

## AP2/2015 Shot Head

Section 47 request to:

Inland Fisheries Ireland 6 October 2016

Response received:

19 October 2016 and supplemental  
response dated 6 September 2017



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



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**Michael McPartland**  
**Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer.**  
**Inland Fisheries Ireland**  
**Macroom,**  
**Sunnyside House,**  
**Macroom,**  
**Co. Cork**

**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**

**Dear Sirs**

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:

**Salmonids in Dromagowlane River**

The presence of the mouth of the Dromagowlane River, 1.2 km north of the proposed licence area, was not mentioned in either the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or the Environmental Impact Assessment submitted as part of the Appeal to the Board. The Board notes that some of the Appellants maintain that this river supports populations of salmonids.

**Questions**

**1.a** The Board requires clarification from you as to whether the Dromagowlane River does or does not support populations of salmonids.

**1.b** If the Dromagowlane River does support returning salmonid breeding stock, what is the estimated size of that population?

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

Please note that if the documents, particulars or other information specified above is 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 (1)(a) shall be guilty of an offence.

Yours sincerely,

*Mary O'Hara*

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

**OHara, Mary**

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**From:** Michael McPartland [Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2016 13:50  
**To:** Alab, Info  
**Subject:** FW: Your Ref: AP2/1-14/2015. T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork      **FAO:**  
Mary O'Hara.

Mary,

I refer to your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> October in relation to the above-mentioned

The Dromagowlane River is not one of the 141 designated salmon rivers so IFI have not carried out any catchment wide electro-fishing on it. Therefore specific information on salmonid densities therein are not available. However I personally have spot electro-fished this river approximately 3 years ago associated a school visit from the adjacent national school. I recall the presence of salmon, sea trout and brown trout but unfortunately I cannot add any further detail.

Michael Mc Partland  
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer.

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Inland Fisheries Ireland

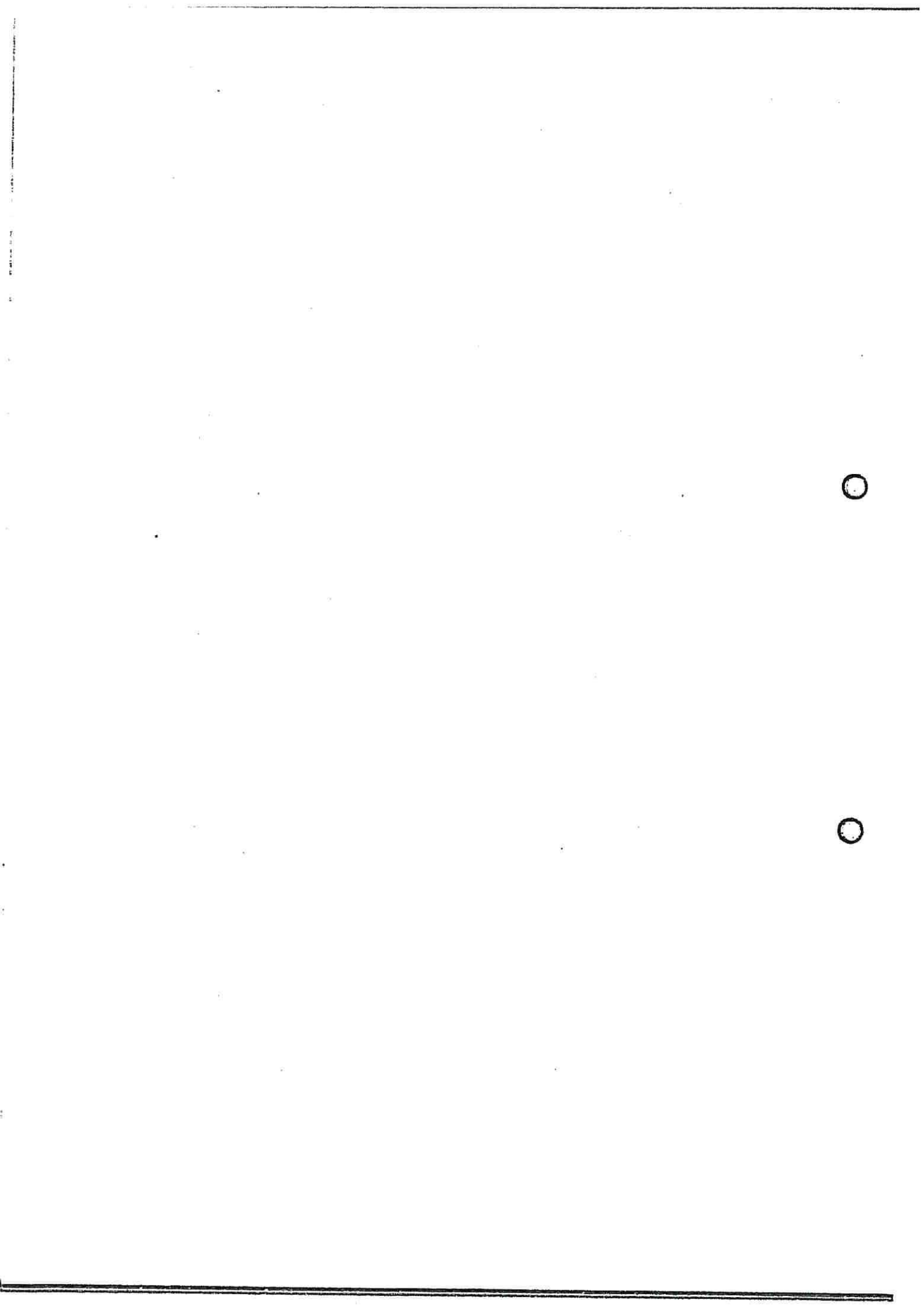
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## **O'Hara, Mary**

