

2016/10/33041

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 05 October 2016 16:15:28  
To: scottish.ministers@gov.scot  
Subject: Cabinet Secretary for Rural affairs

Attachments: F Ewing - 041016.doc, SMI MPA Letter 051016.pdf

Please find attached two letters for the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs Fergus Ewing:-

1. A short thankyou note following his meeting with the Scottish Association of Fish Producers Organisations
2. A letter from West of Scotland Fish Producers Organisation, highlighting an issue with the Small Isles MPA, that he asked us to write to him about.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
WSFPO Ltd  
[REDACTED]  
Mallaig  
Inverness-shire  
Scotland

[REDACTED]  
T & F +44 (0) 1687 [REDACTED]  
M: [REDACTED]

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Fergus Ewing MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

05 October 2016

By Email

Dear Mr Ewing

**Small Isles Marine Protected Area**

Following up from our meeting on Monday with SAFPO and the discussion on Marine Protected Areas you requested that I write to you regarding my concerns about the consultation of the management measures for the Small Isles MPA. Before I go any further, I appreciate and thank you the work and commitment that you along with your colleague, Secretary of State for the Environment Rosanna Cunningham, have shown us already with the agreement to have a monitoring programme put in place within the Sound of Canna part of the MPA.

My concern arises from the latest consultation documents issued for the Small Isles MPA whereby after adjustment of some of the closed areas in the Northern Part of the MPA for practical fishing reasons, another area has been adjusted and set for closure to compensate for the reduction in the overall closed area. This additional closed part encompasses ground that is fished off the Island of Rum; and as far as I can see by and large has none of the features listed for protection contained within.

This action led me to the conclusion and to my comment that as far as I can see this is, "conservation by numbers," rather than a desire to protect the most vulnerable features. Fishermen have engaged with the MPA process from the start and agree as you put it, that we must protect our "crown jewels." However, we cannot support closing fishing grounds where there is not over-whelming evidence that a closure is required. For reference I have attached, with this letter the maps showing the changes from the last consultation and the map of the protected features with the affected area highlighted.

I have included the above as part of my response to the consultation and if you require further information or clarity do not hesitate to get touch.

