Alab, Info

From: Elizabeth Cousins [redacted]
Sent: Saturday 31 October 2026 11:58
To: Alab, Info
Subject: Please Save 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 .

Dear Sir or Madam

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 this community in their total opposition to shellfish farming in Ballyness Bay. Rather, there seems to have been noticeable bias by them in favor of the oyster license applicants all during the licensing and appeals process.

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 colonise the surround area.

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.

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.

Wide experience from other areas all points 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.

Please save this outstandingly beautiful area and the wildlife which is currently thriving there.

Kind regards

Yvonne Cousins

[redacted]