



Serving fishermen since 1947

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**Mallaig & North West Fishermen's Association Limited**

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Dear Members,

The result of the EU referendum was unexpected to the majority of people and will naturally provide opportunities, possibly loses and without question distractions to all of us. On top of this we have heard from the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, that there might be another independence referendum due to the greater part of Scotland voting to remain in the EU. When you add to this the ongoing problems with crewing, the next phasing of the fishery in the Landing Obligations and the emasculation of the Cod Recovery Plan, you could say that fishing and fisheries is as exciting as ever.

In order that you can give your views on these topical debates and indeed all fishery matters the MNWFA intends to start a Facebook page, since this seems to be the information network that is favoured by so many these days. The site will soon be up and running and when it is we would welcome your thoughts on how it is going and how it can be improved. We have also been working on the website and will regularly update it— [www.mnwfa.co.uk](http://www.mnwfa.co.uk)

We have already sent out to you the next phasing of the fisheries as recommended by the High Level Groups in both the North Sea and the West of Scotland and we have included this information in the Newsletter along with the principal ICES advice that we have had to date. These acts will come into force on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 if the recommendations are not challenged but we have not had notification to date from the Commission on the result. We will naturally keep you informed. You will see that we do not have all of the West Coast stocks included as the advice on these stocks will be published sometime in the autumn. We also do not have the advice on Northern Shelf haddock for the following reason. Prior to 2014, haddock in the 1) North Sea & Skagerrak and 2) West of Scotland were assessed as separate stocks. In a benchmark review conducted in 2014, it was concluded that haddock in these areas should be assessed as one stock and this was put in place starting in 2014. The assessment method performed well in both 2014 and 2015 but the 2016 draft assessment was suggesting a large and unexpected increase in fishing mortality which implied some issues with the assessment model. An inter-benchmark has been organised to examine the issues and provide an updated assessment in the autumn. Advice for the Northern Shelf haddock stock for 2017 should be available in November.

As you will know, the much vilified Cod Recovery Plan has been modified so that the effort days at sea controls for both whitefish and nephrops boats has been repealed and the 20% constraint on TAC changes has also been repealed. We do not have any official text on the rescinding of these clauses but it is expected that the changes will be endorsed by the European Council and the European Parliament before the adoption of 2017 fishing opportunities takes place later on in the year. As a result of these changes cod will now be free to be included in the Landing Obligations and will likely be in the 2017 plan for the North Sea. The CRP has not been completely repealed and that is as much to do with the bureaucratic

nature of what is required to get to that stage as much as anything else. Certain clauses will therefore remain but the worst elements have gone.

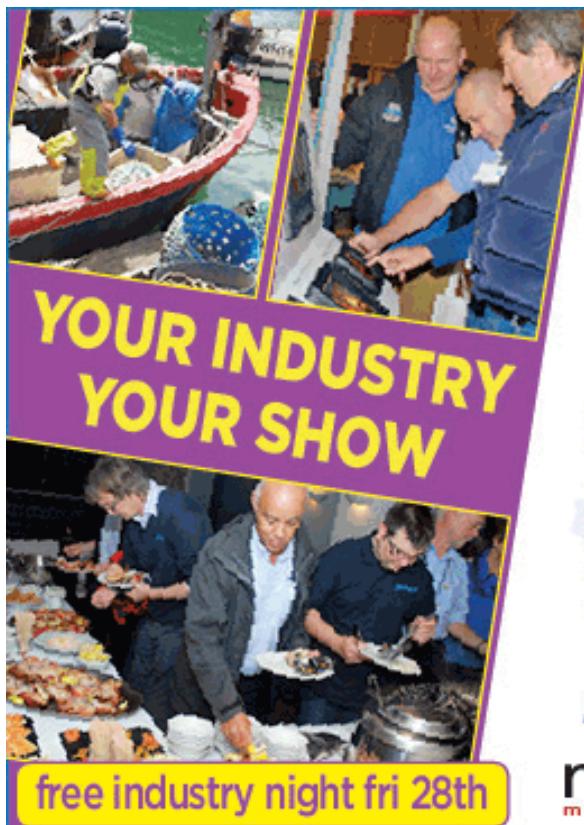
The Scottish Fishermen's Federation has been quick in involving itself in the Brexit debate. The SFF is, quite rightly, concerned that any advantages that might be gained from the United Kingdom's status as a Coastal State after it has left the European Union could be watered down in any horse trading that is more than likely to take place once the United Kingdom triggers Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty that will precipitate withdrawal. The United Kingdom will have long and difficult negotiations to make and the interests of the fishing community should not be compromised as it was when the United Kingdom entered the Common Market in 1973.