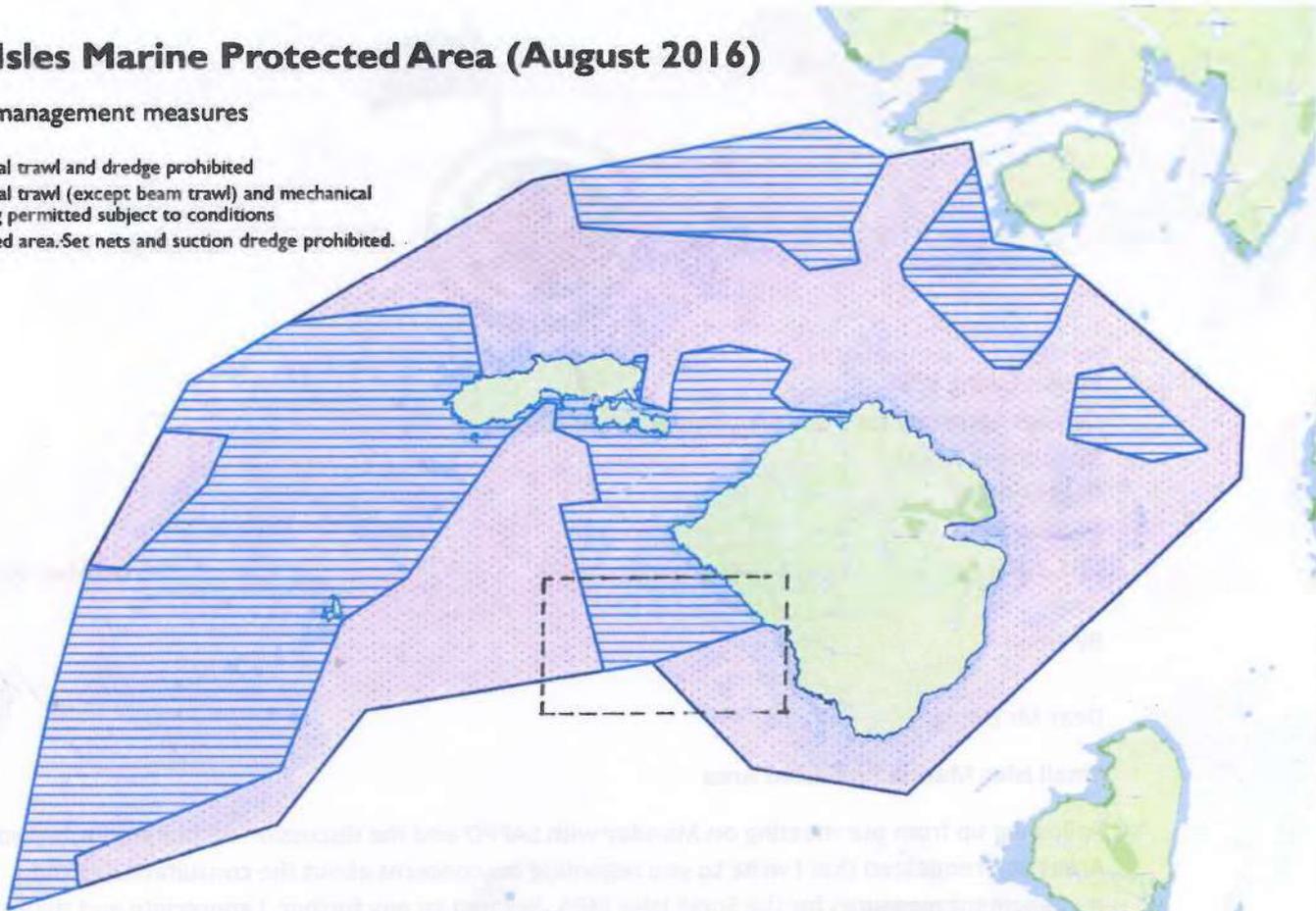
Your sincerely



## Small Isles Marine Protected Area (August 2016)

### Fisheries management measures

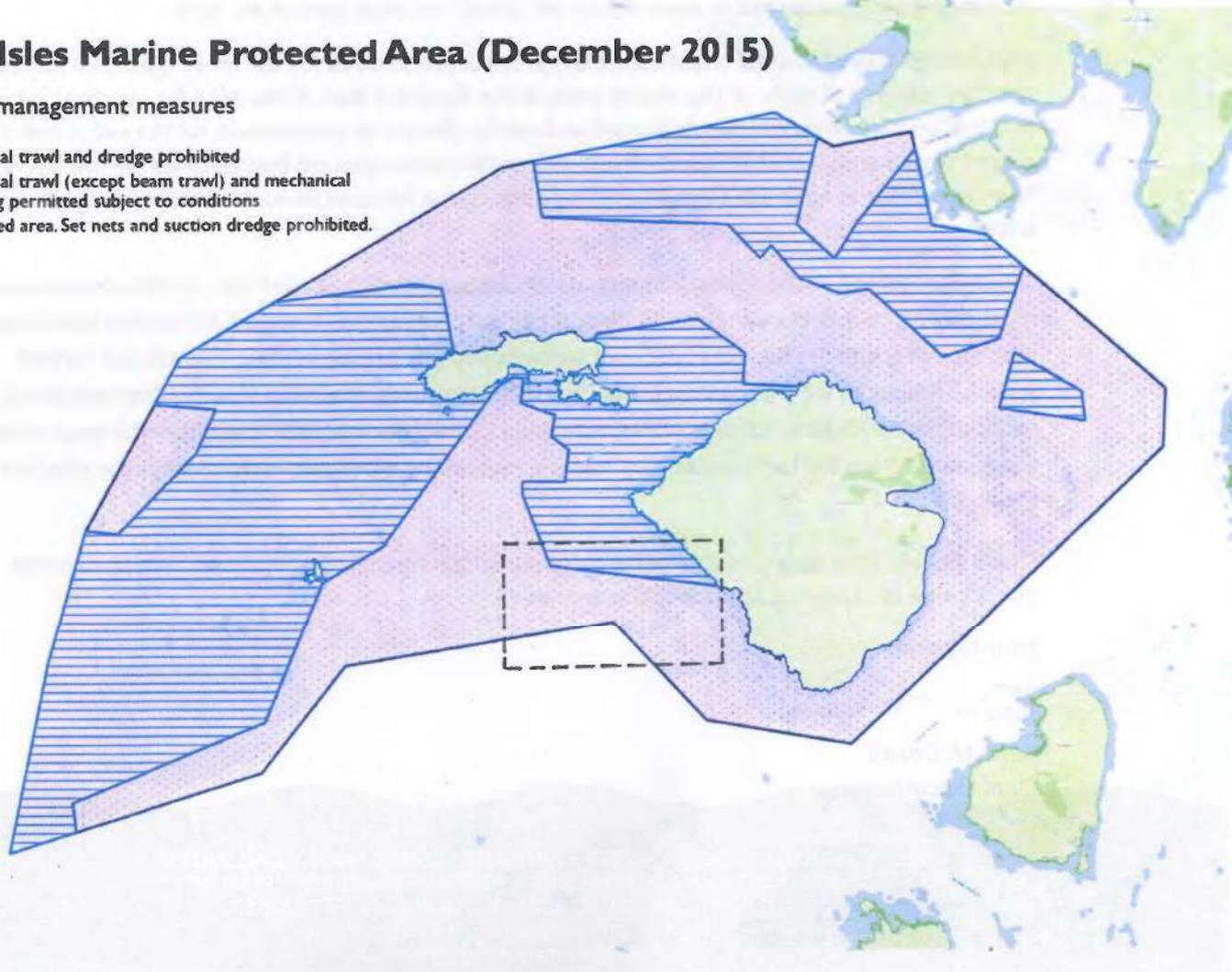
-  Demersal trawl and dredge prohibited
-  Demersal trawl (except beam trawl) and mechanical dredging permitted subject to conditions
-  Protected area. Set nets and suction dredge prohibited.



