
1. Item 001

From: [REDACTED]@swfpa.com>
Sent: 05 October 2021 12:51
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FMAC Clyde cod spawning consultation

Hi [REDACTED]
I copied you in to my response but got the address wrong – sorry

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please find enclosed responses from SWFPA to the consultation seeking views on the continuation of the cod seasonal closures in the Firth of Clyde.

As you will know, SWFPA Policy Team are contracted to provide Policy and Science support to the members of MNWFA. On this basis, I also attach a response on behalf of MNWFA.

Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. Item 002

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: 07 October 2021 14:21
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde Cod Consultation

3. Item 003

From: [REDACTED]@argyllfisheriestrust.co.uk>
Sent: 12 October 2021 11:27
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Consultation on the Firth of Clyde Cod Spawning Closure

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a response from Argyll Fisheries Trust regarding the above consultation.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

4. Item 004

From: NI Fishermen's Federation <secretariat@nifishermen.com>

Sent: 12 October 2021 20:07

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@nifpo.co.uk>; [REDACTED]@anifpo.com>

Subject: Clyde Cod Closure Consultation

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of the NIFF, please find attached a completed Annex C and accompanying letter in response to Marine Scotland's Consultation on the future of the Clyde Cod Closure.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

NI Fishermen's Federation

E: secretariat@nifishermen.com

5. Item 005

From: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk>

Sent: 12 October 2021 21:06

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk>

Subject: Re: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear [REDACTED],

Many thanks for the opportunity to feed into this consultation, please find a consultation response from Open Seas attached.

Please let me know if anything is unclear or you would like any further information on any of the points raised.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

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[REDACTED]

6. Attachment 005_1

7. Item 006

From: [REDACTED]@ourseas.scot>
Sent: 12 October 2021 17:08
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Cod consultation response

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached Our Seas coalition's response to the Consultation on the Firth of Clyde Cod Spawning Closure 2022/23.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Attachment 006_1

8. Item 007

From: [REDACTED]@bluemarinefoundation.com>
Sent: 13 October 2021 15:16
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Firth of Clyde – Cod Spawning Closure - Spring 2022/23 consultation response

Hello,

Please find attached our completed consultation response for the Firth of Clyde Cod Spawning Closure consultation.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

www.bluemarinefoundation.com

[Please see BLUE's 2020 review here.](#)



**BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION**
10 YEARS OF SAVING THE SEA

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9. Item 008

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com>
Sent: 13 October 2021 20:30
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Cod Closure Response CFA

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

10. Item 009

From: [REDACTED]@arrancoast.com
Sent: 13 October 2021 15:48
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached comments from Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) in response to the consultation on the seasonal spawning cod closure in the firth of Clyde.

Please would you acknowledge receipt of this email and our comments.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

www.arrancoast.com

[Scottish charity No. SC042088](#)

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 September 2021 08:48
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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11. Item 010

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 17 January 2022 17:02
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: I am sharing '21 09 14 - Clyde Cod Closure 2022_23 Consultation' with you

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com
Sent: 13 October 2021 20:34
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Fwd: I am sharing '21 09 14 - Clyde Cod Closure 2022_23 Consultation' with you

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com
Date: Wed, 13 Oct 2021, 19:16

Subject: I am sharing '21 09 14 - Clyde Cod Closure 2022_23 Consultation' with you
To: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com

Sent from my Galaxy

12. Item 011

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 October 2021 15:17
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde cod consultation response

Dear [REDACTED]
Please find attached my response to the consultation.
[REDACTED]

13. Item 012

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com>
Sent: 13 October 2021 21:03
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@yahoo.co.uk>
Subject: [REDACTED] - Argyll Fisherman

Hello [REDACTED],

Please find [REDACTED] response. [REDACTED] is cc'ed in this email for reference.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

14. Item 013

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 13 October 2021 13:49
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached SIFT's response to the recent Clyde Cod Closure consultation. Please can you confirm receipt of this email, by return.

Thank you and kind regards,

[REDACTED]

15. Item 014

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk>

Sent: 13 October 2021 10:16

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Consultation on the Firth of Clyde Cod Spawning Closure

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached my response to the Consultation on the Firth of Clyde Cod Spawning Closure 2022/23. Let me know if you require anything else.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

16. Item 015

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com>

Sent: 13 October 2021 20:36

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Member responses

Hello [REDACTED],

A few members have been in touch today as they were struggling with filling in the word document on the Cod Closure. Not sure why. I've suggested they send it to me with their contact info and I'll pass it along.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED].

17. Item 016

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com>

Sent: 14 October 2021 12:53

To: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@clydefish.com; [REDACTED]@clydefish.com; [REDACTED]@clydefish.com

Subject: Re: Clyde Cod report

Hello [REDACTED],

We don't have the final signed off version.

Normally the academics, Marine Scotland and the fishermen involved in the trials will meet to sign off on the report and plan potential next stages of research.

Due to covid and Brexit as far as I am aware there hasn't been an official sign off of the last report. The previous reports which have been approved are on the Marine Scotland website, but from our side we hope to have a meeting soon to consider the report and ways forward.

Hopefully then it will be published as the previous reports were.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Thu, 14 Oct 2021, 12:46 [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED],

I hope this finds you well.

We have recently responded to the Scottish Government's consultation and request for views about the Clyde cod spawning closure 2022/2023. I note that the government's consultation letter states that:

"More recently, a study was undertaken by the Scottish Oceans Institute and Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) during the spawning period with demersal and pelagic gears. A final version of the report can be requested from the CFA. Early results from the study show the presence of spawning cod in the closed area during the closure period, indicating that the closure is in the right place at the right time."

Would the Clyde Fishermen's Association be able to share the final version of the report?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

18. Item 017

From: [REDACTED]@arrancoast.com>

Sent: 14 October 2021 09:06

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@arrancoast.com>; Our Seas <info@ourseas.scot>

Subject: Clyde Cod Spawning Consultation

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for sharing the consultation documents with us; [REDACTED] has now responded on behalf of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust.

Please would you advise us which other stakeholders were invited to respond to the consultation; and where, in due course, we might see the responses.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]



Old Pavilion, Lamlash
Isle of Arran, KA27 8LS

Company No. SC299917

Registered Charity in Scotland No. SCO42088

19. Item 018

From: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk>

Sent: 14 October 2021 18:37

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk>

Subject: RE: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Hello [REDACTED],

Just a quick follow up.

We note that the government's consultation letter states that:

"More recently, a study was undertaken by the Scottish Oceans Institute and Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) during the spawning period with demersal and pelagic gears. A final version of the report can be requested from the CFA. Early results from the study show the presence of spawning cod in the closed area during the closure period, indicating that the closure is in the right place at the right time."

We have requested the document from the Clyde Fishermen's Association today, but one of their representatives has said it is unavailable at this time. You and Marine Scotland colleagues were cc'd into this correspondence.

However, this would seem to contradict the guidance in the Government's consultation document which indicates that the report would be made accessible to stakeholders on request.

Noting our concern that a public consultation is potentially being influenced by the inclusion of the government's stated views (para 12) based on the early results of a report that is currently unpublished and inaccessible to other stakeholders, are you able to share the report?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk]

Sent: 12 October 2021 21:06

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk>

Subject: Re: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear [REDACTED],

Many thanks for the opportunity to feed into this consultation, please find a consultation response from Open Seas attached.

Please let me know if anything is unclear or you would like any further information on any of the points raised.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

20. Item 019

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 October 2021 15:09

To: [REDACTED]@bluemarinefoundation.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Firth of Clyde – Cod Spawning Closure - Spring 2022/23 consultation response

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for responding to the Clyde cod consultation.

We noted your concern regarding the lack of online public consultation and although we are confident that the consultation reached a key list of industry bodies, environmental groups and the relevant local councils, we do note your point about public transparency. I wanted

to let you know that we have taken this on board, and are publishing the consultation online this week for a further two weeks. Given the time that it takes for a piece of legislation to pass through the parliamentary process, this is the maximum time we can allow at this stage without jeopardising the continuation of the closure – should the outcome of the consultation recommend this. We will take this approach in future consultations.

Again, thank you for taking the time to respond.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]@bluemarinefoundation.com>

Sent: 13 October 2021 15:16

To [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Firth of Clyde – Cod Spawning Closure - Spring 2022/23 consultation response

Hello,

Please find attached our completed consultation response for the Firth of Clyde Cod Spawning Closure consultation.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

www.bluemarinefoundation.com

Please see BLUE's 2020 review [here](#).

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21. Item 020

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 October 2021 15:02

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde cod consultation response

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for responding to the Clyde cod consultation.

We noted your concern regarding the lack of online public consultation and although we are confident that the consultation reached a key list of industry bodies, environmental groups and the relevant local councils, we do note your point about public transparency. I wanted to let you know that we have taken this on board, and are publishing the consultation online this week for a further two weeks. Given the time that it takes for a piece of legislation to pass through the parliamentary process, this is the maximum time we can allow at this stage without jeopardising the continuation of the closure – should the outcome of the consultation recommend this. We will take this approach in future consultations.

Again, thank you for taking the time to respond.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 October 2021 08:28

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Clyde cod consultation response

Good morning [REDACTED]

It seems this consultation isn't widely known about. I found out about it via an NGO and there's no link online, it's not in the Scottish Government consultation page etc.

Could you please extend the deadline and publicise this appropriately?

I'd also be interested to know who was invited to respond please as this hasn't been really public.

All the best

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Oct 2021, at 15:16, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached my response to the consultation.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 October 2021 15:05
To: 'Our Seas' <info@ourseas.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Cod consultation response

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for responding to the Clyde cod consultation.

We noted your concern regarding the lack of online public consultation and although we are confident that the consultation reached a key list of industry bodies, environmental groups and the relevant local councils, we do note your point about public transparency. I wanted to let you know that we have taken this on board, and are publishing the consultation online this week for a further two weeks. Given the time that it takes for a piece of legislation to pass through the parliamentary process, this is the maximum time we can allow at this stage without jeopardising the continuation of the closure – should the outcome of the consultation recommend this. We will take this approach in future consultations.

Again, thank you for taking the time to respond.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: Our Seas <info@ourseas.scot>
Sent: 12 October 2021 17:08
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Cod consultation response

Dear [Redacted],

Please find attached Our Seas coalition's response to the Consultation on the Firth of Clyde Cod Spawning Closure 2022/23.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

A coalition campaigning for change in the way Scottish inshore waters are managed.

Facebook [@ourseasscotland](#) Twitter [@ourseas_scot](#)

Sign the #InshoreLimit petition: <http://bit.ly/inshorelimit>

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 19 October 2021 09:33
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Clyde Cod report

FYI – sorry should have copied you in...

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 October 2021 09:16
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Clyde Cod report

FYI...Below is an extract of a WhatsApp message from [REDACTED]last night on the back of the exchange below.

Just for awareness...

[REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED], I hope you are well? Just a very quick one. Re the Open Seas request for the science report, I wasn't in anyway passing the buck to MS. I just didn't want to pass out anything we hadn't had a meeting on yet or discussed in anyway as we normally would. Especially given the grilling I expect Open Seas will give it I thought it best we all consider it with the scientists first etc. Although I completely accept Brexit and Covid have slowed everything for quite some time.

[REDACTED]
Sea Fisheries Division
Scottish Government
Area 1 B South, Victoria Quay,
EDINBURGH, EH66QQ

[REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com>
Sent: 14 October 2021 12:53
To: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@clydefish.com; [REDACTED]@clydefish.com;
[REDACTED]@clydefish.com

Subject: Re: Clyde Cod report

Hello [REDACTED],

We don't have the final signed off version.

Normally the academics, Marine Scotland and the fishermen involved in the trials will meet to sign off on the report and plan potential next stages of research.

Due to covid and Brexit as far as I am aware there hasn't been an official sign off of the last report. The previous reports which have been approved are on the Marine Scotland website, but from our side we hope to have a meeting soon to consider the report and ways forward.

Hopefully then it will be published as the previous reports were.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Thu, 14 Oct 2021, 12:46 [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk wrote:

Hello [REDACTED],

I hope this finds you well.

We have recently responded to the Scottish Government's consultation and request for views about the Clyde cod spawning closure 2022/2023. I note that the government's consultation letter states that:

"More recently, a study was undertaken by the Scottish Oceans Institute and Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) during the spawning period with demersal and pelagic gears. A final version of the report can be requested from the CFA. Early results from the study show the presence of spawning cod in the closed area during the closure period, indicating that the closure is in the right place at the right time."

