



Inside this issue	Page
"Dear Members"	1-2
Offshore Decommissioning Policy	4
Referendum on the Continued Membership of the EU	5
Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups	6-7
Update on Landing Obligations	8-9
Proposed new Marine Harvest Fish Farm Sites	10
Training News	11-12

Mallaig & North West Fishermen's Association Limited

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Dear Members,

You will all have no doubt heard that Richard Lochhead has resigned his ministerial post. It has been announced that Fergus Ewing MSP will be the new Fisheries Minister under the auspices of Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity and we will be meeting up with the new Minister as soon as we get the opportunity to do so in order to put forward our views and questions. If you have any topics that you would like raised with the new minister then please feel free to contact the MNWFA offices. In the early stages of the new parliament we will be keeping a close eye on the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee and its set-up given that there have been several changes of personnel since the last election. You will perhaps remember that this committee was influential over the ultimate conclusion to the Marine Protected Areas debate in the last Parliament. You should also note that biodiversity, natural heritage and environmental protection is now in a different department and Roseanna Cunningham MSP is the Minister of this department.

You should perhaps be aware that, in relation to fisheries that might affect the MNWFA membership, the SNP manifesto for the 2016 election was as follows and this might influence any questions that you have;

- We will set a Scottish landings target for all Scottish fishing boats to ensure more fish are landed in Scotland to create jobs and support local businesses in our fishing communities.
- We will continue to argue for repatriation of the Seafish levy to ensure that levy funds paid by the Scottish industry are used to promote Scottish seafood.
- We will work to ensure a healthy and productive inshore fisheries sector by implementing our Scottish Inshore Fisheries Strategy. We will also update inshore fisheries legislation through an Inshore Fisheries Bill to support sound fisheries management.
- We are helping to protect rare, threatened, declining or nationally representative species vital to the marine ecosystem through designation of 30 Marine Protected Areas.
- We will implement Scotland's first National Marine Plan to promote the sustainable development of our seas and meet our international obligations to ensure healthy seas.

Please note that the United Kingdom referendum on membership of the European Union will take place on Thursday June 23rd.

The situation with Marine Protected Areas is as alive as ever though it has not been quite so front loaded recently due to the Scottish election and we also have the summer recess coming up. It is, however, not going to go away and just last week the MNWFA sent in a response to a Scottish Natural Heritage proposal for the setting up of a Special Area of Conservation for harbour porpoises in the Minches. We expect there to be more impetus on the offshore MPAs in both Scotland and England in the near future and the second

round of inshore MPAs later in the year.

Ross Skinner, on behalf of the MNWFA, recently attended a meeting organised by Defra where the management in designated Marine Conservation Zones in the South West Approaches and the English Channel was discussed. The proposed area closures in Jones's Bank and East of Haig Fras could lose significant grounds that are important to the Scottish nephrops boats. The VMS data that was used for evidence was more than two years old and therefore had been collated before the Scottish fleet had started working these grounds. It is important to note that many of these grounds are new to the Scottish fleet working there so they are still opening up grounds in that area. The workshop was the last chance for the industry to make input in that type of forum but there will still be opportunities to give input through the NWWAC. We spoke to a Defra official and he gave a timetable that is only an estimation of the process. It is the best that we have at the moment.

- 1) The scientific underpinning of the sites will be peer reviewed by Cefas in July 2016.
- 2) There will be a meeting in September where the United Kingdom will discuss the proposals with other Member States and presumably take on board any concerns.
- 3) The proposals will be put to the Article 11 (1380/2013) Group of the High Level Group of the NWW for its approval
- 4) The proposals will likely be put to the NWWAC to be discussed at the September working groups.

Recent news within the broader scale of Scotland is that the Scottish Fishermen's Federation has accepted an application by the Fife Fishermen's Association for membership. This will take the amount of Associations in membership of the SFF to ten. The SFF has agreed that the role of the SFF President should be realigned with the previous model as being more of a figurehead role. Naturally this will cause changes to the roles of the Associations as the current president has been actively involved in fisheries politics throughout Scotland, the United Kingdom and in Europe. We will be discussing the likely implications of these changes at the next meetings of the SFF and we will let you know the new format as soon as we hear the conclusions.

©MNWFA

Tom

Tom Bryan-Brown
CEO
MNWFA

Offshore Decommissioning Policy

The Scottish Fishermen's Federation has made the Associations aware that some of the oil & gas operators are looking to change the mode of practices that are employed in relation to the decommissioning of oil & gas hardware. The original and current OSPAR policy was for operators to return the seabed to its original condition and decommission offshore installations on land except in very exceptional circumstances but because of the pressure on costs, the operators are now looking into the possibility of changing the wording of the OSPAR clauses that are related to decommissioning of hardware. This has never been the outspoken aim of the operators in the past but is, at least in theory, possible because OSPAR is reviewed every five years and the next review will be in 2018. OSPAR is the current legislative instrument group regulating international cooperation on environmental protection in the North-East Atlantic and the United Kingdom is a signatory to the group.

Some of the operators are looking to overcome the current policies by creating the superficial 'rigs to reefs' policy where hardware is dumped on particular grounds in order to encourage the aggregation and breeding of fish stocks. It is not difficult to work out that those grounds designated under any new scheme would become no-go areas for fishing. There are 27,000 kilometres of pipelines in the United Kingdom waters and the SFF is worried that these pipelines could become a serious hazard to fishing in the years to come that could be further complicated as oil & gas operators come and go. It is not helped that there are no international guidelines on pipeline decommissioning. There are economic implications for the fishing industry but it is the safety of fishermen now and in the generations to come where the SFF is most worried.

The SFF would like to set up a working group to look into this topic and it will be further discussed at the Sustainable Fisheries Sub-Committee that will be held at the SFF offices in Aberdeen in June. Any views from our membership would be welcomed.



Mallaig Maritime Day 23rd July 2016

The fundraising committee's of the RNLI and The Fishermen's Mission are joining together to hold our first joint fundraising event (Mallaig Maritime Day) with proceeds being split 50/50 for each Charity.

Mallaig Maritime Day will replace the Gala Day's traditionally held by The Fishermen's Mission in June & The RNLI in August however there will still be the usual activities held on the pier during the day – Bouncy Castle, barbecue, tea's n coffee, and other events as well as stalls.

There will be a dance in the evening with Ballochmyle Ceilidh Band playing.



Referendum on the Continued Membership of the European Union

You will all be aware that there is a referendum on Thursday June 23rd that will determine whether the United Kingdom remains in or leaves the European Union. It is not for the MNWFA to push you to vote one way or another but we would encourage you to make your vote count by going to the polling offices on the day of the vote.

(This email below is a survey on the fishing industry's attitude to the EU and potential outcome of the vote. It would be useful if you would respond to the survey on the link below).

Dear Fisherman,

Ahead of the referendum on EU membership on June 23rd, I am leading a research project which aims to find out to discover the views of UK fishermen towards the EU and the potential outcome of the vote. Given that the EU has such a direct impact on the fishing industry, I have been struck by the lack of attention and interest from the media and academics on how the vote will affect the industry. My aim in this project is to rectify this situation.

I would therefore be most grateful if you could take 10-15mins of your time to complete a short, online survey. The survey can be found here: <https://stirling.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/fishermen>

At no point does the survey ask you for information that could identify personally you, and all data collected from the survey will be stored on the University of Aberdeen's servers. The survey is intended for skippers and vessel owners.

Thank you very much for your time, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or queries you might have.

Kind regards

Dr Craig McAngus (Email;craig.mcangus@abdn.ac.uk)

Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Relations, Room F70, Edward Wright Building, Dunbar Street, University of Aberdeen, AB24 3QY

Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups

The latest round of IFG management is now in place with the west coast IFG going from the Solway Firth to Cape Wrath and the east coast IFG going from Cape Wrath, along the north coast down to the east coast border with England. Alastair McNeil is the Chairman of the west coast IFG and Iain Maddox is the Chairman of the east coast IFG. The geographical distinction for the Islands' IFGs will stay as they were before the latest review of IFGs. IFGs are now being referred to as Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups.