## Small Isles Marine Protected Area (December 2015)

### Fisheries management measures

-  Demersal trawl and dredge prohibited
-  Demersal trawl (except beam trawl) and mechanical dredging permitted subject to conditions
-  Protected area. Set nets and suction dredge prohibited.

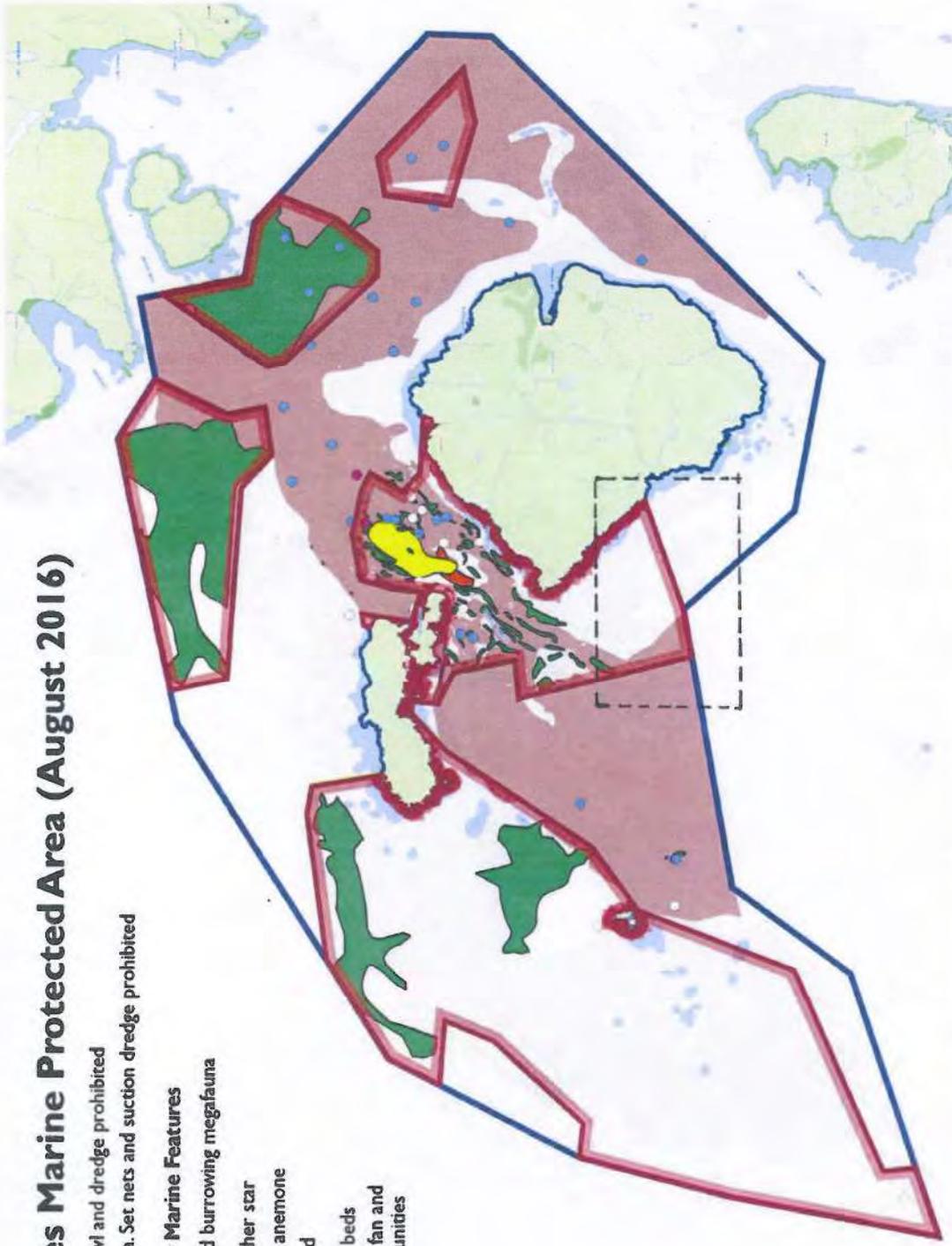


# Small Isles Marine Protected Area (August 2016)

- Demersal trawl and dredge prohibited
- Protected area. Set nets and suction dredge prohibited

## Selected Priority Marine Features

- Tail seapen and burrowing megafauna
- Northern feather star
- White cluster anemone
- Sublittoral mud
- Horse mussel beds
- Northern sea fan and sponge communities
- Fan mussel



Protected feature	Estimated area (sq km)	Area protected from demersal trawl & dredge (sq km)	% Protected
Fan mussel aggregations	4	4	100
Horse mussel beds	1	1	100
Northern sea fan and sponge communities	86	85	99
Sublittoral mud	263	50	19

\*Sublittoral mud includes burrowed mud and sublittoral sand and mud communities

Protected feature	Number of records	Number of records protected from demersal trawl & dredge	% Protected
Burrowed mud (tail seapen and burrowing megafauna)	29	16	55
Circolittoral sand and mud communities	16	11	69
Horse mussel beds	8	8	100
Northern sea fan and sponge communities	29	25	86
Northern feather star	42	25	60
White cluster anemone	27	21	78

This is a simplified map and does not show all records of priority marine features

T: +44 (0)131 [REDACTED]  
E: [REDACTED] gov.scot

[REDACTED]  
WSFPO Ltd

[REDACTED]  
MALLAIG  
[REDACTED]

Our ref: 2016/0033069  
07 November 2016

Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter to Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity, regarding the Small Isles MPA. I have been asked to reply.

As you will be aware, a representation period on the management of the Small Isles MPA recently took place. The points you make in your letter to Mr Ewing will be considered alongside the other responses to the consultation.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

# RE: Reply from the Scottish Government.

22 December 2015 17:10

Subject	<b>RE: Reply from the Scottish Government.</b>
From	[REDACTED]
To	[REDACTED]
Sent	25 August 2015 09:17

Thanks.

Mallaig and Northwest have put forward some ideas for Small Isles that I am looking at. I am fairly sure that what they have said probably covers everyone that works there.

[REDACTED]  
Marine Scotland – [REDACTED]  
Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: +44 (0)131 [REDACTED]  
Mob: [REDACTED]  
e: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
w: [www.gov.scot/MarineProtectedAreas](http://www.gov.scot/MarineProtectedAreas)

**From:** [REDACTED] [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@hotmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** 25 August 2015 09:11  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Reply from the Scottish Government.

Yeah that's right. It would be pretty rare that we would fish inside the loch in the year I've had the boat we have maybe fished there once. It's more so the areas in the south Minch round the small isles that would affect me as we sometimes spent time in the winter down there.

Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Aug 2015, at 08:03, [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I was aware of that. I think you had the Franchise before?

[REDACTED] has put forward some good ideas regarding the trawl grounds. This includes joining up Gruinard Bay and Annat Bay, and the north tow. I presume that this would cover tows that would use as well?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]  
Marine Scotland – [REDACTED]  
Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: +44 (0)131 [REDACTED]  
Mob: [REDACTED]  
e: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

w: [www.gov.scot/MarineProtectedAreas](http://www.gov.scot/MarineProtectedAreas)

**From:** [REDACTED] [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@hotmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** 21 August 2015 21:40  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Reply from the Scottish Government.

