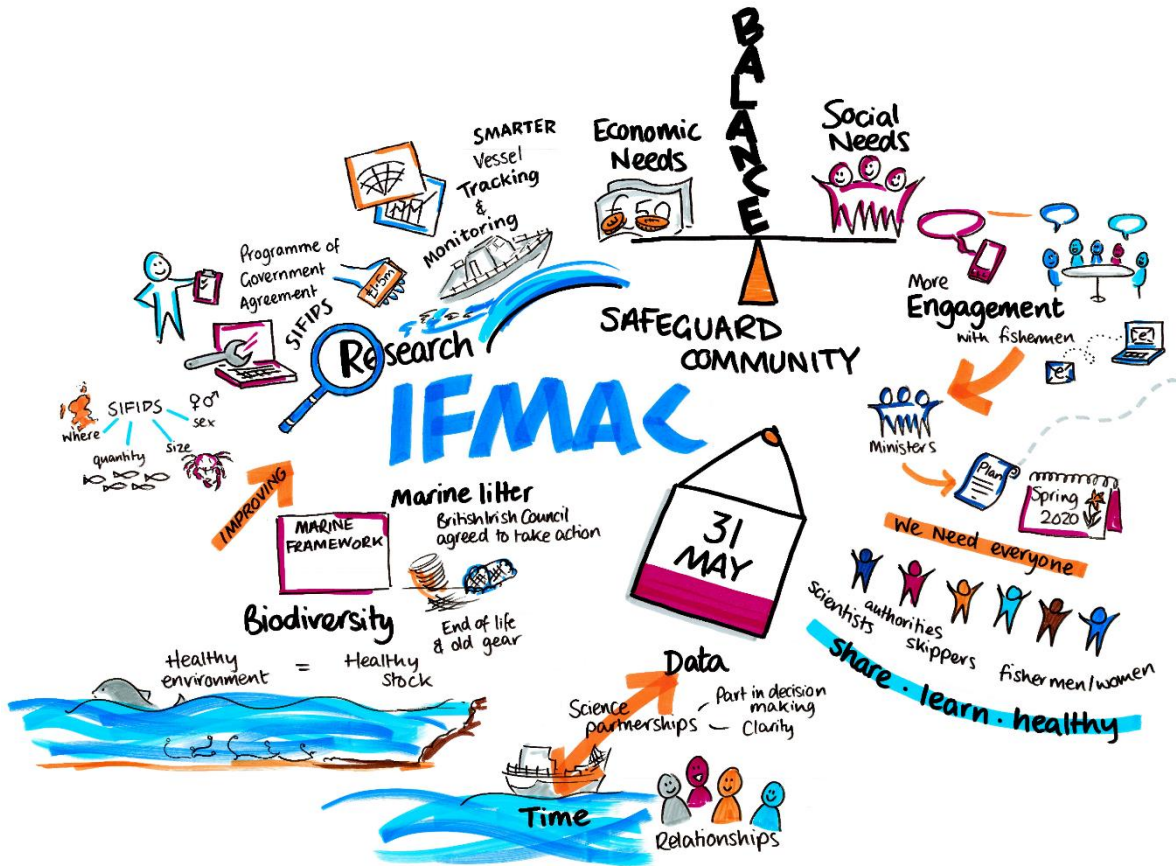


INSHORE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION (IFMAC) GROUP

NOTE OF MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY 2019

EDINBURGH ZOO, 134 CORSTORPHINE ROAD, EH12 6TS



1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Jim Watson, Head of Domestic Fisheries and Allan Gibb, Head of Sea Fisheries Division at Marine Scotland, jointly chaired the meeting and welcomed members to the 2019 annual meeting of the IFMAC group. Ms Clare Mills from Listen Think Draw was in attendance as an illustrator to capture the meeting through illustrations.

