weight to the community's objections.

For these reasons I ask the Board to refuse these licences.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Yours faithfully,

James Boyce
[redacted]