

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
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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.

Fishermen mainly targeting static gear species have access to some Pressure stock fish species through current quota allocations but have been frustrated that the current central method of monthly allocation does not take into account vessel size, access ability to reach grounds, seasonal weather limitations, optimum condition of species and best market timing.

These fishermen are also wanting to better utilise the quota that exists for them ensure better uptake and see if they can diversify to lessen pressure on crustacean stocks.

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

This will be a pilot scheme to bottom out the feasibility of adopting a local real time reactive distribution of existing pressure stock fishing allocations. It will devise a pool system where current quota allocated to all vessels domiciled in Orkney and subject to non-sector and under 10m allocations pool all or some of their quota share. Vessels will identify themselves as wishing to fish from the pool in the upcoming 12 - 24months and allocations will be made according to seasonal fish quality, best biological state, sustainability and market price in an effort to better match allocations with ability and desire to catch and optimise weather conditions and secure best prices.

This will attempt to bring real time local flexibility and accounting into a selection of mixed fisheries within a discrete area and among a manageable number of boats.

Other options have not been considered as feasible as all must work within current

rules and allocations. But low volumes of monthly allocations dissuade uptake or moving to alternative gears to prepare to uptake stocks.

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).

Waters around Orkney out to 12nm.
Vessels administered from Kirkwall fishery office.

Marine Scotland - Nation x

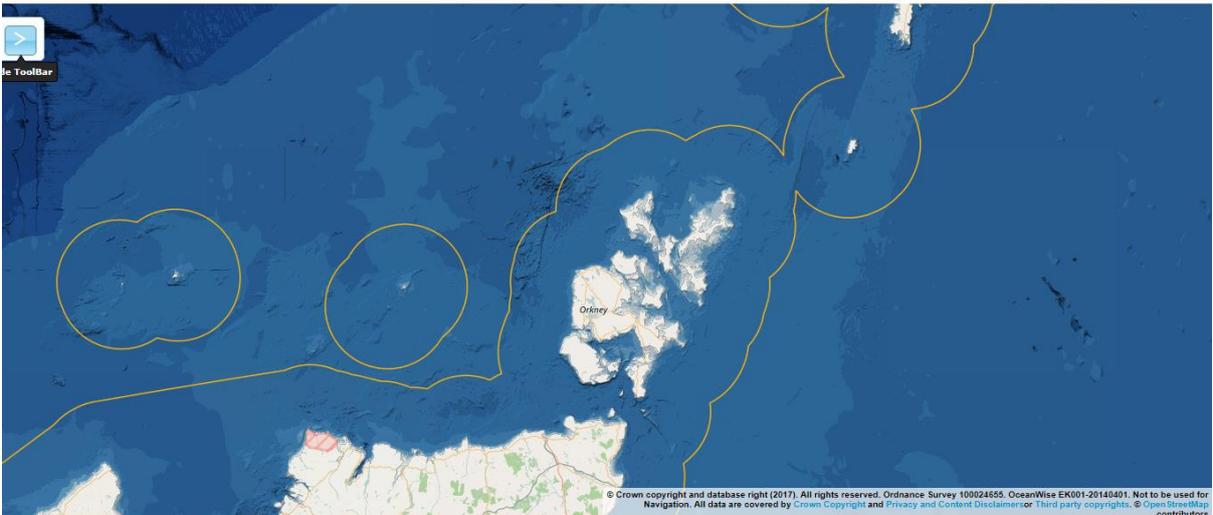
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Marine Scotland - Nation x

