

POLICY NOTE

THE LOCH EWE, ISLE OF EWE, WESTER ROSS, SCALLOPS SEVERAL FISHERY ORDER 2015

SSI 2015/30

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers in sections 1 and 7(4)(a)(iii) of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967. The instrument is subject to negative Parliamentary procedure.

Policy Objectives

Several Orders allow persons to apply for the right to fish exclusively for specified types of shellfish, including scallops, in a designated area. The Loch Ewe, Isle of Ewe, Wester Ross, Scallops Several Fishery Order 2015 confers on Scot-Hatch Limited, for a period of 10 years, the right of several fishery for scallops in part of Loch Ewe covering an area of 56 hectares within specified co-ordinates. A director of Scot-Hatch Limited, Jane Grant, has fished exclusively in a smaller designated area within Loch Ewe (covering an area of 22.18 hectares) under The Loch Ewe, Isle of Ewe, Wester Ross, Scallops Several Fishery Order 1997 (“the 1997 Order”) and The Loch Ewe, Isle of Ewe, Wester Ross, Scallops Several Fishery (Variation) Order 2002 (“the 2002 Order”). This order replaces the existing right of several fishery with a new right of several fishery for scallops within specified co-ordinates. The 2002 Order includes a restriction that the harvesting of scallops can only be carried out manually by divers. The 2015 Order also provides for that restriction.

The 2015 Order will provide an new exclusive right to fish scallops, but in a larger area of Loch Ewe than under the 1997 Order and the 2002 Order. Failure to make a new Several Order could de-stabilise the existing business and employment opportunities that the 1997 and 2002 Orders currently provide. The 2015 Order will provide for a larger area and improved business opportunities and employment opportunities.

Consultation

The applicant, Scot-Hatch Limited, consulted extensively with the local community and others as part of their application process.

A draft of the proposed Several Order was also consulted upon as is required in terms of Schedule 1 to the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967. Schedule 1 to that Act also requires the proposed Order to be published. Details of the proposed Order were advertised in a local newspaper on 28 November 2014. A period of four weeks was provided for receipt of any representations or objections but none were received.

Financial Effects

Other than time required to complete a short annual report, no financial burdens will be placed on the applicant as a result of the Order. A Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment has been prepared in relation to the Order and placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre.

**Marine Scotland
January 2015**