

## Marine Scotland – Inshore Fisheries Pilots – Proposal Form

**Please note:**

- **Proposals should be completed on the appropriate form in line with the accompanying guidelines with supporting information as may be required.**
- **The selected area must be within the Scottish Marine Regions (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/seamanagement/regional/Boundaries>).**
- **Please be aware that Marine Scotland would expect Proposal Forms submitted to be made publically available.**
- **Proposals should be submitted to Marine Scotland by 30 September 2017.**

**Details**

Group/organisation name	Orkney Fisheries Association
Principal contact name	Fiona Matheson
Address	4 Ferry Terminal Buildings Kirkwall Pier Kirkwall
Postcode	KW15 1HU
Email	orkneyfisheries@btconnect.com
Phone number	01856871818

## Proposal Questions

1. Who is the recognised lead on the proposals, i.e. who is the primary point of contact?

Fiona Matheson  
Hannah Fennel

2. Please provide a background on the group proposing this pilot?

OFA is the representative membership organisation for 52 vessel owners and 2 processors fishing in Orkney waters. It comprises mobile and static vessels from under 10m – 15m in whitefish trawl, shellfish dredge dive and pot and mackerel line fishing. OFA work closely with Orkney sustainable Fisheries Ltd the IFG for the Orkney area.

A number of fishermen would like to expand their knowledge of sustainable fishing methods and combine better uptake of their available fin fish quota through use of fish traps. These fishers are driven by quality improvement and developing the supply high value catches to new markets.

3. Please summarise your proposal, including other options that you have considered?

Purchase and deployment of fish traps to establish whether this can be a viable method of sustainable fishing.

This allows current vessels rigged with haulers to diversify using current rig of machinery aboard.