Please note that everything that has been written in this Newsletter has been on the basis of the current status quo within the European Union and this will carry on being the policy until we have more clarity on what Brexit will mean for the fishing industry.

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*Tom*

Tom Bryan-Brown  
CEO  
MNWFA



**bic**  
Bournemouth International Centre

SKIPPER EXPO INT. BOURNEMOUTH  
28-29 OCT 2016

**COMMERCIAL FISHING EXPO  
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mara media     **Skipper**

# **Proposed Discard Plans for the North Western Waters and the North Sea in the Landing Obligations for 2017**

This section outlines the proposed phasing of species and the changes in the thresholds into the Landing Obligations for 2017. This is subject to change as it has not yet been formally agreed by the Commission. This agreement will be made known through delegated acts for both areas. Please note that we have not included all of the proposals but just those that will affect MNWFA members.

## **North Sea (the 2017 species are in bold)**

Trawls ≥ 100mm      plaice, haddock, northern prawn, **whiting, cod, sole nephrops**

Trawls 70-99mm      nephrops, sole, northern prawn, **haddock**

## **High Survivability exemptions in the North Sea are as follows;**

Nephrops caught with bottom trawls with a mesh size of at least 80mm equipped with a Netgrid selectivity device comprising a four panel box section inserted into a two panel trawl with an inclined sheet of netting.

Look at the following link for a diagram of this rig.

[http://www.seafish.org/  
media/1405797nsdiscardplanannexes\\_demersalfisheries\\_201506\\_noannexes.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1405797nsdiscardplanannexes_demersalfisheries_201506_noannexes.pdf)

## **De Minimis Exemptions**

Nephrops of up to 6% of annual catches below MCRS caught by bottom trawls with a mesh of 80-99mm.

## **North Western waters (the 2017 species and changes in the thresholds are in bold)**

### **In the cod, haddock, whiting and saithe fishery**

All trawls    Where total landings per vessel of all species in 2014 & 2015 consist of more than 5% of the following gadoids; cod, haddock, whiting and saithe combined, the landing obligation shall apply to haddock **and by-catch of sole, plaice and megrims**. (the 5% represents a change from the 10% threshold that applied to the 2016 discard plan).

### **In the nephrops fishery**

All trawls    Where total landings per vessel of all species in 2014 & 2015 consist of

more than 20% nephrops norvegicus, the landing obligation shall apply to nephrops **and by-catch of haddock**. (the 20% represents a change from the 30% threshold that applied to the 2016 discard plan).

## **High Survivability exemptions in the North Western Waters are as follows;**

Nephrops caught in pots or traps

### **De Minimis Exemptions**

Nephrops of up to 7% of annual catches for those vessels obliged to land nephrops in Areas 6 & 7.

## **EMFF Funding and Fisheries Local Actions Groups**

The MNWFA has been trying to clarify what is the status of our current funding given the Brexit vote. This funding package lasts from 2014-2020 and Scotland's allocation of the award is 107.7 million euros. The question that we have been trying to establish is whether there will be any cut to this funding since the United Kingdom is due to leave the European Union before the end of the programme.

EMMFF is designed to do the following

- support the delivery of the CFP reform priorities, particularly the landing obligation
- support technical innovation, including improved selectivity
- support the inshore sector
- support sustainable aquaculture
- support scientific knowledge, training, safety and advice
- deliver greater coherence and transparency in the supply chain
- create or improve the access to markets for Scottish seafood products
- deliver sustainable diversification or complementary activity

We have been told by Marine Scotland that the funding for the FLAG grants has been guaranteed though the programme will only last until March 2018. As far as we understand it, this is the same for EMFF though for both programmes we do not have any guarantees of the finances beyond March 2018. If you would like to make any application to the FLAG for funding through the MNWFA then please do not hesitate to contact the office.

