

## **FMAC – INSHORE SUBGROUP – PRIORITIES / ACTION PLAN**

In January 2023, Marine Scotland redeveloped its Fisheries Management and Conservation Group, including 6 subgroups aimed at developing a co-management approach to key deliverables under the 2020-2030 Fisheries Management Strategy. These subgroups included one aimed at exploring, developing solutions and provide advice and recommendations on inshore fisheries matters.

The inception meeting of this sub group was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 with a draft term of membership, shared with members of the group on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and finalised on *(date to be added)*.

To recap, the key discussion points and actions arising from the meeting, to help inform the Group priorities and actions were:

- A number of modifications have been made to the ToR to reflect discussion and feedback from the group, these include:
  - Better defining the scope of 'inshore waters' to reflect sea area out to 12 miles, but not necessarily covering all fleet segments who work within those waters – for example pelagic trawlers.
  - Acknowledgement of making use of the sub group to explore Government commitments under the Fisheries Act 2020.
  - Acknowledgement of taking an 'ecosystem-based' approach to inshore fisheries management.
  - Provide clear linkages to activities of the RIFG network.
  - Provide clearer read across to the ToR and activities of the main FMAC group.
  - A desire for the group to be a mutually respectful safe space for industry and environmental groups
  
- Aside from development of the ToR, the following key issues and priorities were raised during the meeting:
  - The group should take account of innovation and progress in inshore fisheries management across the UK and worldwide.
  - Development of FMPs for non-quota species (crab and lobster), how this should be delineated (local, regional, national) and how this fits into the RIFG network.
  - The gravity of the spatial squeeze and impact on fisheries management, including how FMPs might be used to consider mitigation
  - 'Just transition' and climate proofing.
  - Governance and long-term management framework
  - The need for agile, useable scientific evidence.
  - Identification of fisheries diversification opportunities (tuna, spurdog).
  - New entrants

- Whether this sub-group would be able to use external resources to commission work.
- Scottish Government resource pressures and focus on national transformational projects.
- The need to ensure the group stays focussed on matters that the Government is currently obligated to address.