This is the third round of the IFGs but in this round the most significant areas are that the IFGs are linked to the new Marine Planning Partnerships and so will be involved in the decision making for marine planning in their region. This has been outlined in the National Marine Plan and so is not going to change at least until the next review of the NMP. The RIFGs are also required to draw up a Fisheries Management Plan for each of the regions that could involve new management regimes in that particular area. This could, at least in theory, turn out to be problematic in the worse-case scenario for the mobile sectors moving between fishing areas with different technical conservation governing the same fishery.

Another important factor that could influence how the IFGs are managed and manage is the revision of the Inshore Fisheries Bill that is part of Scottish Government's manifesto. The Sea Fisheries Act 1967 and the Inshore Fishing (Scotland) Act 1984 are anachronistic and any new rules that we have been told will be brought in this parliament, could make the IFGs far more influential than they currently are.

There are currently four subgroups of the IFG in the west coast though this could change and more could be added if required. At the moment, there are no subgroups on the east coast but again, that could change as the new IFG structure becomes embedded. Each of the subgroups might identify issues and/or develop objectives for their particular area. It would be easy to become cynical about the IFGs given their history but whatever your thoughts on these management bodies the Inshore Fisheries Strategy 2015 referred to the IFGs in the following fashion.

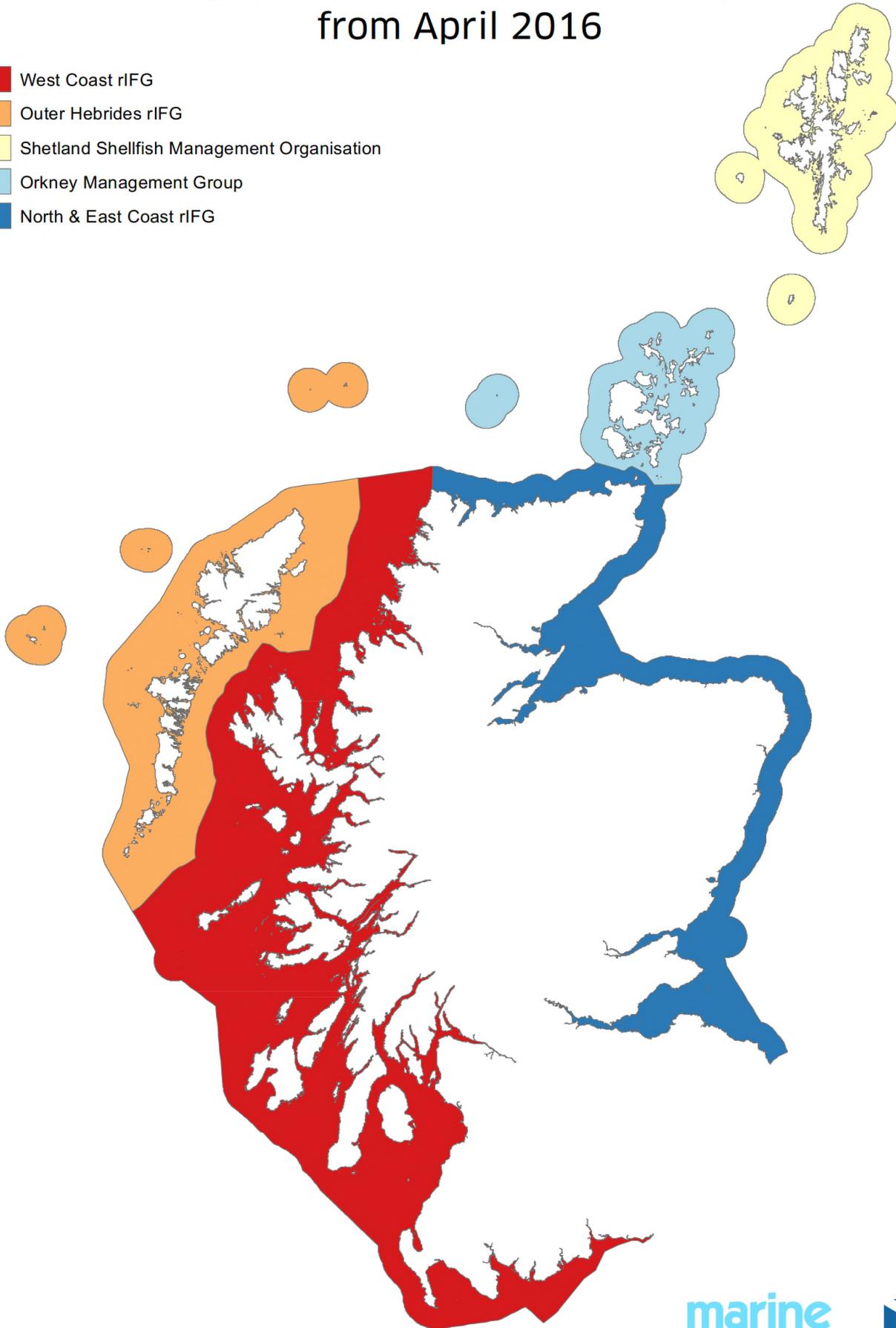
'The new regional bodies will become the authoritative voice on inshore fisheries matters in mainland marine regions.'

