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Mallaig & North West Fishermen's Association Limited

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Dear Members,

This is the second edition of the Newsletter and fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on your point of view, there is a lot of information that we have been able to include for you to digest. As we said in the previous Newsletter that we sent out in November 2015, we would welcome your thoughts on what should be included in any of the future editions.

We put in the last Newsletter information about the EMFF programme that was not open at that point. You will all know that this scheme is now open and if you have any projects that you want funding with you should use the online service through Marine Scotland or you can ask the MNWFA office to help out. The Marine Scotland website link is

<https://eurofish.marinemanagement.org.uk/Eurofish/public/home.aspx>

You can also look at the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGS) as a source for financial assistance in fisheries matters if you wish to do so. You can find out more information on these FLAGS from the MNWFA office. There are a couple of contacts that can be sourced from the link below

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Fisheries-funding-2257.aspx>

Farne Deeps Consultation & Marine Conservation Zone

Thank you to those fishermen that sent in comments to the Marine Scotland consultation on the Farne Deeps. The consultation is now shut and we have submitted both individual responses from fishermen and a response on behalf of the MNWFA. The measures suggested in the consultation are designed to bring up the nephrops stock in that functional unit to be above Btrigger for two consecutive years. There had been a suggestion from the North Sea Advisory Council in 2015 that an 'of which' allocation similar to that instigated in the Porcupine Bank should be installed in the Farne Deeps but this was rejected by the United Kingdom at the December Council and technical measures were agreed. Naturally, the priority is that we should secure access for MNWFA members and that was the nature of our response but some of the technical measures suggested in the consultation paper might prove to be too onerous for some of our vessels. Unfortunately, it seems as though STECF will only see a package of measures as the way to increase the stock so how much room there will be to manoeuvre is questionable.

In addition to the consultation on technical measures, Defra is currently running a consultation on the Farne Deeps Marine Conservation Zone and any comments that you wish to make would be useful in the MNWFA response. Details of this MCZ were sent out to you on February 18th but you can also see the paperwork on

<http://www.nsrac.org/category/gov-cons/mpas/defra/>

The MCZ itself will doubtless reduce fishing opportunities but what is possibly more

contentious is that Defra/MMO will be requiring a buffer zone around the MCZ where VMS pings could be increased to one every ten minutes instead of the once every two hours that is required under the Control Regulation. It is unknown at the moment how the MMO plans to organise this and who will pay for it, if it goes ahead, but comments should be in to Defra for March 9th 2016. We can forward any comments that you wish to make. There is also supposed to be a stakeholder meeting sometime in April this year though this has not yet been confirmed.

Defra has also designated an area of Jones Bank off the South West of England and we have also sent out an email on this area to you previously. Some of the MNWFA members worked there last year but there is no informal consultation at present. We will send this out to you when it becomes available.

Marine Protected Areas (inshore & offshore)

You will all be aware that all of the first tranche of designated MPAs, apart from the Small Isles, have now been allocated management regimes. Fishermen will be able to comment once again on the Small Isles as there will be another consultation on this area after the election in May. We would urge all of you to input into this consultation and the MNWFA office will assist you in any way that it can. It seems that Marine Scotland is interested in the numbers game so please do not leave it up to others to answer on your behalf.

