



North Atlantic  
Fisheries  
Intelligence Group

Illegal trading

Scottish Razor Clams



*Ensis ensis*



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2009 small boats using salt

2012 small boats electrofishing

2013 925 tonnes landed

Airfreighted to Far east via Dubai

Trade worth USD 50 million per annum

# Criminality

Electrofishing

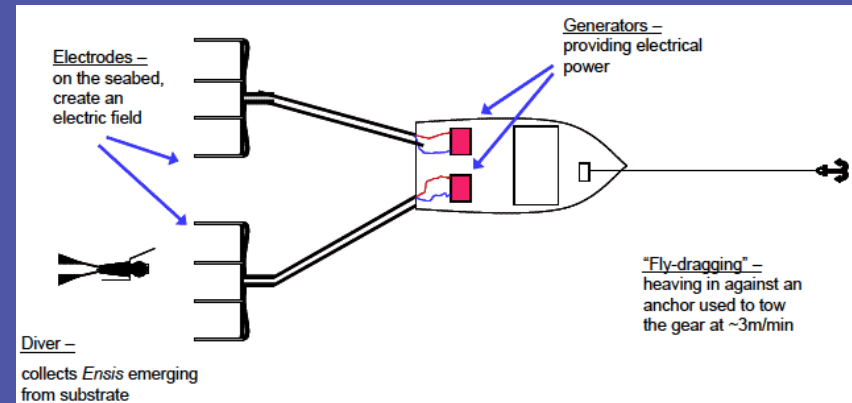
H&S violations

Food Safety violations

Tax Crime

Money Laundering

Organised Crime





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## **Joint Interventions**

1 manslaughter conviction

1 criminal investigation of tax fraud

50 civil tax evasion investigations

14 cases reported to prosecutor for fishing violations

## **Enforcement not working**

Too profitable to stop

Gaps in the law

Gaps in data

Difficulties in detection



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“If we had to continue with fishing with salt, it wouldn’t be viable. No doubt that fishing with electricity is the best way forward. In the old days you only caught 20 – 40kg , now you can catch that 10 times over in one day ..... you just can’t catch us“



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## **Solution – legalize and control?**

April 2017 Scottish Government authorised a limited trial electro-fishery for razor clams

Designed as a scientific investigation to gather information about electro-fishing

Trials will take place in designated areas.

A small number of boats will be authorised

All other razor clam fishing will be prohibited

Supply chain can be monitored and controlled