Would the Clyde Fishermen's Association be able to share the final version of the report?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

24. **Item 023**

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com>

Sent: 20 October 2021 12:38

To: [REDACTED]@swfpa.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@sff.co.uk; [REDACTED]@swfpa.com;
[REDACTED]@clydefish.com; [REDACTED]@clydefish.com; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@ymail.com

Subject: Re: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Hello All,

Similarly prior to [REDACTED] email I had just asked for a convenient time to call yourself [REDACTED] as I too am concerned greatly about this last minute change.

We are all aware of the horrendous year fishermen have had, in our region this has been particularly marked. [REDACTED] is entirely right, the added pressure on our fishermen from campaigns is a daily worry. We are concerned that this change might be prompted by such direction.

This coupled with a number of other factors making regional management complicated is resulting in a very concerned fishing community in our area of the world.

We reiterate our members led on the development of the cod box for specific reasons, from what we can see a number of groups are pursuing changes to the area with a different rationale to that which the cod box was for. We would appreciate a discussion on this when possible.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 20 Oct 2021, 12:27 [REDACTED]@swfpa.com wrote:

[REDACTED]

This concerns me. We are already seeing campaign groups instructing people on how to respond to this consultation and even suggesting that the issue is wider than the stated aim of protecting spawning aggregations of cod. I sincerely hope that Marine Scotland recognise this and treat such responses for what they are, a coordinated attack on the mobile sector. I should add that this seems rather a strange deviation from normal consultation on this matter.

Regards
[REDACTED]
SWFPA

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 Oct 2021, at 12:10, [REDACTED]@gov.scot wrote:

Dear All,

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to the consultation on the continuation of the Clyde cod spawning closure. We are currently reviewing all of the responses.

Our initial consultation focused on our existing list of stakeholders; we are now extending this consultation to enable members of the public to share their views. The consultation has been published [online](#) and will run until Thursday 4th November 2021. Your existing responses remain valid so there is no need to respond a second time.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2021 08:48
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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25. Item 024

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com
Sent: 20 October 2021 12:16
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Re: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Hi [REDACTED],

Do you have a number I can call you on and a time which might suit?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 20 Oct 2021, 12:10 , [REDACTED]@gov.scot wrote:

Dear All,

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to the consultation on the continuation of the Clyde cod spawning closure. We are currently reviewing all of the responses.

Our initial consultation focused on our existing list of stakeholders; we are now extending this consultation to enable members of the public to share their views. The consultation has been published [online](#) and will run until Thursday 4th November 2021. Your existing responses remain valid so there is no need to respond a second time.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 September 2021 08:48

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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26. Item 025

From: [REDACTED]@swfpa.com

Sent: 20 October 2021 12:28

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@sff.co.uk; [REDACTED]@clydefish.com; [REDACTED]@swfpa.com

Subject: Re: Clyde cod spawning consultation

[REDACTED]

This concerns me. We are already seeing campaign groups instructing people on how to respond to this consultation and even suggesting that the issue is wider than the stated aim of protecting spawning aggregations of cod. I sincerely hope that Marine Scotland recognise this and treat such responses for what they are, a coordinated attack on the mobile sector. I should add that this seems rather a strange deviation from normal consultation on this matter.

Regards

[REDACTED]

SWFPA

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 Oct 2021, at 12:10, [REDACTED]@gov.scot wrote:

Dear All,

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to the consultation on the continuation of the Clyde cod spawning closure. We are currently reviewing all of the responses.

Our initial consultation focused on our existing list of stakeholders; we are now extending this consultation to enable members of the public to share their views. The consultation has been published [online](#) and will run until Thursday 4th November 2021. Your existing responses remain valid so there is no need to respond a second time.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2021 08:48
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

27. **Item 026**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2021 12:12
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Hi All,

[REDACTED] could you please forward the below message round FMAC?

[REDACTED]/ [REDACTED]– in [REDACTED] absence could one of you please do the same for IFMAC?

Many thanks!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2021 12:10
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear All,

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to the consultation on the continuation of the Clyde cod spawning closure. We are currently reviewing all of the responses.

Our initial consultation focused on our existing list of stakeholders; we are now extending this consultation to enable members of the public to share their views. The consultation has been published [online](#) and will run until Thursday 4th November 2021. Your existing responses remain valid so there is no need to respond a second time.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2021 08:48
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

28. Item 027

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 October 2021 12:10

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

CC: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com; [REDACTED]@sff.co.uk;

[REDACTED]@westofscotlandpo.co.uk; [REDACTED]@scottishfishermen.co.uk; [REDACTED];

[REDACTED]@sift-uk.org; [REDACTED]@wwf.org.uk; [REDACTED]@rspb.org.uk;

[REDACTED]@swfpa.com; [REDACTED]@gmail.com; [REDACTED]@clydeforum.org;

[REDACTED]@btconnect.com; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@snh.gov.uk;

[REDACTED]@btconnect.com; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@clydefish.com;

[REDACTED]@clydefish.com; [REDACTED]@shetlandfishermen.com;

[REDACTED]@scottishpelagic.co.uk; [REDACTED]@swfpa.com;

[REDACTED]@btconnect.com; [REDACTED]@taitgroup.com; [REDACTED]@mcsuk.org;

[REDACTED]@ssacn.org; [REDACTED]@taitgroup.com; Info@scotspelagicprocessors.com;

email@arrancoast.com; info@clydemarineplan.scot; info@clydemarineplan.scot;

info@nifpo.co.uk; office@seasource.com; [REDACTED]@manx.net;

info@scottishcreelfishermensfederation.co.uk; [REDACTED]@ymail.com;

[REDACTED]@hotmail.com; [REDACTED]@btinternet.com;

[REDACTED]@orkneysustainablefisheries.co.uk; [REDACTED]@ssmo.shetland.co.uk;

[REDACTED]@argyll-bute.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@inverclyde.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@north-

ayrshire.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@south-ayrshire.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@dumgal.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear All,

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to the consultation on the continuation of the Clyde cod spawning closure. We are currently reviewing all of the responses.

Our initial consultation focused on our existing list of stakeholders; we are now extending this consultation to enable members of the public to share their views. The consultation has

been published [online](#) and will run until Thursday 4th November 2021. Your existing responses remain valid so there is no need to respond a second time.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 September 2021 08:48

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

29. Item 028

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 October 2021 10:28

To: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email regarding Clyde cod and the CFA survey results and apologies for my delayed response. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic there has been a delay in the CFA report being published. Whilst a draft has been produced, this is not yet ready to be shared as it hasn't yet been signed off by all the parties involved.

We apologise for this, but given the required time for getting a future SSI through the parliamentary process (should that be the outcome of the consultation) the consultation couldn't be delayed to wait for the report to be published.

Once we receive a copy of the final report we will of course be happy to share this with you, if you haven't already received it from the CFA.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk

Sent: 14 October 2021 18:37

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk

Subject: RE: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Hello [REDACTED],

Just a quick follow up.

We note that the government's consultation letter states that:

"More recently, a study was undertaken by the Scottish Oceans Institute and Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) during the spawning period with demersal and pelagic gears. A final version of the report can be requested from the CFA. Early results from the study show the presence of spawning cod in the closed area during the closure period, indicating that the closure is in the right place at the right time."

We have requested the document from the Clyde Fishermen's Association today, but one of their representatives has said it is unavailable at this time. You and Marine Scotland colleagues were cc'd into this correspondence.

However, this would seem to contradict the guidance in the Government's consultation document which indicates that the report would be made accessible to stakeholders on request.

Noting our concern that a public consultation is potentially being influenced by the inclusion of the government's stated views (para 12) based on the early results of a report that is currently unpublished and inaccessible to other stakeholders, are you able to share the report?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk
Sent: 12 October 2021 21:06
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk
Subject: Re: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear [REDACTED],

Many thanks for the opportunity to feed into this consultation, please find a consultation response from Open Seas attached.

Please let me know if anything is unclear or you would like any further information on any of the points raised.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

30. Item 029

From: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk
Sent: 27 October 2021 11:47
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Hello [REDACTED],

All noted - thanks for explaining and we look forward to seeing the study in due course. Unfortunately, this does not allay our concern about transparency, ie that a public consultation is potentially being influenced by the inclusion of the Scottish Government's stated views (para 12 in the consultation document) based on the early results of a report that is currently unpublished and inaccessible to other stakeholders.

Is there any project description about the study you can share in the interim prior to its publication, ie basic info about the objectives of the study and when the research was carried out?

Also, the Clyde Fishermen's Association have said that "previous reports" from Clyde cod surveys have been published on the Scottish Government's website. I have asked for links, but was referred to finding them via a Google search. I can find no trace of them online. Would you or MSS colleagues be able to share links to these previous reports?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 27 October 2021 10:28
To: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email regarding Clyde cod and the CFA survey results and apologies for my delayed response. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic there has been a delay in the CFA report being published. Whilst a draft has been produced, this is not yet ready to be shared as it hasn't yet been signed off by all the parties involved.

We apologise for this, but given the required time for getting a future SSI through the parliamentary process (should that be the outcome of the consultation) the consultation couldn't be delayed to wait for the report to be published.

Once we receive a copy of the final report we will of course be happy to share this with you, if you haven't already received it from the CFA.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk
Sent: 14 October 2021 18:37
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk
Subject: RE: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Hello [REDACTED],

Just a quick follow up.

We note that the government's consultation letter states that:

"More recently, a study was undertaken by the Scottish Oceans Institute and Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) during the spawning period with demersal and pelagic gears. A final version of the report can be requested from the CFA. Early results from the study show the presence of spawning cod in the closed area during the closure period, indicating that the closure is in the right place at the right time."

We have requested the document from the Clyde Fishermen's Association today, but one of their representatives has said it is unavailable at this time. You and Marine Scotland colleagues were cc'd into this correspondence.

However, this would seem to contradict the guidance in the Government's consultation document which indicates that the report would be made accessible to stakeholders on request.

Noting our concern that a public consultation is potentially being influenced by the inclusion of the government's stated views (para 12) based on the early results of a report that is currently unpublished and inaccessible to other stakeholders, are you able to share the report?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk

Sent: 12 October 2021 21:06

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk

Subject: Re: FW: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear [REDACTED],

Many thanks for the opportunity to feed into this consultation, please find a consultation response from Open Seas attached.

Please let me know if anything is unclear or you would like any further information on any of the points raised.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

31. Item 030

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 October 2021 12:06
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Written concerns should be addressed to Allan Gibb (allan.gibb@gov.scot), however if it would be helpful to discuss the issue first I can arrange for you to speak to [REDACTED] and Allan Gibb.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 27 October 2021 10:34
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your response, however I'm afraid I find it rather curious that it isn't available- or indeed apparently agreed- and yet within the body of the consultation document you quote 'preliminary results' as follows..

More recently, a study was undertaken by the Scottish Oceans Institute and Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) during the spawning period with demersal and pelagic gears. A final version of the report can be requested from the CFA. Early results from the study show the presence of spawning cod in the closed area during the closure period, indicating that the closure is in the right place at the right time.

This quote could significantly influence consultee perceptions on the effectiveness of the proposed closure. If the work isn't signed off then this statement is illegitimate and consequently, I would suggest that the consultation process is fundamentally flawed and should be repeated without reference to that study.

Please let me know to whom I should address these concerns and indeed to whom I should address an FOI on this matter.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 27 October 2021 10:21
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email regarding Clyde cod and the CFA survey results and apologies for my delayed response. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic there has been a delay in the CFA report being published. Whilst a draft has been produced, this is not yet ready to be shared as it hasn't yet been signed off by all the parties involved.

We apologise for this, but given the required time for getting a future SSI through the parliamentary process (should that be the outcome of the consultation) the consultation couldn't be delayed to wait for the report to be published.

Once we receive a copy of the final report we will of course be happy to share this with you, if you haven't already received it from the CFA.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Sent: 27 October 2021 09:59

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Re: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Can I ask again please for the CFA report mentioned in the consultation response? I have contact with stakeholders who would like to view it ahead of the closing of the consultation. I hope you can help by return, which would preclude the need for us to progress via a freedom of information request.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 October 2021 13:05

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Thank you [REDACTED], I wonder if you could provide by return the CFA report mentioned in the consultation response? When it is requested of CFA they reference that it is with you?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 13 October 2021 13:53

To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Hi [REDACTED],

Many thanks for your response to the consultation. I can confirm that we have received it.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Sent: 13 October 2021 13:49

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached SIFT's response to the recent Clyde Cod Closure consultation. Please can you confirm receipt of this email, by return.

