Alab, Info

From: Roisin Murphy [redacted]
Sent: Sunday 11 October 2026 10:29
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Submissions/Observations regarding Aquaculture License Appeals in Ballyness Bay, Co. Donegal (including Site Refs: T12/441B, T12/515A, T12/516A)

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A Chara,

I am writing to formally submit my objection to the granting of aquaculture licenses for the cultivation of Pacific oysters and clams via bags and trestles within Ballyness Bay, Co. Donegal.

As a local owner of an active tourism accommodation business (Airbnb) operating directly adjacent to the bay, with further investment in 2024/26 in The cottage Upper Killult for Airbnb with investment in renovations for next year, my livelihood relies entirely on the pristine, unspoiled natural environment of this Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Not only me as an Airbnb owner but there are many more Airbnbs locally who rely on Ballyness bay too. The proposed industrial-scale aquaculture developments pose an immediate threat to the local tourism economy, public amenities, and unique ecology of the area, and my investments.

I request that ALAB takes the following material considerations into account:

1. **Negative Impact on Tourism and Livelihoods:** Guests choose my accommodation specifically to experience the untouched, raw beauty of the Wild Atlantic Way. The installation of extensive, industrial steel trestles and plastic mesh bags will cause severe visual blight in an area celebrated for its outstanding natural landscape. This degradation of visual amenity will directly harm my business bookings and the broader hospitality ecosystem in Cloughaneely and Right through to Magherorarty.
2. **Displacement of Public Amenities and Water Sports:** Ballyness Bay is an active recreational hub. My visitors frequently utilize the inner bay for **kayaking, windsurfing, and sea swimming**. Placing physical aquaculture infrastructure across the intertidal foreshore introduces significant navigation hazards, restricts safe access to the water, and effectively privatises a public space heavily relied upon for marine recreation.
3. **Ecological and Wildlife Disruption:** A primary draw for my guests—particularly those interested in **wildlife photography and bird watching**—is the bay's rich biodiversity. Ballyness Bay's mudflats and sandflats support critical populations of protected migratory and overwintering birds. The structural footprint of oyster trestles, combined with the daily operational noise and vehicle disturbance required to tend the sites, will inevitably displace these species and degrade the ecological integrity of the SAC.
4. The Historical site the old famine stone pier on Ballyness bay is of significance and needs protection from heavy plant and disturbance's.

The community has consistently voiced its concerns regarding the flawed consultation processes and the lack of alignment with sustainable local development. Industrializing this fragile, shallow

tidal bay compromises both its environmental protections and its value as an irreplaceable community asset.

I strongly urge the Board to protect the ecology, safety, and sustainable tourism economy of Cloughaneely by refusing these licenses to save the existing businesses relying on the vast numbers of holidaying tourists that flow through this area and to save my investments in the three properties I have in Ballyness and upper Killult.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission in a return email.

Is mise le meas,

Patricia Murphy

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone