

Dear Minister Michael Creed

I write to raise my concerns with regard to the proposed licensing for shell fish farming in the Ballyness Bay Special Area of Conservation. As a professional conservationist I am appalled that the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is considering the commercial development of this unique and protected habitat and landscape.

I fully support the assertion of An Táisce that “the licensing authority cannot proceed with licensing any of the proposed aquaculture applications without contravening both the HABITATS Directive and the Aarhus Convention”.

Not only is this proposal is an abuse of European legislation and a wanton act of ecocide, it is an attack on a community and ‘the rape of an innocence landscape’. This is a shameful business.

This proposed development demonstrates remarkable ignorance for what is a beautiful Irish landscape, of great cultural significance and worthy of its protected status. It seems the State has abandoned its responsibility. Instead it shows contempt for spiritual, cultural, ecological and economic values to a real Gaeltacht community. This is mindless ill-conceived planning at its worst. None of the licence applications pay due regard to the long term ecological and economic damage that will be caused.

The proposal makes a mockery of the SAC status of Ballyness Bay. There is no other justification for this abuse other than ‘money for a select few’ and short term greed. Here’s hoping you do the right thing and dismiss all applications as invalid in the light of the SAC status of Ballyness Bay.

Sincerely

July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019

To - 95 Railway View, Macroom, Co Cork.    Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2