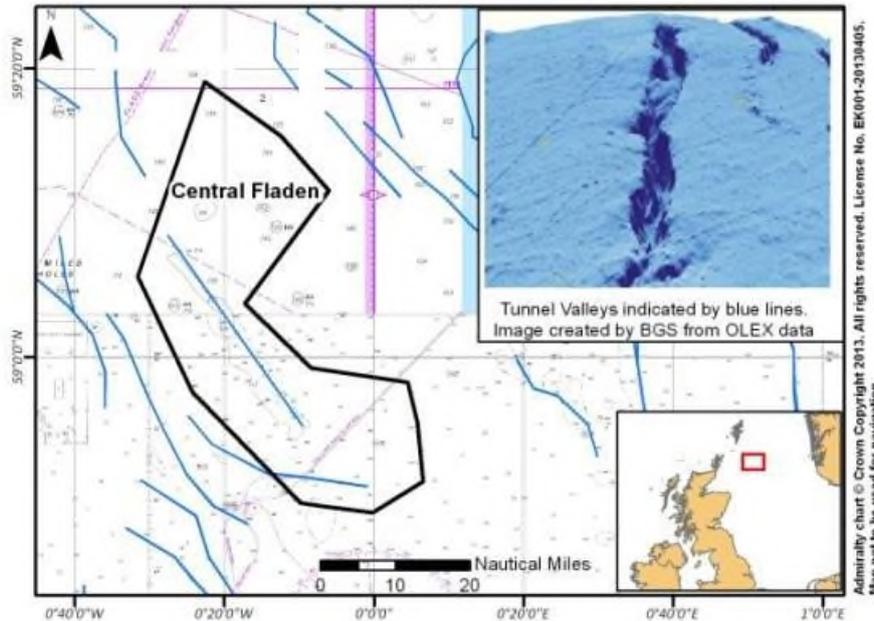
Marine Scotland has published guidance notes on the first designations and they can be seen in

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00493862.pdf>

This includes all of the areas that we have highlighted to date except for Wester Ross and that will presumably have its own guidance notes later on.

Marine Scotland is in the process of finalising the offshore MPAs. There will not be a formal public consultation as was the case with the inshore MPAs but there will be an option to make your thoughts known through the Advisory Councils. We have been told that from May-July will be the point when the proposals will be finalised and we have arranged a meeting with Marine Scotland so that we can make further input into the recommendations on how the areas are to be managed. You are all welcome to join that meeting and we will email you the details as soon as we have confirmation. The proposals will be put to the Commission at the end of 2016 and assuming that there are no issues from that point with the Commission or other member states, the offshore MPAs will be implemented in the spring/early summer of 2017.

One of the most significant offshore MPAS will be the Central Fladden grounds. This is a very important piece of ground to several of our vessels so please feel free to make your thoughts known on this and all areas.



There will be a consultation on the second tranche of inshore MPAs sometime after the Scottish General Election though we still do not know when this consultation will take place despite requests for information on the timescales. What we do know is that there are many sites that have been designated either as MPAs or SACs and they will almost certainly have some sort of management for fisheries allocated to them. Some of the most important are

- Sound of Barra
- Moray Firth
- Sound of Arisaig

In addition to this Marine Scotland will be hosting in the near future a workshop that could result in the designation of 14 Special Protection Areas that are designed to protect birds.

Marine Scotland has announced that there will be an 'environmental monitoring strategy' over a three year period that will allocate £500,000 to fishing vessels to do survey work in Marine Protected Areas. The point of this will be to use underwater cameras to film marine features in MPAs. We do not know the details of this but we will inform you if there is any work to be done in your local area.

Clyde Regulating Order

The Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT) has submitted an application for a regulating order in the Clyde. Though, generally speaking, this is not an area that most of you fish, the MNWFA has submitted a response to this initial consultation as we have concerns about its hostility to the mobile sector and that such a management tool could be extended up into the Minches if it turns out to be successfully implemented in the Clyde. You can see more details though the link

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/InshoreFisheries/clydero>

Our objection to this proposal has been made mainly on the basis of lack of science for those species that SIFT wants to manage through the RO. They are nephrops, king scallops and queen scallops. We have also included in our objection what we believe to be a real issue with the governance of this project as more layers of bureaucracy will be added with no guarantee of any more success in a management regime than we currently have.

