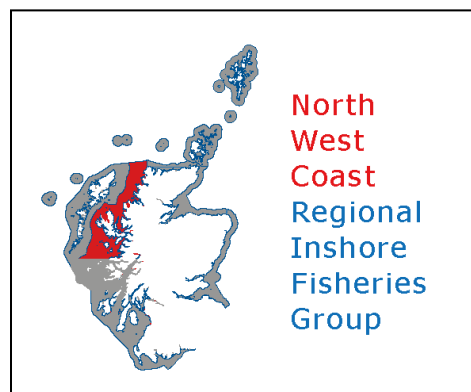


NOTE OF MEETING
to be held in the Harbour
Office Mallaig
07th January 2025



Present in person:	Angus Mann, Ian McKinnon, Hugh Macpherson, Allan Cameron, Nick Foster, Kev McDonnell WSFPO, Kenny Coull MNWFA, Mairi Henderson MNWFA, A Hamilton, Chair
Present online	Elena Balestri, Kirsten Leahy, both SFF,
Apologies:	None

1.	Welcome and Introduction. AH welcomed the attendees reminded the assembled that this was a safe space for those directly involved in fishing to have their say
2.	Marine Directorate Update: The meeting discussed the Marine Directorate’s planned activity that may impact the inshore industry for the coming year. This included information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plans to extend Marine Planning Zones to 12 miles:</u> The meeting discussed this proposal and noted that the IFG had responded with all Chairs meeting directly with MD staff leading the proposal to express concerns prior to responding formally. The meeting expressed concerns that there was no NW Regional Inshore Fisheries Group meeting during the consultation period. The meeting believed that Councils did not have the resources or expertise to carry out this function. • <u>Plans to introduce inshore vessel tracking systems in 2025:</u> The meeting discussed recent consultation and felt that as long as vessel tracking was used to provide data that protected fishermen, then support remained.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>National Marine Plan 2</u> The meeting noted the continuing development of the National Marine Plan 2.
3.	<p>Crab and Lobster Fishing: Comments about the Interim Measures:</p> <p>The meeting discussed the request from Marine Directorate staff for Feedback on the interim measures.</p> <p>It was felt that, as the area had been largely compliant in not landing berried females and had little local experience of super crabber activity, that the measures were broadly welcomed.</p> <p>The meeting felt that it was too early in the process to fully understand any impact that these measures are having on stocks.</p> <p>There was interest that the impact on stocks of the increased MLS in 2015 should be established evidentially.</p>
3.1	<p>Regional Management- Call for Evidence</p> <p>The meeting discussed the above call for evidence and AH encouraged all attending to submit their views directly. The discussion centred on the need for resources to implement any change. Concerns was expressed regarding the reduction in current Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups funding and it was noted that they re not currently resourced in a manner that allows them to take on more responsibility.</p>
4.	<p>Impact of Kelp Farming on the Industry:</p> <p>The meeting discussed the increasing volume of applications to lease seabed to the develop of kelp farms over existing fishing grounds. The meeting welcomed the IFG intervention and sought stronger support over the protection of fishing space against encroachment from aquaculture.</p>
5.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>Hobby Fishing:</p> <p>Skippers requested action with regard to hobby fishermen who are acting in a quasi commercial way- using fleets of creels and supplying local restaurants. These activities are unregulated, uninsured and are operating well below the professional standards of the commercial fleet. AH agreed to take the matter up with Compliance.</p>

	<p>The matter of the development of a fish farm in the middle of the Inch Kenneth tow off Mull was discussed. AH agreed to take the matter up with his counterpart in the SW to establish a joint response.</p> <p>A discussion on the terminology used in the press around the reporting of fishing took place. The meeting felt aggrieved that the term overfishing was used to describe legal regulated fishing with no basis in evidence.</p>
6.	<p>Close of meeting:</p> <p>The meeting will closed at 17 46.</p>