

IFMAC FFM Options

Malcolm Morrison
Fisheries Policy Officer



Local Management & Development of Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups

Marine Scotland will:

explore options for RIFGs to take on a more formal role, on a statutory basis, and expand their scope to 12 nautical miles; and

provide opportunities for more local management with more flexible and responsive local arrangements.

- 12nm is obviously helpful to align with the proposals for Marine Planning Partnerships and fishing must have a voice there. As the **first** marine industry, providing food, it should have real position in the Plan.
- The move to 12nm exponentially increases the IFG area. The geographical spread is already almost impossible for the mainland IFGs to operate effectively.
- Flexible, responsive local arrangements would be good as long as it does not simply mean 'stay off my patch'.
- Any such expansion must be properly resourced



Modernisation of Inshore Fleet Programme

For the inshore sector Marine Scotland will:

introduce appropriate vessel tracking for the under 12 metre fleet, linked initially to access to buffer zones that should be created around all MPAs; and

explore the potential use of REM for higher risk vessels operating in sensitive areas.

- Vessel tracking is welcomed as an aid to allow fishing in sensitive areas.
- But it is also part of the suite of measures needed to properly understand the total fishing effort being used. In the static sector, creel numbers & soak times. In the mobile, dredge numbers & net size, tows etc.



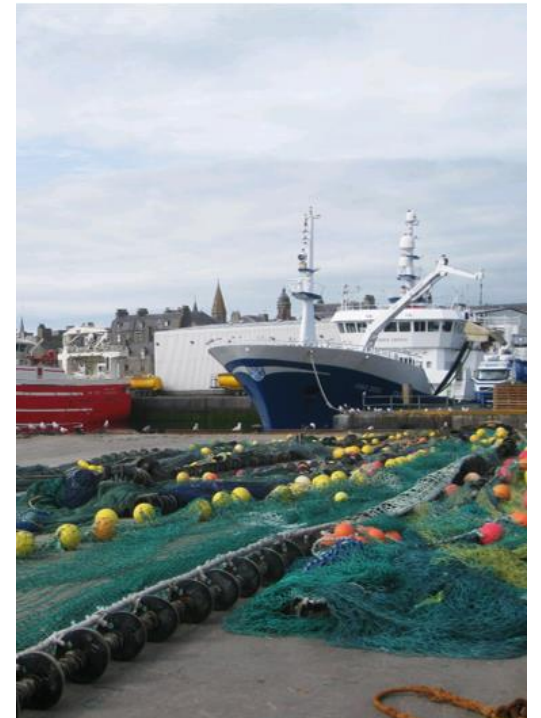
Fishing Opportunities

Marine Scotland want to:

continue to expand delegation of quota management to industry in the future; and

explore whether this could be opened up beyond Producer Organisations, and whether there could be a role for RIFGs as well as distinct geographic local communities.

- As the PO's were set up by legislation in the 70s they are specialists in the subject. While it may not be rocket science it is still a subject that requires constant attention, so unless its broken why change it?
- RIFG if they ever achieve the capacity could be the management group for the non-sector allocation. However geographical management by non fishing communities would be a non starter, as long as the essential scientific advice is being followed, Fishers/ PO's should be allowed to do their job.



Quota Dividend

Where Marine Scotland identify additional quota in the future at least 50% will be distributed separately to the FQA system. This will include new entrants (as part of a specific new entrants scheme), to incentivise best practice, and to develop additional inshore activity in support of coastal communities.

- Any future additional quota, should be, firstly, utilized to help solve the management issues arising from the Landing Obligation, before any further allocation to current or new FQA holders. To say “at least 50%” without any reasoning seems arbitrary?
- To be used outside the FQA system, candidates should be assessed for capacity, and to develop additional inshore activity building this capacity should be part of a Holistic Fisheries Plan (HFP), developed to benefit the whole fleet and it should not be issued simply as a tradeable asset.
- Should Marine Scotland issue this allocation to anyone who has previously sold up a quota holding?
- What is a “New Entrant”? They will also need a vessel and license (financing could addressed as part of the HFP?) if they are to fish this “New Fish”, which should not simply be gifted to them but retained by Marine Scotland and managed/rented out by Marine Scotland/ PO’s.



Spatial Management

Marine Scotland will consider introducing a significant low-impact trial that will separate mobile activity from static gear, and recreational

In doing so we will further consider the merits of specific zones where mobile gear bottom-contact fishing will not be permitted.

- It has been shown (e.g. in the channel) that mobile and static can alternate/rotate/share grounds so it is hoped that a trial would be meaningful to both sectors, but it must work both ways, the exponential growth of the static fleet effort is making it difficult for everyone to find space to work.
- Apart from MPAs if static gear reserves are seriously an option, then there also needs to be areas where static is not permitted?
- Recreational fishing is still an unknown quantity in management terms, so needs to be measured before managed?



License Management

Marine Scotland propose to:

introduce a distinct license or permit system to better regulate fishing activity within the Scottish 12 nautical mile zone

- Having only recently simplified the licensing regime to accommodate the Landing obligation, do we really want to rush in and start complicating it again?
- Without full understanding of all the fishing activity it is unreasonable to start imposing any more restrictions on any one sector.
- This proposal, again, highlights the difference between East & West, where the West 12nm encompasses most of the fishing grounds.