The MNWFA will need to keep up its membership of the new RIFGs because of this reference in the Inshore Fisheries Strategy paper and also because of its linkage to the Marine Planning Partnerships. You can see the Marine Scotland summary of the new IFG structure on the following link;

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00498786.pdf>

Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups from April 2016

-  West Coast rIFG
-  Outer Hebrides rIFG
-  Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation
-  Orkney Management Group
-  North & East Coast rIFG



NOT FOR NAVIGATION. Created by Scottish Government (Marine Scotland) 2015. gj057. © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey License No. 100024655. Projection: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area. Datum: ETRS 1989. Scale @ A4 1:2,750,000

An Update on the Landing Obligations

We shall be learning in June or July, through the delegated acts, what species will be included in the next round of phasing in the Landing Obligations. Joint recommendations from the Regional Groups are being developed and will be agreed in the very near future. Naturally we do not know what will come out of the joint recommendations as the proposals have to be discussed by all of those who are members of the Regional Groups. The suggestion is that vessels in membership of the MNWFA will be affected as follows;

North Western Waters

For vessels that had a track record of gadoid landings in 2014 & 2015 and therefore had to land all haddock in 2016, the current proposal suggests lowering the threshold to 5% for this track record reference period and adding sole, plaice and megrim. For vessels that had a track record in 2014 & 2015 of nephrops landings and therefore had to land nephrops, notwithstanding the 'de minimis' coverage, the proposal is to reduce the threshold to 20% and haddock will be added as a species that needs to be landed.

North Sea

In the North Sea the suggested roadmap is that in the TR1 trawl fisheries, whiting and sole will be added to the fish that will be phased in. In the TR2 trawl fisheries, haddock will be added to the fish that will be phased in. Cod might be added to the TR1 trawl fishery subject to the removal of the current Cod Recovery Plan.

The fishing industry would prefer to have the Cod Recovery Plan removed due to its incompatibility with the Landing Obligations and in any case, the inclusion of cod and whiting in the North Sea is pivotal on the removal of the CRP. The timescale is not working in favour of this taking place and so the likelihood is that there will be a compromise and the CRP will be emasculated to the point that it is, on one hand, acceptable to the normal legal process and on the other hand, acceptable to the fishing industry. The original freeze on the effort reductions of the CRP was brought about through an amendment (Council Regulation 1243/2012) in December 2012 but was challenged on the basis that the process should have been a co-decision by the Commission and the Parliament. It was the process as opposed to the details that was challenged but as a result of this challenge, the new freezing benefits will only remain in place until December 2016. This, therefore, will add an impetus to the European legislators to make sure that this extra burden is not forced upon fishermen as well as working within the spirit of the Landings Obligations.