Thank you and kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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32. Item 031

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot>

Sent: 28 October 2021 10:18

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Thanks [REDACTED], yes happy to schedule a call with Allan about this. But in the meantime may I suggest once again that we would be very grateful for a copy of the report by over the

course of the next few days, in time to allow it to be considered ahead of the consultation close, and to save us all going through the FOI process.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:05:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Written concerns should be addressed to Allan Gibb (allan.gibb@gov.scot), however if it would be helpful to discuss the issue first I can arrange for you to speak to [REDACTED] and Allan Gibb

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 27 October 2021 10:34
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your response, however I'm afraid I find it rather curious that it isn't available- or indeed apparently agreed- and yet within the body of the consultation document you quote 'preliminary results' as follows..

More recently, a study was undertaken by the Scottish Oceans Institute and Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) during the spawning period with demersal and pelagic gears. A final version of the report can be requested from the CFA. Early results from the study show the presence of spawning cod in the closed area during the closure period, indicating that the closure is in the right place at the right time.

This quote could significantly influence consultee perceptions on the effectiveness of the proposed closure. If the work isn't signed off then this statement is illegitimate and consequently, I would suggest that the consultation process is fundamentally flawed and should be repeated without reference to that study.

Please let me know to whom I should address these concerns and indeed to whom I should address an FOI on this matter.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 27 October 2021 10:21
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email regarding Clyde cod and the CFA survey results and apologies for my delayed response. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic there has been a delay in the CFA report being published. Whilst a draft has been produced, this is not yet ready to be shared as it hasn't yet been signed off by all the parties involved.

We apologise for this, but given the required time for getting a future SSI through the parliamentary process (should that be the outcome of the consultation) the consultation couldn't be delayed to wait for the report to be published.

Once we receive a copy of the final report we will of course be happy to share this with you, if you haven't already received it from the CFA.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 27 October 2021 09:59
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Re: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Can I ask again please for the CFA report mentioned in the consultation response? I have contact with stakeholders who would like to view it ahead of the closing of the consultation. I hope you can help by return, which would preclude the need for us to progress via a freedom of information request.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 October 2021 13:05

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Thank you [REDACTED], I wonder if you could provide by return the CFA report mentioned in the consultation response? When it is requested of CFA they reference that it is with you?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 13 October 2021 13:53

To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Hi [REDACTED],

Many thanks for your response to the consultation. I can confirm that we have received it.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Sent: 13 October 2021 13:49

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached SIFT's response to the recent Clyde Cod Closure consultation. Please can you confirm receipt of this email, by return.

Thank you and kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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33. Item 032

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Sent: 03 November 2021 16:42

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Clyde cod spawning closure 2022-2023: consultation

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find my response to the Clyde cod spawning closure 2022-2023 consultation.

If you need anything else then please let me know

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

34. Item 034

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 03 November 2021 16:39

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: response to CLyde Cod Spawning Closure

Please find my response attached,

[REDACTED]

35. Item 035

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@sky.com>
Sent: 03 November 2021 16:51
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde cod protection

Dear [REDACTED] please have the temporary closure of fishing cod in part of the Clyde extended to include scallop dredgers and bottom trawlers.

The exemption of these trawlers has not led to any improvement in the cod breeding stock. Time to change the plan and save our seas.

Thanks,
[REDACTED].

Sent from my iPad

36. Item 036

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@me.com>
Sent: 03 November 2021 17:32
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Cod A Trawlermen

Dear [REDACTED],

I'm aware that this consultation must be filled in in a certain way, and using certain methods with reference to certain things. I have however no intention on learning how to do so, because it doesn't matter.

Instead, perhaps it's better to let you know that I think trawlermen and scallop dredgers are absolute filth. Scum of the earth. Lying, cheating, greedy lowlifes who think they are above the rest of the country. I feel this way about them because the government won't stop them dredging in MPAs or anywhere else they're not supposed to be (but at the same time we'll see pictures of politicians beaming in photos and in articles about new legislation and MPAs and NTZs), and you won't fine them for doing it.

That would take a responsible grown up country which faces its demons and deals with its problems (and we have lots, not just environmental ones) in a robust and pragmatic

manner, even if it gives some (in this case wealthy overweight trawlermen) a petted lip. But we're Scottish, and our government doesn't do that.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

37. Item 037

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 03 November 2021 17:50

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: F of Clyde Closure for Cod Breeding

Hi [REDACTED],

May I add my voice to those seeking a cessation to bottom dredging in the area of the Clyde closed to cod fishing during the period of recovery of cod stocks. Cod are essentially bottom feeders and any disturbance during their breeding season must logically be detrimental to the success of this worthwhile initiative. Such complete closure would surely also allow for scallop and prawn regeneration to a certain extent too.

I do feel for the fishing fleet that depends upon these grounds for their livelihood but there are other coastal waters they can move to for this period of time if needs be. Fishing fleets traditionally move around the coast anyway.

Good luck in resurrecting this important fishery (... although I prefer a nice piece of haddock 😊)

Best regards

[REDACTED]

(Full Address can be supplied if required) Aberdeen

Sent from my iPhone

38. Item 038

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: 03 November 2021 17:04

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: just incase my first email didn't come through...

all trawling needs and must be band from this area...

trawling in the clyde has destroyed it....

cheers [REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

39. Item 039

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: 03 November 2021 16:59

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: nothing will change....

hi...

makes me very sad and angry this subject....

nothing will start to change until the trawlers are banned for this area...prawn trawlers are the worst...

the clyde is a total disaster and is hanging on by a thread....

cheers [REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

40. Item 040

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk

Sent: 03 November 2021 20:40

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: KEEP IT CLOSED

Sent from my Galaxy

41. Item 041

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Sent: 03 November 2021 18:39

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Response to consultation Firth of Clyde – Cod Spawning Closure - Spring 2022/23

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached my response to consultations,

Best,

[REDACTED]

42. **Item 042**

From: [REDACTED]@scottishfishermen.co.uk

Sent: 04 November 2021 15:47

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Re: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear [REDACTED],

With sincere apologies for missing the deadline first time around, please find attached the SFO's response to the Clyde cod spawning consultation.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

On 20 Oct 2021, at 12:09, [REDACTED]@gov.scot wrote:

Dear All,

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to the consultation on the continuation of the Clyde cod spawning closure. We are currently reviewing all of the responses.

Our initial consultation focused on our existing list of stakeholders; we are now extending this consultation to enable members of the public to share their views. The consultation has been published [online](#) and will run until Thursday 4th November 2021. Your existing responses remain valid so there is no need to respond a second time.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 September 2021 08:48
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde cod spawning consultation

Dear All,

Please find attached a consultation letter seeking views on the continuation of the seasonal closure (14 February – 30 April) in the Firth of Clyde to protect spawning cod during 2022 and 2023.

If you have any comments, please forward them to me by **Wednesday 13 October 2021** using the respondent information form found within the letter.

Please feel free to share this letter with any other parties who may hold an interest.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]



601 Queensferry Road
Edinburgh
EH4 6EA

[REDACTED]

www.scottishfishermen.co.uk

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43. Item 043

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: 04 November 2021 15:44

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Clyde fishing closures 2022 et al

I was hoping to find a 'form' in the consultation that I could use to state my concerns on the CV proposed Clyde fishing closures. Nothing has changed in the inner Clyde and sea lochs for 50 years. Fish stocks are totally decimated. The massive stocks of Nephrops / prawns currently existing in the inner Clyde is the result of a fractured food chain where fish that predate them are completely missing.

The fact that Clyde Fishermen orgs are involved in deciding closures is crazy. Likened to having Jailbirds decide the locks on their cell doors. The return of Cod in particular requires the seabed to repair itself from decades of bottom trawl. Allowing any fishing, especially trawling in controlled zone will make the whole exercise totally pointless. Since one inner Clyde now has a significant population of harbour porpoise and one pod of dolphins, fishing within the inner Clyde needs a moratorium. Last year, at least 3 porpoises (that are known about) were washed up dead, the assumption being caught in trawl nets. My message is simple. If Scotgov genuinely want to repair the ecological disaster of thd inner Clyde, a total ban needs to be placed on all trawl activities.

[REDACTED].

Sent from my iPhone

44. Item 044

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@live.co.uk>

Sent: 03 November 2021 18:39

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Clyde

Dear [REDACTED],

We believe that trawling of any kind in the Clyde should be banned, not just during Cod breeding season, shrimp trawling ruins the sea bed and leaves nothing growing for juvenile fish to shelter in, the Clyde is in real trouble.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

45. Item 045

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: 05 November 2021 10:55

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: cod conservation

Dear [REDACTED], clearly the status of cod stocks in the Clyde is a cause for real concern. Continued fishing at the present rate should be seriously curtailed in an effort to bring back stocks to a sustainable level. Any constraints on fishing are always resisted by commercial interests. There should be a moratorium to allow stocks to recover, this should include bottom trawling and scallop dredging. That is obvious and yet it would be resisted by fishermen. Nothing changes. Please impose a complete ban to facilitate a recovery. Ignore the moans, just do it and begin the recovery. Half measures do not work. Best wishes, [REDACTED] (a long retired University Zoology lecturer.)

46. Item 046

From: [REDACTED]@sff.co.uk

Sent: 08 November 2021 17:41

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Consultation on Cod in the Clyde

[REDACTED],

This is SFF response to the consultation.

Thanks again

[REDACTED]

Sent: 08 November 2021 11:44
To: [REDACTED]@sff.co.uk
Subject: RE: Consultation on Cod in the Clyde

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find attached the consultation document.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sff.co.uk
Sent: 08 November 2021 10:50
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Consultation on Cod in the Clyde

Thanks [REDACTED],
I will aim to send it today.
If you can resend the doc, it will save me time to dig it out
Thanks a lot!!

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 08 November 2021 10:48
To: [REDACTED]@sff.co.uk
Subject: RE: Consultation on Cod in the Clyde

Hi [REDACTED],

If you can get a response back to me by early afternoon tomorrow we can include your comments. Do you still have the original consultation document that I emailed out?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sff.co.uk
Sent: 08 November 2021 10:11
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Consultation on Cod in the Clyde

Hi [REDACTED],

I just realised I missed the deadline for the submission of the above-mentioned consultation.
Is it still possible to contribute?
Thanks in advance

[REDACTED]

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47. Item 047

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 11 January 2022 15:15
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Outcome of FOI Review - [REDACTED]

Hiya

Please see the response from [REDACTED] below. I have taken advice from our FOI unit and the questions below can be taken separately from the FOI review process and not to be taken as a new FOI request.

Is it ok for me to pass [REDACTED] email on to you for further action and response?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 10 January 2022 13:46
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Outcome of FOI Review - [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for that letter, which resolves some of the issues set out in my earlier letter. I am at least a little assured that your review found the initial grounds for refusal to be unacceptable. Although it perplexes me that Marine Scotland initially sought to use a different exemption when presumably they knew they did not hold a copy of the report. Any additional information about that would certainly be welcome.

It also remains surprising that Scottish Ministers would rely on a document for the purposes of making public policy when no copy of it is held. I am curious to understand how this could have happened, and look forward to hearing from you on that point.

I re-iterate my request that all research reports produced by the CFA referred to in Clyde Cod Consultations are immediately released to SIFT and note that the forthcoming meeting on 25th January may have to be completed before this occurs. I also request copies of any correspondence and minutes relating to that meeting showing how publication decisions were arrived at. Finally, I also request that the impending 'review' of how Clyde Cod Consultations proceed, is conducted in a fully transparent way adhering to a published timetable. Given the context of the review, SIFT requests a role in this review, as it would clearly be in the public interest to have full stakeholder participation in this important matter.

I note you state in your letter that SIFT has an option to take these issues further with the Information Commissioner: we do not wish to do so, but clearly it is an option which SIFT will have to decide upon in the next six months.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 January 2022 14:45
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: Outcome of FOI Review - [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope my email finds you well. Please find attached the decision in relation to your FOI Review Request.

I look forward to speaking to you soon.

Warmest regards

[REDACTED]

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48. Item 048

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 12 January 2022 22:46

To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; @gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Allan

See attached request for an early meeting from The Clyde Fishermen's Association.

Grateful for advice.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>

Sent: 12 January 2022 18:48

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Cabinet Secretary

I have just finished private stakeholder calls with [REDACTED] of Clyde, [REDACTED] from SFF and [REDACTED] of West Coast RIFG.

Calls were courtesy and in advance of amendments to the Clyde Cod Spawning closure which will remove the exemptions for some fishing activities that were in place being laid in parliament tomorrow.

