## Alab, Info

**From:** Maria Gasol Boncompte [redacted]
**Sent:** Tuesday 13 October 2026 21:35
**To:** Alab, Info
**Subject:** Opposition to shellfish farming in 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 .

To whom it may concern,

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. Rather, there seems to have been noticeable bias by them in favour of the oyster licence applicants all during the licensing and appeals process.
This seems to be another example of the public's concerns not being listened to & the Environment being ignored. While we hear the government talk about the need to protect the environment, on the other hand they seem to favour economic interests. Who is to gain from this really? Not the locals, not the tourists, not nature.

The ongoing attitude points at shortsightedness, greed, and disrespect for the community and the natural environment.

We object to ALAB's disregard of the well-founded 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. Too many trestles can alter the seabed and other aquatic life such as urchins & seagrass can get destroyed in the process.

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 colonise 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, surfing, paddling, jogging, playing, etc, to the community and to visitors alike. Shellfish farming will add pollution, litter, noise and daily and night time disturbance.

We don´t have a lot here, we are in a remote rural area. But we have our bay, our beaches, which we use and enjoy and treasure. Why would you take that away from us?

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. It would definitely be off-putting for tourists.
We have all seen what it´s done in other areas and what it looks like: it´s ugly and messy. You cannot deny that.

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.

John and Maria [redacted]