

ANNEX

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

The Scottish Government does not have the information.

Under the terms of the exception at regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs (information not held), the Scottish Government is not required to provide information which it does not have. The Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested because the Marine Directorate has not issued licences with the derogation specifically permitting creel fishing in Loch Sunart over the period 2023-25.

This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. While we recognise that there may be some public interest in information about licence derogations allowing creel fishing in Loch Sunart, clearly we cannot provide information which we do not hold.