# **Small Isles Marine Protected Area**

Marine Scotland is committed to extending the Marine Protected Area network to the Small Isles and after an extra period of consultation that had been allocated after management areas in the rest of Scotland had already been implemented, Marine Scotland is now ready to go to consultation in this area again. This will happen later on this month and we would urge that all fishermen who have an interest in the Small Isles should make a response. You will perhaps remember that Scottish Environment LINK submitted over four thousand responses in the original consultation and Marine Scotland paid more attention to 'Society' as it was termed even though this mass of responses was formulaic and with no real substance. Therefore, size does matter to Marine Scotland and it is imperative that we get a good level of consultation responses submitted to give our perspective.

**Please note that we have sent out Marine Scotland co-ordinates of their proposed closed area in Canna Sound to those who we think tow around the Small Isles. This data can be input into the plotter to check to see how tows are compromised. Please let the office know if you would like a copy of these co-ordinates if you have not received them.**

We have been told that the consultation will be published sometime in late August and will last for eight weeks with a view to implementing the final legislation to commence on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

You will have seen that we recently sent you some information on the designation of Special Protection Areas for birds in Scottish waters. These areas will be designated under the European Birds Habitat and though the designations do not have a defined management policy, it is unlikely, from a practical perspective, that these designations will be withdrawn for the foreseeable future. If, therefore, you have any concerns over any particular proposed designation then please let Scottish Natural Heritage know by September 26<sup>th</sup> 2016. The MNWFA will be putting in its own response on behalf of the membership and we can, of course, incorporate your thoughts into the MNWFA response.

## **BUTEC Range Extension**

The Ministry of defence has extended the BUTEC range in the Inner Sound of Raasay through a new Statutory Instrument that you can see from the link below.  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/654/made>

It is unlikely that this extension will be of much interest to the vast majority of you but it has raised some difficult questions since some nephrops creel interests in the area have used the expansion to request that the whole of the Inner Sound should be shut to mobile fishing for the entire year. The area is already subject to a

BUTEC Range entension cont'd....

seasonal closure through the SSI 2004 Number 276 that means that mobile BUTEC vessels of only 12 metres (registered) can fish in that area. Mobile vessels are also only allowed to fish in the area from April 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup> and only allowed to use a single rig.

We will keep you informed of what is happening but it could well end up setting the standards throughout Scottish waters so fishermen should be aware of what is happening in the Sound.

## ICES Advice for 2017

You will see below the ICES advice for 2017 with the comparable advice for 2016. As you will all be aware, this is only advice and the final results will come from the agreements made at EU/Norway and at the December Council. It has been pointed out in the Fishing Opportunities 2017 document that 'it is the intention to propose TACs in line with achieving MSY in 2017.' This will keep the pressure on the allocation figures but there is some good news in that MSY ranges have been agreed in the Baltic Multi Annual Plan as opposed to the requested 'fixed points' system so much wanted by the eNGOs. MSY ranges could add some flexibility to quota management thereby reducing the chances of fisheries being choked by species that have a low TAC.

### Ices Advice for 2017

<b>Stock</b>	<b>Advice in tonnes 2017</b>	<b>Advice in tonnes 2016</b>
Cod in Area 4, 7D, 3A	47431	49259
Whiting in Area 4, 7D	23527	30510
Saithe in Area 4, 6, 3A	116605	75049
Plaice in Area 4, 3A	158201	216345
Sole in Area 4	15251	12800
Hake in Area 3A, 4, 6, 7, 8abd	123777	109592
Pollack in Area 3A, 4	1345	1300
Nephrops FU5 (Silver Pit)	895	1159
Nephrops FU6 (Farne Deeps)	751	738
Nephrops FU7 (Fladen)	6844	6856
Nephrops FU8 (Firth of Forth)	2123	2040
Nephrops FU9 (Moray Firth)	1070	943
Nephrops FU10 (Noup)	38	32
Nephrops FU34 (Devil's Hole)	459	383

Please note that ICES gives stock advice by Functional Unit for nephrops though the quota allocation for this stock has, to date, been by sea area.

