Alab, Info

From: Michele Crilly [redacted]
Sent: Friday 30 October 2026 14:28
To: Alab, Info
Cc: Michael Crilly
Subject: Objection - Ballyness Bay

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Dear Members of the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the granting of aquaculture licences for oyster farming in Ballyness Bay, County Donegal.

My family and I have been visiting this beautiful part of Donegal since we were children. It is a place that holds very special memories for us, and somewhere we have returned to time and time again throughout our lives. We absolutely love the area, its unspoilt beaches, its extraordinary natural beauty and the sense of peace and tranquillity that makes it so special. We had always hoped to continue visiting for many years to come and to see future generations of our family enjoy it just as we have.

We were therefore genuinely devastated to learn that licences had been granted for oyster farming in Ballyness Bay.

What makes this area so special is precisely what is now under threat. Its natural, unspoilt beauty is its greatest asset. The thought of oyster trestles and commercial aquaculture equipment being introduced into this wonderful landscape is deeply upsetting. We believe it would fundamentally change the character of the bay and take away much of what makes it such an exceptional place.

We are also very concerned about the potential impact on tourism and the local economy. Visitors like ourselves return to this part of Donegal because of its beauty, its beaches, its wildlife and its natural environment. If that environment is significantly altered, there is a real risk that people will simply choose to holiday elsewhere. The consequences could be felt by local accommodation providers, shops, cafés, restaurants and other businesses that depend on visitors returning year after year.

It seems to us that the potential commercial benefit to a relatively small number of operators is being given greater importance than the natural heritage of the area and the interests of the wider community. That heritage belongs not only to the people who live there, but is also deeply valued by the many people from further afield who have developed a lifelong connection with this beautiful part of Ireland.

Beyond the visual impact, we are concerned about the possible environmental consequences of oyster farming in the bay. These include the potential for pollution and marine litter associated with aquaculture equipment, disturbance to natural habitats and wildlife, and the introduction of non-native oyster species. Given the environmental importance of Ballyness Bay, we believe these concerns deserve the most careful scrutiny.

We fully appreciate the importance of employment and economic development in rural Donegal, and we are not opposed to aquaculture as an industry. However, surely there are locations more appropriate for this type of commercial activity than an area of such outstanding natural beauty and ecological significance.

What concerns us most is the possibility of permanently changing something that can never truly be restored. Once the natural character of Ballyness Bay is lost, future generations may never have the opportunity to experience the place that we have been so fortunate to enjoy throughout our lives.

We feel very strongly that we have a responsibility to protect places like Ballyness Bay, not just for ourselves, but for our children, grandchildren and generations yet to come.

I would therefore urge the Board to reconsider the aquaculture licences and give much greater weight to the long-term environmental, social, cultural and tourism value of preserving Ballyness Bay in its natural state.

Please do not allow the short-term commercial interests of a few to outweigh the lasting heritage and beauty of a place that means so much to so many people.

Yours sincerely,

Michele Crilly