©MNWFA

Tom

Tom Bryan-Brown
CEO
MNWFA



MNWFA Ltd AGM

Saturday 16th April 2016

Redcliffe Hotel, Inverness

Responsible Fishing Scheme

Some weeks ago the MNWFA sent out an email giving details of the new Responsible Fishing Scheme and asking whether fishermen would be interested at looking at the scheme. It might be worthwhile vessel owners considering joining the Responsible Fishing Scheme given the wide scope of areas that could be significant to your business. The scheme has recently been revised though it still remains voluntary to industry. It is a vessels based programme and its relevance consists of the following;

- Safety, health & welfare
- Training and professional development
- The vessel and its mission
- Care of the catch
- Care for the environment



The attraction of the RFS, and especially in its revised form, is that it recognises best practice in the catching sector and in this it is the only accreditation scheme of its kind. Though there is no guarantee of any additional revenue, the broad scale areas that it deals with could reinforce any argument that criticises the professionalism with which you manage your vessel.

The Scottish Fishermen's Trust has agreed that money will be ring fenced for those vessels that are in membership of an Association linked to the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and who wish to apply for certification under RFS. If, therefore, you would like to enrol your vessel in the scheme and you require assistance with the application costs, please contact the MNWFA office and we will help you with your paperwork.

New Safety Requirements for UK Fishing Vessels

2016 will see the introduction of the new MCA codes for all UK fishing vessels. It is believed that the codes could come into force in April but more likely October but for many of the new requirements there will be a lead-in time to give industry time to be compliant.

The new codes are very detailed in their guidance and instructions and it has been a difficult job over the last few years with several good discussions with the MCA. The fishing industry has been well represented at the meetings by all the devolved nations.

Some of the biggest changes will be for the under 15m fleet although all sizes of fishing vessels will be affected. As in every code amendments many items are for new builds and when the codes come into place there will be a date set for the laying of a keel as being the start point. However, many of the changes will also affect existing vessels and to ease the burden of new requirements for these vessels, the MCA intend to allow a two year phase in period for EPIRBs, Liferafts and PLBs, although this cannot be set in stone until it is the Code comes into force.

We have tried to list below per size of vessel some of the large impact items within the new codes.

The additional requirements in the Code for fishing vessels of less than 15m are:

- Safety Certificates; New and Existing
- Emergency Drills; New and Existing
- Radar reflectors; New and Existing
- Liferafts on vessels of 7-15m; New and Existing for 7-10m Decked and 7-15 Open vessels (10-15 Decked already a requirement)
- Bilge Alarms on vessels of 7-12m; New and Existing Open vessels (already required for Decked)
- Two additional lifejackets on vessels of 12-15m; New and Existing
- Carriage of Satellite chipped EPIRBs on all 10-15m; New and Existing
Carriage of either a PLB 406 GPS for all crew on board or a satellite chipped EPIRB for 7-10m
Carriage for all crew onboard a PLB 406 GPS under 7m
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors; New and Existing
(where appropriate – guidance will be given)
- Stability requirements for new vessels of 12-15m; New Only
- Inspections on change of ownership; New and Existing
- Informing MCA of significant modifications to the vessel; New and Existing

The additional requirement in the Code for 15-24m vessels is:

- Safety systems to be able to run on shore power if crew live on board; New and Existing, (where appropriate)

The additional requirements in the Code for vessels of 24m and over are:

- Emergency Lighting to all emergency exists; New and Existing
- Lightning Protection; New and Existing
- Fire Detection and safety systems to run on shore power; New and Existing, (where appropriate)
- Low level bilge alarms for propulsion machinery spaces, fish holds and unmanned spaces; New and Existing
- Auto start bilge pump alarms; New and Existing
- Bilge suction alarms; New and Existing
- An independent bilge alarm system and a fail-safe warning if its circuit becomes faulty; New and Existing
- Exhaust fan shut offs; New and Existing
- Life buoys and heaving lines; New and Existing
- Thermometers for fridges; New and Existing

Skates and Rays in the North Sea and the West of Scotland

The TAC allocation for skates and rays in both the North Sea & the West of Scotland was a rollover from the previous year's EU allocation. That was good news in that there was a recommendation for a 20% reduction in both areas but these stocks suffer because they are data limited and therefore the allocations are small. That effectively means a combination of things that could be that there is not enough survey work on these stocks and/or the data is there but it is not put into a meaningful enough package to ensure that trigger points that could bring about the automatic reduction in the stock are avoided. That is something that member states are trying to address to ensure skates and rays do not become choke species in the landing obligations but you should be aware from the TAC & Quota regulations (EU 2016/72) that certain species of skates and rays CANNOT be landed. They are;

North Sea : Common skate / Starry ray

West of Scotland: Common skate / Norwegian skate / Undulate ray / White skate

This information can be seen on

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0072&from=EN>

The information is on pages L22/13-L22/15.