- View full illustrations from the day: <http://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/InshoreFisheries/ifmac/ImageOutput>

Apologies were received from Alan Donn, John Affleck, and Kenny MacNab.

2. Note / actions from previous meeting

Whelk fishery management options

Sandy Ritchie suggested that consistency in whelk nomenclature (e.g. whelk, buckie, periwinkle) would be helpful, after observing misunderstandings at a recent meeting of the Northern IFCA. Others raised concerns regarding whelk fishing effort, and whether additional management was required.

The Chair responded that whelk management measures should be considered on a regional basis through the RIFGs.

Aquaculture and interaction with inshore fisheries

Fiona Matheson gave an update regarding a SEPA investigation in Orkney. This found that chemicals in medicines used by the aquaculture sector was lasting for a long time in the marine environment. The concern was that this could possibly affect marine life due to the toxicity of the chemicals. SEPA will be publishing a paper on the investigation.

3. Inshore Fleet Modernisation Programme

Diane Buchanan presented on work to implement the Inshore Fleet Modernisation Programme. The programme is currently under development, and Marine Scotland will be holding discussions with industry to gather wider views. Invitations to form a Scallop Working Group would be going out to relevant stakeholders shortly.



- View presentation: <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00547675.pdf>

Items raised during the groups discussion included:

- Clarification that 22% of scallop vessels (20 out of 90) already have some form of on-board tracking system.

- That technologies to monitor vessel activity in real time was considered long overdue. Work undertaken by the SIFIDs project has looked at this, and so could be applicable.
- Compliance are working to enable under 10 m fishers to input FISH1 returns directly into Compass through a web-based interface. It is hoped this will be operational by the end of the year.

Jim Watson commented that:

- This work will give the industry a solid footing in terms of the evidence base. It will provide valuable information for fishers, scientists and enforcement colleagues; and help to better inform wider marine planning developments.
- The modernisation programme is a complex project and a significant investment. Successful implementation will take time, and so planning is key to getting this right.

4. The Value of Fishing to Coastal Communities

Hannah Fennell (MS Marine Analytical Unit) presented on work she is undertaking on the quantification and qualification of the social impacts on coastal communities.

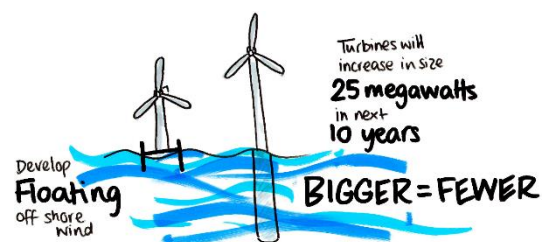
This work will allow these drivers to be taken into proper consideration when new government policies are being developed, which will help improve how the impact policies might have on the social aspects associated with coastal communities is gauged.



- View presentation: <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00547678.pdf>

5. Marine & Offshore Renewable Energy in Inshore Fisheries

David Pratt (MS Marine Planning and Policy) provided an update on the Marine and Offshore Renewable Energy team's current programme of work.



- View presentation: <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00547676.pdf>

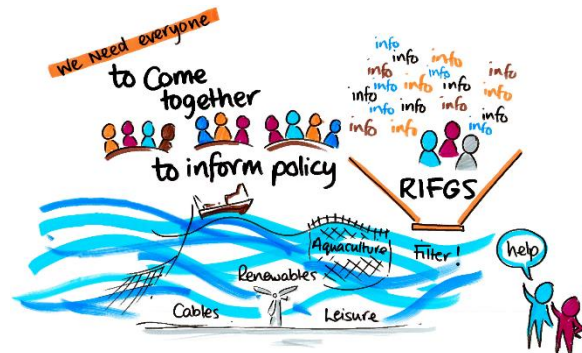
The main topics raised during discussion were:

- What plans were in place, or could be developed, to offer compensation to fishers or provide a 'community dividend' to mitigate the impact of developments on fishers and wider communities. Differences in community reimbursement available for onshore versus offshore wind were noted.

