

From: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@snh.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 1:08 PM
To: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot>[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Wrasse Catch-up

Hi [Redacted under regulation 11(2)],

Thanks for that – I have put a couple of comments (in red) on your not below (to provide update and/or answer your queries).

Cheers

[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]

[Redacted under regulation 11(2)] [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] | Marine Sustainability Manager
NatureScot | Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW | 01738 458664 |[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]
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<<https://twitter.com/NatureScot>> | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

My working days are Monday to Thursday

From[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot <mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot> <[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot <mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot> >
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2024 9:39 AM
To: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@snh.gov.uk <mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@snh.gov.uk> >; [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot <mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]<mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Wrasse Catch-up

Good morning,

Please accept my apologies in sending over a note of our meeting on 4th April. I have some notes below, but please feel free to add in anything I have missed.

1. We discussed the previous discussions held between NatureScot and Greg Allan before the mandatory measures were introduced and whether an AA was necessary. Neither [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] nor myself have copies of the emails from this time, but NatureScot don't feel an AA was appropriate at the time due to the minimal impact of creels on rocky reefs. Whether one is necessary in future will depend on the intensity and location of the fishery. [Redacted under regulation 10(5)(d) - Confidentiality of proceedings]

[Redacted under regulation 10(5)(d) - Confidentiality of proceedings]

Action: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] to send [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] a copy of the letter of derogation and associated conditions. (attached)

Action: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] to introduce [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] to our wrasse PHD student

2. Wrasse Report – At the time of the meeting our wrasse report was published and I shared with you for info. Unfortunately we have since noticed some discrepancies in the data so the report has been removed from the Web. I will let you know when it has been republished and share a link with you. **Thanks.**

3. Dr David Bailey 2020 Paper – This paper is currently going through accessibility checks and is not yet published. **Working on that now.**

4. Wrasse Fishery next steps – There was talk previously of a wrasse specific group being set up. We discussed the possibility of creating a Wrasse group including fishers, compliance, science, policy and NatureScot and agreed this would be a good way to have discussions about the fishery and discuss potential future management measures.

Action: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] to find previous discussions regarding voluntary no fish zones had by [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] and [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]

Action: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] to look into setting up a wrasse specific group. **We would welcome this, from my perspective with a view to collaboration to understand the fishery better to provide a more robust basis for providing our advice regarding implications of the fishery for the MPA network and protected species.**

Best wishes,

[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]

[Redacted under regulation 11(2)] [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]
Policy Manager, Inshore Fisheries and Coastal Communities Team, Marine Directorate
Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
T: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]
Email: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot <mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot>

The Scottish Government

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From: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 1:44 PM
To: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@snh.gov.uk <mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@snh.gov.uk> >; [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot <mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot> >
Cc: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot <mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot> >

Subject: Wrasse Catch-up

Hi [Redacted under regulation 11(2)] and [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]

Looking forward to catching up with you tomorrow. I've noted some discussion points below I thought it would be useful for us to chat about, is there anything you else you would like to add?

1. Discussion between Greg Allan and NatureScot before the introduction of the mandatory measures regarding Appropriate Assessments
2. Wrasse report
3. Dr David Bailey 2020 Paper (attached)
4. Wrasse Fishery next steps

Best wishes,

[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]

[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]
Policy Manager, Inshore Fisheries and Coastal Communities Team, Marine Directorate
Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
T: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]
Email: [Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot <mailto:[Redacted under regulation 11(2)]@gov.scot>

The Scottish Government

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted] @gmail.com
Subject: Wrasse report - your email to NatureScot Enquiries mailbox
Date: 16 May 2024 17:45:52

Dear [redacted] ,

I am writing in reply to your email of 1 May (below) to the NatureScot Enquiries mail box, regarding the wrasse report, which has been forwarded to me.

Firstly, please accept our apologies but it is not published yet. The delay is simply down to other work pressures and the final edits to meet web accessibility standards for publications are being done.

I had previously provided a draft copy to stakeholders who had asked about it, and presumably that might be how a draft has come your way (?).

I would be more than happy to speak to you about the report and answer any queries – and can provide for permission to quote from it.