It would also be worthwhile having a look at the following website of the Shark's Trust that gives quite good descriptions and diagrams of the different types of the rays that you might come across in your fishery.

http://www.sharktrust.org/en/skate_and_ray_factsheets

We also have factsheets in the office that we can send to you on request.

An Update on the Landing Obligations

Marine Scotland has requested from the industry that more species are selected in the West Coast landing obligations fishery for 2017 and this subject will be discussed at the Scottish Discard Steering Group on March 17th. At the moment there is no indication of what species will come next in the plan. There is already a roadmap for the North Sea though both the European Association of Fish Producers Organisation and Europêche has been against the inclusion of more species as the current landing obligations and the implications associated with the landing of discards are still an unknown quantity.

There have been landings of below MCRS haddock in Fraserburgh and Peterhead and some undersize haddock has been consigned from West Coast to East Coast fish meal factories. The full implications of the landing obligations will not be known until 2019 and given that we have a 'de minimis' for nephrops in all Scottish waters and that there was a big increase in the haddock quota along with an uplift, the current landing obligations in the demersal whitefish could be viewed as not too onerous on the industry at the moment. Naturally, as time moves on there will inevitably be more likelihood of fisheries becoming choked by species for which there is a low TAC and since the wording of the Basic Regulation EU 1380/2013 is so imprecise, it is probable that any solution to choke species will need to be answered on the political platform.

One of the main issues is going to be how the land based structures can cope with discards and the cost implications for fishermen. We have been told that vessel owners will currently be paid 8 pence per kilo for whitefish discards and 14 pence per kilo for pelagic species if it goes to fish meal. When the costs of renting the quota, hiring boxes, ice, handling and transportation are factored in every tonne of discarded fish will cost a fishing vessel money under the prices quoted. This will be in most of the ports away from Peterhead and Fraserburgh where facilities for discards been put in place and it does not, of course, factor in those harbours where fish below the MCRS cannot be handled.

Control Regulation Consultation

There is currently a consultation out on the Control Regulation (EU 1224/2009). These are the EU rules that implement the Common Fisheries Policy through 'control, inspection and enforcement'. So the regulation deals with issues such as horse power, VMS and Elogs amongst other things. The consultation can be seen on

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/consultations/control-regulation-evaluation/index_en.htm?subweb=347&lang=en

A response to this consultation will be sent in from the Advisory councils but if you want to make your own contribution then a response will be required by March 13th 2016. It is likely, however, that the MNWFA will reserve its contribution to the debate later down the line when the Commission puts through a paper outlining a suggested way forward.

Technical Conservation Regulation Consultation

At a recent meeting of the North Sea Advisory Council a Commission official reported that the Commission would be tabling a proposal on a new Technical Conservation Regulation on March 15th. There have already been several amendments to EU 850/98 and it is generally agreed that the text is complex and there are problems with the implementation and enforcement of what is written. There is also concern that EU 850/98 is not consistent with the new Common Fisheries Policy and the landing obligations within the CFP.