# **Safety & Crewing Information**

The SFF has, principally through the work of Derek Cardno, been active in ensuring that Scottish fishermen have been well represented in all issues of safety and safe working practices through the British and European fora that are dedicated to these matters. In recent months Derek has shared, in particular, the following with fishing representatives.

## **Standards of Training, Certification, Watch keeping-Fishing Vessel Personnel**

STCW-F is coming in during 2017 and that will mean several changes for fisheries training including changes to the mandatory courses. Medical courses will see the biggest changes. STCW-F is an international convention that the United Kingdom is signed up to and will supersede many of the national obligations that are put in place by the MCA. STCW-F is mainly be for vessels over 24 metres but it will affect all fishermen in some form. We are trying to push the MCA to make decisions as quickly as possible so that fishermen are aware as early as possible of the implications for the industry. Once the rules are put in place then any grandfather rights that might be applicable will be sorted out and any extra work that is required for fishermen to carry out will be made clear.

## **ILO188 (Work in Fishing Convention)**

The ILO188 is a global labour standard that will be applicable to all fishing vessels once it is ratified and that is likely to be in the near future as the required amount of countries, that is ten, to sign up has almost been reached. Once ten countries have signed up there will be a 12 month period before the convention is put in place.

The convention establishes responsibilities and minimum standards for fishing vessel owners and skippers outside of what you are currently used to doing and there is a brief document that outlines what this will entail in the link below.

[http://www.seafish.org/media/1144326/clgfeb2014\\_mca\\_ilowork.pdf](http://www.seafish.org/media/1144326/clgfeb2014_mca_ilowork.pdf)

The convention is a two tier structure that will have different implications for those vessels that are over 24 metres in length and that work for trips longer than seven days and work more than 200 miles from the coastline. Vessels that are below these parameters will have different requirements and it will be left to national governments to adopt laws and regulations so that they can fulfil the provisions of the convention.

Some of the topics dealt with by the convention are

- Crew list
- Medical fitness
- Living accommodation and food standards on board

- Fisher's Working Agreement
- 
- **Man Over Board Mannequin Project**

Following on from the MAIB report on the MOB fatality on the Beryl, the SFF has supported that mannequins should be used in fishing boats' MOB drills which can be easily stored and are cheap to buy (circa £85.00). A Mannequin has been designed and developed recently and now needs to be tested on board all types of vessels. Derek Cardno is going to use one of the mannequins on his vessel visits over the next few months to give fishermen the opportunity to drill. If you are interested in receiving a visit or would like more information on doing drills then Derek is more than happy to assist. The mannequins are for sale but work is ongoing at the moment to see if funding can be accessed to support vessel owners in getting one. Ten fishermen have lost their lives this year and the last four were MOB's. None of them was wearing a flotation device. The MCA is now planning on carrying out detailed MOB drills on FV's who are up for survey. Derek has said that wearing a flotation device while working on deck is vital to aid survival and the boat while it tries to recover a lost crewman.

Please contact Derek himself or the MNWFA office for any more information on any safety or training matters.

