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**Scallop Sector Working Group**

**Draft Terms-of-Reference**

## **Introduction**

1. The Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy met with representatives of the scallop sector in January 2019 in the context of the Scottish Government Programme for Government commitment to modernise Scotland's inshore fleet with appropriate and proportionate vessel monitoring and tracking systems.
2. In recognition of the value of convening a species specific group to aid a co-production approach to policy development led to the suggestion that the attendees to the meeting form a group.

## **Purpose**

3. It is proposed that a Scallop Working Group consisting of frontline fishers from the scallop sector, both dredge as well as dive; together with other relevant stakeholders, to enable a co-production based approach to policy development in Scotland.
4. The group will be requested to convene in response to a policy requirement of Marine Scotland.
5. The group will develop industry technical discussion papers and advice notes in response to the Policy Requirement Request.

## **Modernisation of the Scottish Inshore Fleet Programme**

6. The group will commence work in response to the Scottish Government's Programme for Government commitment to modernise the inshore fleet, which prioritises the scallop dredge sector.
  - a. The aim of this programme is to provide appropriate and proportionate vessel monitoring and tracking technology to the whole of Scotland's inshore commercial fleet by the end of 2020.

## **An Approach to Modernisation of Scotland's Inshore Fleet**

7. A Marine Scotland-wide team was established during 2019 to design and deliver this complex piece of work.
8. September 2019 saw the publication of an invitation to tender (ITT) on Public Contracts Scotland in realising this ambition.
9. The ITT consists of 2 distinct lots:
  - a. Provision, installation and maintenance of equipment
  - b. Programme management of Modernisation of Inshore Commercial Fishing Fleet



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**Scallop Sector Working Group**

**Membership**

**Discussion Paper**

## **Purpose**

1. In enabling effective collaboration with the scallop sector it is proposed that the Scallop Sector Working Group be made up of a diverse range of representatives from throughout Scotland. This brief discussion paper is designed to generate ideas to design a diverse, relevant and balanced membership.
  
2. It is suggested that criteria for membership of the Scallop Working Group might include the following:
  - Fishermen active or relatively recently retired from the scallop dredge sector
  - Representatives from fishing associations with members fishing for scallops by dredge
  - Chairs or representatives from the network of 5 Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups in Scotland.

## **Diverse and Relevant Membership**

3. [REDACTED].
  
4. The group are requested to suggest ways of introducing diversity to the group and maximising reach to frontline fishers. These suggestions might include appraisal of the distribution of scallop vessels by port of admin around the coast of Scotland; liaison with district Fishery Offices and consultation with RIFG network.

## Preliminary Membership List

Name	Designation
[REDACTED]	Chair
[REDACTED]	Secretariat
[REDACTED]	WCRIFG
[REDACTED]	MS Science
[REDACTED]	SSMO
[REDACTED]	Fisherman / Clyde FA
[REDACTED]	Fisherman / Western Inshore Scallop Group (WISG)
[REDACTED]	OH RIFG
[REDACTED]	OH RIFG / Western Isles FA (WIFA)
[REDACTED]	Clyde FA / Communities Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA)
[REDACTED]	Scallop Assoc. / SFF / SWFPA
[REDACTED]	OFA / CIFA
[REDACTED]	Scallop Assoc.
[REDACTED]	Whitelink Seafoods
[REDACTED]	Fisherman / SFF / SWFPA
[REDACTED]	MS Science
[REDACTED]	WISG / Scallop Assoc.
[REDACTED]	Fishing Co. Owner / SWFPA
[REDACTED]	OSF
[REDACTED]	Clyde FA
[REDACTED]	Shetland FA (Chair)/ SFF (Vice President)
[REDACTED]	MS Science
[REDACTED]	SFF
[REDACTED]	Fisherman
[REDACTED]	Shetland FA / SFF

# Scallop Sector Working Group

20<sup>th</sup> September 2019

2nd Floor Meeting Room Victoria Quay - 2-D44 (Bridge)

Refreshments on Arrival from: 13:45

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions	14:00
2. Draft Terms of Reference [Ref: SWG20/09/Paper 1]	14:10
3. Membership Discussion Paper [Ref: SWG20/09/Paper 2]	14:30
4. Update on Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet	14:50
5. Discussion - Current Vessel Technology	15:10
6. Discussion - Industry Interests	15:30
7. Next Meeting	16:30

## **SCALLOP SECTOR WORKING GROUP**

### **CHAIR'S BRIEF**

VQ – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room 2-D44 (Bridge) (24)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from 14:00 – 16:00

#### **14:00 Welcome and Introductions**

- **Apologies:**
  - [REDACTED]
- Invite members to briefly say who they are and scope of their interests
- **Attendees:**
  - [REDACTED]
- Brief on domestics:
  - No breaks scheduled
  - Scheduled to finish at 16:00.
  - Refreshments and WC available throughout meeting
  - No fire drills expected

#### **14:10 Draft Terms of Reference - [Ref: SWG20/09/Paper 1]**

- The ToR recognises the value of convening a species specific group to aid a co-production approach to policy development.
- The group will be requested to convene in response to a policy requirement of Marine Scotland.
- The group will develop industry technical discussion papers and advice notes in response to the Policy Requirement Request.
- Initial aim is to commence work in response to the Scottish Government's Programme for Government commitment to modernise the inshore fleet, which prioritises the scallop dredge sector.
- The group will exist beyond the Modernisation Programme in order to address other Scallop-centred issues through a Scottish lens.

### **14:30 Membership Discussion Paper [Ref: SWG20/09/Paper 1]**

- A membership is sought that is diverse and drawn from throughout Scotland and will be:
  - Diverse
  - Relevant
  - Balanced
- Criteria:
  - Fishermen active or recently retired from the scallop dredge sector
  - Representatives from fishing associations with members fishing for scallops by dredge.
  - Chairs or representatives from the network of 5 RIFGs.
- The meeting with the Cab Sec in January has informed the basis of the proposed membership list.
- We wish to suggest ways to increase diversity and reach frontline fishers, including use of:
  - Fishery Offices
  - Science sampling staff
  - Video conferencing opportunities

### **14:50 Update on Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet**

You may wish to refer to:

- Formation of the 'Programme Group'.
- Interest expressed in the invitation to tender so far.
- The aims of Lots 1 and 2:
  - Provision, installation and maintenance of equipment
  - Programme management of Modernisation of Inshore Commercial Fishing Fleet
- Future aims for Lot 3 including:
  - SIFIDS
  - The concept of the Innovation Partnership
- Mentioning other early adopter groups – OH, Solway, Mull etc.

### **15:10 Discussion - Current vessel technology**

- Vessels over 12 meters are currently equipped with elog and VMS
- 20 Scottish scallop vessels are current part of the FDF scheme
- What facets of the technology available would benefit the fleet and what would hamper?
- We would be keen to hear from members about current tech aboard boats:

- Hull-mounted cameras
- Prop cameras
- Multibeam sonar mapping systems
- Plotter systems with AIS
- Some scallopers are recruited to be currently carrying this level of kit

### **15:30 Discussion - Industry interests**

- Previous stakeholder engagement indicates that many fishermen express concern at the degree to which this programme might result in public sharing of commercially sensitive information.
- Thoughts on using the technology to tackle gear conflict.
- Thoughts on positive use of held data – e.g. using the technology to prove fishing effort in order to claim compensation from renewables companies.
- What should we consult on?

### **16:30 Next meeting**

Close: 16:30

# Scotland's Scallop Sector Working Group

## Minute of Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

<b>Present</b>		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Whitelink & vessel owner
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SFF
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland Science
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	CIFA
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SWFPA
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SWFPA
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Orkney Sustainable Fisheries
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SWFPA & vessel owner
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	SWFPA
<b>By telecom</b>		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Shetland FA
<b>Apologies</b>		
[REDACTED]		

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

[REDACTED] gave an introduction thanking those who attended for doing so and explaining that she wished to convene the group in order to discuss and work together on scallop matters in general. This would begin by focussing on the Programme for Government commitment to Modernise the Inshore Fleet – starting with the Scallop dredge sector.

Initial points of discussion were to be the draft terms of reference (*SWG20/09 Paper 1*) and the draft membership list (*SWG20/09 Paper 2*).

### 2. Terms Of Reference

*SWG20/09 Paper 1*

[REDACTED] summarised the group's purpose – to produce advice and develop discussion papers on matters relating to scallops. [REDACTED] gave a brief update on progress of the procurement exercise, describing how the invitation to tender for a supplier framework will run from 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019.

