Subject: RE: Reintraid marine farm

Date: 16 November 2021 17:39:32

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

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Thanks for this. I'll see if I can find out who the local officer is now that

My initial thoughts are that from our perspective the key considerations are likely to relate to the FWPM feature of the Ardvar and Loch a' Mhuilinn Woodlands SAC and potential visual impacts in the Assynt – Coigach NSA.

The local area staff would be able to give you more detail in terms of any information / assessment required for the NSA.

In terms of the FWPM feature of the SAC I imagine we would likely be looking at taking a similar EMP approach as required for some of your other sites in this area. Does the existing site already have an EMP in place? Just out of interest do you know if you are also planning a net increase in biomass as part of this proposal or simply transferring existing biomass to a single site? I'm also aware that there may be regulatory changes in the not so distant future in terms how interactions with wild salmon are regulated. It's impossible to know for certain but this may be relevant by the time this proposal reaches application stage.

I appreciate the above is very brief so once you have some more detail then we would be happy to discuss things further.

Sent: 16 November 2021 10:31

Subject: Reintraid marine farm

I wanted to get in touch regarding some future changes we are exploring for the marine farm sites in Loch a Chairn Bhain, seaward of Kylesku, Sutherland. There are two pen groups within the loch, Torgawn which is closest to Kylesku, and Reintraid NW of there.

After the current cycle – due to conclude late '22/early '23 - the steel pen equipment at both sites will be due for renovation / replacement, so we are looking ahead to appropriate solutions.

With steel pens becoming an increasingly difficult option we are looking at replacement with HDPE circular units, which also have a better lifespan. Operationally there is also a preference to consolidate farming activity to one pen group rather than the current two. The proposal is for farming to continue at the Reintraid site with an increase to 16 pen units from the current 14, and for the Torgawn farm to be inactivated in favour of the increased capacity at Reintraid.

We're very much at an early stage with this, having initially approached SEPA to start their preapplication process in preparation for collecting necessary environmental survey information. SEPA have produced a pre-application screening report, which will be available on their website shortly;

I'll be able to share further details in due course as the project takes shape, and very much value any feedback or advice at this stage.



Technical Manager



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