[REDACTED] was extremely disappointed, unsure how she will tell her members and feels that this is simply a betrayal and will be seen by ENGOs as a win against them, they are incredibly active in their area and it feels like they have a direct line to instruct the SGP. They are feeling isolated and let down facing huge cumulative challenges against fishing in the Clyde with MPAs and HPMAs next on the radar as well as Marine planning partnerships. Against a backdrop of really hard times with covid and brexit it feels like the Govt has chosen a side and its clearly not fishing. General feeling that Govt won't cooperate or engage with them unlike before and they are now on completely opposing sides. Members likely to react very badly and she will be seeking a meeting asap.

[REDACTED] was pretty relaxed and seemed accepting of the rational for the change of position as I explained them to him.

[REDACTED] equally level headed, it feels clunky and not ideal practice, cautions that we will get challenge around process. Worried that it will be seen as a back door route to an early HPMA. Also understood the rational and seemed to latch onto the consistency point more than anything. Already a high level of anxiety about HPMAs coming in but trusts the process and hopes this doesn't undermine that.

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]

49. Item 049

From Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 January 2022 18:48
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc:) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Cabinet Secretary

I have just finished private stakeholder calls with [REDACTED] of Clyde, [REDACTED] from SFF and [REDACTED] of West Coast RIFG.

Calls were courtesy and in advance of amendments to the Clyde Cod Spawning closure which will remove the exemptions for some fishing activities that were in place being laid in parliament tomorrow.

[REDACTED] was extremely disappointed, unsure how she will tell her members and feels that this is simply a betrayal and will be seen by ENGOs as a win against them, they are incredibly active in their area and it feels like they have a direct line to instruct the SGP. They are feeling isolated and let down facing huge cumulative challenges against fishing in the Clyde with MPAs and HPMA's next on the radar as well as Marine planning partnerships. Against a backdrop of really hard times with covid and brexit it feels like the Govt has chosen a side and its clearly not fishing. General feeling that Govt won't cooperate or engage with them unlike before and they are now on completely opposing sides. Members likely to react very badly and she will be seeking a meeting asap.

[REDACTED] was pretty relaxed and seemed accepting of the rational for the change of position as I explained them to him.

[REDACTED] equally level headed, it feels clunky and not ideal practice, cautions that we will get challenge around process. Worried that it will be seen as a back door route to an early HPMA. Also understood the rational and seemed to latch onto the consistency point more than anything. Already a high level of anxiety about HPMA's coming in but trusts the process and hopes this doesn't undermine that.

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]

50. **Item 050**

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 13 January 2022 15:12

To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Hall K (Kate)

<Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate)

<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find attached correspondence from CFA. Grateful if this could be considered and let me know if you would like it to be added to MiCase.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 January 2022 10:02
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

[REDACTED]

This is on the back of early notification last night of changes to Clyde Cod closure and concerns over HPMAs and SGP agreement. Scotwind as yet unknown to them but will be added to concerns. We should accept. Clyde will be at FM round table on Scotwind I would imagine. So we will look for a date as soon as possible after that.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will deal with correspondence please

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEM 048]

51. **Attachment 050_1**

From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 13 January 2022 15:08
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Correspondance on Clyde Cod Box Closure from CFA for your Information.

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com
Sent: 13 January 2022 15:06
Subject: Correspondance on Clyde Cod Box Closure from CFA for your Information.

Please find CFA correspondence below and Clyde Cod Box Consultation detail.

Kind regards,

CFA Executive Committee

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

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52. **Attachment 050_1_a**



The Briggait
Unit 227
141 Bridgegate
Glasgow
G1 5HZ
Tel: 07985674246
Email: contact@clydefish.com

Chair of Clyde Fishermen's Association Responds to Clyde Cod Box Closure

<https://blogs.gov.scot/marine-scotland/2022/01/13/seasonal-clyde-cod-spawning-closure-14-february-30-april-includes-new-measures-to-strengthen-stock-recovery/>

As the Chair of the CFA I am absolutely shocked to the core at this decision which will see many of our members unable to fish sustainably for almost 3 months. We can't understand the lack of communication with our small scale fishing communities, or indeed the families and businesses they support not only around the Clyde but in wider Scotland, Northern Ireland and the EU. This impacts not only fishing but wider policy areas such as Scottish Trade, Tourism and the Food and Drink Sector. It impacts the core general socio-economics of our communities. It's going to impact not only boats, crew and factories, but also school numbers and jobs in local shops and services. In Campbeltown alone we have seen the closure of our creamery and a local renewables factory. The Government talk of initiatives to repopulate the rural communities, but such an action seems almost aimed at driving out fishing families who are already settled in the Clyde area.

Perhaps we could understand the decision if there were clear, balanced and genuine environmental benefits, but we haven't seen the science or the rationale to justify this action as proportionate. We could have proposed selectivity options which would have achieved

similar aims and allowed fishing to continue, this is sensibly the approach taken in the Irish Sea, but there has been no dialogue on any options or solutions.

This decision has completely changed the original purpose of the protection which fishermen ironically initially championed over two decades ago. I personally was one of the fishermen who championed this closure aimed at protecting cod stocks from net fishing, I am completely perplexed at how a Government we collaborated with to achieve something so positive together can now change the very purpose of the conservation objectives. I am even more concerned that this decision seems to have been influenced heavily by the Bute House Agreement rather than the recent Scottish Government Future of Fisheries Management Strategy. We need the officials we voted for as a country to be accountable to us, our Ministers have duties to protect our sustainable fishing communities too.

We have co-operated with the Scottish Government and in many instances shared their sustainable vision for vibrant and well managed fishing communities, but we currently feel like our communities have been used as a wider political pawn and shut out of a crucial decision impacting them. Sadly this has not been the first time, and frankly we feel disrespected without reason. We hoped our Government would work with us collaboratively on issues of conservation and management, and we are disappointed beyond words or reasonable comprehension. We have to be better than this collectively.

We urge Cabinet Secretary Gougeon and Minister Slater to set a date with haste to speak with the inshore small scale fishermen (*both mobile and static*) who knew nothing of this intention. It is these families and the associated businesses to whom they are proposing to deny a sustainable living without reasonable process. We reiterate we support solid science and genuine balanced conservation and have played our part in trying to address data gaps, but this needs to improve.

We are sorry to find our communities in this position, but our door is open to communication with the Scottish Government and its Ministers, and we hope there is time to reach a fairer outcome before the 14th of February 2022. As our fishing communities voice we cannot merely accept this action, we would not be doing our jobs.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

53. **Attachment 050_1_b**



The Briggait

Unit 227
141 Bridgewater
Glasgow
G1 5HZ

Tel: 07985674246
Email: contact@clydefish.com

Coastal Fisheries in Crisis Due to Political Decision Disconnected From Communities

As a mixed fishermen's association with static and mobile fishing members we have made continuous efforts to find sustainable ways of ensuring our coastal communities can survive and work with Government and our Ministers across the board. We have followed process to the best of our abilities despite challenging circumstances at times, and we have championed the Scottish Government's IFG Network and FMAC and IFMAC models.

As an association we proposed weekend bans on mobile fishing (*the only area in Scotland to have such a scheme*), we were a founding partner in creating a No Take Zone in the Clyde (*again the only NTZ in Scotland*) and over 20 years ago we also proposed the Clyde Box Closure in the Clyde to protect spawning stocks. We did this in collaboration with the Scottish Government who ultimately helped us to deliver these progressive measures. It is therefore incredibly demoralising and soul destroying to see such positive measures being turned against the sustainably minded fishermen who helped to create them, and all without any meaningful involvement.

Today the relatively new in office Fisheries Minister Mairi Gougeon has announced in Parliament that she intends to close a large expanse in the Clyde Marine Area, indeed the very area the CFA helped to bring fisheries measurements in through a Scottish Statutory Instrument more than 20 years ago. This new measure excludes all bottom contact fishing in the area, be it static/creel fishing or mobile fishing. This decision will have a horrific impact on the fishing families of the Clyde, and we are struggling to identify the reasons for this action. The area will be closed from the 14th of February to the 30th of April, this will mean a total loss of income for many of the small family boats for months, this is not a burden they can easily bare as these fishing communities have already had the hardest two years they can recall between Brexit and Covid. Income aside it will also have social and environmental impacts. Some families may sell up and relocate, families can't survive for months with no income, this will impact not only the fishing economy, but also the wider socio-economy of fishing villages, towns and their facilities such as shops and schools. Environmentally this closure will push the local boats and Northern Irish boats who fish the Clyde into the smaller fishing areas which are left. This could mean unsustainably high fishing levels into smaller areas where previously the effort was sensibly spread.

If Scottish produce and supporting local businesses, the environment and people are important then this snap decision is certainly wrong headed at best. It will likely have the impact of witnessing sustainably minded small but vital family businesses going

to the wall along with further depopulation in areas like Argyll and Bute. It is quite unthinkable that a Fisheries Minister would act against progressive small scale fishing communities in such a way. This is not the relationship of mutual respect we genuinely hoped to forge with our new Fisheries Minister.

What communication and involvement have the fishing communities had to consider this process?

As some background we should be clear that the Minister did not request a meeting on this issue with these fishing communities impacted in advance, not even a phone call to explain personally the decision and understand its impacts or explore other potential alternative measures. It seems this policy decision was one which the Scottish Green Party may have pushed our SNP Fisheries Minister on from their position of vantage in Edinburgh and Glasgow, not from the depopulating areas of Kintyre and beyond which will feel this most keenly. Our fishing communities are left reeling at this shock decision.

It should be noted that prior to this announcement our umbrella organisation requested a general meeting with Lorna Slater as both the Minister for the Circular Economy and Biodiversity and as the MSP relevant to our office Headquarters. This request was surprisingly not supported, indeed the letter of reply in December 2021 even used the wrong organisations name in its reply and suggested contact with Minister Gougeon instead. We have requested a meeting with Minister Gougeon, but we would have far rather have done so in advance of this unexpected radical step.

As previously noted it was the fishermen themselves who initially suggested the Clyde Cod Box closure over 20 years ago to targeted net fishing of cod and worked with the Scottish Government to implement it. The purpose of which was to try and protect cod stocks from fishing, and the measures were geared more specifically to net fishing of targeted cod fishing, not prawn or scallop fishing by creels or mobile trawl as they do not target cod fishing and have a very low by catch of finfish as proven by observed science trips (less than 1%).

What about the science?

As already explained local fishermen believe this proposal is actually likely to place increased pressure on the smaller remaining open areas of the Clyde, and this is not likely to be positive for fish populations at all. Where once fishing had been spread out and less intense, it will now be unnecessarily intense in some areas. Our local fishermen do not consider this to be a positive management step.

The scientific rationale for this sudden closure is questionable. Science on the West Coast is generally quite data deficient often due to a lack of resources, this can mean that information on fish populations can be very limited, even the work which is available and cited in the original Cod Box Consultation is quite limited in the scope of its research. For three years the CFA, St Andrew's University and Marine

Scotland worked together to conduct neutral baseline surveys which aimed to try and assess basic cod and finfish populations, this happened in the Clyde Cod Box area. The trials were stopped in 2018 due to issues at Marine Scotland with staffing resources to take part, but the CFA and St Andrews University have been consistently requesting the trials are restarted and keen to support them in terms of resources. Without such trials the practical knowledge of the area is missing and informed policy decisions are difficult to take. As the Cod Box Consultation outlines the limited science for the whole West Coast on cod does seem to suggest that cod numbers are quite low, and therefore there could be an argument that the Clyde Cod Box closure has achieved little and is no longer required. The CFA/St Andrews University and Marine Scotland trials did seem to suggest that some limited spawning might be taking place in some specific small areas, but in reality a continuation of these trials would have been the key factor in establishing if this was the case. However it should be noted that muddy ground is not the optimum conditions for cod spawning, and much of the area selected for closure is muddy sediment. This is why it is all the more frustrating that the trials could not continue to offer a basic baseline of the situation. The CFA were keen not to commission work without the involvement of Marine Scotland and neutral scientists to avoid any accusations of bias in findings.