The following discussion points were raised when the contents of the terms of reference were thrown open to the group:

- Clarity was sought regarding the nature of the modernisation programme. [REDACTED] confirmed that it related to the introduction of appropriate and proportionate vessel tracking and monitoring systems, including cameras on scallop dredgers, but extending to 'all' inshore commercial vessels.
- The industry attendees were very keen that the Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet be fair and equitable for the whole scallop sector and generally felt that the scallop dive sector should also be included.
- [REDACTED] reiterated that the whole inshore fleet was in programme scope, but that the degree of monitoring would be 'appropriate and proportionate' from sector to sector.
- Concerns were expressed over anonymisation of the data that might result. For example in Orkney where there are only 3 dredgers and so their activities would be obvious.
- [REDACTED] questioned what the purpose of the terms of reference was. [REDACTED] responded that it offered general principles as a discussion point and that [REDACTED] wished the group to co-produce the content.
- The question of whether the industry would be consulted on implementation of the programme was raised. [REDACTED] stated that – in accordance with the Cabinet Secretary's wishes – a public consultation would offer opportunity to seek views on deployment of Remote Electronic Monitoring to Scotland's scallop dredge sector.
- [REDACTED] suggested that a paper characterising the fleet be drawn up in order to debate the way forward to strong approval from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] responded that the Modernisation programme includes a Fleet Profiling programme, which Marine Scotland employed in the design of the current Invitation to Tender to secure suppliers.
- The group discussed how non-Scottish registered vessels would be treated once our vessels had been modernised with vessel tracking and monitoring systems. The RTC (Real Time Closure) scheme was discussed as an example where Scottish vessels had been perceived as put at a disadvantage from the licence condition approach. This involved Scottish vessels being excluded from areas which non Scottish registered vessels were not. Those present described their experience of non-Scottish registered vessels failing to respect Scotland's fisheries management measures.
- There was consensus from the group that Marine Scotland needs appropriate powers to enable a level playing field where non-Scottish registered vessels are obligated to comply with the fisheries management measures in place in Scottish waters. [REDACTED] confirmed that the Modernisation programme includes a Legal Powers and Enforcement programme..
- [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] was currently working with International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) to draw scallop data from all UK fisheries administrations together in one place for use in stock assessment.

- [REDACTED] raised the need to identify those who only fish scallops for part of the year and diversify to other fishing methods, other species etc.
- Members of the group, led by [REDACTED], indicated that they thought the title of the programme was ambiguous and that it might lead to fishermen believing they were going to be bought general equipment for the modernisation of their operation – for example a better engine.
- [REDACTED] confirmed that the Modernisation programme is a complex programme of work with many parts, the installation of vessel tracking and monitoring equipment being just a part. The programme's Communications and Engagement Strategy will ensure that the right information gets to the right people at the right time with appropriate language.
- Regarding distribution of the scallop sector and how that fits with the definition of 'inshore', [REDACTED] estimated 70% of the scallop fishery is within 12nm. Outside 12 there are very few places you can go – on the west coast particularly.

**ACTIONS:** [REDACTED] to add work streams to Terms of Reference: Fleet profiling, enforcement and legislation, communications and engagement and lessons learned.

## Membership Discussion Paper

SWG20/09 Paper 2

[REDACTED] introduced the Membership Discussion Paper and gave background on the choices made therein, how [REDACTED] aspired to engage with active fishermen and how that might best be done.

The following points came out of the subsequent discussion:

- The industry representatives felt that they would not be doing their job correctly if they could not accurately chart the views of fishermen on the front line.
- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are, together, representing 11 Skippers.
- Possible others who should be considered for engagement:
  - Processors
  - Dive operators
  - Compliance
- [REDACTED] observed that the membership of her Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (RIFG) board make her well placed to be a close link to the dredge fleet on Orkney.
- The idea of maintaining a presence among 'active' fishermen and rotating those who were present received general approval from the group.
- General agreement was reached that a communications and engagement strategy would be of benefit for the group. This would assist both Marine

Scotland and the dredge fleet in responding constructively to environmental pressure groups.

- On the status of the working group, [REDACTED] outlined that she wished it to be formal and to publish outputs, including minutes of meetings. After discussion, the opinion was that an extract of minutes should be published to demonstrate openness.

**ACTIONS:** [REDACTED] to update Terms of Reference with Communication and Engagement strategy

**Update on Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet**

[REDACTED] gave an update on current state of play with the Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet programme, acknowledging that some of the key issues have already come out in discussion.

**ACTIONS: None**

**Current Vessel Technology**

[REDACTED] outlined the fact that she would like to probe the kind of technology currently being used by the industry so we can learn from their experiences. The following points come out of the discussion:

- There is a pandemic concern among skippers that environmentalists will get hold of their data and use it against them
- There are a wide range of benefits for the sector from increased monitoring including:
  - Health and safety
  - Positive impact on insurance premiums
  - Accreditation and quality assurance – through information being available on where the catch was caught and how it was handled.
  - Fishing businesses with access to comprehensive data on their vessel's patterns, both for business planning purposes as well as evidence as part of marine planning.
- [REDACTED] recognised the significance and complex nature of Data Management in this context and confirmed that this forms a key work stream within the wider modernisation programme. Work will include development of policies around the ethics of ownership, use and sharing of data.
- Through recognition of lessons learnt, from industry representatives with experience of monitoring technologies, we could avoid mistakes made in the past.
- The following themes are necessary development towards this work stream:
  - Fleet profiling
  - Communications and engagement

- Lessons learned from technical perspective
- SWOT analysis

**ACTIONS: None**

### **Industry Interests**

[REDACTED] introduced the last topic of conversation by asking the group to consider what matters to them with regard to the programme. The main points raised were as follows:

- Acquisition of mapping data by the fleet in order to defend themselves against the renewables industry.
- A pragmatic approach in considering the economic health of the fishing industry when designating Priority Marine Features (PMFs).
- Sustainability of the industry is a concern of industry associations – notably identifying and locating brood stock. [REDACTED] noted that locating brood stock is very difficult and there are many factors to consider as you cannot assume that all larvae will survive to adult scallops who will recruit to the fishery. MSS does carry out three scallop dredge surveys and it look for pre-recruits using a smaller scientific dredge.
- The real-world usefulness of camera data taken from fishing boats was questioned as during the RTC scheme (mentioned above) the data analysis required on the camera footage was labour intensive.
- The ageing tech of CCTV-type cameras was also raised. It was observed that there are cameras coming onto the market that take a still once every second and can be used to gather automated size data.
- Both the importance of and the difficulties associated with scallop sector science were discussed. On the one hand it is one of the most economically valuable stocks in Scotland, on the other it is difficult to assess because it may often be a recruitment fishery where environmental fluctuations can have major impacts on each year group.
- It was opined that meetings of the working group should perhaps take place closer to the fishing fleet.

**ACTIONS: None.**

[REDACTED] thanked everyone for their contributions and concluded the meeting.



## Scottish Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG)

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Marine Laboratory Lecture Theatre 375

Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

*Refreshments on Arrival*

### **AGENDA**

- 10:30** Welcome
- 10:40** Terms of Reference
- 11:15** **Discussion Paper**  
Profiling Scotland's Scallop Dredge Sector
- 12:00** Contributions from Representatives
- 12:30** AOCB
- 12:50** Date of Next Meeting



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## Scottish Scallop Sector Working Group Draft

### Terms-of-Reference

Author	Version	Date	Comments
[REDACTED]	1.0	September 2019	Tabled to group on 20 September 2019
[REDACTED]	1.1	December 2019	Revised following discussion on 20 Sep and tabled to group on 11 December 2019

## Introduction

1. The Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy met with representatives of the scallop sector in January 2019 in the context of the Scottish Government Programme for Government commitment to modernise Scotland’s inshore fleet with appropriate and proportionate vessel monitoring and tracking systems.
2. In recognition of the value of convening a species specific group to aid a co-production approach to policy development led to the suggestion that the attendees to the meeting form The Scottish Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG).

## Purpose

3. The purpose and remit of the SSSWG is to facilitate partnership working between Marine Scotland and Scotland’s scallop sector towards sustaining the sector’s socio economic link to Scotland and its coastal communities.

## Membership

4. Membership will be restricted to consist of fishing association representatives as well as frontline fishers from the scallop sector, both dredge as well as dive; together with other relevant stakeholders.
5. Membership will include **one** representative per association with one substitute. Either the primary member **or** the substitute member will be in attendance at meetings of the SSSWG.
6. Members are listed below by Marine Scotland, association, producer and individual/independent fishers.
7. Recognising that consistency in attendance of fishers is difficult, the SSSWG shall encourage a rotating seat arrangement whereby a different fisher can attend meetings.

Marine Scotland	Member
[REDACTED]	Chair
[REDACTED]	Secretariat
[REDACTED]	Science

Association	Member	Substitute
Scottish Fishermen’s Federation		
Scottish White Fish Producer’s Association		
Communities Inshore Fisheries Alliance		

Producer	Member

Fisher	Description

## Governance

8. The SSSWG will be requested to convene in response to policy requirements of Marine Scotland.
9. The SSSWG will develop industry technical discussion papers and advice notes in response to the Policy Requirement Request.
10. Marine Scotland Inshore Fisheries and Coastal Communities branch of Sea Fisheries will Chair and provide Secretariat for the SSSWG.
11. Marine Scotland Science will provide scientific advice and input to the technical outputs of the SSSWG.

