Alab, Info

From: Philip Friel [redacted]
Sent: Monday 2 November 2026 18:34
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Ballyness Bay

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Subject: Public Submission: Objections to Shellfish Farming Licensing in Ballyness Bay

Dear Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board,

My name is Philip Friel. I live in [redacted] with my father Sean Friel. The Oyster Farm being considered is directly below our house. We are blessed to live in such a beautiful area. I look out the kitchen window each day and never take it for granted how stunning Ballyness Bay is. My father who is aged 87 still goes for walks on the bay. Its important for him and his mental health to be able to continue this. It brings great sadness and distress to him that this is being considered. Really is getting him down.

I just cannot comprehend why the Oyster Farm is being considered. To whos benefit? I have seen other Oyster Farms. They look awful. Doesn't matter how it is painted up. Profit over everything else? Its defintinly not to enhance the local community.

Please accept this email as a formal submission of objection.

The following points outline just some of the many genuine issues concerning this development:

- **Disregard for Community Opposition & Perceived Bias:** We object to the total disregard shown by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (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.
- **Environmental Threats & EU Directive Compliance:** 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. 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.
- **Impact on Local Amenity, Health, and Wellbeing:** 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.

- **Economic and Visual Impact on Tourism:** 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.
- **Environmental Deterioration:** Wide experience from other areas all point to a marked deterioration in the local environment once commercial aquaculture operations are established.

Thank you for taking these critical community concerns into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Friel/Sean Friel
[redacted]