It should also be noted that for around five years the CFA have been raising what local fishermen believe to be key issues impacting cod stocks on the West Coast. One of those issues is climate change. As the water in the Clyde heats up cod stocks are moving North, this is a pattern also witnessed by our Nordic neighbours who have very detailed science generally. However as the cod move further North new stocks are moving in, namely skate and spurdogs (a small shark). Both species are protected, but fishermen note the incredible increase in both stocks from their first hand experience. This changing of stocks means a changing eco-system, but it should be noted that skates and spurdog are both predators of cod and other finfish such as hake. If spurdog, skates and indeed seal numbers are high (*as they are in the Clyde and West Coast*) then it must be practically expected that the fish stocks which they predate on will experience declines, it's a balance of nature. Keeping in mind that fishing gear in the Clyde is incredibly selective and bycatch of fish such as cod is scientifically observably very low then the cod population is more likely to be impacted by temperature change and predation from other species. Again local fishermen are extremely frustrated as they have been pleading for years to help conduct partnership science on these issues of predation interaction and stock levels. Indeed spurdog pilot schemes have happened in the South Coast of England which were very similar in nature to that which West Coast fishermen have continually asked to do, however in five years we have not been able to progress this work with Marine Scotland due to their limited staff resources. Again very frustrating for local fishermen who are keen to work not only with what they see anecdotally, but also with what neutral science can prove. Science helps to inform not only fisheries management but also local conservation where required, its badly required on the West Coast of Scotland.

It should be noted that the biomass of finfish in the Clyde has actually increased since the 1940's. The size and species of fish have changed through the years but it is a little known fact that fish biomass has indeed increased, it certainly would not be obvious by some of the current campaign narratives circulating publicly. We really

have to work together on neutral science and communication to improve our coastal fisheries management particularly inshore, it's not reflexive at the moment.

It could be noted that there are Cod Closures in the North Sea, so its perfectly reasonable to expect them in in other areas too. A few key things to remember are:

- There are significant targeted cod fisheries in the North Sea which do not apply in the Clyde
- The science in the North Sea is more precise, so proportionate and specific spawning areas can be identified and closed, in the Clyde case a huge marine area is being closed to local small boats who are not targeting cod at all. Much of this huge area will not be spawning ground at all, the science isn't there to demonstrate conclusively where these areas are and much of the seabed ground is in fact mud.
- The closure of the Clyde Cod Box was never directed at shellfish fisheries with low bycatch, it was directed at finfish net fisheries of cod to protect the stocks. So this instrument has been extended into a management measure which it was never intended to be in the first place. It is generally felt this decision has been achieved through lobbying and political pressure outside normal process which has resulted in a Ministerial decision without any direct dialogue or understanding of the fishing communities perspectives.
- The North Sea is a much larger area with much larger boats, the inshore fleet face displacement, more intense area specific fishing and safety issues as small boats are forced out of their areas of safety. They can't simply "move on".

So what about the process?

There has been a long standing Clyde Cod Box Consultation which has run for a number of years. The CFA have generally supported the seasonal closure of targeted cod fisheries. Normally the consultation has been public, or has been circulated by Marine Scotland around their FMAC and IFMAC networks, which includes fisheries stakeholders and eNGOs. Last year a consultation was circulated to FMAC members on the 15/09/21 asking for views on the Clyde Cod Box to be returned by the 13/10/21. From what we understand some well funded lobby groups and scientists who are affiliated/work with these lobby groups started to question the process of consultation which Marine Scotland operated. Consequently the consultation was re-opened and extended on the 20th of October 2021 to the 4th of November 2021, during this period an orchestrated social media campaign was delivered by the network of lobby groups which tend to be against current small scale models of community fishing. These groups funded significantly externally to the communities which are under consideration.

At this stage CFA, SFF and CIFA started to raise concerns with Marine Scotland that a campaign seemed to be targeting the Clyde fishing communities, this had previously happened in 2015/2016 and led to a Ministerial decision going outside the agreed MPA process in the Clyde. The Clyde was the only area in Scotland where this happened and it was feared it was happening again, but this time the fishing communities have very little resilience to continue. We heard no more about the

results of the consultation and where assured that Marine Scotland would look at results fairly. We also note that Scottish Government Consultations should be live for 12 weeks, this has not happened. Neither have we received feedback or dissemination.

We heard no more of the consultation. We were informed very shortly before the Ministers statement that a public announcement would happen in Parliament which would see a closure of the Clyde Cod Box and that no static or mobile fishing would occur in the area from the 14th of February until the 30th of April. We have seen no science to back this specific act, no socio-economic rationale and have had no explanation from the Fisheries Minister. We aren't clear at all if this decision is in anyway related to the Clyde Box Consultation (*which clearly didn't follow 12 week protocol*) or if this is purely a Ministerial Decision. We are aware that the Scottish Green Party feel that this action reflects the sentiments conveyed about protecting spawning grounds which are outlined in the Bute House Agreement, however as already noted its not clear where the actual spawning grounds are, and the area ear marked for closure far extends where any specific spawning grounds could be, its mostly muddy area where cod generally don't spawn according to some scientists. This is not similar to the precise area closures in the North Sea, yet again the Clyde seems singled out for a deviation from process, just as we witnessed in 2015/2016. This is perhaps all the more frustrating as the CFA have attempted for a number of years to support up to date science about stocks and spawning patterns, and this was halted.

What Next?

We are in complete shock and disbelief that this process has been handled in such a way. This feels like a re-run of the break in process which only the Clyde faced in 2015/2016 national MPA process. Local fishermen could be forgiven for feeling that the area they sustainable fish in small boats not targeting cod at all are being relentlessly attacked by a policies which are not being implemented in other marine regions, and indeed policies which don't follow transparent consultation guidance. The lack of communication, consideration and involvement is staggering and directed towards fishing communities who have done their utmost to support balanced conservation. The stretching of the original purpose of the closure to fit some "new objectives" is confusing. It is true that the Bute House agreement mentions fishing interaction and the protection of spawning grounds, but a programme is already underway to develop that separately nationally so our question is why hi-jack this over 20 year old process to deliver another outcome? We can't believe this would be the decision of civil servants who actually understand the process, rather a political decision.

It feels less than transparent, there certainly has been less engagement than may have been required if national process was followed for spawning ground identification, as other regions will. To suggest closing a huge area to small scale community boats where tiny pockets of spawning "***might***" be present, (*but as far as we know the data isn't there to collaborate, although not through to the lack of local fishermen trying*) is not using the precautionary principle, its rational is hard to define or understand. It's throwing caution to the wind for fishermen and their families. It will see small fishing communities who have tried to trust their politicians and

process penalised again disproportionately without so much as a discussion. What it does seem to suggest is that lobby groups have more effectively played the system yet again, and it seems to suggest they may also have a very productive relationship with the Scottish Green Party. It also sadly demonstrates that Scottish Clyde Fishermen have reached out, but sadly they can't rely on their Ministers to protect, work with or support their communities, and this is the most upsetting realisation. Coastal fishermen are the backbone of communities, they have supported the Scottish Government's process during Cabinet Secretary Fergus Ewing's productive time in office, but they have now been let down again. They don't want special treatment, they just want fair and transparent treatment, and this is no "just" approach to working with the national Scottish assets of our fishing communities and indeed our world class supply of seafood.

We hear of "just transition", but how can leaving families in rural communities with no income for months be just? Sustainable fishermen want to fish sustainably, to leave what they can for the next day, and more than that for their children and grandchildren. They don't want compensation but it hasn't even been discussed and it should be if this proposal proceeds as is as it feels like decommissioning by stealth. Death by a thousand cuts to the small family fishing boats. If this can happen to the balanced fishermen who work 4 day weeks and want to help protect the environment and support science, then what else next?

Our fisherman reached out to Minister Slater to help explain to her our sustainable vision and how circular economies work in small fishing communities, but the rejection to even meet is a worrying sign. Politician's need knowledge of their constituents before influencing or making decisions which will impact lives in a negative way. There are measures which could have been applied, for example selectivity of gear measures are used in similar cod boxes in the Irish Sea, a discussion about potential options to allow more protection and coastal fishing to continue would have been expected. Section 6 of the Scottish Marine Plan notes that:

"Existing fishing opportunities and activities are safeguarded wherever possible"

It was possible in this case, and it's been disregarded.

We need answers to what has occurred here, because the fishing communities can't accept this without challenge, it is not in Scottish interests to do so. We invite Minister Gougeon to urgently speak to the Clyde fishing communities.

54. Item 052

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 13 January 2022 15:21

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands CabSecRAI@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: Correspondance on Clyde Cod Box Closure from CFA for your Information.

For MiCase please for an urgent MR.

AO – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com

Sent: 13 January 2022 15:06

Subject: Correspondance on Clyde Cod Box Closure from CFA for your Information.

Please find CFA correspondence below and Clyde Cod Box Consultation detail.

Kind regards,

CFA Executive Committee

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55. Item 053

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 14 January 2022 20:40

To: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

[REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing the statement and response to the recently announced The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022. I appreciate and understand that this has elicited strong feelings and reaction among the fishing communities of the Clyde.

The Scottish Government is committed to sustainable fisheries and has a record of working constructively with industry to achieve this. Our aim is to restore marine habitats in Scotland's inshore waters, to provide a higher chance of stock recovery and contribute to more sustainable fisheries in the future. This is a key tenet of both the Bute House Agreement and the Scotland's Fisheries Management Strategy 2020 – 2030.

Although we note the points you have made on this, it is the government's considered view that removal of the exemptions will create consistency with management in other areas, including the [UK National North Sea Cod Avoidance Plan](#), which covers closure areas for all gear types (excluding pelagic), and the recent emergency [Marine Protected Area \(MPA\) designation](#) in the Inner Sound and related [Marine Conservation Order](#), which includes prohibition on creeling and diving in order to protect the critically endangered flapper skate nursery area.

I will be happy to meet with you on Thursday 20 January at 14:30 in order to discuss the rationale behind this policy at greater length, as well as the concerns which you have raised on behalf of your members and their communities.

Kind regards

Mairi Gougeon MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

[REDACTED]

From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 12 January 2022 20:47
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com>
Sent: 12 January 2022 18:53
To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>;
scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

Dear Cabinet Secretary Gougeon,

The Clyde Fishermen's Association would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience regarding the survival of our local fishing fleets.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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56. Item 054

From: [Information redacted]@clydefish.com
Sent: 15 January 2022 19:00
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: [Information redacted]@clydefish.com>; [Information redacted]@clydefish.com>
Subject: Re: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

Thank you for your email Cabinet Secretary,

I feel it's important to note by reply that we are also committed to sustainable fisheries and sustainable coastal communities, which is exactly why our members led on the initial objectives of the conservation measure in the first instance.

Our members are very unlikely to agree on the points of consistency referenced below, but we are happy to confirm our attendance at the meeting to discuss the rationale in terms of science, communication with stakeholders, alternative available solutions, socio-economics and environmental impacts to not only fishing but it's wider communities and businesses.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

W www.clydefish.com

E contact@clydefish.com

T twitter.com/cfascot

F facebook.com/clydefishermen

Learn more about Clyde Fishermen on our YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOe_yUjWxqo

On Fri, Jan 14, 2022 at 8:40 PM <CabSecRAI@gov.scot> wrote:

[REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing the statement and response to the recently announced The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022. I appreciate and understand that this has elicited strong feelings and reaction among the fishing communities of the Clyde.

The Scottish Government is committed to sustainable fisheries and has a record of working constructively with industry to achieve this. Our aim is to restore marine habitats in Scotland's inshore waters, to provide a higher chance of stock recovery and contribute to more sustainable fisheries in the future. This is a key tenet of both the Bute House Agreement and the Scotland's Fisheries Management Strategy 2020 – 2030.

Although we note the points you have made on this, it is the government's considered view that removal of the exemptions will create consistency with management in other areas, including the UK National North Sea Cod Avoidance Plan, which covers closure areas for all gear types (excluding pelagic), and the recent emergency Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation in the Inner Sound and related Marine Conservation Order, which includes prohibition on creeling and diving in order to protect the critically endangered flapper skate nursery area.

I will be happy to meet with you on Thursday 20 January at 14:30 in order to discuss the rationale behind this policy at greater length, as well as the concerns which you have raised on behalf of your members and their communities.

Kind regards

Mairi Gougeon MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

[REDACTED]

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 12 January 2022 20:47

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com>

Sent: 12 January 2022 18:53

To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>;

scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

Dear Cabinet Secretary Gougeon,

The Clyde Fishermen's Association would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience regarding the survival of our local fishing fleets.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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57. Item 055

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com
Sent: 17 January 2022 21:41
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com; [REDACTED]@clydefish.com
Subject: Clyde Cod Closure and Report

Dear All,

We are somewhat confused by what seems to be happening here at the moment. We will address each point by point in reference to the attached screenshots:

1 - Consultation Permission Form

All parties we are aware of who filled in the consultation on the Clyde Closure seem to have been contacted tonight at 6.30pm to let them know that they have not filled in detail on permitting permission to publish. This form was not included in the original option, indeed it still isn't on the consultation page online (screenshot attached). Could you shed some light on why this is the case? We also noted that the results page had been updated on the 7th of December, but there isn't any information there currently?

