

Loch Creran Dive Survey for proposed mooring at South Shian.

Survey carried out by Peter Nimmo

GPS coordinates 56.520000 -5.399333

17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 14.00 hrs Low water spring 0.6 - 4.0m

Water Depth 4.5m low water spring.

Initially surveyed area from yacht using twin frequency Garmin fish finder - chose a clear spot with a smooth bottom in preferred area and dropped small marker weight with float. The fish finder at this depth gives detail of worm and mollusc burrows indicating a soft sea bed clear of structures.

Carried out dive at low water on a sunny day with excellent visibility 4-5m .

Swam perpendicularly out from shore and attached 12.5m line to weight on sea bed. The general area looked clear of any serpulid reef structures, large rocks or old mooring blocks so dived and surveyed area of proposed mooring swimming in concentric circles 3, 6, 9 and 12m from central point.

The sea bed was found to be muddy sand and there were no serpulid reefs and no horse muscle present. Fauna consisted of bivalve, gastropods, with a scattering of small sea pens? About 10cm long and the occasional starfish.

Diving the surrounding area on the same contour line as the proposed mooring I saw very occasional solitary serpulids in the sand the only small colonies of serpulids seen were on disused mooring equipment 30m north of the surveyed area and about 50m South.