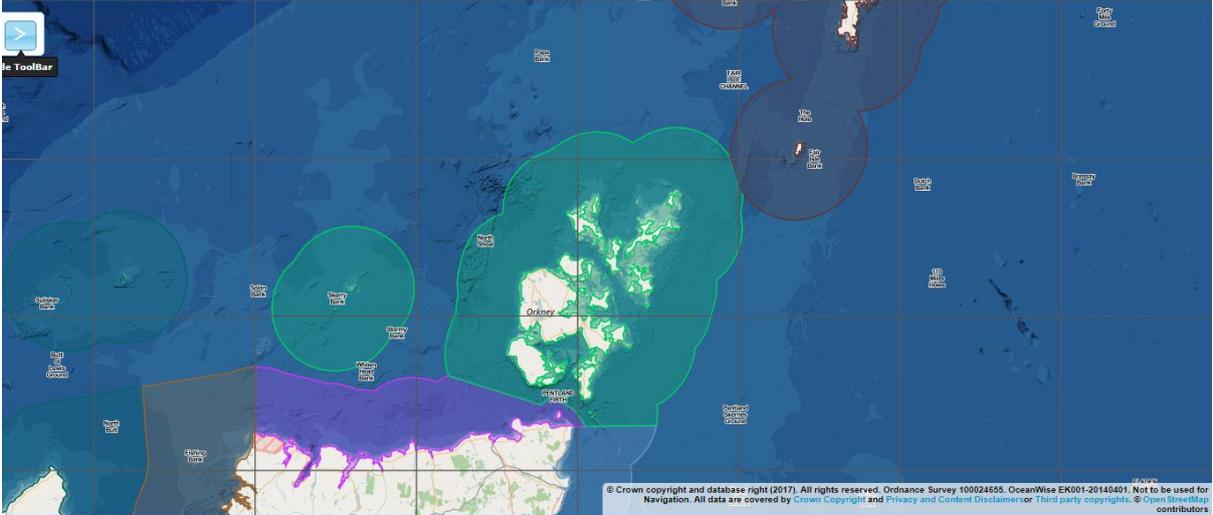
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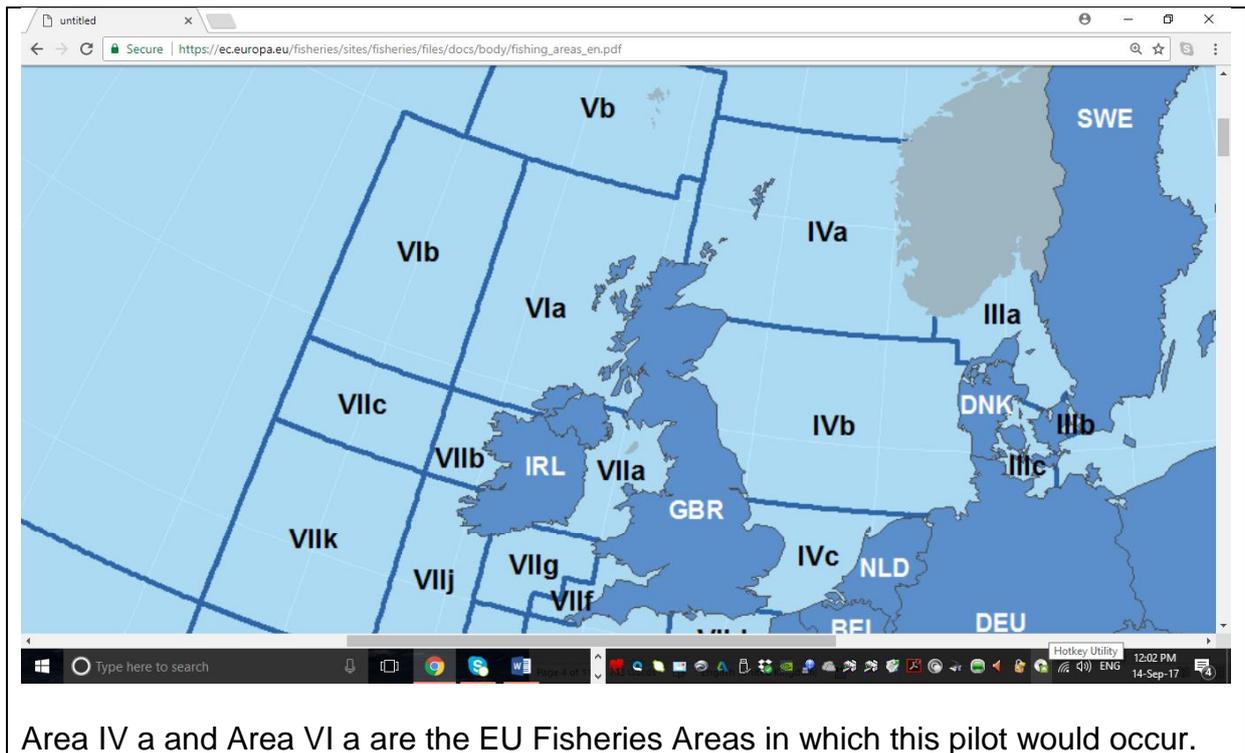
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5. How would you categorise your proposal. If you feel that none of these options are applicable please select 'Other'.

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?

Quota for pressure stock species not allocated to POs is allocated via Marine Scotland's non- sector and under 10m pool to vessels who are not members of POs. Monthly allocations are issued to vessels in this category directly from Marine Scotland dependent on the national allocation of Scottish Quota from the UK TAC.

A pilot on the allocation of handline mackerel exists where under 10m vessels can fish against a quota tonnage taken from the TAC of pelagic quota. Unfished quota is returned to the industrial sector.

Ban on Trawling West of Orkney during summer months.