2 - We also noted this FOI updated today:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202100252395/>

We have also attached a screenshot of a section from the above link which implies the delay of the report release was unavoidable on the side of CFA as well. However this report was due to be discussed in 2018, but the meeting was delayed, not by the CFA.

The report was passed on to Marine Scotland and came from St Andrews University. At the start of the project there had been a meeting in which it was agreed that the CFA would not release any detail before a wash up meeting and agreement/sign off from Marine Scotland and St Andrew's. Indeed in years past the process was that Marine Scotland would publish this on their website when it was finalised. We wouldn't do anything without Marine Scotland signing off first, as was the conditions of a respectful partnership discussed at the start. We wanted all science to be neutral, this is why we would not attempt to unilaterally embark on science without the partnership and sign off of Marine Scotland and a group such as St Andrew's University. We are aware of how contentious our marine area can be and would risk no chance of being considered bias or working out of agreed frameworks.

After the first FMAC consultation last year I explained this to Marine Scotland staff over the phone and by email (attached), as did St Andrews University Academics. This caused a degree of difficulty for us at the time as during the first two week Cod Consultation Marine Scotland suggested that the CFA were directly contacted by everyone interested in the consultation to obtain the report. Of course this report had not been yet been signed off so we weren't in a position to release.

This resulted in a host of eNGO groups and others contacting us directly asking for the report, which we felt we couldn't and shouldn't release. It uncomfortably may have appeared we were holding back information to some parties, when we were merely trying to be respectful of the partnership process and sign off of Marine Scotland and St Andrew's University.

It should be noted in addition that we had asked a number of times annually since 2018 until 2021 to have a meeting with Marine Scotland and St Andrew's University regarding the cod report and future trials to progress the report/trials. A date is non confirmed now for the 25th of January 2022.

Both CFA and St Andrew's were keen to re establish the trials at our own cost, but since 2018 Marine Scotland noted that they had restricted resource implications, and later prioritisations to make during Covid and Brexit. We understand this, but its important to note the will was there on our side not to delay the work.

What should be (*and absolutely was*) an excellent example of fishermen, academics and government working together to build neutral science and mutual trust and respect seems to be turning into something it really should not be. It really is regrettable and not something we would ever have wanted to see unfold.

If this work had continued we may have had far more informative science which would have no doubt helped to advise on precise specific spawning areas/times and stocks in the Clyde. Rather than this we appear to have knee jerk policy closures of large areas which are mainly not cod spawning grounds at all, and certainly not fished by targeted cod fisheries. I attach a copy of CFA Clyde Closure Repose indicating our willingness to work together on future science.

We would be obliged if perhaps CFA could be removed on the FOI as a reason for the delay or as the main public contact for report until this matter can be discussed at the next meeting on the 25th of January.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**Scottish Oceans Institute and Cl...**

possible, in this instance we are unable to provide some of the information you have requested because exceptions under regulation 10(4)(d) (the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data) and regulation 10(4)(e) (internal communications) of the EIRs applies to that information.

These exceptions are subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in release on the basis of interest in an open and transparent government. However, this is outweighed by the public interest in not releasing draft information until these documents have been finalised and signed off, following due process and appropriate scrutiny. The report that you have requested will be made available as soon as possible following its final review. It was referred to in the consultation document in good faith that it will be made available by Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) at the earliest possible date. It was unfortunate that circumstances outwith our control or that of CFA, (namely due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the impacts of EU Exit), caused delays to this report being finalised and published. We are in the process of scheduling a date in January to hold a meeting to review the report and hope that this will enable publication shortly afterwards.

There were also a number of draft documents which fitted the scope of internal correspondence under





Hello All,

For clarity, what previously happened was [redacted] and [redacted] team came on trials and wrote up findings. There would then be a meeting called where Marine Scotland would look over the results with CFA and St Andrews Scientists, any points would be picked up on the report or it was simply agreed, then a forward rough plan would be made and agreed for the next surveys. This would also be the point that any reports were published on the Marine Scotland website.

About 3 years ago there was an issue with funding and resourcing, not from the CFA side as we were keen to keep the work going and support it, but it was a lack of resource I believe at MS Labs and related to funding cycles. It was expected at the time to be a short term issue, and although no firm commitments were given there was good will to keep the work going if possible. It was noted at the time missing a year wouldn't impact the data too much in any case.

Of course this was followed by Covid, and Brexit issues. This has resulted in the normal meeting we would have had after the last trials not happening, although we have requested this a number of times we do appreciate Marine Scotland resources and time were limited to take a meeting forward. We do hope we can have one shortly to go over the last reports. Usually after the meeting the reports would be available online through the Marine Scotland website.

In addition there has been a collection of otoliths which have been maintained from the trials but not aged etc. That might be a piece of work we want to collectively consider going forward.

So really from our perspective we have passed the report from St Andrews on to Marine Scotland, and we would hope at some point soon to have a meeting to go over the report and consider any future work if possible. We would be happy for a date to be set and we can work around everyone's best availability.

We wouldn't have passed the report out until we had the trials wash up meeting collaboratively, and as previously we would expect it would then be available on the MS website.

Many thanks,

19:27 [notification icons] [signal strength]

www.gov.scot/publications/cly [36] [menu]

Supporting documents

Clyde Cod Spawning Closure 2022-23: Consultation
14 page PDF
483.0 kB

[Download](#)

Respondent Information Form
DOCX
93.2 kB

[Download](#)

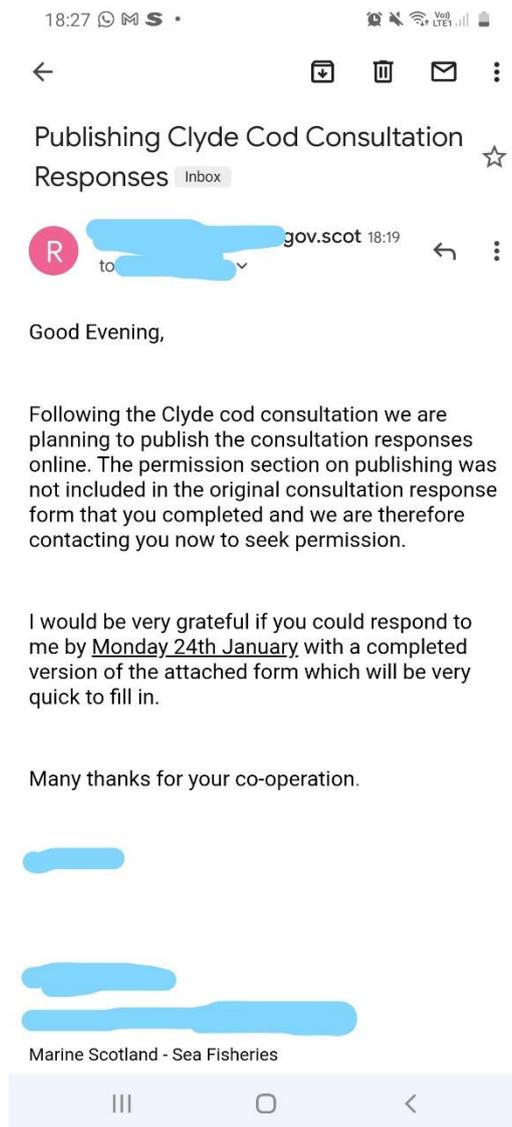
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61. **Attachment 055_4**



62. Item 056

From: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk
Sent: 17 January 2022 18:25
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk
Subject: RE: Publishing Clyde Cod Consultation Responses

Thanks [REDACTED]

See attached from Open Seas.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 17 January 2022 18:20
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Publishing Clyde Cod Consultation Responses

Good Evening,

Following the Clyde cod consultation we are planning to publish the consultation responses online. The permission section on publishing was not included in the original consultation response form that you completed and we are therefore contacting you now to seek permission.

I would be very grateful if you could respond to me by Monday 24th January with a completed version of the attached form which will be very quick to fill in.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

[REDACTED]

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63. Item 057

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2022 18:20
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Publishing Clyde Cod Consultation Responses

Good Evening,

Following the Clyde cod consultation we are planning to publish the consultation responses online. The permission section on publishing was not included in the original consultation

response form that you completed and we are therefore contacting you now to seek permission.

I would be very grateful if you could respond to me by Monday 24th January with a completed version of the attached form which will be very quick to fill in.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

[REDACTED]

64. Item 060

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 18 January 2022 14:40

To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Cod Spawning closure, Firth of Clyde

Good spot...wonder what the reason is for a change in position?

[REDACTED]

From: [Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>

Sent: 18 January 2022 12:58

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Cod Spawning closure, Firth of Clyde

Make sure we highlight that they are now saying something very different

Allan Gibb

Head of Sea Fisheries Division

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 18 January 2022 09:51

To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot> [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Cod Spawning closure, Firth of Clyde

Just to highlight this is a change of position from the letter from COAST to RECC in 2020.

“Whilst the Committee was content generally with the content of the SSI, it wished to forward correspondence that it had received from the Community of Arran Seabed Trust today. The Trust have noted that—

“The original version of this Order was put in place as an attempt to boost the population of cod in the Firth of Clyde - an inshore sea which once was noted for the abundance of cod, haddock, herring and other seafood. The Order did this by prohibiting the use of bottom-dragging, high-impact fishing methods over a small area south of the Isle of Arran at a time of the year when the fish were expected to spawn.

All iterations of the Order have included exemptions for vessels trawling for prawns, dredging for scallops and also vessels using creels. It therefore seems to me that this Order has always been likely to fail in its objective as all three methods, to a greater or lesser extent, will have a detrimental impact on the seabed and any fish trying to reproduce thereon.

Perhaps the Committee could consider requesting that the exclusions are removed from the current and any subsequent version of this Order?”

I would be grateful if you could consider the suggestion from the Trust in relation to future versions of the SSI, and also keep the Committee up to date with any decisions made on this issue.”

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 18 January 2022 09:37
To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Cod Spawning closure, Firth of Clyde
Importance: High

FYI

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 18 January 2022 09:34
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Cod Spawning closure, Firth of Clyde

Importance: High

For MiCase please.

AO – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@arrancoast.com>

Sent: 18 January 2022 09:31

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: Cod Spawning closure, Firth of Clyde

Importance: High

18th January 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing)
(Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

I should like to offer my thanks to you for presenting the Order in Parliament last week; after more than twenty years, it is quite likely that this Order and its precursors will begin to achieve the results originally intended as a consequence of the banning of demersal trawling and scallop dredging within the scheduled areas.

However, as one of those who initially requested a review of the preceding orders, I am saddened to see that it has been thought necessary to prohibit the use of creels and other lower impact methods of fishing, which are closer to the idea of sustainable fisheries for which we are all striving.

I do not think that creeling for crustaceans, or diving for shellfish, in the periphery of the areas would have a material affect on the ability of cod to spawn successfully; the main issue has always been the use of dragged equipment over large areas causing longer-term disruption.

I am concerned that a blanket ban on all commercial fishing will cause financial hardship to fragile communities, and is likely to diminish support from the static fisheries sector for other restoration, conservation and management measures.

I therefore respectfully ask that the Order be modified so that the low-impact methods be permitted (where otherwise allowed) within the scheduled areas; if necessary being restricted to within two or three nautical miles of the shore – this being where most small vessel operators would normally be fishing.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Community of Arran Seabed Trust

[REDACTED]



Old Pavilion, Lamlash
Isle of Arran, KA27 8LS

Company No. SC299917
Registered Charity in Scotland No. SCO42088

65. Item 061

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 14:50
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Recovery Box

Just to be clear then I think we need to say they can remain in situ unbaited as we are majoring on disturbance as the issue they are included.

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 18 January 2022 14:41
To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Clyde Cod Recovery Box

FYI - ties in with Allan's point re leaving creels where they are

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 18 January 2022 14:34
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde Cod Recovery Box

For MiCase please and an OR.

AO – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com
Sent: 18 January 2022 13:38
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde Cod Recovery Box

Dear Madam,

I was shocked last week with your announcement that the exemptions for creel fishermen to fish in the Clyde Cod Recovery Box were to be lifted.

Since leaving school 30 years ago I have fished sustainably for crab and lobsters exclusively in this area and have never landed a fin fish like cod or haddock. I feel unfairly singled out for the failure of another species that I have never fished for.

In the order that you signed last week it states that the closure will have little impact financially on the fishing industry. However last year during the same 11 week period I made £10,000. This year with the ban in place and no offer of financial compensation I will earn nil.