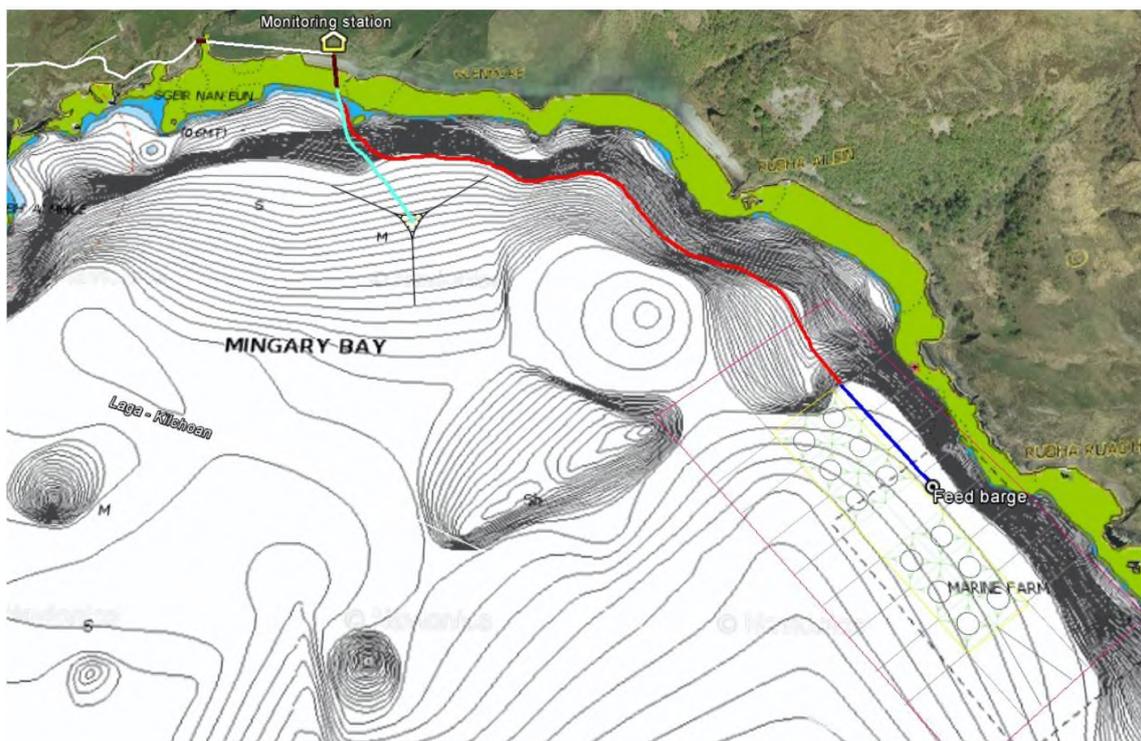
You will probably have heard of this in relation to measures such as mesh sizes for nets and catch composition. We will send you out a copy of the consultation when we receive it.

ALBATERN— WaveNET Array—MINGARY BAY

The MNWFA office would welcome your thoughts on the following WaveNET array in Mingary Bay, on the south end of the Ardnamurchan peninsula. The project has been submitted by Albertern Wave Energy and a representative came to the office in Mallaig to discuss the project a couple of weeks ago. The project itself is not particularly large but it's the mooring legs that are more likely to be an impediment to fishing.

A couple of fishermen have already suggested that the structure should be moved further westwards so that it is situated on the sand and not the mud.

We have already sent out an email on this proposed operation but it could be an issue for both prawn and sprat fishermen. We have not been given a timescale on when responses need to be lodged but it would be useful to have your thoughts as soon as possible.



Non-European Economic Area Crew

There has been much talk recently of crewing issues throughout the UK and not least because of what has emerged in the Republic of Ireland with allegations of mistreatment of crew in the Guardian and new access arrangements for non-EEA citizens working on fishing vessels in Ireland. These allegations and the new arrangements are not mutually inclusive but they do show that the crewing situation and the problems that skippers and vessel owners have trying to recruit are not unique to Scotland. The MNWFA recently attended a meeting of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation where this topic was discussed at length and how Scotland might benefit from any increased negotiations with politicians and civil servants.

A group called Fishing Interests UK has been looking at the Immigration Act 1971 and has contacted both politicians and the Border Agency to see where the fishing industry stands in regard to this legislation. The SFF has itself decided to form a focus group that will be looking at the same issues as Fishing Interests UK but will be working only behalf of the Associations and their membership. The working group consists of Mark Robertson (MNWFA), George West (SWFPA), John MacAlister (SWFPA), Tom Nicholson (Scallop Association) along with Bertie Armstrong (SFF).

