

An Bord Achomhairc Um Cheadúnais Dobharshaothraithe
Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board



Dr. Jeffrey Fisher,
Director of Marine Environment
Marine Institute
Rinville
Oranmore
Co Galway

23 April 2019

Our Ref: AP2/1-14/2015

Site Ref: T5/555 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 Bradan 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

Dear Dr Fisher,

I refer to your reply on 6 February 2019 to our Section 47 request of 23 January 2019 in relation to the appeals in relation to the above licences in particular concerning the impact on the status of the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel.

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

- With reference to the statement in the MI response dated 23 January 2019, does the MI have any evidence to support its statement that the salmonid hosts in the Dromogowlane/Trafrask river system are predominantly non-migratory brown trout i.e. that they do not smolt and become sea trout? If so, the MI should provide such evidence to ALAB; and
- whether there is any evidence of any Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo Salar*) in the Trafrask/Dromagowlane river system;

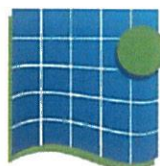
In accordance with the Act, you are required to provide this information within 21 days of receipt of this letter. Please note that if the documents, particulars or other information specified above are not received before the expiration of the period specified above, or such later period as may be agreed by the Board, the Board will, without further reference to you, determine the appeal.

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

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Mary O'Hara in black ink.

Mary O'Hara
Secretary to the Board



Marine Institute
Foras na Mara

May 14, 2019

Marine Institute Response to ALAB query AP2/1-14/2015

In response to your formal letter of the 23rd of April 2019 last, received at the Marine Institute via e-mail on the same date, in which the Board requested information pursuant to Section 47(1) (a) of the Act please find attached the response on behalf of the Marine Institute.

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

- *With reference to the statement in the MI response dated 23 January 2019, does the MI have any evidence to support its statement that the salmonid hosts in the Dromogowlane/Trafrask river system are predominantly non-migratory brown trout i.e. that they do not smolt and become sea trout? If so, the MI should provide such evidence to ALAB.*
- *Whether there is any evidence of any Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo Salar*) in the Trafrask/Dromagowlane river system.*

In its response of January last the Marine Institute set out the evidence for the absence of significant stocks of salmon and sea trout in the Dromagowlane/Traflask River in the third paragraph. Two relevant references were appended to the report as set out below. Ireland has relied on these two assessments and on subsequent reports of the Standing Scientific Committee on salmon to categorise salmonid rivers. They are based on local expert knowledge and on surveys of the rivers.

The Dromagowlane/Trafrask River is not listed among the 261 fishery systems designated as holding salmon and sea trout or sea trout only. There is, however, evidence of brown trout populations in the river system. The existence of these populations has been confirmed both by direct observations of Marine Institute personnel and in reports from the relevant competent authorities. The presence of the brown trout populations and the absence of any evidence for breeding populations of migratory salmon or trout lead to a conclusion that it is the brown trout and in particular the 0+ and 1+ year classes which act as hosts for the glochidia larvae of the freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*).

References:

McGinnity, P., Gargan, P., Roche, W., Mills, P. & McGarrigle, M. 2003. Quantification of the Freshwater Salmon Habitat Asset in Ireland using data interpreted in a GIS platform. Irish Freshwater Fisheries, Ecology and Management Series: Number 3, Central Fisheries Board, Dublin, Ireland.

Anon. 2013. 1106 Atlantic Salmon Article 17 Assessment 2013. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. 8pp.