Unlike the larger mobile trawlers and scallop dredgers who can relocate to other areas this is not an option for me. With 600 creels to move, and only an under 10 meter vessel, it will take me 10 boat loads to move the gear safely at a time of year when storms are all too common. I have been instructed by Marine Scotland that I am not permitted to simply leave my creels where they are and would risk having the gear confiscated, plus a fine of up to £50,000. The only option left would be to hope for a suitable weather window to transport the gear back to shore. Due to the large volume of fuel used this does not seem environmentally sensible.

I hope you can see the worry and financial stress this has put on myself and family all to protect a species that I have had no interest, or limited impact on, during my 30 years of making a living from this area. I am asking you to either reinstate the exemptions allowing creel boats continue to make a sustainable living from this area or compensate us financially to see us through a difficult time.

Regards

[REDACTED]

66. Item 062

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find attached our permission slip, Our Seas are happy to have their response published.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 17 Jan 2022 at 18:19, <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> wrote:

Good Evening,

Following the Clyde cod consultation we are planning to publish the consultation responses online. The permission section on publishing was not included in the original consultation response form that you completed and we are therefore contacting you now to seek permission.

I would be very grateful if you could respond to me by Monday 24th January with a completed version of the attached form which will be very quick to fill in.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

[REDACTED]

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--

Coordinator for Our Seas Coalition

A coalition campaigning for change in the way Scottish inshore waters are managed.

Facebook [@ourseasscotland](#) Twitter [@ourseas_scot](#)

Sign the #InshoreLimit petition: <http://bit.ly/inshorelimit>

67. Item 063

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 18 January 2022 13:21
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Publishing Clyde Cod Consultation Responses

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 17 January 2022 18:20
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Publishing Clyde Cod Consultation Responses

Good Evening,

Following the Clyde cod consultation we are planning to publish the consultation responses online. The permission section on publishing was not included in the original consultation response form that you completed and we are therefore contacting you now to seek permission.

I would be very grateful if you could respond to me by Monday 24th January with a completed version of the attached form which will be very quick to fill in.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

[REDACTED]

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68. Item 064

From: [REDACTED]@sff.co.uk
Sent: 18 January 2022 11:30
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde Cod RIF Update

[REDACTED],
attached the authorisation form
Regards

[REDACTED]

Scottish Fishermen's Federation

24 Rubislaw Terrace | Aberdeen | AB10 1XE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | sff.co.uk

Follow us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)



Registered Address | Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) | 24 Rubislaw Terrace | Aberdeen | AB10 1XE

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69. Item 065

From: [REDACTED]@swfpa.com

Sent: 18 January 2022 09:29

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@swfpa.com; [REDACTED]@btinternet.com; [REDACTED]@btconnect.com

Subject: Re: Publishing Clyde Cod Consultation Responses

[REDACTED]

Please find attached response from MNWFA and SWFPA.

[Redacted]

This is regrettable but given the underhand tactics that were used in this consultation by co-ordinated groups peddling misinformation to seek support for their stance, I think it would be wise to limit the information we make available to them.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: "[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Date: Monday, 17 January 2022 at 18:19

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Publishing Clyde Cod Consultation Responses

Good Evening,

Following the Clyde cod consultation we are planning to publish the consultation responses online. The permission section on publishing was not included in the original consultation response form that you completed and we are therefore contacting you now to seek permission.

I would be very grateful if you could respond to me by Monday 24th January with a completed version of the attached form which will be very quick to fill in.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

[REDACTED]

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70. Item 070

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 14 January 2022 13:29
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Clyde cod closure



[REDACTED]

Marine Scotland: Sea Fisheries Policy Division
Scottish Government | Area 1B North | Victoria Quay | EH6 6QQ

[REDACTED]

W: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 14 January 2022 08:52
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Clyde cod closure

For MR please

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com

Sent: 13 January 2022 22:40

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: Clyde cod closure

Dear Mairi I write regarding your announcement in parliament earlier today regarding the Clyde cod closures. We have significant concerns as to the nature and implications of the announced legislation and although we are yet to assess the true scale and impact of your announcement we are confident that what has happened here is not something to celebrate by anyone.

We have some specific concerns regarding the soundness of several elements of this decision, especially the fact that activities not known to substantially impact cod recruitment, like creeling and diving, have been included in the list of prohibited activities. We have requested background information from Marine Scotland so that we might make better informed representations to yourself and have copied you into this request below so that in the interim you might better understand our concerns.

Outwith copying you into our request for information so that we might understand the process that has led to this, we also would like to make representations regarding the nature of this announcement.

- At this stage we can not understand why creeling and diving have been included in the restrictions. We know of no good reason why those activities would be restricted, unlike is the case with trawl and dredge, no scientific studies or other information that we know of implicates creel or dive fisheries in meaningfully impacting cod recruitment.
- We see no provision for financial mitigations for the fishermen and their families whom have potentially lost significant amounts of income. Be they creel, dredge, dive or trawl.
- We see no recognition or provision for the fact that unlike most trawlers and dredgers which are to some extent nomadic, some of the creelers due to the very nature of their fishery being "static" will not be in a position to fish elsewhere at all, and accordingly the ability of their businesses to survive, and all of their families income, could be utterly devastated for the whole period of the closure. If those fishermen lose either their grounds or gear the impacts could persist long after the closure.
- Another issue peculiar to the creel fishery is that the creel fishing gear (the creels themselves) usually reside and fish on the seabed full-time, and unless they are being hauled and baited they stay on the seabed. The gear however is not abandoned, it requires regular servicing, emptying and re baiting else it can get tangled and lost to potentially become ghost gear. It is neither pragmatic and certainly it's never been done before to take all the gear out of the southern Clyde and store it ashore. Nor is it pragmatic to abandon it at sea for nearly three months. We keenly await the details of the proposals and mitigations that have been arranged to address this challenge.

- We are quite aghast that considering the significance and scale of the impacts of this move we only learned about it after it was announced on twitter. Other than knowing the so called 'cod closure' (its never even been closed to trawling before now!) was subject to ongoing consultation, we have had no forewarning and opportunity to put mitigations in place or otherwise advise our members that their industry and livelihoods may be imminently devastated and worse still, from what we can see, devastated for no good reason.

We fully support the need to recover the Clyde cod stocks and accordingly we support the introduction of fisheries management measures to achieve this, nevertheless we would expect at the very least that any measures were evidence based, ecosystem based and proportionate. Furthermore we would expect the socio economic implications to have been well mapped and suitable mitigations prepared. We respectfully tender that this announcement fails that standard on all counts. We will be writing to you again once we have a better understanding of the situation. In the interim we are politely requesting that you ensure the information we have requested, and copied below, from Marine Scotland is forthcoming and also that you give consideration to how we might address the above representations

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Scottish Creel Fisherman's Federation

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@Fishlegal.net; [REDACTED]@icloud.com

Sent: Thursday, 13 Jan, 2022 At 15:23

Subject: Clyde cod closure

Dear [REDACTED],

We have just become aware (via twitter!) that you have decided to close a significant area of the Clyde to creeling, we are aware there is an annual cod spawning event in this area, however we question the rational behind the decision prohibiting creeling. Quite obviously it was utter madness (arguably another example obvious bias) for Marine Scotland to allow an exemption during the annual spawning event for trawling and dredging. It is pretty obvious to any observer (excepting of course marine Scotland) that this exemption to dredging and trawling during the spawning event in no small way contributed to the dismal failure of the "closure" to meet the objectives of recovering the cod stocks in the Clyde, however we find it hard to imagine the same conclusions can be derived as to the exemption to allow creeling to continue in the area.

We are of the understanding that the Scottish government have committed to both an evidence based approach to fisheries management and an ecosystems based approach, we appreciate there is a significant by-catch and disturbance issue associated with trawling and a disturbance and habitat altering issue associated with dredging, however we fail to see how any impacts from creeling can be considered in any way of a comparable magnitude.

Like with the Longay Skate spawning area your apparent inability to differentiate between higher and lower impact fishing methods or offer preferential access to fishing opportunity on the basis of either their likelihood to undermine the management objectives of the site or allocate preferential access on account of social, economic or environmental performance is frankly very worrying and again indicative of the degree to which you appear to ignore the commitment to evidence based and ecosystems based fisheries management. Obviously we are not arguing that creels can have no impact, quite obviously creeling is capable of having some sort of impact (I guess a creel could land on a fishes head), however considering that you have seen fit to allow trawling and dredging in all previous years and creeling is several orders of magnitude less likely to impact the management objectives of the site. We question on what basis this decision has been made.

From our understanding it is not likely, if it is even possible, for a creel to catch an adult spawning age cod and therefore there is no by-catch issue, accordingly we can only conclude that you must have made some sort of assessment as to the likelihood of disturbance from creels falling on the spawning fishes heads? I appreciate this sounds ridiculous, however we can not fathom how else you might have come to such a ridiculous conclusion that creels might otherwise undermine the management objectives of the closure?

We look forward to being better apprised as to the evidence that informed your decision, including gaining an understanding of how you calculated the socio economic impacts on the creel sector and we look forward to seeing the environmental assessments you will have no doubt undertaken as to the relative impacts of dredging, trawling and creeling on the site and their respective likelihoods of undermining the management objectives of the closure.

- Can you please supply copies of the assessments you have made as to the relative likelihood of creeling, dredging and trawling on impacting the sites objectives.
- Can you please supply copies of correspondence and copies of all minutes of meetings internal and external that would assist us in understanding the rational behind these decisions including records of meetings with fisheries representatives and copies of advice issued to ministers.
- Over and above the preceding two requests can you please furnish ourselves with any further information we may have inadvertently omitted to request, that might inform ourselves as to how this announcement is either evidenced or ecosystems based or that might offer insight as to on what alternative basis this decision was made.

We thank you in advance for your time in this matter and look forward to gaining a better understanding of the processes and events that conspired to allow this situation to arise.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Scottish Creel Fisherman's Federation

71. **Item 071**

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 14 January 2022 13:17

To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: Request for explanation - Creel boats included in cod recovery zone in the Clyde

Hi Allan, [REDACTED],

Wanted to let you know that this has now also landed. Please let me know if you have views; we will work on the basis of the existing lines for the moment.

Just to flag that this is our second MR in two days, on top of the FOI. Hopefully this will slow down, but if this volume continues, I'll come back to you about getting some support from elsewhere.

Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 14 January 2022 08:53
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Request for explanation - Creel boats included in cod recovery zone in the Clyde

For MR please

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: 13 January 2022 20:41
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: jenni.minto.msp@parliament.scot
Subject: Request for explanation - Creel boats included in cod recovery zone in the Clyde

Dear Ms Gougeon,

cc. Jenni Minto, MSP for Argyll and Bute

I was shocked to read on the Marine Scotland website today that, with no prior warning, you have taken away my livelihood for three months, not only this year but next year as well. This, following the turbulent years we have had as a creel fishing family due to Brexit and then the COVID-19 pandemic, has been very hard to take.

As creel fisherman, we care deeply about sustainable fishing practises and the environment. We support actions to protect the industry for the future and act to always improve our

own work. The ban on creel boats within the cod recovery zone in the Clyde is completely unfounded and unscientific, not to mention unjustifiable.

I would sincerely appreciate an explanation on why creel boats have been included in this ban, with evidence on how you understand our fishing methods to interfere with cod spawning. We are aware that this decision has come following consultation with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), who themselves have expressed concern on the ban of creel boats on their social media.

We are small boats and can not simply 'relocate' our creels, as everything within our reach is included in the ban. Eleven weeks of no fishing means that I will not have an income for 25% of 2022, as mentioned above, a hard blow after the difficult 2 years we have all experienced. Especially as I am the sole earner for my wife and young child. To announce this with no mention of how this will affect families and communities, and with no mention of compensation for small businesses like mine, is truly disgusting.

I expect to hear from either or both of you at your earliest convenience, with an explanation or your plan of action with how you will resolve this. My phone number is [REDACTED].

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

72. Item 073

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 09 February 2022 18:14
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: FOI/eRDM Search - Clyde Cod

Hi [REDACTED]
Please see the attached brief email thread, cc'ing myself & [REDACTED], from colleagues at the University of Strathclyde. Neither myself nor [REDACTED] replied.
All the best
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] @gov.scot
Sent: 08 February 2022 15:15
To: [REDACTED] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FOI/eRDM Search - Clyde Cod

All,

Could you please **reply to me directly to the FOI request below when not already done** ?
This is to avoid the Cab Sec PO inbox (cc'd in my email) getting all responses.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 February 2022 11:49

To: [REDACTED] @gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: FOI/eRDM Search - Clyde Cod

Importance: High

All,

Could I please ask you to search in your inbox/eRDM folders for the following under the Freedom of Information ?

