

CASE STUDY

Increasing accessibility of data and transparency with the development of an online sea lice monitoring dashboard





The Sea Lice Monitoring Programme began in 1991 as a pilot initiative, expanding in 1993 to cover all marine finfish farms nationally. Since then, the programme has been a cornerstone of Ireland's aquaculture management.





Sea lice are naturally occurring marine parasites that can affect a wide range of fish species. Two species are of particular concern to Irish aquaculture:

Lepeophtheirus salmonis
(commonly known as the salmon louse)
and *Caligus elongatus*.



The results of rigorous inspection and reporting under the national monitoring programme are circulated in monthly updates to stakeholders and all data is published in an annual report, which can be accessed through the Marine Institute's Open Access Repository.

These reports provide valuable insights into sea lice trends, farm level data, and the effectiveness of control measures.





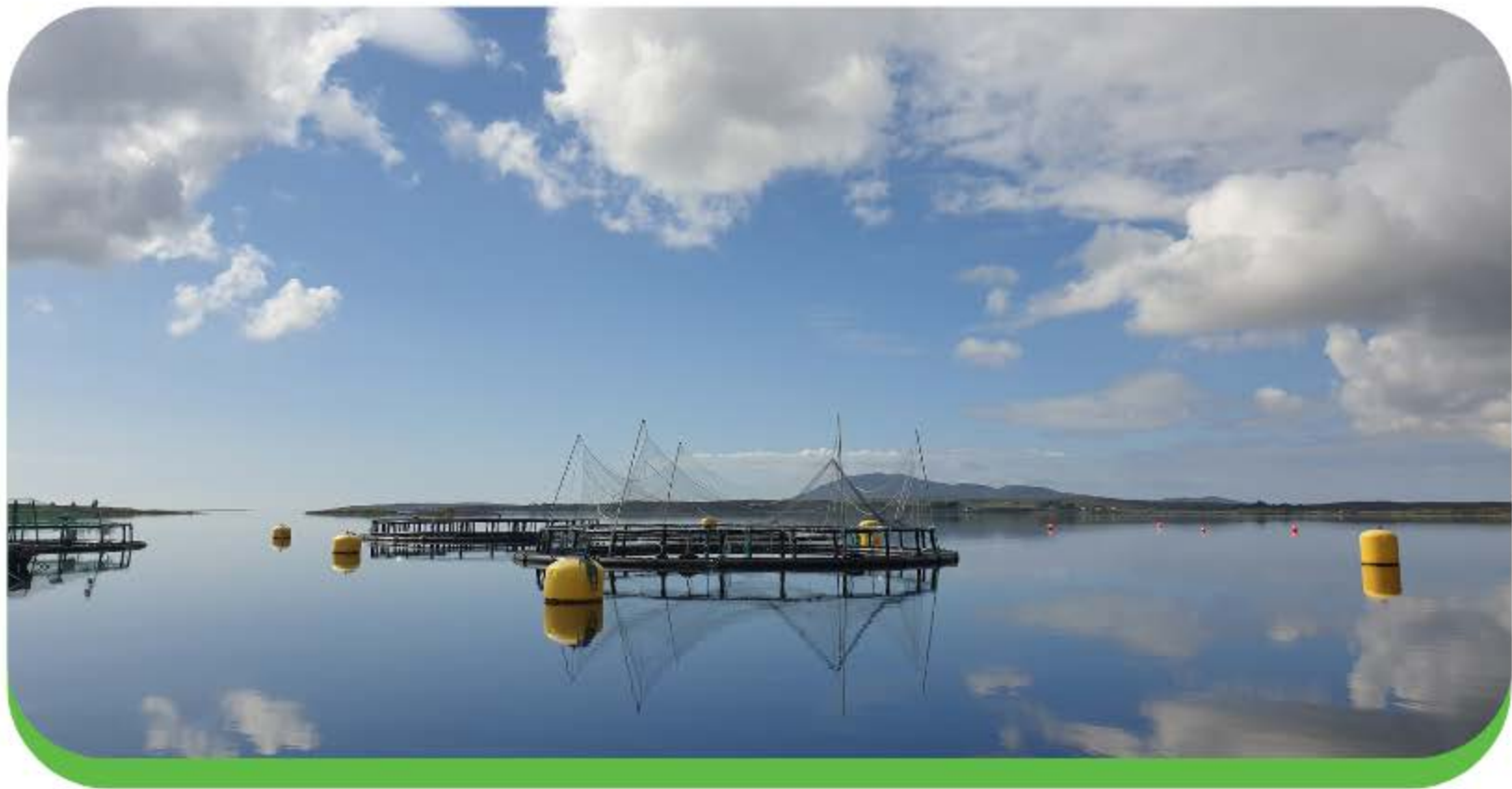
A project was initiated by the Marine Institute to make the data more easily available, in near real-time, and to increase transparency. By developing an online dashboard, the data would be more widely available to the public and in a more accessible format.





The resulting online dashboard represents a major advancement in how we share sea lice data. It displays monthly lice counts for each salmon farm and users can view historical data for each stock of fish since they were put to sea, offering a clear picture of sea lice management over time.





By making sea lice data publicly accessible and easy to interpret, the dashboard enhances transparency for stakeholders and supports informed decision-making by regulators and producers (supporting Ireland's Blue Economy).





The more informed that producers and regulators are on the presence of sea lice, and their levels, the better outcomes there are for the health of aquatic animals, and the aquaculture industry.



Want to learn more about
the impact of this innovation?



Read the Marine Institute's **Annual Impact Report**
to see how the Marine Institute is leading
the digital ocean transformation.



Foras na Mara
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