The Border Agency is not within a department that is devolved to Scotland so that the SFF will be working with the United Kingdom and its politicians. It is a sensitive issue and any negotiations could take some time to bear any fruition if indeed 'fruition' is the eventual outcome.



MALLAIG HARBOUR AUTHORITY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mallaig Harbour Authority intend to effect a clean up of
the West Bay Industrial Estate.

Items that are not identified and left lying about after

Thursday 31st March 2016

will be removed and dumped with no recourse to the Authority

J. McLean
Harbour Master

Survivability in Nephrops

Most, if not all of you, will be aware that under the current landing obligations, nephrops in the North Sea and the West of Scotland has a derogation under 'de minimis' so that up to 7% of your catch of nephrops can be discarded at sea. This derogation was successfully awarded to the industry due to the argument that there would be disproportional costs associated with the disposal of nephrops on land. Though it has been good news that we have secured this 'de minimis' for the industry, it could quite possibly be something of a short term solution as the status of a 'de minimis' can change according to different variables that are not entirely within the remit of the fishing industry.

Therefore, the MNWFA along with the Scottish POs and the Scottish Association for Marine Science have applied for funding for a survivability project through the Fisheries Innovation Scotland scheme to take place in the Minches. This would be considered to be more of a long term solution that will ensure that fishermen are not hindered in their working practices and so that there is not increased mortality in the stock. There was another FIS project on nephrops survivability that was very encouraging and it was run in the Clyde albeit on a different scale to the type of fishery that takes place in the Minches. This project was run last year, used single rig gear and had tows that were working in relatively shallow water. The duration of the tows was also much shorter than the tows that fishing boats work in the Minches. However, there was some useful data collated from this work that showed a discard survival of above 80%. The recordings from the is project can be seen in

<http://www.fiscot.org/media/1262/fis007.pdf>

The results of any Minches project, if considered to be encouraging, will be sent in to the Commission for their assessment though there are no set parameters on how survivability is defined. If the Science Technical Economics Committee for Fisheries does not accept that there is high survivability in nephrops then the industry will need to make another application for 'de minimis' at the end of the current discard plan when the Multi Annual Plans come into being. This is obviously not an attractive option and hence the application for this project.





FISH INDUSTRY TRAINING ASSOCIATION

from water to plate

Course	Location	Date
NAV 5 (Bridge Watchkeeping)	TBC	8-12 March
Safety Awareness	Oban	21st March
Fire Fighting	Oban	22nd March
Sea Survival STCW95 PST	Oban	23rd March
First Aid	Oban	24th March

Please contact Lachie if you have any training needs " - if he has 6/8 names— courses can be delivered at a venue to suit.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMERCIAL FISHING COURSE:

The 3 week Introduction to Commercial Fishing Course will be taking place in Oban starting— Monday 30th May - Friday 17th June.

For more information please contact Lachie Paterson

Tel/Fax 01583 431570 - Mobile: 0777 168 1428

email: lachie.paterson@btinternet.com

20 Tormhor, Carradale, Argyll. PA28 6SD



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James mob : # 07958 110 879

Email: office@nefta.info

DATE	TIME	COURSE	VENUE
7th March	09.00	First Aid /EFA STCW95	Fraserburgh
8th March	09.00	Fire Fighting	Fraserburgh
9th March	10.00	Sea Survival /PST STCW95	Fraserburgh
10th March	09.00	Safety Awareness	Fraserburgh
11th March	09.00	Health & Safety	Fraserburgh
21st March	09.00	5-Day Watchkeeping	Fraserburgh
4th April	09.00	First Aid/STCW 95 EFA	Fraserburgh
5th April	09.00	Fire Fighting	Fraserburgh
6th April	10.00	Sea Survival /PST STCW95	Fraserburgh
7th April	09.00	Safety Awareness	Fraserburgh