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**From:** Michael McPartland [Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2016 13:46  
**To:** Alab, Info  
**Subject:** Your Ref: AP2/1-14/2015. T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork      **FAO:** Mart O'Hara.

Mary,

I refer to your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> October in relation to the above-mentioned

The Dromagowlane River is not one of the 141 designated salmon rivers so IFI have not carried out any catchment wide electro-fishing on it. Therefore specific information on salmonid densities therein are not available. However I personally have spot electro-fished this river approximately 3 years ago associated a school visit from the adjacent national school. I recall the presence of salmon, sea trout and brown trout but unfortunately I cannot add any further detail.

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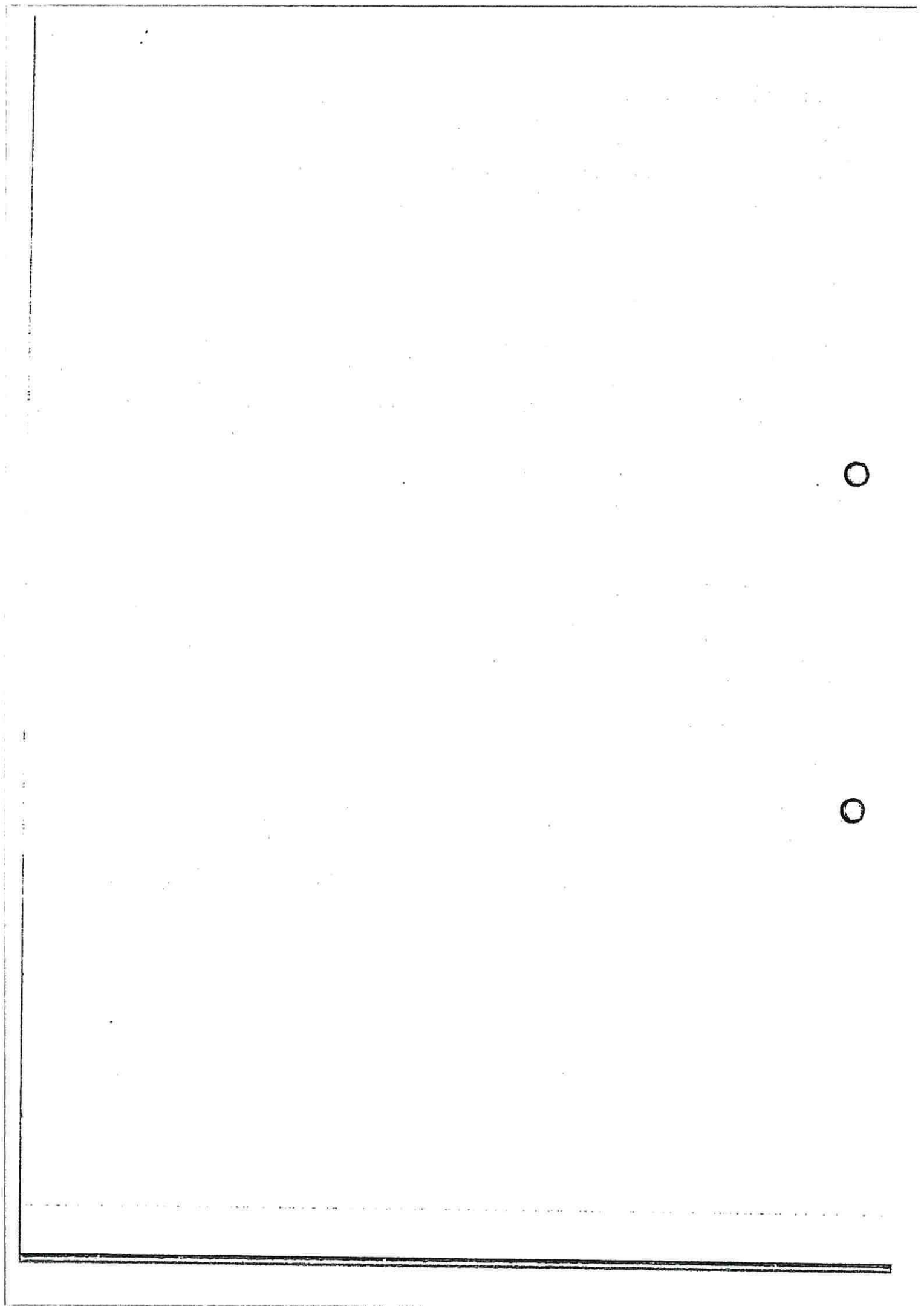
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**OHara, Mary**

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**Subject:** FW: our Ref: AP2/1-14/2015. T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork

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**From:** Michael McPartland [<mailto:Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie>]

**Sent:** 06 September 2017 13:48

**To:** OHara, Mary

**Subject:** RE: our Ref: AP2/1-14/2015. T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork

Dear Ms O'Hara

In October 2016 IFI Macroom received a request from ALAB for information in relation to salmonid stocks in the Dromagowlane River, Trafrask, Co.Cork.

Salmonids can be defined as fish belonging to or characteristic of the family Salmonidae, which includes the salmon, brown trout, and sea trout. It is the understanding of IFI that of specific interest in this case were salmon and sea trout (migratory species) which could potentially be impacted by a proposal to situate a salmon farm in the vicinity of Shot Head.

As the Dromagowlane River is not one of the 141 designated salmon rivers IFI had not carried out any catchment wide electro-fishing on it. Therefore specific information on salmonids therein was unavailable. However anecdotal information from IFI staff suggested the presence of salmon, sea trout and brown trout in the Dromagowlane River.

In order to ascertain further information IFI undertook a semi-quantitative electrofishing study of the Dromagowlane River on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The study consisted of conducting a timed 5 minute electrofishing survey at a number of sites in the catchment, so that each site had the same level of fishing effort. The survey was not designed to be exhaustive but rather to provide a snap shot of fish populations in the Dromagowlane River at a point in time.

The Dromagowlane River catchment drains an area of approximately 15km<sup>2</sup> before entering the sea near Trafrask on the northern shore of Bantry Bay. The upper reaches of the catchment are predominantly steep and mountainous in nature while the remaining basin composed of extensive agriculture including some afforestation.