## Programme of Work

### Modernisation of the Scottish Inshore Fleet Programme

1. The first task for the SSSWG will be to advise and inform the programme to implement the Scottish Government's commitment to modernise Scotland's inshore fleet with appropriate and proportionate vessel monitoring and tracking systems.
2. A separate Programme of Work will be developed to set out activities of the SSSWG. This Terms of Reference offers the key themes which have been identified as important for the SSSWG to address. These include:
  - A. Legal Powers and Enforcement
  - B. Data Handling and Development of Privacy Policy
  - C. Fleet Profiling



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## Scottish Scallop Sector Working Group

### Discussion Paper

#### Profiling Scotland's Scallop Dredge Sector

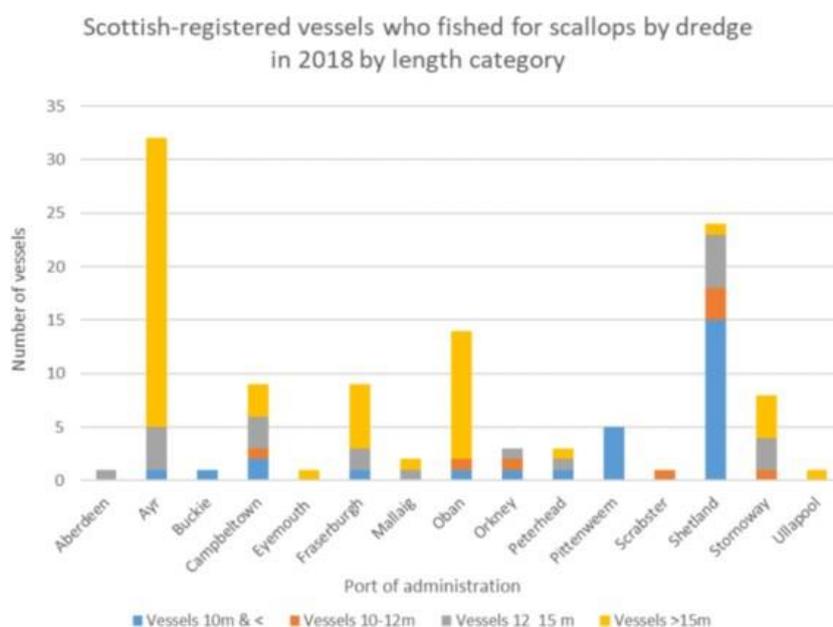
## Purpose and Introduction

- 1 Marine Scotland’s Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet Programme aims to provide appropriate and proportionate vessel monitoring and tracking technology to the whole of Scotland’s inshore commercial fleet. Scotland’s scallop dredge sector is the priority fleet in this programme and will be equipped with remote electronic monitoring systems.
- 2 This discussion paper is intended to set out the profile of Scotland’s scallop dredge sector to inform design of the deployment of REM systems.

## Economic Contribution

- 3 £38 million of King Scallop was landed by Scottish vessels (around half of which was landed into Scottish ports) in 2018.
- 4 Scallop dredging supports some 700 jobs at sea and in onshore processing, supporting some of our most rural areas.

## Scotland’s Scallop Dredge Fleet



- 5 30% of Scotland’s scallop dredge fleet are distributed between the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland.
- 6 Marine Scotland Fishery Offices administer licensing for the scallop dredge fleet. Ayr processes the biggest proportion, followed by Lerwick, Oban, Campbeltown and Fraserburgh.



7. 114 Scottish-registered scallop dredge vessels reported fishing with a mechanical dredge to target either King Scallops or Queen Scallops (*Aequipecten opercularis*) in 2018.
8. Marine Scotland’s Fully Disclosed Fishery (FDR) Scheme already extends advanced monitoring, including cameras, to c20 Scottish-registered scallop dredgers.
9. Since 2017 the FDF scheme has allowed compliant vessels to fish with up to 8 dredges per side within 0 and 6 nautical miles of the coast and with up to 12 dredges per side between 6 and 12 nautical miles.

### Top 5 Landing Ports for scallops in 2018

Lerwick	1,236 tonnes
Ayr	904 tonnes
Oban	774 tonnes
Fraserburgh	737 tonnes
Stornoway	632 tonnes

### Current Requirements

#### Vessel Tracking and Monitoring Equipment

- Vessels greater than 12 meters length are required to carry a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and electronic logbook, facilitating position reports to Marine Scotland 2 hourly and the ability for Marine Scotland to observe updates to the logbook while the vessel is at sea.
- Vessels greater than 15 meters are required to carry and Automatic Identification System (AIS).
- Vessels under 12 meters in length have no statutory requirement to carry any electronic monitoring equipment.

Category	Tally
Vessels 10 meters and under	28
Vessels 10 to 12 meters	11
Vessels 12 to 15 meters	18
Vessels over 15 meters	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>



**Scotland's Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG)**

**DRAFT Note of Meeting**

11<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

<b>Present</b>		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland Science
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Whitefish Producer's Assoc. (SWFPA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Whitefish Producer's Assoc. (SWFPA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Whitefish Producer's Assoc. (SWFPA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Macduff Shellfish
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Fisherman
<b>By VC</b>		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Western Inshore Scallop Group (WISG)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Orkney Fisherman's Assoc. (OFA)



[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Community Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Western Isles Fisherman's Assoc. (WIFA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO)
<b>Apologies</b>		
[REDACTED]		Fisherman
[REDACTED]		West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG)
[REDACTED]		Scottish Fishermen's Organisation (SFF)
[REDACTED]		Orkney Sustainable Fisheries (OSF)

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

[REDACTED] outlined that during the industry meeting with the Cabinet Secretary in January 2019 it was agreed that it would be sensible to form species specific groups in light of the Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet Programme's priorities. The purpose of the SSSWG is to facilitate partnership working between Marine Scotland and the scallop fishing sector.

Regarding the timeline for the Modernisation Programme, [REDACTED] responded that by the time of the next meeting she would be able to provide a detailed programme of work.



The focus of this meeting is to discuss the draft Terms of Reference (SSSWG/12/2019/-Paper 1), the Fleet Profiling Paper (SSSWG/12/2019/-Paper 2) as well as the form and size of the group membership.

## 2. Additions to Agenda Items

[REDACTED] asked if anyone wished last-minute additions to the agenda. [REDACTED] indicated that [REDACTED] wished to discuss UK-centric management initiatives and the risk that they might cut across local efforts already in place.

## 3. Previous Meeting (20/09/2019)

Corrections to Minute of Previous Meeting	
1.	[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been omitted from the draft minute.
2.	[REDACTED] said that he does not represent [REDACTED] and that he had attended the meeting representing SWFPA.
3.	[REDACTED] said that he had attended the meeting on behalf of CIFA.

Actions of Previous Meeting		
	Action	Outcome
1.	[REDACTED] to add work streams to terms of reference.	ToR updated and presented for further discussion with the group.
2.	[REDACTED] to add Communication and Engagement strategy to Terms of Reference.	ToR updated and presented for further discussion with the group.

## 4. Draft Terms of Reference

Initial discussion of the draft Terms of Reference focussed on the purpose and scope of the document.

- [REDACTED] asked whether the SSSWG would consider wider issues like stock sustainability to which [REDACTED] responded that it would, but that the Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet (MotIF) is the first priority. [REDACTED] noted that the provision of advice and issue of stock sustainability was the preserve of International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES).
- [REDACTED] agreed that the focus of the group should be the ‘whole value’ of scallops, rather than focussing solely on the catching sector. There was general agreement that if the value added chain is not protected, then the industry will ultimately disappear.



- [REDACTED] asked that the group recognise that there are rural areas of Scotland that face serious economic problems and depopulation as a result of the current climate in the fishing industry. [REDACTED] added that this extended beyond coastal communities and that the Western Isles had 3 vulnerable shellfish processing facilities that, despite not being situated on the coast, were of vital importance to the fishing sector and the wider community.
- [REDACTED] said that the minute would reflect the group's suggestions and [REDACTED] would iterate the Terms of Reference to land on a purpose that everyone felt comfortable with.

## 5. Membership

[REDACTED] said that she wished the SSSWG membership and participants to be stable and sustained. [REDACTED] referred to previous discussion about wanting to include the voices that best represented fishermen and suggested developing a rotating list of invitees from the catching sector.

Membership was left blank in the Terms of Reference because we wish the group to decide its contents together. We seek consistency in attendance so that we have the traction to assist in taking policy forward.

