Alab, Info

From: Paula Cannon [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday 21 October 2026 16:21
To: Alab, Info
Subject: URGENT OBJECTION: Aquaculture Licence Application - Ballyness Bay, Co. Donegal"

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Paula Cannon
[redacted]

21st October 2026

The Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB)

Re: Strong Objection to Aquaculture Licences in Ballyness Bay, Co. Donegal

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to formally and strongly object to the granting of aquaculture licences for shellfish farming in Ballyness Bay. This submission is made on behalf of myself and reflects the deep concerns shared by the vast majority of our local community, a campaign which began in the summer of 2019.

We have witnessed a total disregard by both the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB) for the democratically expressed will of this community. There appears to be a noticeable bias in favour of the oyster licence applicants throughout the licensing and appeals process, with the genuine concerns of residents, environmentalists, and local stakeholders being systematically ignored.

I wish to outline the following key issues as grounds for my objection:

1. Environmental and Ecological Concerns
There is a well-founded fear regarding the impact on the natural environment of Ballyness Bay. I object to ALAB's apparent dismissal of these concerns and its failure to uphold the most basic of EU Directives designed to protect rare and endangered wildlife in this sensitive habitat.

A particularly dangerous threat is the proposed introduction of non-native species of clams and Pacific oysters. The possibility of these species spawning and colonising the surrounding area is well-documented. Introducing them poses an unacceptable risk to the native ecosystem and biodiversity of the bay.

2. Community Amenity and Public Health
Ballyness Bay is a cherished amenity. It provides a health-giving location for walking, swimming, boating, angling, art, and windsurfing for the community and visitors alike. Industrial-scale shellfish farming will inevitably bring pollution, litter, and noise. The daily and night-time disturbance on the bay and on the access roads will severely degrade this amenity and the quality of life for local residents.

3. Visual Impact and Tourism
Ballyness Bay is an increasingly popular beauty spot along the Wild Atlantic Way. This translates into vital tourism income for the local economy. The introduction of arrays of oyster trestles would be an unacceptable visual blot on the landscape, destroying the scenic appeal that draws visitors to the area and reducing its value to locals and tourists alike.

4. Precedent and Local Experience
Wide experience from other areas shows a marked deterioration in the local environment once commercial shellfish farming is introduced. We do not want Ballyness Bay to follow this pattern. We wish to protect our bay from becoming an industrial site rather than a natural, public resource.

This is a hugely important issue for our community. For all these reasons and many more, I strongly object to the granting of aquaculture licences in Ballyness Bay.

I trust that the Board will give these points the serious consideration they deserve and refuse the application.

Yours sincerely

Paula Cannon