Best wishes,
[redacted]

[redacted] | **Marine Sustainability Manager**

NatureScot | Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW | 01738 458664 |[redacted]

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Dear NatureScot

I have a copy of a paper commissioned by NatureScot:

Burns, N.M., Hopkins C.R. and Bailey D.M. (2020). Assessing the implications of wrasse fishing for marine sites and features. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. - SNH use only This report, or any part of it, should not be reproduced without the permission of Scottish Natural Heritage. This permission will not be withheld unreasonably. The views expressed by the author(s) of this report should not be taken as the views and policies of Scottish Natural Heritage. Copyright 2020.

My copy is a draft and I have no idea how I come to possess it, but it is very interesting and useful.

Please can you tell me if it has now been published in a final form? If so, where can I obtain it? If not, please can you tell me how I might obtain permission to quote from it?

Best regards
[redacted]

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NàdarAlba.

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Confidential - Draft PQ response
Date: 20 March 2024 11:37:31
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

[redacted]

Thanks for that and, no worries – the draft PQ response was ok from our perspective too. Apologies again that I was out of the office not able to respond as I'd have liked.

Look forward to seeing the report and would much appreciate a catch-up. Looking at my diary, the week of 1 April might be best bet if that works for you?

Cheers
[redacted]

[redacted]

| Marine Sustainability Manager

NatureScot | Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW | 01738 458664 |[redacted]

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From: [redacted] @gov.scot [redacted] @gov.scot>

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:38 AM

To: [redacted] @snh.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Confidential - Draft PQ response

[redacted]

Apologies but I need to sent the response to Private Office now.

Thank you for your help though. I'll send you a copy of the report I mentioned and we can organise time to chat?

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Policy Manager, Inshore Fisheries and Coastal Communities Team, Marine Directorate

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

T: [redacted]

Email [redacted] [@gov.scot](#)

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From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 11:33 AM

To: [redacted] [@snh.gov.uk](#)>

Subject: Confidential - Draft PQ response

[redacted]

PQ questions and draft response below – thank you so much! And very sorry for the short notice.

S6W-25557

To ask the Scottish Government, regarding the licensing conditions for wrasse harvesting and its evidence base for carrying out an appropriate assessment of wrasse fisheries management in special areas of conservation, in which months of the year the gonads of the (a) goldsinny, (b) rock cook, (c) corkwing, (d) ballan and (e) cuckoo species of wrasse (i) are most developed and (ii) spawn.

S6W-25558

To ask the Scottish Government, regarding the licensing conditions for wrasse harvesting and its evidence base for carrying out an appropriate assessment of wrasse fisheries management in special areas of conservation, in relation to the (a) goldsinny, (b) rock cook, (c) corkwing, (d) ballan and (e) cuckoo species of wrasse, what length the (i) male and (ii) female fish are on their (A) first, (B) second, (C) third, (D) fourth and (E) subsequent breeding season(s).

S6W-25559

To ask the Scottish Government, regarding the licensing conditions for wrasse harvesting and its evidence base for carrying out an appropriate assessment of wrasse fisheries management in special areas of conservation, what the maximum recorded age is for each species of wrasse.

Draft response;

Under the Habitats Regulations there is a requirement to carry out an appropriate assessment where an activity is capable of affecting a designated feature of a

Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Wrasse are not a protected feature in any Scottish SAC.

At the introduction of the licence variation The Scottish Government was not required to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) for the wrasse fishery under the Habitats Regulations, as wrasse are not protected features in any of Scotland's Special Area of Conservation's. The licence condition brought control to a fishery that previously had no management measures. There is an association between wrasse and rocky reef, however an appropriate assessment would only be required if evidence showed pots had a significant impact on the reefs. We will continue to work with NatureScot and if evidence shows an AA is necessary, one will be undertaken Therefore, at this present time, the Scottish Government does not hold the information you have requested. Additional data collected through the licence condition to fish for wrasse will be published in the coming months.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Policy Manager, Inshore Fisheries and Coastal Communities Team, Marine Directorate

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

T [redacted]

Email [redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)

The Scottish Government

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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Wrasse
Date: 03 April 2023 15:37:16
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[redacted]

Yes indeed, that would be great thanks. I am free today after 1600, or any time tomorrow afternoon, or Wed afternoon.

