

MARINE DIRECTORATE

FMAC – SCALLOP SUBGROUP

Terms of Reference – July 2024

Aim

To explore, develop solutions, and provide advice and recommendations on the nationwide fisheries for scallops that align with delivery of our Fisheries Management Strategy and associated projects.

Background

Scotland, like other nations, is facing the twin crises of climate change and loss of nature and biodiversity. There is increasing competition for marine space as a result of competing activities including energy, aquaculture, tourism and transport, along with measures intended to increase environmental protections in key areas.

King scallop was the second most valuable shellfish species landed by Scottish vessels into Scottish ports in 2021 and provides vital employment in many of our coastal communities. Sustainable and responsible management of this valuable resource must be considered in balance with other competing pressures.

This group will help us ensure that this fishing sector is fully understood and considered as we seek to improve its management.

Scope

The group will help shape the development and practical implementation of key policies specific to this fishery. It will utilise a co-management approach to develop solutions to difficult nationwide management and conservation challenges in alignment with the following:

- Delivery of commitments outlined by the Fisheries Management Strategy in order to achieve sustainable fishing within Scotland's shared marine space. This includes practical implementation of policies such as the Inshore Fisheries Roadmap, modernisation of the inshore fleet, scallop-specific fisheries management for MPAs and key biodiversity locations outside of MPAs.
- The scope of this FMAC sub-group will cover all species of marine bivalve in the family *Pectinidae*, fished by all methods within Scotland's marine area or by Scottish vessels out with that area.
- The sub-group will encompass all fishing methods used in prosecution of scallop fisheries (dredge and dive caught) within Scotland's marine area or by Scottish vessels out with that area.
- The sub-group will draw links across the wider network. This may include scallop processing and retailing, as deemed necessary.

- The group will primarily focus on national issues but will take account of UK and international developments of direct interest to the Scottish fleet.
- The remit of the group may need to change over time.
- The group will also need to make links to other FMAC subgroups and our [Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups \(RIFGs\)](#) to ensure alignment and prevent duplication.

Role of the group

- To support the aims and responsibilities of the subgroup and wider FMAC.
- To bring knowledge and experience to help understand options to improve management of the scallop sector, and provide appropriate support to the fishing industry whilst delivering on objectives.
- To work together in a productive and collegiate way to generate and deliver actions.
- To identify barriers and enablers and how these should be taken account of.
- To make wider strategic links across the Scottish Government portfolio, also identifying connections to external developments and work across the UK.
- To support the development of policy solutions and help inform recommendations to Scottish Ministers.
- To link with the overarching FMAC group, relevant subgroups and RIFGs, keeping stakeholders up to date and carrying out joint working where relevant.
- To identify priorities and develop a programme of work for the group.
- To consult and engage with their members, and be willing to take responsibility for delivery of some aspects of the work programme.

Membership of the group

Membership will be drawn from FMAC members and some non-FMAC members who hold relevant experience and expertise. Marine Directorate will have final say over membership of the group.

Chair and secretariat

Chair and Secretariat to be provided by the Scottish Government.

Meeting frequency

An initial meeting took place on 16-MAR-2023, with meetings expected to be on an *ad hoc* basis 2-3 times annually. Meetings to be held virtually or in person as needed.