Alab, Info

From: Mairin Buitleir[redacted]
Sent: Saturday 3 October 2026 12:59
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Bá Bhaile an Éasa

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 .

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a local resident who regularly uses and values Ballyness Bay to formally register my strong objection to the granting of aquaculture licences for oyster farming in Ballyness Bay, Co. Donegal.

Ballyness Bay is an area of exceptional natural beauty, high ecological sensitivity, and vital biodiversity. Introducing intensive commercial aquaculture into this pristine bay poses severe ecological and environmental threats:

1. Threat from Non-Native Species:
Pacific oysters (Magallana gigas) are native to the Pacific Ocean, not the Atlantic. When introduced to Irish coastal waters, they aggressively outcompete our smaller native oysters (Ostrea edulis) and local mussel populations, permanently disrupting the indigenous marine ecosystem.

2. Impact on Habitats and Overwintering Birds:
We only have to look at what has occurred at Lough Foyle to understand the devastating impact of unregulated oyster farming. Lough Foyle has been severely compromised by endless trestles dominating shores and intertidal areas that were previously pristine habitats for overwintering geese and other migrating wildfowl. Anyone concerned with the environment and biodiversity who views video footage documenting the sheer scale of trestles across Lough Foyle would be alarmed. The authorities charged with oversight have failed to protect Lough Foyle, and we cannot permit that disastrous failure to be repeated in Ballyness Bay.

3. Visual, Environmental, and Community Impact:
As a local resident who uses and cherishes this bay on a regular basis, I wholeheartedly object to the industrialisation of this fragile intertidal zone. The placement of trestles, plastic mesh bags, and attendant vehicular traffic causes habitat fragmentation, poses a danger to marine life, and destroys the amenity and wild character of the bay.

I urge the Department / Licensing Authority to reject this application in full to safeguard our local environment and preserve Ballyness Bay's natural biodiversity for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,
Máirín de Buitléir