

MINUTE OF MEETING



of the SW Regional Inshore Fisheries Group held in Cameron House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AE on Thursday 31st July 2025.

Present:	
In person:	Alastair Hamilton (Chair), Scott Blair, David Isaac, John Macfarlane, Ian MacEachan, Oban FO
Online:	Kenny Coull- SWFPA/ MNWFA; Kirsten Leahy- SWFPA; Elaine Whyte- CFA; Nick Turnbull- Mull and Iona FA;
Apologies	None

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The Chair welcomed the attendees, both online and in person and declared the meeting open.

2. Reaction to Continuation of Interim Measures:

The meeting discussed the renewal of the Interim Measures for a further year. These were not considered to be restrictive due to the long term practice of returning berried females to the sea. A discussion on the economic impact of this ensued, but there was nothing negative to report.

3. Inshore Fishery Improvement Initiative Update:

The meeting discussed the IFMI programme. It was noted that the procurement exercise for the installation of inshore vessel tracking equipment was progressing and that deployment on vessels was scheduled for 2026. This was roundly welcomed as it was seen as the route to rebuffing invasive planning applications for alternative uses in known fishing grounds.

The meeting discussed the work that is underway to permanently reduce effort in the creeling.

The meeting discussed the request for evidence that had been consulted on with regard to a move to regional management of the Scottish fisheries.

4. Marine Planning Applications:

A long discussion on the current planning applications by Lochnell Seaweed Ltd to establish algal farms on four sites in the Lynn of Lorne took place. Skippers reported that four boats worked Camas Nathais targeting velvet crabs. At the meeting there was less concern voiced regarding the offshore sites Sgierr Liath in the Lynn of Lorne. After the meeting however, Clyde Fishermen's Association confirmed that these sites interrupted tows used by nephrops trawlers

The meeting agreed that David Isaac (skipper) would work with the RIFG to formulate objections to the applications in Camas Nathais. The Chair, following the meeting, undertook to submit objections regarding the two remaining sites on behalf of trawler skippers.

The meeting agreed that these objections should also be copied to Crown Estates.

5. Any Other Business: None

6 The meeting closed at 17 15