

Flapper skate conservation – Interim protection measures
Meeting with Scottish Salmon Producer's Organisation (SSPO)
MS Teams online meeting
01 February 2021 15:00

Attendees

- Marine Scotland
- SSPO

Meeting notes

- Marine Scotland welcomed everybody to the meeting and provided some introductions.
- SSPO said that they have 100% coverage of the salmon producer industry and their members are keen for Marine Scotland to engage with them in the first instance.
- Marine Scotland provided a summary of the background report and went on to outline the advice provided by NatureScot.
- SSPO made the observation that the water at the proposed site is quite deep and enquired whether the survey had been done by divers or other methods.
- Marine Scotland stated that the survey work had been done by combination of diver survey, drop down camera and acoustic studies.
- Marine Scotland stated that the measures under consideration would prohibit aquaculture or the installation of marine infrastructure on the seabed. Applications for aquaculture on the edge of the site would also have to be considered for potential impacts on the protected feature.
- SSPO enquired whether the proposed measures would impact on fish farms which already had planning consent.
- Marine Scotland stated that established fish farms would be unaffected.
- SSPO stated that they had no concerns in regards to this site however if the protection was to extend to a significantly larger area they would be concerned.
- Marine Scotland said it was worth noting that this site was the smaller of two sites proposed by NatureScot.
- SSPO asserted that they were comfortable with the current proposals and that they would engage further with the full consultation in relation to permanent protection measures.
- Marine Scotland thanked SSPO for taking the time to participate in this consultation.