- That planners were seeking to minimise impacts on fishers and other marine stakeholders, were working closely with sea fisheries policy colleagues, and that Mr Ewing was very engaged on the issue. It was key for industry to engage in the planning process at an early stage to ensure representation (e.g. Fisheries Liaison Officer) and that fishing data could be provided.

6. Future of Fisheries Management in Scotland National Discussion

The Chair opened this item by explaining that the national discussion was an open listening exercise, with a large amount of stakeholder engagement taking place (online Q&As, workshops, IFMAC and FMAC meetings etc).



Following an analysis of the responses and feedback received during the national discussion, a public consultation was expected to be published towards the end of the year. Fergus Ewing was keen for this process to establish a long-term strategy for the fishing industry; one that would be forward-looking (5-10 years), bold, and encompass the diversity that now exists within the industry.

Industry representatives (Malcolm Morrison, Kate Rydzkowski and Elaine Whyte) were then invited to present their views on what they felt were key issues for the national discussion to consider, in particular regarding inshore fisheries management.

The speakers' presentations discussed the following:

Kate Rydzkowski

- Orkney fishers want the profession to be a long-term prospect for themselves and future generations. They see the industry as facing a range of issues, with fisheries management requiring improvement at all levels.
- Gear conflict is a key issue between fishers, as is, gear saturation, also includes species' ecology, bait used etc. Feel an 'audit' is required to examine the problem from all perspectives, undertaken at a local level.
- Visualising science (e.g. through the crab tagging project, and cameras on creels) has helped to engage fishers locally, as it helps them see results of research into stock dynamics, fishing interactions etc.

Malcolm Morrison

- Agreed that RIFGs should be put on statutory footing, with remit expanded to 12 NM. Question of resourcing – how will RIFGs be funded to accommodate an enhanced role and expanded remit.

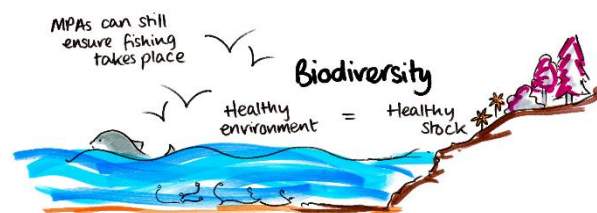
- RIFGs would be the ideal bodies to manage non-sectoral fishing quota, if properly resourced and supported through scientific input etc.
 - Spatial management can work effectively but has to be balanced to work for both the static and mobile sectors.
 - Question of whether introducing inshore permits would complicate management of licensing, when this had recently been simplified. Should be considerate of sectoral and regional differences.
- View presentation: <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00547674.pdf>

Elaine Whyte

- RIFGs and other local management initiatives need resourced, so fishers and others can feed in to management process effectively. Need to consider how available funding can be accessed.
 - Young entrants can lack enthusiasm when faced with unclear career prospects (e.g. becoming skipper). Lessons can be learned from other countries, e.g. Denmark. Need to build a domestic skills base, in addition to being able to source foreign labour.
 - Need to encourage fishers to work with Marine Scotland on scientific work, and build a cooperative relationship between industry and government.
 - Need to fish key stocks sensibly and sustainably, and look at diversification opportunities to reduce the risk of overfishing.
- View presentation: <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00547673.pdf>

7. Marine Conservation and Marine Protected Areas

Michael McLeod (MS Marine Planning and Policy) provided an update to the group on marine planning developments due to commence in 2019.



- View presentation: <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00547677.pdf>

Items raised during the group's discussion included:

- That marine litter an important issue, with old fishing gear being a leading contributor. A stock take on end-of-life nets/gear is to follow, and there is a desire to get fishermen involved in creel decommissioning projects to reduce 'ghost fishing'.
- That many fishers were keen to help reduce marine litter, but that there is a lack of wider support. Question of how harbours etc could be encouraged to provide infrastructure (e.g. bins) for fishers to dispose of collected waste.