Hi [REDACTED] thanks for the reply. I'm not sure if you are away of this but we only purchased our boat the headway in October of last year so the data would only be from then. Also the previous two vessel I had never had vms not sure if this is a problem or not.

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 Aug 2015, at 07:58, [REDACTED] [@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) wrote:

Thank you for your correspondence. Please see the attached reply which includes a reference number for future use.

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.  
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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 December 2014 17:58  
**To:** 'MNWFA'  
**Subject:** RE: Inshore MPA /SAC management - Small isles MPA - Possible designated fishing areas  
**Attachments:** SMI\_existing\_fishing\_areas\_user\_friendly\_value.pdf

Hi [REDACTED]

I can come to Mallaig on 16th. Can you arrange a venue ideally with a projector and screen please, as I'm not back until the 12th January?

I shall attempt to get someone from SNH but cannot make a promise on their attendance at the moment.

I can give you an extension to the 16th Feb on Small Isles, if you could submit your response to the other parts of the consultation on the 2nd. Is this acceptable to you?

There are some differences. You can use the layers in the attached PDF to compare.

I've not done anything spatially in Sound of Canna. I think consideration of that needs to begin with the fishermen defining exactly where they might like to fish. As I said a permit scheme could be utilised like we are doing for limited creel fishing at South Arran at present. We can pick up on this in January.

If you were able to procure additional plotter data in advance I could get it geo-referenced into my GIS before coming.

All the best for the festive season.

[REDACTED]  
Marine Scotland [REDACTED] Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: +44 (0)131 [REDACTED]  
Mob: [REDACTED]  
e: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
w: www.scotland.gov.uk/MarineProtectedAreas

-----Original Message-----

From: MNWFA [mailto:mnwfa@btconnect.com]  
Sent: 19 December 2014 17:33  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Inshore MPA /SAC management - Small isles MPA - Possible designated fishing areas

Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you again for the work that you have done on the Small Isles.

I have looked at the details and to my untrained eye it looks as though you have done some work on the west of the MPA but there is little or possibly no difference to the east of the MPA and the Sound of Canna. Maybe I am wrong and I am sure that you will correct me if I am!

I would be grateful if you would consider two requests;

- 1) You offered to come to Mallaig to discuss the MPA and I would like to take you up on this offer. Fridays around 2-3pm are best for us and I would have thought Friday January 16 or 23 would suit. I would also be grateful if we could have somebody from SNH attending to ensure that they have knowledge of how serious the current areas within the MPA are.
- 2) Given that we are still discussing this issue with you I would be grateful if you would consider an extension of possibly two weeks to the consultation since our response will be based on the talks that we have with your department. And as you will be aware, the deadline will be close to any possible meeting that we have with you/SNH.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

██████████

-----Original Message-----

From: ██████████@scotland.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:██████████@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]  
Sent: 12 December 2014 11:44  
To: mnwfa@btconnect.com  
Cc: ██████████@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
Subject: Inshore MPA /SAC management - Small isles MPA - Possible designated fishing areas

Hi ██████████

Thanks for making the journey down on Wednesday. Grateful if you could extend my gratitude to your members. As I said it helps me do a better job when I have access to people with first-hand knowledge of the areas in question.

I have made some revisions to the existing fishing areas. I have adjusted the area at Oigh Sgeir to open up the mud area considered important and taken an area in the relatively unfished hole northeast of Rhum.

I attach a map showing these refinements, and also a list of co-ordinates for the MPA boundary, and also co-ordinates for these fishing zones. This means that members can put them into their plotters if they wish. Happy to discuss any adjustments that might be helpful to your members.

I have also done another VMS density analysis. This uses the estimate value of each VMS report. This makes it a value density rather than an effort density. This may help discussions of refinements.

These revised areas represent 24% of the estimated burrowed mud at Small isles. When added with Lochs Duich Long & Alsh and Wester Ross the total proportion that would be managed would be 32%, which right on the target proportion in combination. There is 5km<sup>2</sup> in DLA that would still

be open to trawling. It may be that if the industry preferred we could remove that seasonal opening to give some additional mud area at Small Isles. This would need wider industry buy-in (NW IFG?).

I've had an initial discussion with SNH and it may be possible to do something in the fringes of Sound of Canna. My current thinking would be a permit scheme along the lines of approach 2 at South Arran (for scallop dredging) but obviously for trawling. I will be looking at this in more detail early next week so that I can ask SNH more formally for their view.