-Correspondence with all stakeholders / pressure groups / industry representatives regarding the Clyde fishing ground closure. This can be any Scottish Government Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers or civil servants in the period 1 October 2021 and 18 January 2022 and include emails, Whatsapp messages and meeting minutes.

-All correspondence between Cabinet Secretary Mairi Gougeon MSP, Minister Mairi McAllan MSP, Minister Lorna Slater MSP and civil servants regarding the Clyde fishing ground closure between 1 October 2021 and 18 January 2022 including, emails, Whatsapp messages and meeting minutes.

IMPORTANT: If one of the following names is included in one of these emails: [REDACTED], we already have a record and you don't need to send us this email again.

I would appreciate your feedback as soon as you can since the deadline as by the end of this week (Friday 11th Feb 22).

Thanks

[REDACTED]

73. **Attachment 073_1**

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 18 January 2022 20:27

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

Subject: Re: Clyde cod closure

I think it's a pretty fair summary of what we know about cod spawning behaviour. Faced with that, the decision to exclude all disturbance from a known spawning site would make sense.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 January 2022 18:45
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]
Subject: Clyde cod closure

All

This seems to be the analysis used to support the cod spawning closure in the Clyde:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/cod-spawning-areas-research/>

[REDACTED]

74. Attachment 075

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com
Sent: 18 January 2022 19:43
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Clyde cod closure exemption

Hi [REDACTED] am not sure how the wires got crossed here or if you read my email right, it said "if we wanted to apply for an exemption to the Clyde cod closure, what would the appropriate process be?".

Perhaps i didn't phrase it right so I will try again. Hi [REDACTED] we feel that an error or possible oversight has been made, and creel and dive fisheries should not be included in the measures being proposed to protect the Clyde cod", we believe we can make a clear and evidenced case to support that contention. We have been advised if that is indeed the case that we should approach Marine Scotland and enquire about applying for an exemption. We have written to the IFG and requested support from the membership and in the interim we are currently amassing a range of scientific papers and expert testimony that supports our proposition, accordingly we would like to know; if we wanted to apply for an exemption for either creel and or dive, to the Clyde cod closure, what would the appropriate process be? I'm not sure if you are not understanding the request or if you are saying that, regardless of the facts of the matter and regardless of the weight of evidence we can present you with, that there is no process available and or no possibility of having the facts of the matter considered!

can you please clarify?
cheers [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
To: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com
Sent: Tuesday, 18 Jan, 2022 At 17:27
Subject: RE: Clyde cod closure exemption
Hi [REDACTED],

The Order was laid last Thursday – see link – and you will see there are no exemptions for creelers. Comes into force 14/2.

[The Sea Fish \(Prohibition on Fishing\) \(Firth of Clyde\) Order 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

Best regards

[REDACTED]
Sea Fisheries Division
Scottish Government
Area 1 B South, Victoria Quay,
EDINBURGH, EH66QQ
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com
Sent: 17 January 2022 16:53
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde cod closure exemption

Hi [REDACTED], if we wanted to apply for an exemption to the Clyde cod closure, what would the appropriate process be? Cheers [REDACTED]

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75. Attachment 76

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 13 January 2022 17:25

To: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com
Cc: [REDACTED]@Fishlegal.net; [REDACTED]@icloud.com
Subject: RE: Clyde cod closure

Hi [REDACTED],

I just wanted to acknowledge your email from earlier today and let you know that we are currently considering the handling of your request.

We will be in touch shortly.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com
Sent: 13 January 2022 15:23
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@Fishlegal.net; [REDACTED]@icloud.com
Subject: Clyde cod closure

Dear [REDACTED],

We have just become aware (via twitter!) that you have decided to close a significant area of the Clyde to creeling, we are aware there is an annual cod spawning event in this area, however we question the rationale behind the decision prohibiting creeling. Quite obviously it was utter madness (arguably another example of obvious bias) for Marine Scotland to allow an exemption during the annual spawning event for trawling and dredging. It is pretty obvious to any observer (excepting of course Marine Scotland) that this exemption to dredging and trawling during the spawning event in no small way contributed to the dismal failure of the "closure" to meet the objectives of recovering the cod stocks in the Clyde, however we find it hard to imagine the same conclusions can be derived as to the exemption to allow creeling to continue in the area.

We are of the understanding that the Scottish government have committed to both an evidence based approach to fisheries management and an ecosystems based approach, we appreciate there is a significant by-catch and disturbance issue associated with trawling and a disturbance and habitat altering issue associated with dredging, however we fail to see how any impacts from creeling can be considered in any way of a comparable magnitude.

Like with the Longay Skate spawning area your apparent inability to differentiate between higher and lower impact fishing methods or offer preferential access to fishing opportunity on the basis of either their likelihood to undermine the management objectives of the site

or allocate preferential access on account of social, economic or environmental performance is frankly very worrying and again indicative of the degree to which you appear to ignore the commitment to evidence based and ecosystems based fisheries management.

Obviously we are not arguing that creels can have no impact, quite obviously creeling is capable of having some sort of impact (I guess a creel could land on a fishes head), however considering that you have seen fit to allow trawling and dredging in all previous years and creeling is several orders of magnitude less likely to impact the management objectives of the site. We question on what basis this decision has been made.

From our understanding it is not likely, if it is even possible, for a creel to catch an adult spawning age cod and therefore there is no by-catch issue, accordingly we can only conclude that you must have made some sort of assessment as to the likelihood of disturbance from creels falling on the spawning fishes heads? I appreciate this sounds ridiculous, however we can not fathom how else you might have come to such a ridiculous conclusion that creels might otherwise undermine the management objectives of the closure?

We look forward to being better appraised as to the evidence that informed your decision, including gaining an understanding of how you calculated the socio economic impacts on the creel sector and we look forward to seeing the environmental assessments you will have no doubt undertaken as to the relative impacts of dredging, trawling and creeling on the site and their respective likelihoods of undermining the management objectives of the closure.

- Can you please supply copies of the assessments you have made as to the relative likelihood of creeling, dredging and trawling on impacting the sites objectives.
- Can you please supply copies of correspondence and copies of all minutes of meetings internal and external that would assist us in understanding the rational behind these decisions including records of meetings with fisheries representatives and copies of advice issued to ministers.
- Over and above the preceding two requests can you please furnish ourselves with any further information we may have inadvertently omitted to request, that might inform ourselves as to how this announcement is either evidenced or ecosystems based or that might offer insight as to on what alternative basis this decision was made.

We thank you in advance for your time in this matter and look forward to gaining a better understanding of the processes and events that conspired to allow this situation to arise.

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

Scottish Creel Fisherman's Federation

76. Attachment 081

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 14 January 2022 16:27
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Re: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Hi [REDACTED]. Could you give me a quick call when you have a moment please?

Cheers

[REDACTED]
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 5:07:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: RE: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Hiya

Great, that us in the diary. I'm not sure if we can use Zoom on the government system? If I can I'm happy to fit in but if not then Teams would be the best way forward. It will be nice to put a face to a voice.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 10 January 2022 14:09
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: RE: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Perfect, 1st Feb, 1030hrs would work for us. We tend to use Zoom but happy to work via Teams if you can provide an invitation.

Best
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 10 January 2022 14:04
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: RE: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Hi [REDACTED]

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely time off.

Thank you and either I or the policy team will come back to you on the issues you raise.

In terms of us meeting up I share your pain. The mornings of the 1st, 2nd & 3rd from 10-11:30ish all look clear at the moment so they could be an option? Let me know and we can firm up arrangements.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 10 January 2022 13:51
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: RE: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Hi [REDACTED],

Happy New Year,

You will see I have just responded to your internal review request in a separate email, and I look forward to hearing from you in that regard. However I wonder if we could now look to setting a meeting, as previously discussed. Our diaries are looking pretty miserable for the next few weeks. Is there potential to looking towards w/b 31 Jan? If suitable, feel free to share some dates and we can confirm.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 22 December 2021 12:11
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: RE: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email providing additional clarity to your request and sorry for my delay in responding. It's getting to that time of year and trying to clear the decks is feeling an impossible task.

I am keen to put time in the diary to have a wider discussion around the work my team and I are leading on and where we can potentially align our efforts. I am back in the office the week beginning the 10th of January however the week beginning the 17th may be better in terms of meeting up?

I am in the process of finalising our response to your review request, would it be possible for us to speak before I issue the letter?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Sent: 16 December 2021 14:06

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Subject: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Dear [REDACTED],

Thanks again for taking the time to call me to discuss the internal review of our FOI for the Clyde Cod Consultation.

For the avoidance of doubt, none of the following detracts from our original request for an internal review.

However, having reflected on the information you provided to me on that call, I want to set out the following;

1. We discussed what a satisfactory outcome to the review might look like. In effect, the answer must be a repeat of the consultation process. This should take place either;
 - a. With the CFA report provided *in full* alongside the consultation documentation; or
 - b. Without the CFA report (and of course without the CFA report cited within the consultation documentation).;
2. You will remember I said that a CFA study was similarly cited in the 20/21 Clyde Cod Consultation, with the consultation having taken place in September 2019. You can see the citation (and associated conclusions of Marine Scotland) at paragraph 11,

page 3, of the attached. The report of that study has never been released, but I am assuming it must be held by Marine Scotland, and as such, can be released;

Could you please confirm that the 2019 CFA study report will be released as part of the outcome of your internal review? If that is not possible, then we will submit an FOI for same.

[REDACTED]- cc'd here- is [REDACTED]. I mentioned when we spoke that we would be keen to hold a meeting with you early in the New Year to discuss your own particular remit and talk a little more about how our work might assist you to progress that. If you are amenable to that I would be happy to try to coordinate a mutually suitable date?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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77. Attachment 082

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 10 January 2022 17:11
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: Re: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Our experience is that MS generally don't like Zoom. So yes, I would imagine over to you re Teams. And same re faces! If this goes on much longer I will have absolutely no idea who folk are when I eventually meet them face to face.

A few days ahead of the meet I will pop you an email summarising potential talking points, to aid our discussion.

Thanks again

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 5:07:16 PM
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: RE: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Hiya

Great, that us in the diary. I'm not sure if we can use Zoom on the government system? If I can I'm happy to fit in but if not then Teams would be the best way forward. It will be nice to put a face to a voice.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 10 January 2022 14:09
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: RE: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Perfect, 1st Feb, 1030hrs would work for us. We tend to use Zoom but happy to work via Teams if you can provide an invitation.

Best

[REDACTED]

[REMAINDER OF CHAIN REDACTED – REPEAT OF 075_1]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 22 December 2021 12:22
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: Re: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Hi [REDACTED]. Yes of course. I'm travelling at the moment but will call you later this afternoon if that is suitable? Otherwise feel free to call me at a time that suits you tomorrow.

Thanks you

[REDACTED]
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 12:10:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: RE: SIFT Clyde Cod Consultation: Internal Review Request

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email providing additional clarity to your request and sorry for my delay in responding. It's getting to that time of year and trying to clear the decks is feeling an impossible task.

I am keen to put time in the diary to have a wider discussion around the work my team and I are leading on and where we can potentially align our efforts. I am back in the office the week beginning the 10th of January however the week beginning the 17th may be better in terms of meeting up?

I am in the process of finalising our response to your review request, would it be possible for us to speak before I issue the letter?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF 075_1]

79. **Attachment 088**

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 14 December 2021 10:43
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response - [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED], can you delete the message I've just sent? It wasn't quite complete! I'll forward the fuller version asap. Apologies!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 13 December 2021 15:34
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response - [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]

Are you free just now?

Best

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot
Sent: 13 December 2021 11:39
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response - [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

Sure. I'm available today (except for 12.30-1.30) and should be clear tomorrow. Just give me a call on the number below?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 13 December 2021 09:29
To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Subject: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response - [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am leading the review you requested of the FOI response you received to your original FOI query [REDACTED]. Having reviewed the response I hoped to be able to speak to you about the details and events before I finalise the outcome of the review.

If you are open to this approach, would you have time to speak early this week? If you send me you availability I will adjust my diary to fit.

Your faithfully

[REDACTED]

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80. Attachment 089

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Sent: 13 December 2021 15:37

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response - [REDACTED]

Yup, sure.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 13 December 2021 15:34

To: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response - [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]

Are you free just now?

Best

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sift.scot

Sent: 13 December 2021 11:39

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) Clyde Cod Consultation Response - [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

Sure. I'm available today (except for 12.30-1.30) and should be clear tomorrow. Just give me a call on the number below?

[REDACTED]