8. AOB

Nephrops CPUE and Creel Management

Alistair Philp raised concerns regarding decreasing CPUE in the creel *Nephrops* fishery; and whether effort controls in the creel sector should be introduced, in particular a cap on the number of vessels. He explained that this would help to reduce gear conflict, and could be used alongside local creel limits to regulate the creel sector.



Items raised during discussion included:

- Whether this was a national issue or one particular to certain areas. Creel limits should be considered carefully, as it could lead to fishers acting differently e.g. increasing capacity to the set limits. An audit of the quantity of creels being fished in Scottish waters should be considered
- That the scale of fishing activity across all creel fisheries needed to be considered. Creeling used to be seasonal but now takes place all year round, due to growth of markets, e.g. high value Asian markets for brown crab. This is leading to boats fishing further offshore to maintain CPUE.
- That the Outer Hebrides RIFG was taking forward an inshore fisheries pilot to test creel limits; and that the North & East Coast RIFG was also considering how the management of creel fisheries can be improved, and looking to test zonal management through the Arbroath inshore fisheries pilot.

Alistair asked if there was a formal consensus among attendees for a cap on the number of creel vessels. However, it was agreed by the group that this would not be appropriate, as the proposal requires careful prior consideration.

Jim Watson clarified that Marine Scotland followed scientific advice for managing *Nephrops*, and that the creel quota had not been fully caught in many years. He reminded attendees that Marine Scotland was open to all ideas on how to improve inshore fisheries management through the Future of Fisheries Management initiative. He also highlighted that the national discussion paper had suggested new management such as inshore-specific permits and quotas.

Attendees

Allan Gibb	Marine Scotland, Sea Fisheries Division
Alasdair Hughson	Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation
Alastair McNeill	West Coast RIFG
Alastair Sinclair	Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation
Alex Kinninmonth	RSPB
Alistair Philp	Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation
Ally Young	Marine Scotland Compliance
Anne McLay	Marine Scotland Science
Beth Mouat	NAFC Marine Centre
Calum Duncan	Marine Conservation Society
Carole Laignel	Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation
David Donnan	Scottish Natural Heritage
David Pratt	Marine Scotland, Marine Planning and Policy
Diane Buchanan	Marine Scotland, Sea Fisheries Division
Donald Nicholson	Outer Hebrides RIFG
Duncan MacInnes	Western Isles Fishermen's Association
Duncan McAndrew	Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation
Elaine Whyte	Clyde Fishermen's Association
Esther Brooker	Scottish Environment LINK
Femke de Boer	Scottish White Fish Producer's Association
Fiona Matheson	Orkney Fisheries Association
Hannah Fennell	Marine Scotland, Marine Analytical Unit
Iain Maddox	North and East Coast RIFG
James Legge	Marine Scotland Compliance
Jim Watson	Marine Scotland, Sea Fisheries Division
Kara Brydson	Fisheries Innovation Scotland
Kate Rydzkowski	Orkney Sustainable Fisheries Ltd
Kathleen Allen	Marine Scotland, Marine Analytical Unit
Malcolm Morrison	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Michael McLeod	Marine Scotland, Marine Planning and Policy
Ross Cumming	Marine Scotland, Sea Fisheries Division
Ruby Temple-Long	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Sandy Ritchie	Anglo Scottish Fishermen's Association
Stuart Bell	Marine Scotland, Sea Fisheries Division
Tom Robertson	Marine Scotland Compliance
Vanessa Brown	Marine Scotland, Sea Fisheries Division
Warren Devine	Marine Scotland, Sea Fisheries Division

Also in Attendance

Clare Mills	Listen Think Draw
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Apologies

Alan Donn

Moray Firth Inshore Fishermen's Association

John Affleck

N/A

Kenny MacNab

Clyde Fishermen's Association