- [REDACTED] restated the need to have working fishermen engaged and that he knew of a couple who would like to attend. He said that having a number of different fishermen engaged would increase the likelihood that one would be onshore and able to attend each meeting.
- [REDACTED], referring to inclusion of processors, suggested including Seafood Ecosse or the Scottish Seafood Association and that if we wished to take account of the full breadth of the sector, that we should also consider exporters. [REDACTED] added that it might be worth alternating inclusion of smaller processors in a similar fashion to rotating active fishermen.
- [REDACTED] cautioned against becoming processor-heavy and said that she did not want the SSSWG to become a commercial bodies tool playing to big businesses at the expense of the small.
- [REDACTED] suggested inclusion of Mallaig and Northwest Fishermen's Association.
- [REDACTED] observed that representation is complex. OFA are required to represent a breath of scallop interests but the current legislation has failed to protect their stocks and fisheries. [REDACTED] agreed, pointing out that we need innovative new fisheries solutions and improved governance.



- [REDACTED] summarised that SSSWG be a species-specific voice that can take findings to the Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (RIFG) network. There was general agreement on this.
- [REDACTED] queried whether the SSSWG was intended to become a voting entity. [REDACTED] asked for the opinions of the group but said that she did not intend on voting. [REDACTED] said that voting would not well serve such a diverse group and that when a consensus cannot be reached, the group should take a sounding of how compromise could be reached. There was general agreement that the group trusted that Marine Scotland would present findings to ministers, explaining the degree of consensus.
- [REDACTED] said that he was conscious of not wanting to get into a situation where the work of the SSSWG deprives certain fishermen of access to certain areas.
- The matter of the relationship between the SSSWG and the RIFG network was raised, particularly in light of the fact that the West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG) already have a scallop subcommittee. [REDACTED] answered that she saw the SSSWG as being national and that the RIFG chairs would communicate with the SSSWG via reports. There was general agreement, recognising that the nomadic nature of the scallop fleet made it beneficial for there being a central point to discuss of their activity.
- [REDACTED] cautioned that she would not like to see regional initiatives suffer because they had to be presented to a national group that was not necessarily supportive. [REDACTED] confirmed that the RIFGs will continue as they have and that communication with SSSWG would not be at the expense of the RIFG position.
- There was strong agreement around the group that Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) should not be included in the group and [REDACTED] suggested the Terms of Reference reflect that environmental matters be addressed elsewhere. [REDACTED] pointed out that the SSSWG is a good opportunity for the scallop sector to show their competence and positive attitude towards environmental issues. It was agreed that the SSSWG will use Marine Scotland Science to inform its stance on environmental matters.
- [REDACTED] said that at some stage we should discuss how we review the Terms of Reference to reflect future changes in membership and governance.



## 6. Fleet Profiling

[REDACTED] introduced the discussion paper on fleet profiling, indicating that all information was in the public domain and that it was intended to provide introductory information on the physical distribution of the fleet.

- [REDACTED] indicated that he found the distribution of vessels throughout the coast strange and suggested we need a profile of full and part time operators. [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] that the distribution was based on port of registration for the scallop dredge fleet.
- [REDACTED] indicated that he believed the scallop landings data for Shetland may have been inflated by landings of Queen scallop.
- [REDACTED] indicated that the paper was a useful starting point but had some concerns about the data presented and suggested other aspects that could be considered. [REDACTED] proposed a more detailed analysis of the fishery (not just a profile of the fleet), by species (queen and king scallop) and that could consider length of vessel, port of landing, areas fished (by statistical rectangles) and gear (dive versus dredge). It was requested that [REDACTED] circulate further details to the group.
- There was a mixed response to [REDACTED] points, with some interested in greater detail on fishing activity but others concerned about making such data available in the public domain. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] did not feel comfortable in going to the degree of granularity that [REDACTED] was talking about.
- [REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] believed the Scottish Government currently have policy specifying a minimum number of vessels beneath which they will not release information on, so as to ensure anonymisation of data that enters the public domain.
- While [REDACTED] was open to sharing data with [REDACTED] for further analysis, [REDACTED] suggested that the next task for Marine Scotland should be to consider, with Compliance, an appropriate approach to managing commercial sensitivities.
- [REDACTED] raised the designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA), calling for investigation into why scallop stocks are continuing to decline in areas that are protected. On this subject, [REDACTED] suggested that the rise of MPA designations could lead to a scallop dredge sector crammed into a tiny area.
- [REDACTED] indicated that many Skippers were concerned for the health of the



stocks. [REDACTED] responded, agreeing that we had to protect this £38 million industry, but that we had to be careful to make recommendations that worked for everyone.



[REDACTED] added that consultation on grass-roots level was vital so as to protect remote communities.

**Actions:** [REDACTED]to consult with Compliance on data sharing policy.

[REDACTED]to share MS anonymisation policy with group.

[REDACTED]to quantify frozen and hip pocket entitlements.

## 7. AOCB

[REDACTED] raised UK-level interests like Project UK Fisheries Improvements (PUKFI) and how their gaining traction is detracting from local initiatives like the Orkney brand. [REDACTED] suggested that this also detracts from the overall Scottish brand and, in her opinion, seems to be building towards a homogenous UK identity for seafood that makes no recognition of initiatives by the RIFG network.

- [REDACTED] responded as a member of PUKFI, saying that [REDACTED] saw their intent as being to bring fisheries up to a standard where they might then be further improved by MSC certification. He said that issues of transparency and accreditation are likely to increase in the next 5 years and so PUKFI – which uses the MSC structure – is a good place to engage.
- [REDACTED] gave the example of the Scottish Mapping Project which, it seemed to her, had now become UK-wide without consultation with local management and without key stakeholders being round the table.
- [REDACTED] said that there were no current UK fisheries projects that CIFA haven't been invited to and he encouraged them to contribute and put forward their objections. [REDACTED] responded that she believed this kind of management should come from the Scottish Government and that [REDACTED] had chosen to work with them.
- [REDACTED] said that, apart from Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO), no small scale fishery had benefitted from MSC accreditation.

[REDACTED] brought the meeting to a close and asked the group about preferences for a next gathering. There was general agreement for February in Edinburgh.

13:06 - meeting adjourned.



On Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 2:41 [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear all

### **Scottish Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG)**

You may recall a couple of meetings held during 2019 under the catchy title of the Scottish Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG), the last of which took place at the Marine Lab in December 2019.

Since this group was last together, there have been a few shuffles within the Marine Scotland contingent that have seen [REDACTED] and my old friend and colleague [REDACTED] taking the helm of the [REDACTED].

Of course, we are keen to recommence discussion with you on the Modernisation Programme, but no doubt there will be other apt topics and I think there is value in retaining this forum and its national focus. I hope you agree!

Please see attached, a note of the last meeting, however, I include this simply to close the loop. Much has changed since then and I believe we should move forward with a more or less blank slate.

To that end, I write to you now requesting **agenda items** and also to propose the **25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 10:00** as our reconvention date.

As is the new normal, we will meet via an online hosting solution and details of that will follow as soon as is practicable.

Please come back to me as soon as you are able and advise if this date and time suits.



Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Inshore Fisheries Management & Coastal Communities

marine scotland | Sea Fisheries Division | Area 1B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

p: [REDACTED] | m: [REDACTED] | e: [REDACTED] | w: [www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

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# Scallop Sector Working Group

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 10:00 – 12:30

Via Webex – login details in email notification

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions	10:00
2. Update of Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet [REDACTED]	10:10
3. Update on voluntary agreements between mobile and static gear sectors [REDACTED]	10:40
4. Update from ICES scallop working group [REDACTED]	11:00
5. Discussion on SSSWG in the context of other scallop groups (PUK, SICG)	11:20
6. AOB	11:40
7. Close	12:00



**Scotland’s Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG)**

**DRAFT Note of Meeting**

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Online via Webex**

<b>Present</b>		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland Science
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Whitefish Producer’s Assoc. (SWFPA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Whitefish Producer’s Assoc. (SWFPA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Whitefish Producer’s Assoc. (SWFPA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Macduff Shellfish
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Macduff Shellfish
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Orkney Sustainable Fisheries
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Shetland Fishermen’s Association
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO)



[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (NECRIFG)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Outer Hebrides Inshore Fisheries Group (OHRIFG)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Western Inshore Scallop Group (WISG)

Apologies		
[REDACTED]		Vessel owner
[REDACTED]		Vessel owner
[REDACTED]		Community Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

[REDACTED] welcomed the group and requested round table introductions. [REDACTED] recapped the intent of the group, indicating that he wanted it to be a sounding board to help inform future policy and Marine Scotland advice to Ministers, as well as aid discussions with other Administrations. [REDACTED] also stated that the group should be broadly representative of scallop interests in Scotland, have an open membership, with no voting function or right of veto. And that it should be a forum to discuss national issues facing the sector, and also complement existing groups such as the RIFGS, and SICG.

