

**Flapper skate conservation – Interim protection measures
Meeting with West Coast Regional Inshore Fishery Group (WCRIFG) Chair**

**MS Teams online meeting
29 January 2021 11AM**

Attendees

- Marine Scotland
- West Coast Regional Inshore Fishery Group (WCRIFG)

Meeting notes

- Marine Scotland welcomed everybody to the meeting and provided some introductions.
- WCRIFG stated that they had seen and read the background report provided prior to the meeting.
- Marine Scotland described the advice provided by NatureScot. Advice states that the site is of national importance, the skate eggs are sensitive to a number of different pressures. Site currently partially protected by a seasonal closure which expires on 1 April.
- Marine Scotland stated that they are reaching out to a number of key stakeholders. The site in question overlaps with a number of proposed PMF management areas which has the potential to reduce some of the impact to the industry if the PMF management areas were proceeded with.
- Marine Scotland mentioned that they were keen to gauge the thoughts of all stakeholders.
- WCRIFG says that they had looked at the charts and the notes and were conscious of the flame shell and maerl in the area. They feel that the measures described are entirely necessary and that the area should be closed to all fishing measures.
- WCRIFG said that they back this action all the way and it should be done at pace.
- Marine Scotland explained that there will be a wider process with additional surveys required for the provision of permanent measures.
- WCRIFG stated that the current evidence suggests that this site has been used as an egg nursery historically and hopefully it will continue to be used in the future.
- Marine Scotland said that they would welcome additional feedback on usage and boundaries of the proposed site.
- Marine Scotland thanked WCRIFG for their engagement with this process.