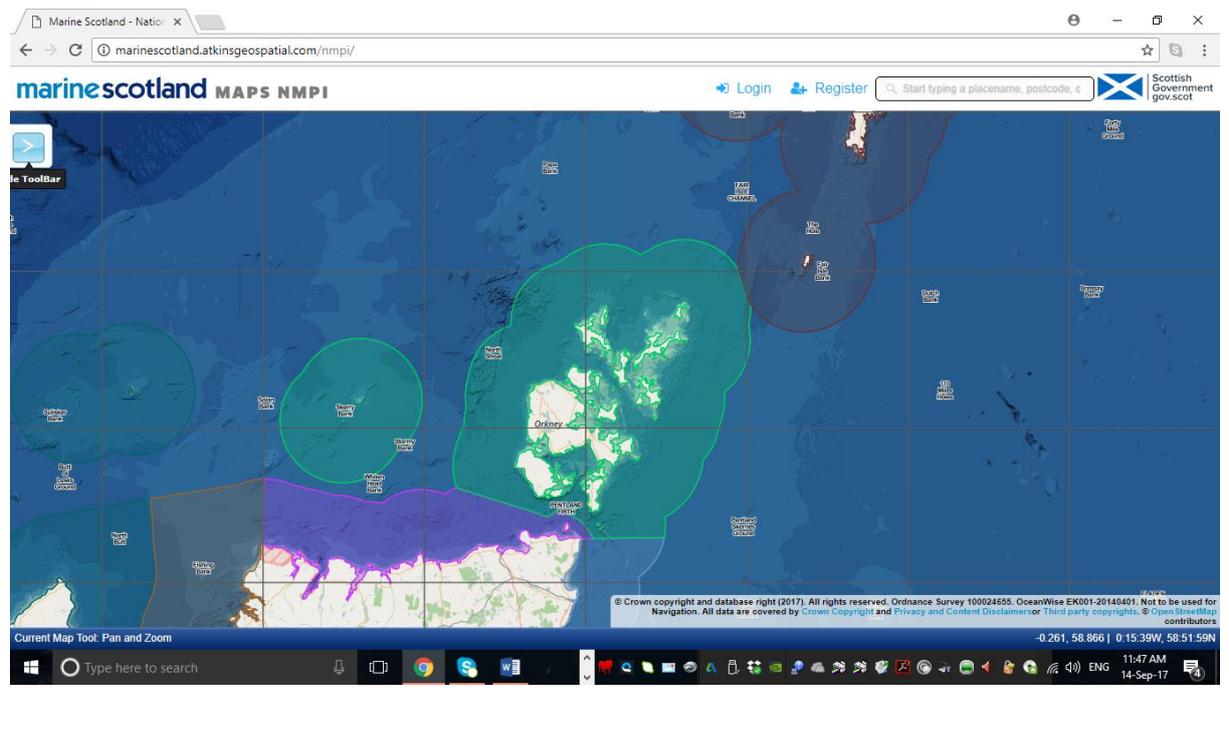
Data recording of catches

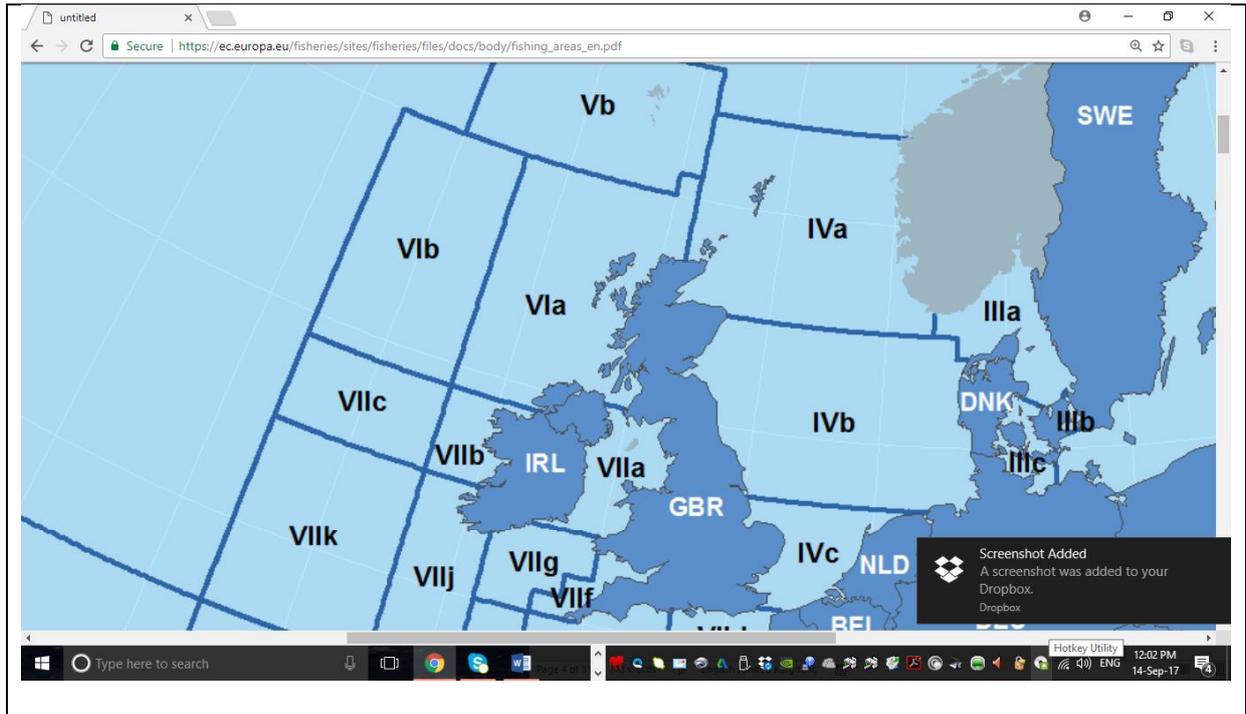
Handlines and jiggers are currently used for mackerel.

Vessels with current access to fin fish quota through non-sector would be eligible within current rules.

4. Please indicate clearly the geographical area you wish to propose for consideration as a pilot area (please provide a chart/image clearly defining the area).

### The IFG area for Orkney





5. How would you categorise your proposal. If you feel that none of these options are applicable please select 'Other'.

Localised approach to fisheries management

Separating different methods of fishing

Other

6. Are you aware of any statutory or voluntary arrangements already in place within your proposed pilot area?

Statutory fishing regulations govern the types of gears that can be fished and the species that can be caught.  
Fin fish are subject to TAC quotas.

7. Please outline any interaction you have had with the relevant Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (rIFG) in the development of this proposal?

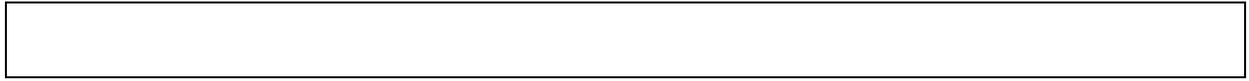
This proposal has been discussed at OSF Ltd Board level.

8. What engagement have you had with any other groups or fishers working in your proposed pilot area in developing this proposal?

This has been discussed with members of Orkney Fisheries Association with some research looking at available trap models in Canada and Norway. Those designs do not seem to be robust enough in the view of local fishermen for Orkney waters. OFA are sensitive to issues of the Landing obligation and current regulations regarding quota and do not wish any others to be negatively impacted by this project

9. How many fishing vessels do you estimate currently work, both full and part time in the area proposed and how many will be involved in the pilot?

Around 80 licensed vessels work regularly in this area. A sentinel fleet of 5 vessels will be part of the trial that have access to finfish stocks as part of their Under 10m non-sector allocation or as over 10m vessels with access to quota stocks.



10. Please clearly set out the management controls you would wish to see for the pilot and the rationale for each control proposed.