A total of 6 sites in the catchment were electro-fished (Figures 1 & 2). Site selection was influenced and limited by a number of factors including accessibility, flow volumes, substrate and natural barriers.

Figure 1: Dromagowlane River Electrofishing Sites 1, 2, 3 & 6.

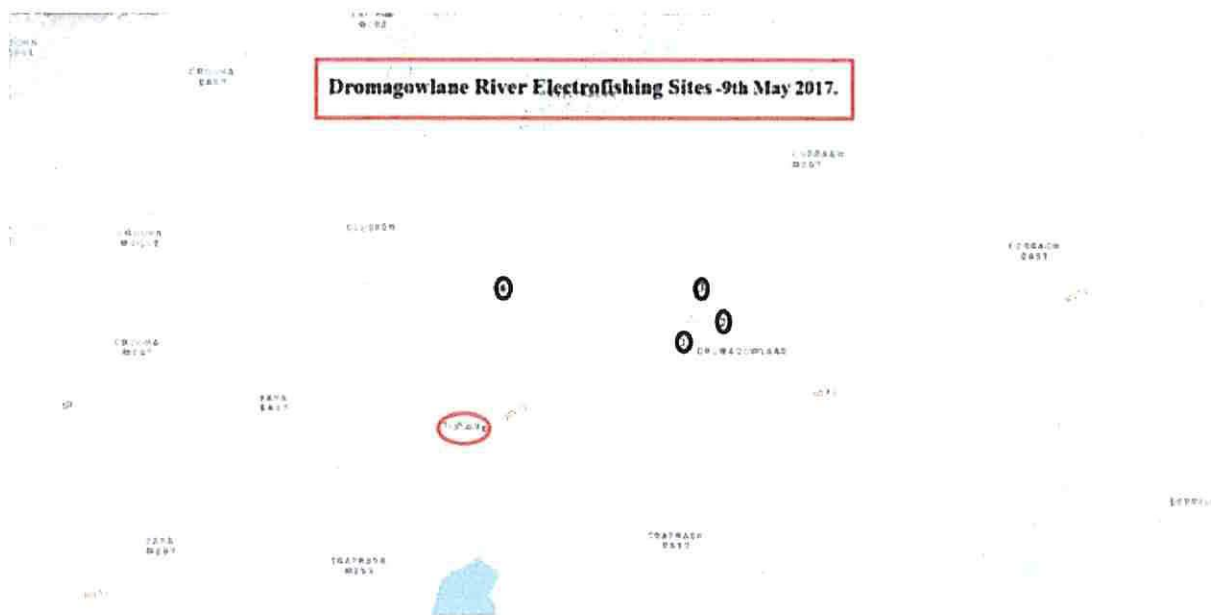


Figure 2: Dromagowlane River Electrofishing Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.



A summary of the findings of the electro-fishing survey is presented in Table 1. In total 3 fish species were recorded in the Dromagowlane River –salmon, brown trout and eels. The presence of salmon was limited to Sites 1, 2 & 3 (lower catchment) while brown trout were recorded at all sites. No sea trout were recorded. A total of 6 salmon specimens were recorded, all juvenile fish in the 6-9cm range.

Table 1: Summary of electro-fishing survey Dromagowlane River.

Site	Salmon No. (6-9cm)	Brown Trout No. (4-15cm)	Eel No.	Salmon Density (/ m <sup>2</sup> )	Brown Trout Density (/m <sup>2</sup> )
1	2	4	2	0.018	0.035
2	1	9	4	0.009	0.086
3	3	6	1	0.052	0.103
4	0	11	0		0.076
5	0	4	0		0.047
6	0	10	5		0.079

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Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer.

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**From:** OHara, Mary [<mailto:Mary.OHara@agriculture.gov.ie>]  
**Sent:** 22 December 2016 17:10  
**To:** Michael McPartland  
**Subject:** our Ref: AP2/1-14/2015. T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork

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**From:** Michael McPartland [<mailto:Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie>]  
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**To:** Alab, Info  
**Subject:** Your Ref: AP2/1-14/2015. T05/555 Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork FAO: Mart O'Hara.

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

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