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### **PRESS STATEMENT**

We note the decision by Minister Michael Creed T.D., to grant multiple licences for the use of Ballyness Bay for private, commercial, industrial shellfish production. The Minister made this decision

- in spite of being fully aware of the widespread anger in the local community and beyond at the prospect of this happening,
- in spite of being informed of the threat it will pose to current employment locally and to the prospect of local economic development which is heavily dependent on eco-tourism,
- in spite of being advised of the inadequacy of the scientific advice on which he based his decision
- in spite of his failure under the law to effectively consult the local community on the matter.

In all of this process, the Government has shown disregard and contempt for the community.

We will use all channels available to us to have this decision overturned and to expose to public view the cynicism and arrogance of the government, Food and the Marine in the manner they deal with citizens.