

O'Hara, Mary

From: Jeffrey Fisher [Jeffrey.Fisher@Marine.ie]
Sent: 12 December 2016 16:47
To: Alab, Info
Cc: Colm Lordan
Subject: RE: Ref AP2/1-14/2015; Sit Ref T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co Cork
Attachments: uwtv.png; vmsmap by gear.png

Dear Ms. O'Hara,

Further to my outreach to you on November 9, I am following up with some additional information, per the ALAB's initial enquiry dated October 6, 2016, and your subsequent enquiry on November 17. Thank you for your patience, as being newly appointed to my position in September and traveling significantly since then, I also needed some time to apprise myself of the Marine Institute's past submittals on this application, and determine to what extent we had additional information of potential value in addressing the question posed—namely, whether the institute held information that might indicate whether the proposed Shot Head site was within close proximity to an area in which commercial pot fishing for *Nephrops norvegicus* is undertaken. To this end, we have reviewed our Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data for Bantry, and have also examined whether we held underwater video recording *Nephrops* burrow densities overlapping with the proposed Shot Head Site. As referenced in our report of 27/1/14, high resolution VMS data on the extent and intensity of fishing relative to the footprint of the proposed farm is not available; however, the expert information for inshore waters referenced in our report (Fig 1) suggests that commercial inshore pot fishing areas overlap nominally with the southern boundary of the proposed site. Our underwater video from Bantry Bay does not, however, cover the area of the proposed site (see attached); thus, we cannot make assertions supportive or otherwise regarding actual densities of *Nephrops* burrows in the direct vicinity of the proposed site that may or may not support commercial enterprise. As referenced in our earlier report, areas directly occupied by the farm site would preclude future pot fishing, but this disruption would appear limited and pot fishing could otherwise continue in very close proximity to the proposed salmon farm, should the Minister be minded to grant approval of the application.

If we may be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Fisher, PhD
Director
Marine Environment & Food Safety Services
Marine Institute
Kinsale
Oranmore
Co. Galway
Ireland

Direct: 353-091-387474
Mobile: 353-087-400-9092

From: Alab, Info [mailto:Info@alab.ie]
Sent: Thursday 17 November 2016 12:03
To: Jeffrey Fisher; Alab, Info
Cc: Colm Lordan
Subject: RE: Ref AP2/1-14/2015; Sit Ref T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co Cork

Dear Jeffrey

Have you any update please. There is a Board meeting on Tuesday and I wish to circulate your response to them.

Regards

Mary

From: Jeffrey Fisher [mailto:Jeffrey.Fisher@Marine.ie]
Sent: 09 November 2016 15:21
To: Alab, Info
Cc: Colm Lordan
Subject: Ref AP2/1-14/2015; Sit Ref T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co Cork