[REDACTED] asked if there were any further agenda items that should be added at the last minute. [REDACTED] responded that SWFPA wished to raise the Future Fisheries Management (FFM) Strategy and that this had already been raised with [REDACTED] ahead of time.



<b>Actions</b>
None

## 2. Update on the Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet Programme (EH)

[REDACTED] recapped the history of the Modernisation Programme from its announcement as a 2018-2019 manifesto commitment and Mr Ewing’s first meeting with the scallop sector in January 2019 regarding use Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM), including cameras. The Modernisation Programme was further mentioned in Mr Ewing’s Parliamentary statement of February 2020 and then in the Scottish Government’s FFM papers<sup>1</sup> published in October 2020. The FFM strategy states that installation of REM amongst the scallop dredge sector will remain voluntary until summer 2021, with legislation making it mandatory by the end of 2021.

[REDACTED] addressed the group:

- The recently published FFM Policy Intent Paper sets out that 2021 will be a key year for REM technology in Scotland’s fishing industry.
- The intention and reasoning for prioritising the scallop fleet in the Modernisation Programme includes to promote sustainable and responsible fishing, address reputational damage and unwanted criticism of the scallop dredge sector.
- The use of cameras on board fishing vessels enables monitoring and is a corroborative device when used in addition to sensor and positional data i.e to prove or disprove fishing on location.
- The priority is to ensure that stakeholders engage with this programme, and make sure that active scallop dredge vessels, with no REM currently on board, have a fair opportunity to take advantage of the funding that is currently available to get the Anchorlab system on board before legislation comes into force making it mandatory. Those present at the meeting have a key role to play in terms of helping to timetable this and avoid any bottlenecks in installations between now and summer 2021. [REDACTED] welcomes a coordinated approach with industry, accepting that cameras will raise concerns for some.
- A risk based approach is used to determine whether a short sequence of camera footage needs to be downloaded from a fishing vessel. This is not done as a matter of course and only once other information has been considered first. If no risk is highlighted by logbook and position / winch data, there should be no need to download camera footage.
- In the case of multi-purpose vessels, other information used by analysts e.g. logbook data will make it obvious when they switch gears. The FFM paper is clear that by using camera-based systems for scallop dredgers we are not setting a precedent how we will deploy REM on the wider industry.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/future-fisheries-management-policy-intent-paper/>



<https://www.gov.scot/publications/future-fisheries-management-discussion-paper-analysis-report/>



- Camera footage will not be shared, except by the Police when there is evidence of criminality.
- [REDACTED] asked whether cameras were being used purely to measure proximity to restricted areas. [REDACTED] responded that the use of cameras so far has focused on ensuring vessels do not exceed prescribed dredge number in inshore waters but going forward it's also about fishing on location, particularly ensuring no illegal dredging in restricted areas.
- [REDACTED] asked which vessels and in which waters the camera requirement would apply to. [REDACTED] responded that this Programme is for the Scottish fleet but that the intention of legislation would provide a level playing field in Scottish waters. FAs might be taking different approaches/priorities but the anticipation being that REM becomes a fairly standard piece of kit.
- [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to clarify use of the word 'criminality', noting that accidental instances of gear conflict frequently occur.
- [REDACTED] said that he was supportive of REM systems but that cameras had not been mentioned at previous meetings and that such systems might not be suitable for multipurpose boats. [REDACTED] assured him that use of cameras, under this phase of the Programme, was for scallop dredge operations. REM solutions for demersal fishing operations were being considered as part of the Future Catching Policy work.
- [REDACTED] made the point that if our goal was to achieve confidence and accountability, there is no reason for us to consider a 'halfway house'-type solution to REM.
- [REDACTED] asked whether other administrations would have access to the REM data, stating that SWFPA would wish to be assured of consistency of approach UK-wide. [REDACTED] responded that access is only for Marine Scotland but that we expect that REM is likely to become more common place and that a joined-up UK wide approach might follow e.g. for vessels in the Channel or other areas
- [REDACTED] expressed concerns about the costs involved and [REDACTED] responded that the installation costs would be borne in their entirety by Marine Scotland, including the first year of maintenance. An aim of the Programme is to keep developing the technology and reduce costs.
- [REDACTED] asked whether VMS (which is an EU requirement) would be necessary for over 12 metre vessels after January 2021, once new REM systems had been fitted. The greater frequency of position reports provided by the new systems would make VMS obsolete and therefore the additional costs of VMS would seem an unnecessary.
- [REDACTED] asked if the fishermen would be notified when data was being downloaded. EH said she did not think that was the case but that there is a facility for the fisherman to have a screen installed which presents a live view from the cameras.
- [REDACTED] expressed concerns about how the data might be used against the fishermen. He said that it was essential that any access to this data could only be given with fishermen's explicit approval. There was general industry agreement with and acknowledgement of this statement.
- [REDACTED] said that he believed sensor and position data alone should be sufficient to provide an accurate record of shoot and haul.



- [REDACTED] observed that SSMO required VMS data in a timely manner to help with any objections to planning applications and to inform our MSC certification. This would require a 3-way data sharing agreement between SSMO the fishermen and Marine Scotland.

**Actions**

1. [REDACTED] thanked everyone for their comments and questions, and suggested that a follow up meeting on the technical aspects of this discussion would be helpful and should ideally take place before Christmas.

**3. Update on voluntary agreements between mobile and static gear sectors (FG)**

[REDACTED] introduced the topic, explaining how the idea of industry-led voluntary agreements between the mobile and static sectors were based on a template that had been used in the English channel and that the groups made use of both the RIFG Chair and Marine Scotland in an observational capacity.

- **Arbroath** – There have been 6 meetings with 95% of stakeholders in agreement about a 2 mile lane system. Discussions regarding the pattern of rotation remain unresolved.
- **Fraserburgh** – The objective here has been to formalise the loose agreement that is already in place involving a box which the static gear sector remain within from April to September.
- **Peterhead to Stonehaven** – No agreement reached, but there has been recent interest in reconvening this group.
- **Burghead to Gamrie** – A code of conduct has been established. There has also been discussion about a geofencing pilot in this area.
- **Wick to Scrabster** – Gear conflict appears to be on the increase in this area and local factions have approached [REDACTED] about assisting.

**Actions**

None.

**4. Update from ICES Scallop Working Group [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED] gave an overview of ICES Scallop Working Group (WGScallop) from the perspective of her position as Chair. She shared the group Terms of Reference and a short presentation. The WGScallop report will be available soon and [REDACTED] will ensure the group are aware.

- As a scientist, accessing fisheries (landings and effort) data is not always straightforward.
- WGScallop conducted a data call this year and requested scallop data from 2000-2019.



- One of the key facets of the group this year has been increased focus on queen scallops.
- [REDACTED] asked if there was anything further on North Sea survey work that could be shared. [REDACTED] replied that there was no MSS scallop survey this year but the hope was that a stock assessment could be conducted next year.

**Actions**

1: [REDACTED] to contact members of the group regarding their input on the maps shared in her presentation. [REDACTED] said that he was willing to engage with this as there was a lack of data coming back about areas to the north of Scotland and to the west of Orkney.

**5. Discussion on SSSWG in the context of other scallop groups**

[REDACTED] opened the discussion, noting how he saw the SSSWG fitting in alongside other groups like the Scallop Industry Consultation Group (SICG), Project UK and rIFGS.

- [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], would continue to engage with these groups on behalf of Marine Scotland, and the importance of being joined-up.
- [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] felt there was a lot of scope for Marine Scotland to further feed into Project UK and encouraged this.

**Actions**

None.

**6. AOB**

**Future Fisheries Management (FFM)**

- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] asked what would be the next steps and whether we were moving into a consultation phase.
- [REDACTED] responded that our strategy document will be launched shortly, and would outline our approach for the next 10 years – some elements we will progress immediately, others will require more time.
- Certain elements arising from the strategy will be consulted on in due course, and further research will certainly be required.
- [REDACTED] asked how the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) will sit alongside the FFM. [REDACTED] responded that all UK Fisheries Administrations are feeding into the JFS, but that we are in the early stages, with lots of moving parts, and that this will move forward at pace.

**Frequency of Meetings**



- There was general agreement that SSSWG should meet 3-4 times per year.

