Our Ref: F0182924

Mr Don Staniford

If telephoning ask for:
Cara Everitt

12 July 2012

Dear Mr Staniford

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

Thank you for your recent email, received by us on 2 July 2012, in which you asked for the following information:

Please provide all correspondence and any information since 2007 relating to 'Scotland's Aquaculture Database' including reference to "data cleansing".

Based upon information from the Marine Strategy Forum (enclosed below) it is understood that: "The proposal for a database, bringing together information from a variety of partner bodies, was made around two and a half years ago by the then head of the Marine Scotland Aquaculture Unit. Since then, a great deal of work has been done in developing the proposal, comparing and cleansing data, designing the website etc. A partnership approach has been adopted by the bodies involved (MS policy and Science, SEPA, the Crown Estate and Food Standards Agency (Scotland)), through a joint Working Group".

Moreover: "A test database/website has been subject, in the last couple of months, to initial User Acceptability Testing by partner bodies (with further work underway to address identified issues); The database/website will be rolled out to partner bodies later in July; we aim to launch it publicly at the end of July."

This FOI request therefore relates, inter alia, to the original proposal "made around two and a half years ago by the then head of the Marine Scotland Aquaculture Unit". This information would include any emails, phone calls, meetings, briefing notes, notes of Marine Strategy Forum meetings (as detailed below), data, test database/website, FOI replies and correspondence via the Marine Strategy Forum between Marine Scotland, SEPA, the Crown Estate and Food Standards Agency Scotland or any other information.

Please note that discussions of the Marine Strategy Forum referred to "data cleansing" – including a meeting on 15th June which included Marine Scotland policy and science. "Data Cleansing", according to Wikipedia relates to the deletion of 'dirty data', and is defined as follows:

"Data cleansing, data cleaning, or data scrubbing is the process of detecting and correcting (or removing) corrupt or inaccurate records <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storage_record> from a record set, table <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table_(database)> , or database <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Database> . Used mainly in databases, the term refers to identifying incomplete, incorrect, inaccurate, irrelevant, etc. parts of the data and then replacing, modifying, or deleting this dirty data <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dirty_data> ": http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_cleansing

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Please find enclosed below information (MSF 85/2012) relating to 'Scotland's Aquaculture Database' and a meeting of the Marine Strategy Forum on 15th June:

MSF(85/2012)

Scotland's Aquaculture Database

Introduction

This paper outlines the background to the development of Scotland's aquaculture database and sets out some related issues. A demonstration of the database will be given to the Forum at the 15 June meeting.

Overview

The proposal for a database, bringing together information from a variety of partner bodies, was made around two and a half years ago by the then head of the Marine Scotland Aquaculture Unit. Since then, a great deal of work has been done in developing the proposal, comparing and cleansing data, designing the website etc. A partnership approach has been adopted by the bodies involved (MS policy and Science, SEPA, the Crown Estate and Food Standards Agency (Scotland)), through a joint Working Group. Work in developing the database and website has been undertaken on the partners' behalf by SEPA – who have also borne some additional costs over and above their proportionate share of project costs. SEPA will 'host' the website.

Although conceived initially as primarily a mechanism for partner bodies to compare and share information on aquaculture, the database/website allows the opportunity effectively to publish, on a proactive basis, a lot of information that would be releasable under Freedom of Information and Environmental Information legislation.

Current Progress

Policy, data cleansing/sharing arrangements and database and website development have now been taken to the stage where: A test database/website has been subject, in the last couple of months, to initial User Acceptability Testing by partner bodies (with further work underway to address identified issues);

The database/website will be rolled out to partner bodies later in July; we aim to launch it publicly at the end of July.

Governance arrangements have been developed and are being finalised relating to management, maintenance and other database requirements and responsibilities going forward. Amongst other things, the website will be maintained and serviced, on partners' behalf, by SEPA alongside SEWeb arrangements, with the partners sharing (modest) related costs. A Governance Group comprising key partner body representatives will continue to oversee and, where necessary, direct arrangements.

Stakeholder engagement

A communications strategy has been developed and is being refined, involving partner bodies communications teams, for both internal and external purposes. This includes:

a) for internal partner purposes: initial User Acceptability Testing, demonstrations for key staff, utilisation of staff newsletters and internal websites/communications media. Partner users will be asked for feedback and evaluation of the website;

b) for external interests: targeted preparatory presentations (including for some key stakeholder bodies and through the Marine Strategy Forum), proposed Ministerial Press Notice, references/cross-linkages in appropriate websites, leaflet/flier, material for inclusion in Schools pack (at an appropriate stage).

