10 July 2017

Dear Graeme,

Thank you for your letter regarding The Loch Carron Urgent Marine Conservation (No. 2) Order 2017 (SSI 2017/205).

I would like to re-assure you that there is no ambiguity from the perspective of the fishing industry, because it is the outer boundary and the measures that are important to them. The re-designation of Loch Carron MPA has not changed the outer boundary, and the updated Marine Conservation Order has not altered the measures in any way. The definition of the MPA boundary in Schedule 1 of the original designation order is exactly the same as Schedule 1 of the updated designation order.

Mean High Water Spring (MHWS) and Mean Low Water Spring (MLWS) are dynamic boundaries which indicate the average highest (MHWS) and lowest (MLWS) levels of the tide over a period of time, and are used to describe boundaries which follow land. To aid the Committee’s understanding I have included a map at Annex A showing the difference between the MHWS and MLWS tidelines within the Loch Carron MPA. The difference is shown on the map as the intertidal area. For the avoidance of doubt the MPA boundary follows MHWS.

Yours,

Roseanna Cunningham