**Actions**

None.



marinescotland



## Scallop Sector Working Group

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 10:00 – 12:00

Via MS Teams - login details in email notification

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions	10:00
2. Update of from ICES Scallop working Group [REDACTED]	10:10
3. Update of Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet [REDACTED]	10:40
4. TCA Outcome and management of Non-Quota Stocks - update	11.00
5. Scallop Exports to the EU	1 1 :15
6. Future Scallop Management in Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy 2020-2030</li> <li>• SICC management proposals</li> </ul>	11:30
7. MPA Management – Dogger bank and lessons learned	1 1 :45



8. Scallop Fishery Improvement Project – [REDACTED]	12:00
6. AOB - Recent landing data for Scallops [REDACTED]	12:15
7. Close	12:30



# Scotland's Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG)

DRAFT Note of Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Online via Microsoft Teams

<b>Present</b>		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland Science (MSS)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Marine Scotland
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	North Atlantic Fisheries Collage (NAFC)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Whitefish Producer's Assoc. (SWFPA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Whitefish Producer's Assoc. (SWFPA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Community Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Macduff Shellfish
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Macduff Shellfish
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Shetland Fishermen's Association (SFA)



[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Shetland Fisherman's Association
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (NECRIFG)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Outer Hebrides Inshore Fisheries Group (OHRIFG)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Western Inshore Scallop Group (WISG)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Orkney Fisherman's Association

Apologies		
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]		Marine Scotland

1. Welcome and Introductions
[REDACTED] welcomed the group, requested round table introductions and recapped the general function of the group. He noted that the scallop industry is currently centre stage for a variety of reasons and that this group is here to help shape future policy.
Actions
None

2. Marine Scotland Science Update
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[REDACTED] provided an update on MSS scallop work streams, including:

- Market sampling has not been possible for 3 months (Q2) of 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. There have been a low number of samples for some areas.
- MSS scallop dredge surveys were not conducted last year for the east coast, west coast or Clyde (due to the pandemic). A scallop dredge survey is currently being undertaken on the west coast but operating on a vastly reduced programme with fewer staff.
- The post has been withdrawn for a shellfish population modeller. Existing MSS staff hope to have preliminary stock assessments prepared for October 2021 to present at ICES Scallop Working Group.
- ICES Scallop Working Group sub groups have been established for Irish Sea king scallops and queen scallops. Dredge efficiency paper is being drafted and there will be a meeting in October.
- The group requested the presentation be shared and in future sent to the group prior to the meeting.
- [REDACTED] asked whether survey and assessment areas were informed by biology or geography. [REDACTED] responded that the survey stations were originally determined with reference to sediment type, and knowledge of the scallop fishing grounds contributed by skippers fishing at the time. The biology of the species is also important in terms of different growth rates between the areas and we have to consider whether or not stocks are genetically linked or connected because of the hydrographics of the ecosystem. For the purposes of Marine Scotland Science's (MSS) stock assessments, the scallop grounds around Scotland are divided into assessment areas on the basis of ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) statistical rectangles because this is the level of aggregation for the fisheries landings and effort data.
- [REDACTED] stressed the importance of ensuring that sampling areas reflected the most up to date fishing grounds worked by the fleet.
- [REDACTED] asked how dredge efficiency would be measured in future studies. [REDACTED] responded that the Scallop Working Group are currently working on a review paper that would be based on existing literature on previous studies of efficiency for the Newhaven Dredge.
- [REDACTED] said that MSS were happy to discuss the survey process with industry.

#### **Actions**

1. [REDACTED] to provide further information on the various scallop PhD projects being supervised by MSS staff.
2. [REDACTED] to share [REDACTED] presentation with the group.



### 3. Update on Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet

[REDACTED] gave an update on the Modernisation of the Inshore Fleet Programme and invited discussion with the group on the proposed next steps of engagement with industry to ensure all vessel owners have a fair opportunity to take advantage of the funding that is currently available to install Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) before it becomes a mandatory requirement:

- We continue to work towards mandatory carriage of REM systems on scallop dredge vessels by the end of the year. Voluntary installations are progressing at harbours around Scotland and more volunteers continue to come forward from the scallop sector on a regular basis. However, there are some scallop dredge owners who have not yet engaged.
- Based on discussions (particularly regarding risk based use of cameras and privacy concerns) at the last SSSWG meeting – two documents are being drafted for industry: an updated FAQ document and a Privacy Notice specifically for REM (rather than relying on existing general notices).
- [REDACTED] noted that fishers have fed back that they would like a “contract” on how data is used, but noted that Marine Scotland are already legally obligated from this perspective under data protection regulations. [REDACTED] said the Privacy Notice should provide the reassurances required.
- [REDACTED] set out that the plan is to write to the owners of all Scottish scallop dredge vessels with no REM currently installed in the coming weeks - summarising the Modernisation Programme to date, explaining about the funding currently available, and including a copy of the new privacy policy and FAQ sheet.
- [REDACTED] explained that along with the REM analysts (FDF Unit), [REDACTED] has had meetings at a local level with scallop dredge fishermen to explain what we are doing and why, and to show examples of how the data (camera and sensory) is used. Such engagement has proved to be very productive and [REDACTED] stressed that she was happy to hold further local meetings when necessary/requested.
- [REDACTED] asked whether REM data would be used to evidence ‘criminal activity’. [REDACTED] responded that ‘criminal activity’ was not the domain of Marine Scotland, however situations do exist where Police Scotland might request data be provided and we would be legally obligated to assist.
- [REDACTED] asked whether there would be financial support from Marine Scotland for maintenance and upgrade of existing REM systems installed in accordance with the 2017 Scallop Order. [REDACTED] responded that the current priority is to get vessels with no REM equipped and then consider the approach to vessels with existing systems.
- In relation to ongoing costs associated with the upkeep and replacement of equipment, [REDACTED] explained that options around how these costs will be met in the future needs to take account of the wider REM policy and the need for consistency amongst the industry. [REDACTED] stressed that Marine Scotland will engage with industry on this matter later this year.
- [REDACTED] asked for confirmation of which section of the fleet was being considered at the present time and what the timetable was. [REDACTED] responded, the entire scallop dredge sector is within scope of the programme and the



commitment made is that legislation will be introduced by the end of the year.

- [REDACTED] expressed concerns about fishing data being made public and being potentially used against them. [REDACTED] reiterated that the data is not shared outwith Marine Scotland, with the exception of government law enforcement departments when required.
- [REDACTED] asked what was happening with the Gear Marking Order. [REDACTED] responded that Marine Scotland Compliance assessed reports of incorrectly marked gear on a risk-basis and deployed resources accordingly. This Order is being enforced but it must be appreciated that available resources and proof of ownership played a part.
- [REDACTED] asked if other Administrations will have access to fishing data. [REDACTED] responded that REM is likely to become a fairly standard piece of kit throughout industry, we are monitoring what is happening elsewhere and REM policies. It may be reasonable to assume that some kind of agreement to this effect will exist in the future.

#### **Actions**

None.

#### **4. TCA Outcome and Management of Non-Quota Stocks (NQS)**

[REDACTED] introduced the topic and gave some background on the UK / EU discussions:

- The Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) provides for each party to have access to fish NQS in each other's waters based on a 2012-2016 track record period.
- Negotiations have been difficult, particularly with regards to future management measures and are ongoing.
- Stakeholder concerns include ensuring any limits are suitable for stock sustainability and can be reported and monitored appropriately; and possible displacement of fishing effort.
- Local communities concerned are about quota allocation and the potential for diversification.
- [REDACTED] shared a presentation with the group and implications for Scotland.
- [REDACTED] asked whether we would keep track of what EU vessels caught in our waters. [REDACTED] responded that we would, and that policy options were being considered for 2021, which more permanent arrangements for 2022 and beyond will likely to be discussed in the specialised committee.
- [REDACTED] noted the strain placed on rural communities and said that she would not like to see poor track record becoming a barrier to entry or continuation within the industry.
- There was general discussion about how the reference period was selected.

#### **Actions**



1: [REDACTED] to circulate presentation to the group.



## 5. Scallop Exports to the EU

[REDACTED] introduced the topic, centring on the current value of exporting shellfish given post-Brexit issues with live bivalve molluscs (LBM) and the general perishability of shellfish:

- Recovery has begun but it will be slow.
- Domestic and alternative markets are being explored.
- UK shellfish products are not as lucrative to the EU as they favour cheaper, reliable supply.
- [REDACTED] sympathised with the position experienced by Macduff Shellfish and said that a prime concern was that vessels will respond to EU demand and land there and this will lead to an involuntary export of raw material and jobs by the UK.
- [REDACTED] noted a new Seafood Trade Team will be led by [REDACTED].

### Actions

1: [REDACTED] to circulate presentation to the group.

