## Alab, Info

**From:** margaret lewis [redacted]
**Sent:** Monday 2 November 2026 19:01
**To:** Alab, Info
**Subject:** Ballyness Bay

**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 .

Having spent every summer in this glorious area for the last 50 years, we were appalled to learn that the government were even considering granting a license to an invasive species of oyster being farmed in this bay.

This area of spectacular beauty deserves better, and its native species deserve protection.

We object to the total disregard shown by the Dept of Agriculture (DAFM) and the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB) for the opinions of the vast majority of the community in their total opposition to shellfish farming in Ballyness Bay.

We object to ALAB's disregard of the wellfounded concerns that have been expressed for the natural environment in the bay, coupled with their ignoring of the most basic of the EU Directives to protect its rare and endangered wildlife. A particularly dangerous threat is the introduction of non-native species of Clams and Pacific Oysters into the Bay and the denial of the well documented possibility of these to revert to spawning and colonising the surrounding area.

Ballyness Bay is a much cherished amenity in the community. It provides a health-giving location for walking, swimming, boating, angling, art, windsurfing etc, to the community and to visitors alike.
Shellfish farming will add pollution, litter, noise and daily and night time disturbance. And for what? The number of jobs it would create on neck negligible compared to the damage it would create, and the devastation potentially to already existing and thriving businesses in the area.

Ballyness Bay is an increasingly popular beauty spot along the Wild Atlantic Way. That translates into tourism income that is a very important addition to the local economy. Arrays of oyster trestles would be an unacceptable visual blot on the bay as well as reducing its appeal to visitors and locals alike.

Wide experience from other areas all point to a marked deterioration in the local environment once commercial shellfish farming is introduced. We don't want Ballyness Bay to follow the same pattern.

This is a hugely important issue for our community.

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

Best wishes and
thanks from Margaret and George Lewis
[redacted]