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

This pilot has been discussed at Board level with Orkney Sustainable Fisheries Ltd.

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

OFA has discussed with under 10m vessels and 10-12m vessels the issues relating to lack of flexibility and over dependence on static gear and static gear species and the inability of vessels to profitably access the current allocations in the most efficient and cost effective ways possible relative to their vessel size and the geography of Orkney.

OFA are sensitive to issues around 'top slicing' of quota due to historical factors and do not wish to unfairly disenfranchise other fishers from their quota particularly when under current EU allocations it is so scarce.

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?

105 vessels are registered to an Orkney PLN.

80 vessels are professionally active as commercial fishing businesses.

Participants will be invited from all vessels working in Orkney waters.

10 vessels are anticipated to take part in the pilot.

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

Management Measure	Rationale / Possible Positive Consequences	Possible Negative Consequences
Aggregation of all available pressure stock species into a single pool	To enable vessels wishing to pursue diversification from shellfish to switch to pressure stock species according to season, weather accessibility, and market opportunity.	Resistance to contributing to pool – voluntary 1 year contribution. Insufficient total to interest vessels in pilot.
Permitted gears – non trawl, passive, static and hooks and lines	Enable low impact fishing from start, different markets to be targeted (local/tourism/ high value quality) Provide future framework if necessary for MSC or other sustainability kitemark.	Will depend on those already with those gears or financially able to invest in them to take part.
Limit on vessels size – max 12m No minimum	Vessels predominantly working inside 12nm are of this size. >12m vessels operate within PO system generally at greater distance from Orkney landfall. No change to TAC for catching so no	Increase of static/trap fishing may cause conflict with mobile gear.
Economic link to Orkney, Administered from Kirkwall office. Skipper domiciled in Orkney	To ensure the pilot helps consolidate the existing fleet administered from Kirkwall and enables it to work more sustainably and uses the existing allocations better. Help to build local landings and onshore	

	value.	
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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)?

Vessels that normally fish inside 12nm of Orkney will continue to do so.

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

- 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.

No because licence conditions specify where vessels fish.
Vessels would fish along with current areas allowed on their licences.
The pilot would discover whether boats remained within the locality or not.
Physically there are very few that would be able to move to other areas.

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?

We propose that a project administrator be appointed to liaise between participating fishermen and Marine Scotland staff.
The administrator would report to Orkney Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Scotland on the delivery of the project.
OFA are happy to directly engage with Marine Scotland.

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

- Relieving fishing pressure, Yes
 - Informing future management considerations of inshore fishing, Yes
 - Increasing the protection of the environment or fish stocks, Yes
 - The economic or market benefits of managing fisheries in a different way, Yes

Information on the feasibility and viability of running a reactive localised fisheries management of a community pool. Identification of problems and benefits. Provision of information to provide basis for future localised management Scotland -wide.

Evaluation of potential new market opportunities and problems with chain to market, connectivity and remoteness issues. Potential for better prices, more local fish sales, direct sales to buyers outwith Orkney..

Increasing the sustainability of the industry fishery (and heavily exploited stocks) by diversifying the fishery, increasing seasonal awareness- leading to a more sustainable livelihood for local fishers.

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

Those who may perceive a 'loss' of their asset even though they can't utilise it and fear permanent loss of it to the pool or that the principle of local stock management will develop a demand for more quota at their expense.
Those who currently supply outlets in Orkney landed at ports at Scrabster and Lerwick.

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

Salary of project administrator.
Based on 1 day per week
£5200 p/a
Over 2 years £10400
Administration consumables £1000

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?

Reluctance of fishers to donate their allocation to the 'pool'.
Even with an aggregated pool, their still being insufficient quota to enable a viable commercial fishery for participants.
Too much effort for little return.

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?

Do not see any negative impacts as it is mainly administrative however the potential for localised control of stocks which are the preserve of other systems of management and allocation may be perceived as being a threat to their continuation in their current form.

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?

The Inshore fishery in Orkney is heavily dependent on crustacean stocks with opportunities to diversify reducing incrementally over the years as entitlements have gone from licenses. Bait is a significant cost to static gear fishermen in Orkney who have to import this from external sources paying freight from fishmarkets outwith.

The crustacean fishery is worked all year with no options to rest it and move to other species when seasonally it would be better to desist from it.

Low uptake of existing fin fish allocations are a result of the method of allocation and fishermen have requested Marine Scotland to change this in previous years which has not been possible.

The low uptake because of non- fishing reasons then skews the apparent track record of vessels in the area giving an inaccurate picture of the preferred fishing behaviour of the vessels and instead a picture of their track record as dictated by the constraints.

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