## 6. Future Scallop Management in Scotland



[REDACTED] introduced the topic, focussing on how best to shape policy for scallop management in Scotland, respecting existing structures and the Future Fisheries Management (FFM) Strategy:

- Implementation of our 2020-2030 Fisheries Management Strategy is being planned.
- Scallop management at present in Scotland currently consists of a mix of input restrictions and technical measures.
- There are future management considerations including for effort management, permits for access to inshore areas, new quota species, further technical measures, protection for juveniles / spawning areas, and of course the modernisation programme.
- Scallop management in Scotland is in some respects at a cross-roads.
- [REDACTED] noted the UK SICG have formed a working group to put forward proposals for management in this forum. [REDACTED] suggested the SSSWG could form a similar sub group with the intent of drawing together a paper ahead of the next meeting.
- [REDACTED] said that we need to be able to draw a distinction between latent, unused fishing capacity and those who just target scallops seasonally.
- [REDACTED] said that any management proposals would need to take account of different fishing activity in different areas. [REDACTED] added that such considerations

were complicated by the fact that the scallop fleet can be local, regional and nomadic.

- [REDACTED] put the suggestion of a sub-group to the SSSWG, and added that such a group would help build some momentum, proposing that the group meets during May to develop a discussion paper ahead of the next SSSWG meeting.

#### **Actions**

1: [REDACTED] to canvas interest in formation of SSSWG Management Sub Group and coordinate on meeting dates, intent and tasking.

## **7. MPA Management – Dogger Bank and Lessons Learned**



[REDACTED] presented on lessons learned by the Dogger Bank situation:

- The MMO have additional powers with an objective to implement 40 MPA management plans over the next 3 years.
- Tranche 4 for Dogger Bank was previously a voluntary restriction on fishing proposed by the industry. This was included as a licence variation and will now not be lifted; even though the MMO has not consulted. Other mobile gears can fish but not scallop dredgers.
- The Dogger Bank approach was deemed very hard-line and not conducive to a co-management approach to the fishery.
- SICG will seek further clarification of the new roles of the MMO.

#### **Actions**

1: [REDACTED] to share presentation with the group.

#### **8. Scallop Fishery Improvement Project**

[REDACTED] (MacDuff Shellfish) presented on Project UK; a collaborative partnership facilitated by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) with diverse stakeholders that make up the individual steering groups for Fishery Improvement Plans (FIPs).

- A number of members have been contacted to contribute to the FIP for king scallops.
- An annual review will be undertaken shortly.
- Requests have been made for RIFG input and for RIFG Chairs to join the group.
- [REDACTED] noted support and interest for the FIP and that Marine Scotland would remain engaged in an advisory role but that, as the managing authority it

would not be appropriate for us to write elements of the FIP. He also noted the need to consider this industry led work alongside existing governance structures and our fisheries management strategy in Scotland; and the UK Fisheries Act and Administration led work developing Fisheries Management Plans.
<b>Actions</b>
None.

<b>9. AOB</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [REDACTED] SEAFISH report to be discussed at next meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Actions</b>
None.

Hi [REDACTED]

Attached is the presentation with the Project UK update I gave at the last meeting in case you also wanted to circulate that.

Can I check if you have finalised the membership for the SSSWG sub group? [REDACTED] mentioned he's received a message about membership but I haven't seen anything. It would be great if one of the members of the sub group could be actively involved with the FIP if at all possible, to help provide those linkages discussed at the last meeting and to make sure the FIP is up to date on SSWG developments and work progress.

I look forward to hearing the outcomes of the group discussions.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# Project UK Scallop FIP

- ▶ Fisheries Management Plan
  - ▶ In development – V1.1
  - ▶ Using MSC FMP template
  - ▶ Completed over the 5 years of the FIP
  - ▶ Evolving document
  - ▶ Developed by the Steering Group members
  - ▶ Covers all FIP areas, split by 'jurisdiction'
    - ▶ Scotland: MSS, MS, Nature Scot, industry
  - ▶ Draft V1.1 to be presented at next Steering Group
    - ▶ Encourage involvement & input from all

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**FISHERY PROGRESS.ORG** Fishery Improvement Project Progress Tracking Database & Tools

**UK Irish Sea, West of Scotland, and North Sea great Atlantic scallop - dredge**

Overview | Details | Improvement Progress | Actions Progress | Red Indicator Progress

**Overview**

**FIP Description**  
Project UK is working towards an environmentally sustainable future for UK fisheries by running Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) on 12 UK fisheries that have been selected by the UK seafood supply chain.

**FIP Objective(s)**  
By December 2024, the FIP aims to address the following:  
 • Meet the 80+ score for each MSC performance indicator within 5 years (April 2019- 2024) and be

**FIP at a Glance**

**FISHERY STATUS** FIP is addressing 27 of 28 indicators

**Current Status:**

25%	64%	18%	4%
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**Starting Evaluation: January 01, 2019**

25%	64%	18%	4%
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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 22 April 2021 15:18

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: FOR COMMENT: Scottish Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG) - 15-04-2021 - Note of Meeting - DRAFT

Importance: High

Colleagues

Please see attached draft minute of SSSWG which I will circulate to the wider group once you have had a chance to review.

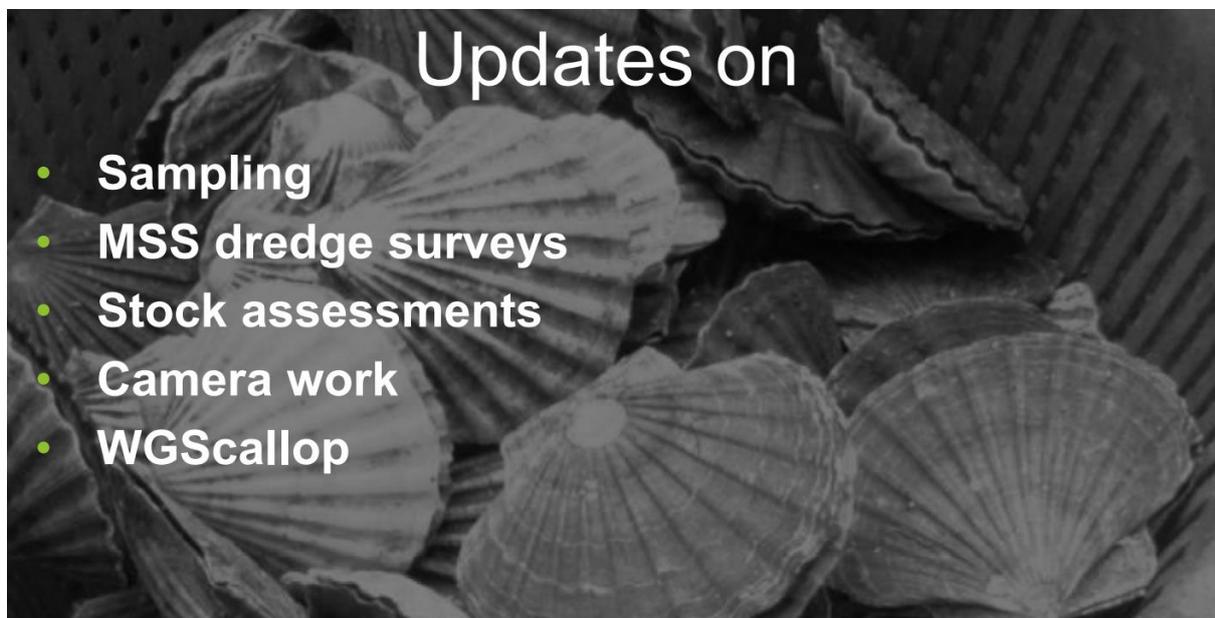
Please also note that Inshore Team will coordinate with [REDACTED] in future to ensure we are not duplicating effort in minute taking.

Grateful if you could come back to me with comments by close of business on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

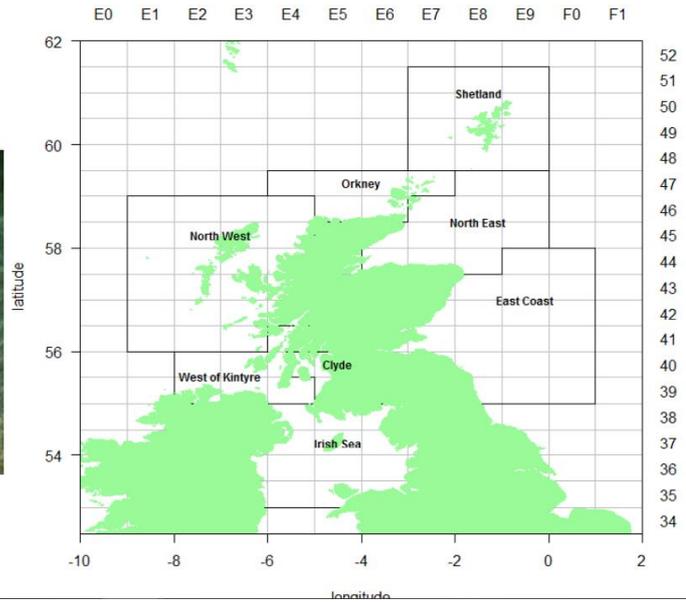
Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



King scallop  
(*Pecten maximus*)