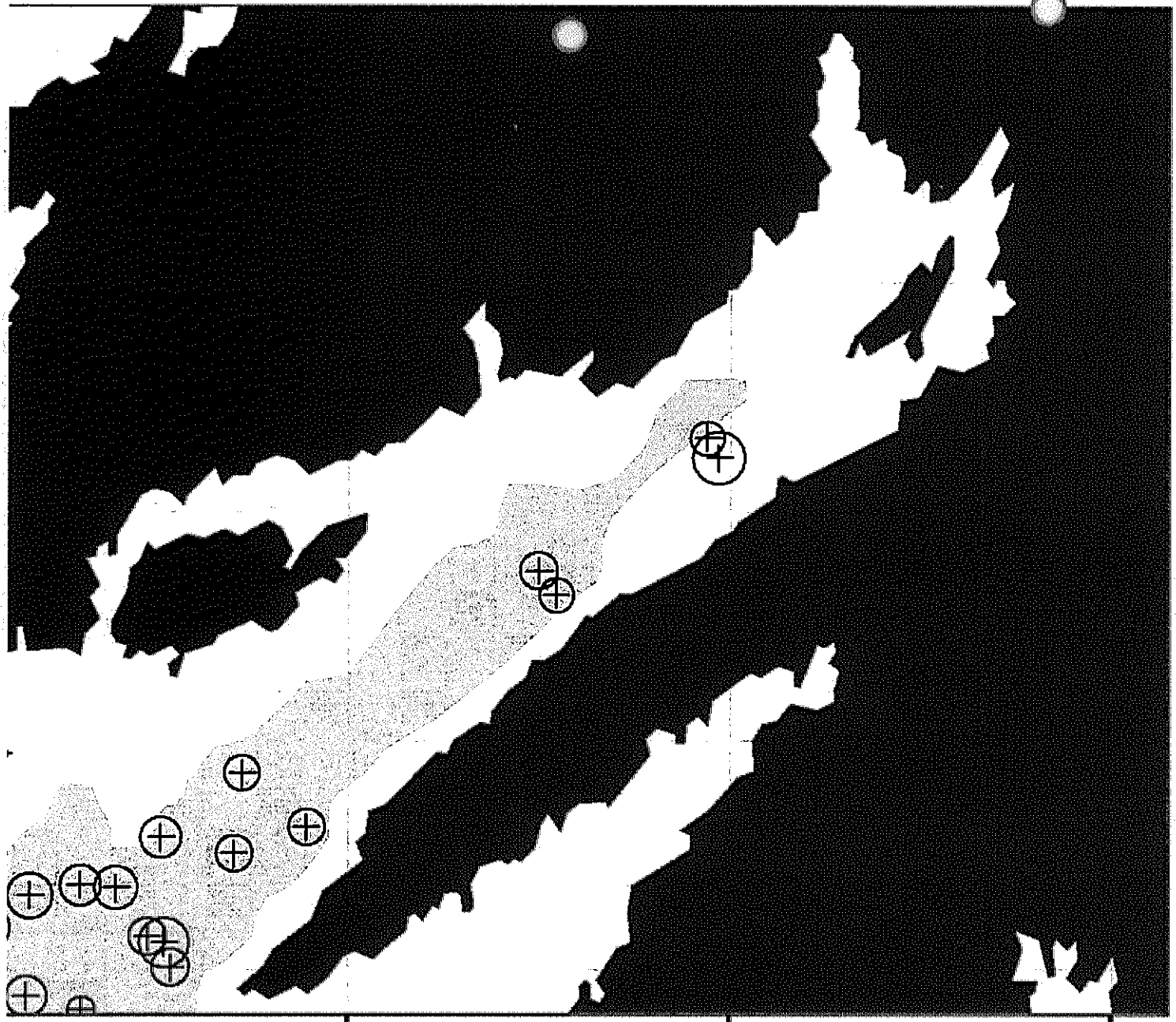
Dear Ms. O'Hara,

I am responding to a letter regarding the above referenced site, and information the Marine Institute may or may not have regarding whether or not the Shot Head site is within close proximity of a commercial pot fishery for Nephrops. As we are upon the 28 days when I received the letter, I wanted to convey that we are still examining this question, but can assure you that a final response will be provided in the next few days. We may have broad spatial GIS coverage of the area, but are investigating if we have more detailed information of greater relevance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Dr. Colm Lordan, cc'd on this communication.

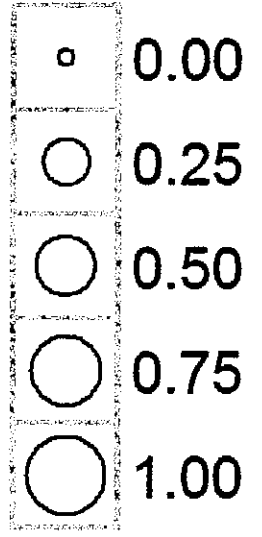
Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Fisher, PhD
Director
Marine Environment & Food Safety Services
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Rinville
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Co. Galway
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Direct: 353-091-387474
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Density.adjusted.bu