<b>Management Measure</b>	<b>Rationale / Possible Positive Consequences</b>	<b>Possible Negative Consequences</b>
Log book recording of catches	To ensure fish taken comply with allocations	Overabundance of catch Issues with Landing Obligation
Overall total number of traps managed	Controlled data collection Volume analysis can identify over or under efficiency of method and be calibrated if necessary during pilot	

11. If your proposal involves limiting the number of vessels able to fish in the pilot area. Please outline:

- a. On what basis vessels will be permitted access e.g. method of fishing, vessel size, historical activity in the area (if so what would track record be)?

No limits on any vessels fishing in the pilot area.

- b. Please outline your rationale for the basis for restricting access as outlined in question 11 (a)?

Not applicable

- c. Would those entitled to fish in the pilot area be limited to fish there only? If the answer to this question is 'no' please outline why access to other areas is required and why the proposed pilot does not include these areas.

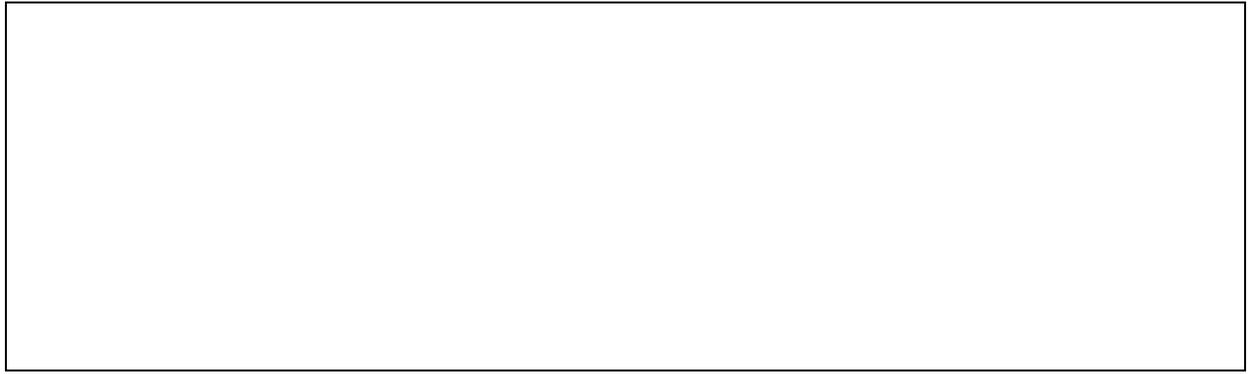
The trial would take place within the described area but vessels would not be inhibited from fishing out with the trial area in accordance with their license and when not fishing as part of the trial.

12. How do you propose oversight of this pilot project, should your application be successful? Do you envisage that a steering or monitoring group will be set up? How would this function?

The pilot would be monitored by participants reporting to a central individual on effectiveness of gear.  
An individual on shore would be responsible for evaluating the results of the trial and reporting on its efficacy.

13. Please outline what you believe the direct and indirect benefits of your proposal will be?

Evaluating whether traps could form part of new type of gear for inshore fishermen. Knowledge gained in how traps work, baiting, soak time, catches, ease of use and storage.  
Establishing whether there is a potential market for trap caught fish.  
Establishing whether management of fin fish species caught against allocations could be controlled locally.  
Unwanted catches are anticipated to have high survivability and be able to be returned to the sea alive.



14. Please outline any groups who you believe may be negatively impacted by your proposal and why?

Those who perceive increased activity from static gear vessels in fin fish catching as a threat to pressure stocks they currently pursue.  
Unforeseen issues with overabundance leading to conflict with the landings obligations rules ( high survivability returns)

15. Please outline the costs of your proposals both in terms of financial costs and resource costs.

Purchase of 50 Traps. £7500  
Purchase of rope £2000  
Payment of evaluator 4 hours per week for 1 year @ £10 per hour £2000

16. Please outline any risks to the successful implementation of your proposals either in terms of the management or the overall return from fisheries impacted?

Suspension of fishery due to over fishing elsewhere thereby ending trial.

17. Do you envisage the pilot management controls outlined in this proposal having any impact (positive or negative) outside of the area detailed in question 2?

Fish allocated to inshore vessels will be caught and prevent swaps from unfished allocations.  
Other areas of Scotland could benefit from this type of gear fishery being proven and it could provide diversification options elsewhere.

18. Do you know of any evidence to help support your proposals? For example research documents, previous schemes, personal records or observations you may wish to provide?

Anecdotal evidence from fishermen suggests that the amounts of fin fish inshore which could be legally caught using this type of method, enabling diversification out of reliance on shellfish stocks and behaviour change to seasonal fishing methods would be of benefit to the inshore sector.

19. Is there any additional information which you have not provided elsewhere in the form relevant to your proposal?