It is expected that the website will add to the transparency and openness agenda and will mean reduced FoI/EIR costs for partner bodies – though we recognise that, at least initially, the publication of data may give rise to interest and potential additional queries from some interests.

Wider data developments
Following on from the publication of Scotland's Marine Atlas last year, work is being undertaken to develop and bring together much of the data which was reflected in the Atlas and underpins marine planning. This is presently focussing on ensuring that the data presented in the Atlas, and the underlying datasets where possible, are available through National Marine Plan Interactive. Future work will include making broader datasets available; identifying and addressing key data gaps; and considering how best to make data available to support regional planning.

*Access to Scotland's Marine Atlas; National Marine Plan Interactive; Marine Scotland Interactive is via _ HYPERLINK "http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/data" __http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/data_*

Recommendation
That Marine Strategy Forum members note this note on the background to, and development of, the aquaculture database/website: and the planned demonstration at the Forum meeting on 15 June.

Marine Scotland
Performance, Aquaculture & Recreational Fisheries
June 2012

If this request is deemed too voluminous I am only too happy to discuss ways to narrow the request.

I can confirm that we are handling your request under the terms of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIR) which are to be applied for the provision of environmental information, under Section 62 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Under SEPA's duty to advise and assist under the terms of The Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 regulation 9, we confirm that there is no data cleansing carried out as part of the Aquaculture Database project, if by that is meant changes to or transformation of data, either at source or in the Aquaculture Database, for the purposes of the project. The data is uploaded and published exactly as it is received from partners in extracts from their source systems. All of the information in the database will be online to the public and can downloaded to spreadsheets.

The data is supplied for three sectors:
- *Marine Finfish Aquaculture*
- *Freshwater Finfish Aquaculture*
- *Shellfish Aquaculture*

The data from the partners to be published on the Aquaculture Website from the Aquaculture Database is:

From The Crown Estate Commissioners:
- *Active Crown Estate Finfish Lease Areas*
- *Active Crown Estate Shellfish Lease Areas*

From The Food Standards Agency in Scotland:

- *Classified Shellfish Harvesting Areas*
- *Shellfish Area Species Classifications*
- *Temporary Shellfish Area Closures*
- *Biotoxin Monitoring Samples*
- *Microhygiene Monitoring Samples*
- *Phytoplankton Monitoring Samples*

From Scottish Environment Protection Agency:
- *CAR Licence Details*
- *Fish Farm Monthly Biomass and Treatment Reports*
- *Annual Emissions*
- *Environmental Monitoring Survey Report*
- *Sealice In-feed Treatment Residues*

From Scottish Government – Marine Scotland:
- *Registered Finfish and Shellfish Sites*
- *Operator Transfers*
- *Site Facilities*
- *Fish Escapes*
- *Movement Restrictions*

The Website will provide the following map data layers on an interactive map:

From Marine Scotland:
- *Active Aquaculture Sites*
- *Inactive Aquaculture Sites*

From Scottish Environment Protection Agency:
- *CAR licensed fish farms*
- *Shellfish Growing Water Areas*
- *Shellfish Growing Waters Monitoring Points*

From The Crown Estate Commissioners:
- *Active Crown Estate Finfish Lease Areas*
- *Active Crown Estate Shellfish Lease Areas*

From The Food Standards Agency in Scotland:
- *Classified Shellfish Harvesting Areas*

From Scottish Government – Marine Scotland:

- *Marine Scotland Management Areas*
- *Locational Guideline Areas*
- *Fish Industry Area Management Agreements*

Upon passing your request to the appropriate team, they asked us if you could supply clarification in order to help answer your enquiry. Due to the current voluminous nature of the enquiry it would be helpful if you could clarify the information which is of interest. We can advise that the Aquaculture Project Network Folders hold documentation with regard to:

- *Project Management*
- *Risks Issues Actions & Dependencies*
- *Meetings*
- *Correspondence*
- *Reporting*
- *Project Tasks*
- *Software Release Approval*
- *Change Management & Requests*
- *Pre Project Work*
- *Quality Management*
- *Procurement*
- *Public Relations*
- *Budget - Financial Control*
- *Contacts*
- *Legal*
- *Initiation*
- *Specification*
- *Analysis*
- *Development*
- *System Test*
- *Non Functional Testing*
- *UAT*
- *Training*
- *Implementation*
- *Administration and Support*

We have placed your request on hold pending provision of the required clarification. Once we have received the requested details, we will reactivate your request and proceed to give you a response within 20 working days.

Your unique reference number is F0182924. Please quote this in any future contact with us about your request.

Yours sincerely

Cara Everitt
Access to Information Co-ordinator