Hope all of this helps for now.

Best Wishes

██████████  
Marine Scotland ██████████ Scottish Government | ██████████ | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: +44 (0)131 ██████████  
Mob: ██████████  
e: ██████████@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
w: www.scotland.gov.uk/MarineProtectedAreas

-----Original Message-----

From: MNWFA [mailto:mnwfa@btconnect.com]  
Sent: 11 December 2014 10:34  
To: ██████████  
Cc: ██████████ btinternet.com;  
██████████@yahoo.co.uk  
Subject: small isles MPA

Hello ██████████

Thank you for meeting up with us yesterday. We all found it very useful. You will no doubt have noted that there was a chore list drawn up on both sides to try and assist a more mutually beneficial result in the Small Isles MPA and the list is as follows;

Marine Scotland

- 1) ██████████ to draw up a map outlining the extra details discussed of the burrowed mud that is of economic importance to the Small Isles area.
- 2) ██████████ to consider options for vessels to partake in observed camera trials on areas with features.
- 3) ██████████ to consider whether the installation of Succorfish could be an option that will reduce MPA areas.
- 4) ██████████ to consider other areas of burrowed mud that could be used to offset percentage requirements in the Small Isles MPA.

MNWFA

- 1) ██████████ to suppl ██████████ with plotter data of the Small Isles
- 2) ██████████ to consider areas within the MPA that are of no economic importance to the fleet and therefore can be shut down and report to ██████████

3) [redacted] to check with [redacted] narrow edge in western MPA that is of economic importance and whether it could be offset with scallop grounds that have been left open in the north of the MPA that are of no economic importance.

I hope you agree with this analysis of the meeting but please clarify if you think I have misrepresented certain issues.

Though I felt that both you and [redacted] had a sympathetic ear for our plight yesterday I should reiterate that the proposed areas that have been suggested in the consultation will cause severe economic hardship to the local fleet and that the grounds themselves provide protection from weather conditions that the open areas of the Minch do not provide. I would be grateful if you would impress this information to the others at MS that are involved in this MPA process. We will be ensuring that we make known our views in the consultation response.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]

MNWFA Ltd  
Harbour Offices  
Mallaig  
Inverness-shire PH41 4QB  
Tel: 01687 [redacted]  
Mobile: [redacted]  
Email: mnwfa@btconnect.com  
Email: [redacted]@btconnect.com

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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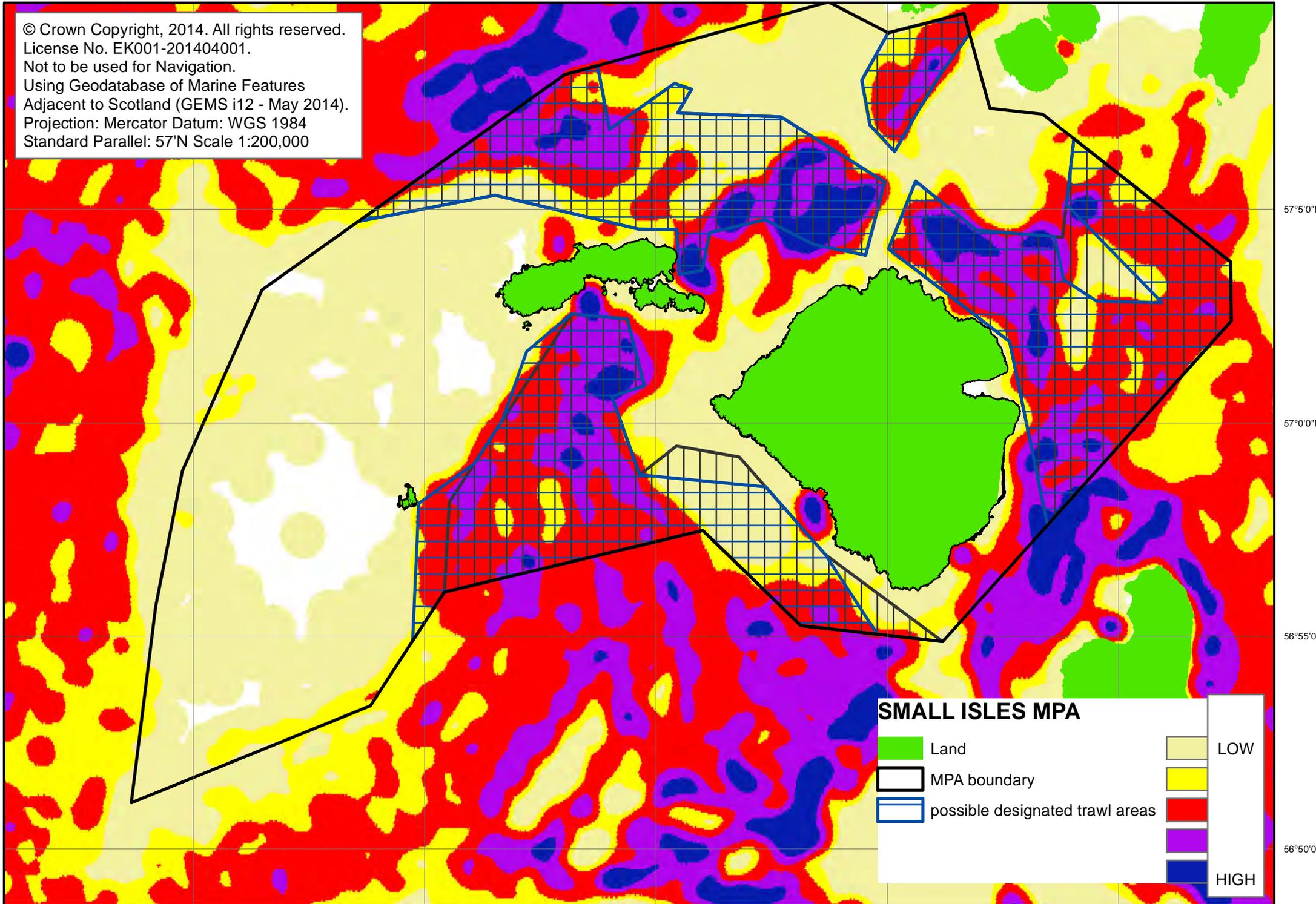
6°40'0"W