-9.8

-9.6

-9.4

Longitude



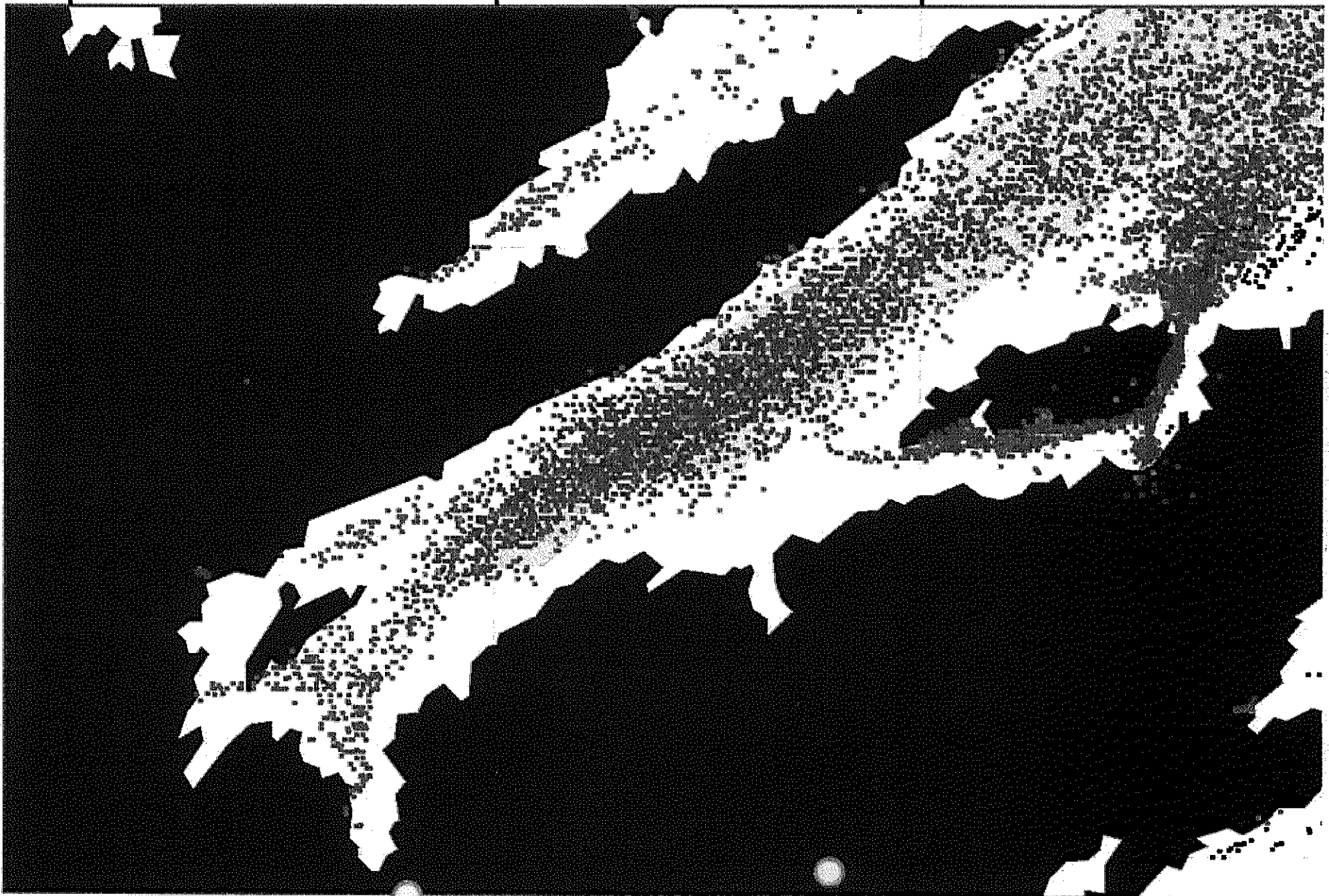
Longitude

0

-9.8

-9.6

-9.4



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Seir

Pots

Otte

Mid

Line

Gill

Drei

Bea



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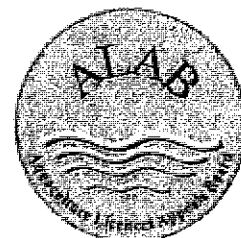
Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Fisher, PhD
Director
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Oranmore
Co. Galway
Ireland

Direct: 353-091-387474
Mobile: 353-087-400-9092



An Bord Achomharc Um Cheadúnais Dobharshaothraithe
Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board
Kilminchy Court
Dublin Road
Portlaoise
Co Laois
R32 DTW5



Tel: 057 8631912 Email: info@alab.ie Web: www.alab.ie

Marine Institute
Rinville,
Oranmore,
Co. Galway

6 October 2016

Our Ref: AP2/1-14/2015
Site Ref: T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co Cork

Re: Appeal against the decision by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to the conditions/grant of Aquaculture and Foreshore Licences to Bradán Fanad Teo t/a Marine Harvest Ireland, Kindrum, Fanad, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on site Ref: T05/555 for the cultivation of Atlantic Salmon; *Salmo Salar* on a site on the foreshore at Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co Cork

To whom it concerns

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine granted an Aquaculture and Foreshore licence for the cultivation of Atlantic Salmon; *Salmo Salar* on a site on the foreshore at Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co Cork.

Fourteen appeals have been made to Aquaculture Licence Appeals Board (ALAB), and ALAB has considered the documentation furnished. ALAB is of the opinion that further information is necessary for the purposes of enabling the Board determine the Appeal. Pursuant to Section 47(1) (a) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997, where the Board is of the opinion that any document, particulars or other information is or are necessary for the purposes of enabling the Board determine the Appeal it may serve a notice on a party.

In accordance with the provisions of section 47(1) (a) of the Act, the Board requires the following information:

The presence of a potentially harvestable population of *Nephrops norvegicus* population within the licence area

The presence of Dublin Bay prawn (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in the Shot Head licence area was reported in the results of the benthic survey provided in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), but it was stated that the density of individuals were low and not of a level that would constitute a commercially exploitable population.

In their your subsequent submission, the Marine Institute expressed disagreement with this conclusion, stating:

"The video data and the operation of a commercial pot fishery around and in the site would seem to contradict the view in the EIS that the densities of Nephrops at the site are not commercial."

And;

"The ROV data presented in the EIS is insufficient to say whether the burrow density is too low to support economic exploitation of Nephrops."

Can the Marine Institute indicate if the Shot Head site is within close proximity to an area in which a commercial pot fishery for Nephrops is undertaken? If so, please provide details of same.

In accordance with section 47 (1) (a) of the Act, the Board requires this information within 28 days of receipt of this letter.

Please also note that a person who refuses or fails to comply with a requirement under section 47 (1)(a) shall be guilty of an offence.

We await hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Mary O'Hara
Mary O'Hara
Secretary to the Board