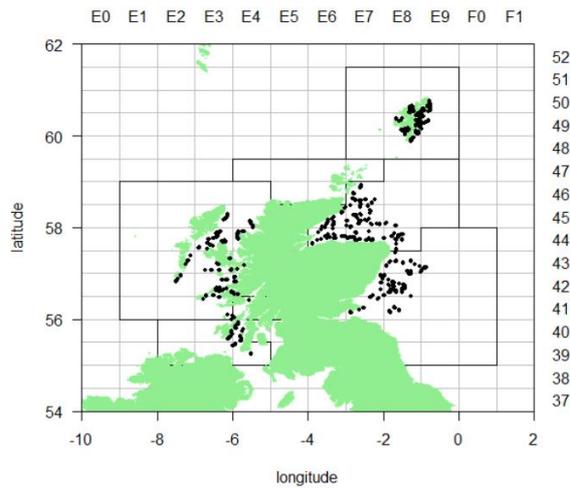
[REDACTED]

Data collection – market sampling

	Clyde	East Coast	Irish Sea	North East	North West	Orkney	Shetland	West of Kintyre
2014	11 (1740)	6 (1483)	1 (319)	5 (1150)	21 (3805)	2 (453)	64 (6428)	43 (6823)
2015	14 (2903)	12 (2636)	2 (342)	5 (1251)	42 (7158)	4 (759)	71 (6986)	31 (5257)
2016	4 (711)	10 (1999)	3 (390)	12 (2557)	22 (3968)	3 (546)	72 (7139)	35 (5118)
2017	0	8 (1854)	6 (842)	5 (975)	38 (6680)	5 (1083)	71 (7049)	40 (6700)
2018	3 (535)	3 (633)	6 (781)	4 (897)	29 (5248)	13 (2478)	62 (6267)	27 (4465)
2019	4(1325)	5(959)	0(0)	4(746)	25(4624)	4(1115)	71(6396)	17(3819)
2020	2(457)	3(616)	1(133)	9(1352)	32(4431)	9(901)	62(6204)	16(1913)

Number of vessels sampled (number of scallops measured) by year and assessment area (2014-2020).

## Scallop dredge surveys



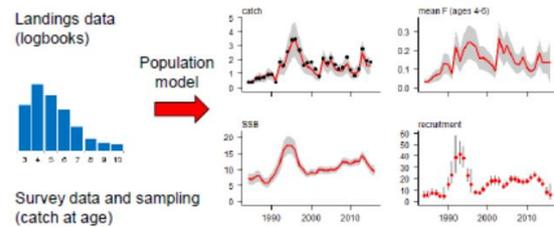
Year	Cruise	Survey_area	No_hauls	No_Scallops
2019	0219A	Shetland	65	12040
2019	0519A	West coast	68	11547
2019	1019A	East coast	115	10997
2019	1719A	Clyde	58	5291
2020	0220A	Shetland	51	14744
2021	0221A	Shetland	37	7441



## MSS scallop stock assessments

- Overdue
- Position offered to successful candidate last year – they did not complete required background checks and did not start 😞
- Work will now be covered by existing staff
- Preliminary work started – new database & new scripts
- Working towards Oct 2021

marinescotland  
science



Scotland's Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG) Management Sub-Group Meeting of 12-May-2021

13:30 – 15:00 via MS Teams

### AGENDA

1 Welcome 13:30 – 13:35

2 Purpose of the sub group 13:35 – 13:45

3 Current scallop management measures 13:45 – 14:15

4 Discussion on potential management measures. Identifying potential (a) short term; and (b) long term solutions 14:15 – 14:55

5 AOB 14:55 – 15:0



## Scotland’s Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG)

### Management Sub-Group

Meeting of 12-May-2021 13:30 – 15:00 via MS Teams

Attendees
[REDACTED]– Marine Scotland (MS)
[REDACTED] - Marine Scotland (MS)
[REDACTED] - Marine Scotland (MS)
[REDACTED]– Chair, Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO)
[REDACTED] – Scottish White Fish Producer’s Organisation (SWFPO)
[REDACTED]– Chair, North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (NECRIFG)
[REDACTED] – Macduff Shellfish
[REDACTED]– Outer Hebrides Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (OHRIFG)
[REDACTED] – Community Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA)
Apologies
[REDACTED]– Orkney Fisherman’s Assoc.

1. Welcome
[REDACTED]welcomed the group and introduced [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], noting the former as Secretariat and that the latter had previously done a lot of work on scallops but that was now Team Leader for Access to Sea Fisheries.
Actions
N/A

2. Purpose of the sub group
[REDACTED] outlined the purpose of this working group, following the request made by [REDACTED] at the last SSSWG for its creation, which would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To convene a group that would be small enough to be easily managed but would contain a cross section of small and large scallop fishing interests and representatives of the processing sector.</li> <li>• This will be a short life group with the intent of using the experience present to collaborate on a short paper that would:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review the existing mechanisms of scallop management</li> <li>○ Outline possible short term future management measures</li> <li>○ Outline possible longer term future management measures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The group would collaborate on a short paper which they would circulate to the SSSWG ahead of its next meeting.</li> </ul>

<b>Actions</b>
N/A

<b>3. Current scallop management measures</b>
<p>The group discussed the main management measures used to regulate the scallop fishery in Scotland. These were identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A limited entry licensing system</li> <li>• Various localised management measures around the coast.</li> <li>• Technical controls introduced via SSI127/2017 “The Scallop Order”, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase in minimum landing size (with exceptions)</li> <li>○ Restrictions on dredge numbers</li> <li>○ Tow bar length restrictions within 12 nautical miles.</li> <li>○ Exceptions when carrying REM system</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Western Waters Effort restriction which applies in area VI and VII (limit only restrictive for area VII activity).</li> </ul> <p><b>Main Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was discussion on review of the MLS for scallops, increasing it to 110mm.</li> <li>• The Poseidon Report was noted to be of interest the discussion of this group.</li> <li>• Western Waters Effort Regime is in force within area 6 &amp; 7, noting that in the Scottish Zone this had not had a tangible impact on fishing opportunities for Scottish vessels.</li> <li>• There was discussion on the Shetland Regulating Order, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MSC accreditation has an impact on market access but does not impact on price of stock</li> <li>○ SSMO use of curfews as a management measure.</li> <li>○ There are only 2 scallop processors on Shetland now and so the fishery, to a certain extent, manages itself.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Actions</b>
1. None.

<b>3. Discussion on potential management measures. Identifying potential (a) short term; and (b) long term solutions</b>
<p><b>Main Points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was discussion regarding priorities in terms of objectives for the management of the fishery:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainability</li> <li>○ Ecology</li> <li>○ Market focus</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The identified issues/drivers that the industry is currently facing are:</li> </ul>

- Brexit – in particular, access to stocks via channel waters, resulting in displacement and problems with access to Markets in France
- As a result of Brexit and Covid-19 there has been a significant reduction in price per kilo
- Concerns over the sustainability of the fishery
- Concerns over the environmental impact of the fishery
- Green & NGO pressures
- Wind farms and spatial management issues
- Gear Conflict
- The group discussed the various management measures currently in place:
  - Seasonal closures were noted to be a useful mechanism, but could cause displacement.
  - Concerns were raised about what lay ahead for the next round of MPAs.
  - There was call for a review of Western Waters Effort Regime against its objectives.
  - It was stated that an evaluation of all the current methods (including technical restrictions on equipment) to see what is working and what should change would be useful.
  - There was general willingness to consider a further increase in minimum landing size to 110mm, as per ministerial commitment.
    - [REDACTED] noted there was anecdotal evidence of areas where scallops do not grow big enough to meet minimum landing size.
  - There was discussion over the benefits of a ‘one size fits all’ system to management and the need to consider regional variation,
  - We should increase scientific evidence or make better use of the data already held – including catch data (logbooks).
    - It was noted that [REDACTED] most recent update to the SSSWG gave a good appraisal of what evidence gathering could be expected in the next year.
    - It was noted that Marine Scotland Science work needed to reflect where vessels are now working.
    - It was suggested that Marine Scotland Science should consider conducting a review of the various types of dredge gear.
- There was discussion on how REM should be used to feed into the future MPA process.
- Protection of juvenile stocks/spawning/spat grounds were raised and [REDACTED] asked for views on identification of such grounds and how best to manage them.
- There was general discussion using on the use of seasonal closures to protect nursery grounds, but concerns about losing additional fishing ground to MPAs.
- Some areas of the coast have noted they are seeing an increase in small scallops, but this is not universal.

**Actions**

1. [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] to draft a paper outlining current measures and potential future measures.

<b>AOB</b>
There were no other items of business.
The date of the next meeting will be in 2-3 weeks.
<b>Actions</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. [REDACTED] to circulate the minute</li><li>2. Members with any issues should contact [REDACTED]</li></ol>