Cheers

[redacted]

| Marine Sustainability Manager

NatureScot | Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW | 01738 458664 [redacted]

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From: [redacted]@gov.scot [redacted] @gov.scot>
Sent: 03 April 2023 15:13
To: [redacted] @nature.scot>
Subject: Wrasse

[redacted]

How are you?

I'm pulling together data on the wrasse fishery, covering years 1 & 2 since the new measures were introduced. I was wondering if you had some time to discuss?

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted] | **Policy Manager** | **Inshore Fisheries Management & Coastal Communities** | **Sea Fisheries Division** | [marine scotland](#) | [redacted] | **Area 1B South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ** | **w: [www.gov.scot/marinescotland](#)**



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From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Catch-up

[redacted]

Thanks for getting back to me

Does this time suit you for catch-up tomorrow ?

The things that are on my mind were:

- Update on our staffing in NatureScot (relevant to fisheries)
- Update on RIFGs (and engagement with fishing industry generally)
- Wrasse/cleaner fish – update on an FOI we've had

Cheers

[redacted]

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From: [Allan G \(Greg\)](#)
To: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Subject: FW: Seeking SNH advice about wrasse
Date: 16 September 2020 13:20:16

From: [redacted] <[redacted]> @nature.scot>
Sent: 30 March 2020 16:48
To: Allan G (Greg) <Greg.Allan@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Seeking SNH advice about wrasse

Hello Greg,

Apologies for not replying sooner. Partly the disruption of setting up home working, and partly due to my involvement in a shipping incident last week (I have been SNH's duty officer for the past week).

However, we have been thinking about the queries you have made and it would be good to discuss on the phone as you suggest.

I am free tomorrow morning, Wed (at 1400) , Thurs any time, Fri 0900 to 1100.

Best wishes.

[redacted] | **Marine Sustainability Manager, Sustainable Coasts and Seas Team**
Scottish Natural Heritage | Battleby | Redgorton | Perth | PH1 3EW |
t: 01738 458 664 m: [redacted]

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From: Greg.Allan@gov.scot <Greg.Allan@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 March 2020 12:42
To: [redacted] <[redacted]> @nature.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]> @gov.scot; [redacted] <[redacted]> @gov.scot; [redacted] <[redacted]> @gov.scot;
[redacted] <[redacted]> @gov.scot; [redacted] <[redacted]> @nature.scot>
Subject: Seeking SNH advice about wrasse

Hi [redacted]

Following on from our recent telephone conversations about the wrasse fishery, I am writing to seek your advice on a couple of issues relating to assessments we may need to undertake and the ongoing monitoring of the fishery.

As you know Marine Scotland has a responsibility to consider impacts on habitats and protected sites. I am keen to ensure that we meet our responsibilities in this area and with your advice I hope we can get it right first time.

On 11 March, Mr Ewing launched a consultation about new measures to control wild wrasse harvesting. The new measures, by means of a new wrasse permit, will introduce mandatory enforceable controls over wrasse fishing activity, formalising the existing voluntary measures introduced in 2018. But the permit will also introduce new conditions relating to the provision of information about the numbers of fish harvested and the need to take on board vessel tracking or monitoring devices and to participate in observer programmes as required by Marine Scotland.

These new measures over time will provide much better management data than we have had before, better opportunities for monitoring harvesting activity, and a means by which to react quickly to feedback from monitoring should it indicate that management controls need to be adjusted.

Overall this is a very positive improvement in my view, however, we still need to satisfy our responsibilities to consider how the new measures and fishery might impact on habitats or protected areas such as the MPA network. I would be grateful for your advice on how we should go about that, the steps we need to take and time and resource that may be involved.

The new approach will also involve regular monitoring of activity by some form of advisory committee which will include Marine Scotland Policy, Compliance and Science as well as representatives from the fishers and the salmon farming sector. As I mentioned on the phone, I see a role here for SNH too, either as a regular member of the group or an expert adviser on an ad hoc basis, as you prefer.

I would welcome your thoughts on how SNH might play in to the monitoring role, and how we might identify and tackle issues of concern, such as otter precautions and acceptable activity in protected areas.

It might be a good idea to have a telephone meeting in the first instance to set the ball rolling. If you let me know your availability I will be happy to set this up.

Greg

Greg Allan
marine scotland:
Sea Fisheries Division
Lead Fisheries Policy Adviser
Area 1B North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

[redacted]

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho SNH.
