



3 September 2021

OIA21-0991

Shaun Lee  
shaun@stet.co.nz

Dear Shaun Lee

Thank you for your email of 6 August 2021 requesting all dredging activity in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

*Please provide aggregated Electronic Catch and Position Reporting (ER/GPR) data from 15 July 2019 to 21 December 2020 (the last commercial scallop season) in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. Preferably in a visual format (e.g heat map) at the highest practical resolution.*

The following information is released to you.

Two heatmaps showing the number of commercial scallop dredge events in the area of interest.

The map titled 'r210185\_SCA\_Effort\_ERS\_map' is a heatmap of all events, grouped into 0.2-degree blocks. Any 0.2-degree blocks where the effort came from less than 3 distinct fishing vessels or permit holders are withheld to protect commercial sensitivity.

The map titled 'r210185\_SCA\_Effort\_StatisticalAreas\_map' is a heatmap of all events based on the scallop statistical area where they occurred. Any statistical areas where the effort came from less than 3 distinct fishing vessels or permit holders are withheld to protect commercial sensitivity.

Note that some of the scallop dredging events were only reported to a statistical area level, therefore these events are only included in the statistical area map. With Legacy reporting (the reporting of fishing events via paper forms), dredge fishers were only required to report that statistical area where each dredge event occurred. Fishers are now required to report events using the Electronic Reporting System (ERS), which requires them to report the exact position where each event took place. The timeframe for this request covers the end of Legacy reporting and the start of the use of ERS.

In total, there were 6,544 dredge events within the area of interest, between 15 July 2019 and 21 December 2020.

As noted, some data has been withheld where commercial dredging events involved less than three commercial operators in a given area. The data has been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA - *where the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.*

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at [Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz). Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ANTON DESI', is written over a grey rectangular background.

Anton Dési  
**Director, Science and Information**