Survivability in Nephrops

In the last edition of the Newsletter we wrote that the MNWFA along with other

fishing organisations had applied for funding from Fisheries Innovation Scotland to look into a survivability project in nephrops. The application was successful and tenders have been sent out so please look at your emails if you are likely to be interested in participating in this project. Due to funding constraints the project was originally earmarked for the Area 6 fishery but extra funding has been designated to this project and it has now been extended to the North Sea. The North Sea part of the project will take place after the West Coast project has taken place. Hopefully, we will be able to win a derogation for both sea areas that will ultimately avoid the need to re-apply for a 'de minimis' derogation. A very brief summary of the project is that the selected fishing vessel will be employed for ten days and will be required for both summer and winter work. The project will look at survival in nephrops from trials using both TR1 & TR2 nets.

Choke Species

The United Kingdom has developed the following terminology for choke species.

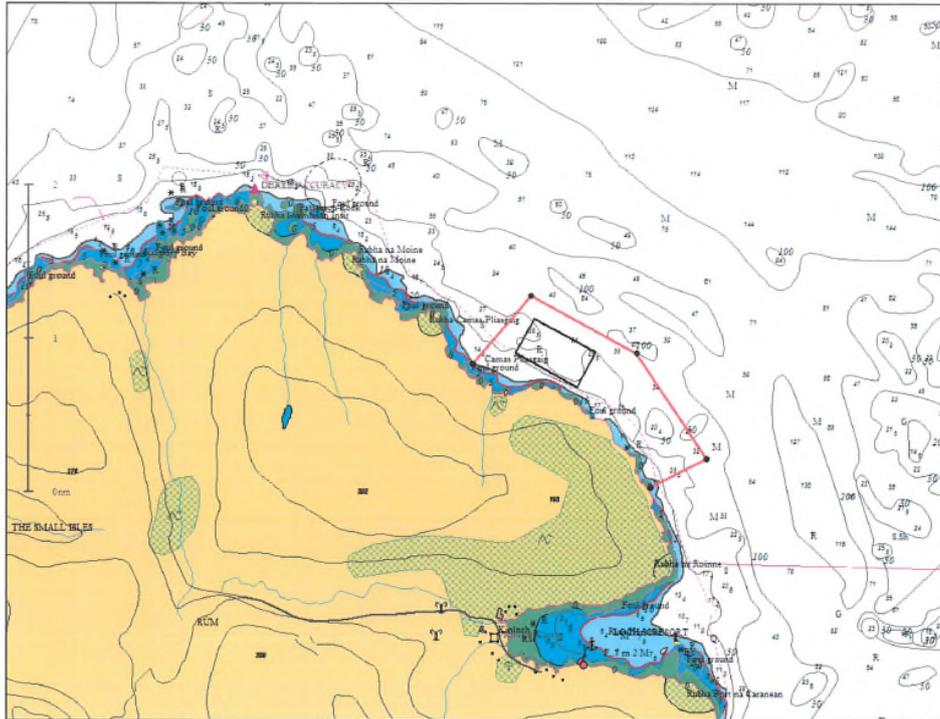
- 1) Sufficient quota at Member State level. The choke species is due to the distribution of quota within the Member State such that a region or fleet segment does not have enough. This can be resolved by the Member state itself.
- 2) Sufficient quota at EU level but insufficient quota at Member state level. The choke species is due to the distribution patterns between Member states and can be resolved between themselves in a regional context.
- 3) Insufficient quota at EU level. The choke species is due to insufficient quota within the relevant sea basin to cover present catches or catch levels that can be realistically reduced, resulting in a total cease to fishing for a Member State or Member States.

This terminology is now more widely used than just in the United Kingdom.