6°30'0"W

6°20'0"W

6°10'0"W

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Using Geodatabase of Marine Features  
Adjacent to Scotland (GEMS i12 - May 2014).  
Projection: Mercator Datum: WGS 1984  
Standard Parallel: 57°N Scale 1:200,000



57°5'0"N

57°0'0"N

56°55'0"N

56°50'0"N

**SMALL ISLES MPA**

 Land	 LOW
 MPA boundary	
 possible designated trawl areas	
	
	 HIGH

# RE: mnwfa

10 March 2016 20:04

Subject	RE: mnwfa
From	[REDACTED]
To	[REDACTED]
Sent	10 February 2016 19:28

OK thanks for the reply.

**From:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot [[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2016 16:18  
**To:** mnwfa@btconnect.com  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: mnwfa

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm tied up with other things all day tomorrow. Due to other short term pressures I've not looked the MNWFA proposals in detail yet. I probably won't manage any detailed consideration for another couple of weeks.

Best wishes.

[REDACTED]  
Marine Scotland – [REDACTED]  
Scottish Government | [REDACTED] | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: +44 (0)131 [REDACTED]  
Mob: [REDACTED]  
e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot  
w: [www.gov.scot/Topics/marine](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine)

**From:** [REDACTED] [<mailto:mnwfa@btconnect.com>]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2016 09:53  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** mnwfa

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for meeting up with us at the Parliament last week. I thought it was very useful.

We have come up with a proposal that we believe could ensure the required preservation of marine features while at the same time assisting fishermen in matters of economics and safety.

I appreciate that it is early days but I shall be in Edinburgh tomorrow and would be quite happy to meet up with you if it would be of any value to ensuring mutual benefits in the next consultation for the Small Isles.

The MWNFA has taken the co-ordinates that you have given us on features and worked tows in that would still preserve those features and we have offered areas of burrowed mud that would ensure that the percentage was not altered in our favour. We have also agreed to consider some form of extra monitoring to give extra credibility to any changes that go well beyond what is currently

required.

Please let me know what you think and feel free to call me if necessary. I will be flying from 11am until 1pm and I have meetings this afternoon. You can get me before that if you wish.

Regards



MNWFA Ltd  
Harbour Offices  
Mallaig  
Inverness-shire  
PH41 4QB

Tel: (01687 [redacted])  
Mobile: [redacted]  
[mnwfa@btconnect.com](mailto:mnwfa@btconnect.com)

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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