



Newsletter #3 - January 2020

Campaign Update

A new year has begun, and we hope it brings good things for you. We sincerely thank you for your incredible support in 2019 to help protect our beautiful bay. We look forward to your ongoing support as the campaign continues into 2020.

Since our last newsletter the Government decided to grant 14 of the 18 licence applications for industrial shellfish production in Ballyness Bay SAC. This decision was made:

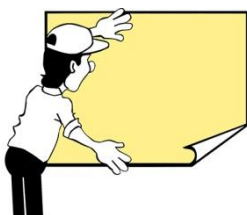
- despite being fully aware of the widespread anger in the local community and beyond at the prospect of this happening.
- despite being informed of the threat it will pose to current employment locally and to the prospect of local economic development, which is heavily dependent on eco-tourism,
- despite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

In all this process, the Government has totally disregarded the views and wishes of our community. We the custodians of this beautiful bay believe we deserve the right to have a say in its future.

At a very well attended public meeting on Sunday December 15th, we outlined that we would be submitting an appeal against the decision to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB). The timescale for preparing such a comprehensive and technical document was short, but the Action Group rose to the challenge and on Monday December 30 our appeal documentation was lodged with ALAB and receipt has been acknowledged. We now await the Board's response. It could take quite a while.

Upcoming events - It's a stitch up

We're looking for volunteers to help us create a Quilted wall hanging to celebrate Ballyness Bay. You can bring your own design (A4 size) or use one of ours. We'll provide the fabric and sewing machines and don't worry if you haven't sewn before, expert help will be on hand. Tea and coffee will be provided but please BYO lunch. So, if you'd like to help and maybe even learn a new skill, come along for the craic. The event is sponsored by Henny Aarts and Stephanie Green. There are 10 places available on each day so please book yours in advance by contacting Henny on 0873 245628. The Venue: Greenacres Quilts, Lower Dunmore, Falcarragh. Dates: 1st Feb & 8th Feb. Time: 10am-4pm.



HOW CAN
YOU HELP



Make Your voice heard

An election is underway. When canvassers come looking for your vote, ask them what their candidate's position is on the use of Ballyness Bay for aquaculture. Give them a clear message that if they want the support of this community they should clearly and publicly support the people in our fight to protect our environmental heritage. Let's support those who will support us.

To subscribe to our digital newsletter, visit our website www.saveballynessbay.com