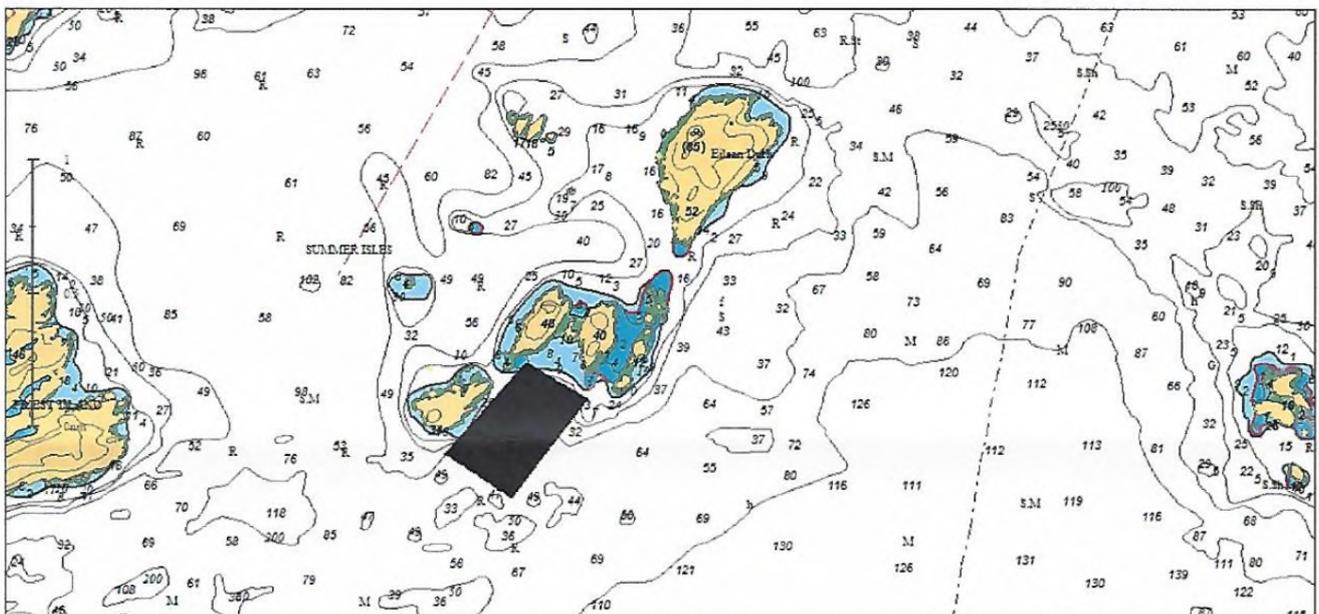
It is good that the very thorny issue of chokes is now being addressed much more critically than it has been previously and there was a choke species workshop in Edinburgh during April at which Producer Organisations and the SFF attended. It is agreed, by industry at least, that the range of flexibilities and suggested measures will all go some way to dealing with choke species problems but they are unlikely to resolve all of the negative issues that the Landings Obligations will bring about. The Basic Regulation was not designed to be about fleet management and nor was it supposed to bankrupt fishing businesses. It is likely, therefore, that as 2019 looms and the full Landings Obligations will be implemented that far more attention will be focused on those species that will cause the most problems. We are unsure how this will be manifested but there have been suggestions such as removing TACs for certain stocks or creating an 'others' TAC similar to Norway Others for certain species. Whatever happens, areas such as zero TAC species and the huge changes in area abundance in certain stocks will provide major challenges for all those with an interest in fishing and fisheries management.

Proposed New Marine Harvest Fish Farm Sites

Marine Harvest has sent the MNWFA some information on site areas which could be constructed into fish farms. You will see on the charts on this page a possible site on the north east coast of Rum and another possible area off Bottle Island in the Wester Ross region. We have already heard from fishermen that the Rum site will compromise current mobile fishing practices but we would also be interested in your views on whether there are likely to be problems with the Bottle Island site. Please contact the office with your thoughts on either of these areas.



ISLE OF RUM		Key:								
ADMIRALTY CHART EXTRACT LOCATION MAP		Pre-App Area	Approximate Site Area		22/02/2016	CLH	DB	0001	Final	
Figure 3a	General view and location of				Scale	Date	Drawn	Checked	Revision	Status



Current MH area of investigation – Bottle Island

Personal Flotation Devices

The Scottish Fishermen's Federation still has a limited supply of Personal Flotation Devices that were sourced under EFF funding. Even though this scheme is closed fishermen are welcome to make applications for the residual PFDs through the MNWFA offices. The SFF and all of the Associations are encouraging fishermen to wear PFDs at all times when on deck and so please take advantage of this very worthwhile project. There will be no cost to fishermen or fishing vessels for the PFDs under this scheme. Please note that the manufacturer's (Mullion) recommendation is that these lifejackets are serviced annually.

Seafish

Funding For Fishermen's Training



Supporting the fishing industry

Dear all,

It is with much regret that I have to announce a (hopefully temporary) suspension of all funding from Seafish for fishermen's training.

To bridge the gap between EFF and EMFF, our Board agreed in June 2015 to re-allocate £250k of budgeted levy expenditure from other Seafish work programmes to enable us to continue funding fishermen's training delivery (with MCA support).

EMFF was launched in January 2016, but has yet to open in Wales and Northern Ireland and in England the scheme has not yet opened for training-related applications. To-date we have only been able to apply in Scotland where we expect a decision in June. We will of course apply in all nations as soon as we are able.

The gap between EFF and EMFF has been much longer than anticipated and we have now spent the re-allocated levy. We cannot re-allocate more levy into fishermen's training delivery as it distorts the industry-agreed proportionality of our programme spend, as set down by our Sector Panels.

With immediate effect therefore we will not be approving any new applications from fishermen and Approved Training Providers for funded training.

We will continue to work in partnership with stakeholders to mitigate the impact of this unfortunate situation and will reinstate the funding as soon as we are able.

Kind regards,

Simon Potten

Head of Safety and Training

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www.seafish.org | www.fishisthedish.co.uk | <http://seafishonlinetraining.co.uk/>



FISH INDUSTRY TRAINING ASSOCIATION

from water to plate

INTRODUCTION TO COMMERCIAL FISHING COURSE:

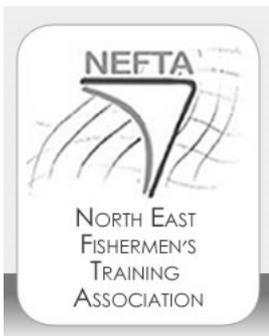
The 3 week Introduction to Commercial Fishing Course will be taking place in Oban starting— Monday 30th May - Friday 17th June.

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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DATE	TIME	COURSE	VENUE
20 JUNE	0900	First Aid/STCW 95 EFA	Fraserburgh
21 JUNE	0900	FIRE FIGHTING	Fraserburgh
22 JUNE	1000	SEA SURVIVAL/PST STCW 95	Fraserburgh
23 JUNE	0900	SAFETY AWARENESS	Fraserburgh
18 JULY	0900	FIRST AID/STCW 95 EFA	Fraserburgh
19 JULY	0900	FIRE FIGHTING	Fraserburgh
20 JULY	0900	SEA SURVIVAL/PST STCW 95	Fraserburgh
21 JULY	0900	SAFETY AWARENESS	Fraserburgh

NAV 5 BRIDGE WATCHKEEPING

Funding for fishermen with 2 years sea experience is available providing they can prove they have been fishing for 60 days in the past 24 months and hold the 4 mandatory certificates. Regular course cost £500. The dates on the course catalogue are subject to the minimum class size requirement.

MANDATORY COURSE COSTS - 01 March 2016

£120.00 each for First Aid/EFA STCW 95, New Entrant (Health & Safety) and Safety Awareness. £140.00 each for Sea Survival/PST STCW 95 and Fire Fighting. We accept cash or cheque as payment.

EMFF funding for fishermen 2016

Details regarding EMFF funding is now available on the Scottish Govt website. The funding is directed towards vessel safety improvements.

Enquiries: Please call the NEFTA office or the mobile with any enquiries or for information regarding accommodation.