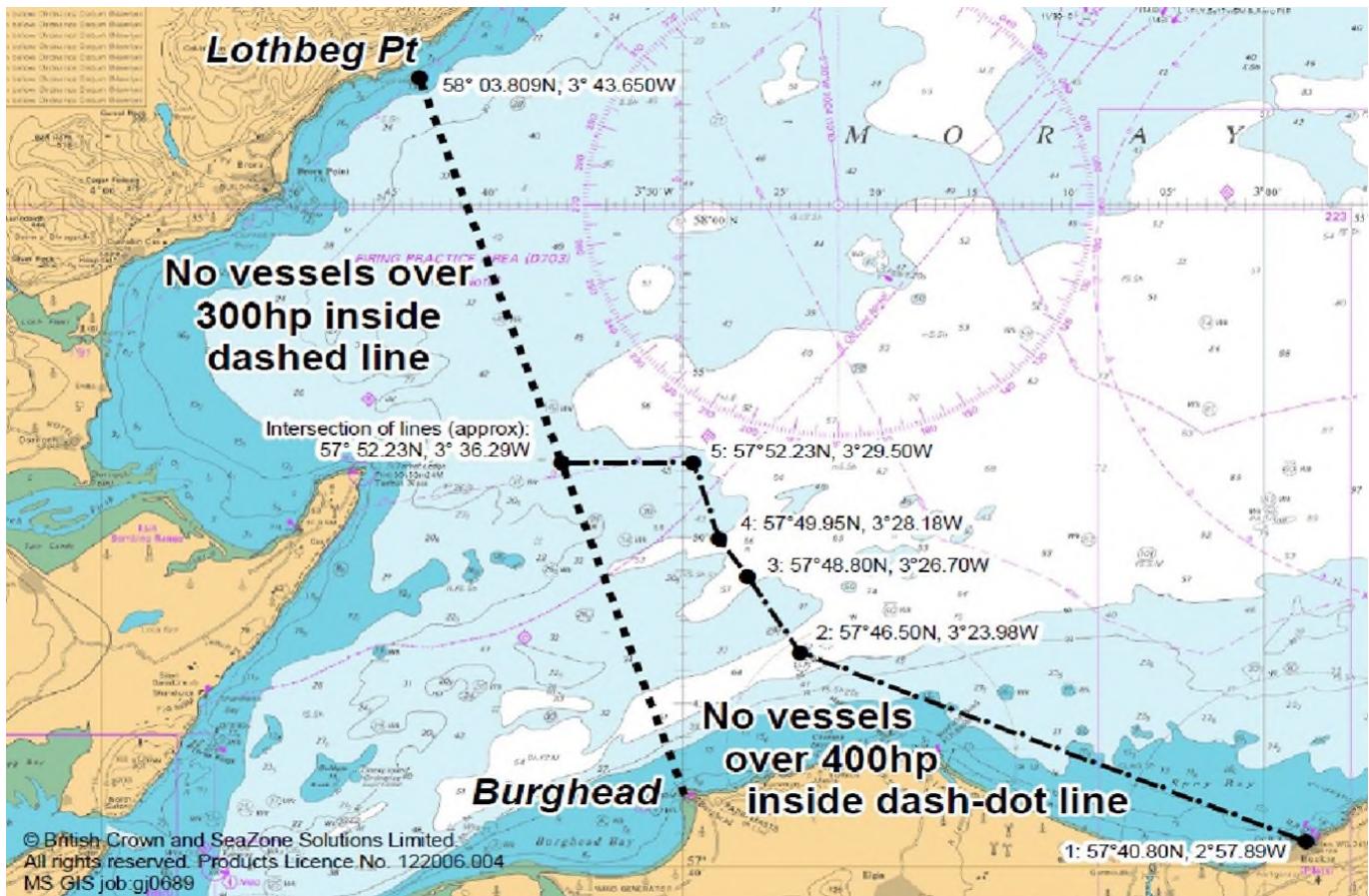


## Mallaig Maritime Day Success!

The fantastic sum of £9,777 was raised at the event held on the on 23rd July, with £4,888 each banked by the RNLI and the Fishermen's Mission.

The RNLI and Fishermen's Mission have expressed thanks to those who donated/sponsored and volunteered.

# Burghead Voluntary Agreement



In October 2012 John Cox from the North Coast & Moray Firth Inshore Fisheries Group called together fishermen from in and around Burghead and representatives from other nephrops groups to discuss a voluntary agreement for prawn trawling around Burghead in the Moray Firth. Our current Chairman, Mark Robertson, was part of that group. Due to a lack of nephrops in the traditional offshore North Sea grounds and a lack of days at sea on the West Coast grounds there had been a heavy fishing in the Moray Firth. A voluntary agreement was made for the fishery that is shown on the chart above so that the interests of all fishermen could be addressed. At a recent meeting of the East Coast rIFG it was suggested that the group should convene again to discuss how the voluntary agreement could be improved if it was needed to do this. As a result, the MNWFA represented its membership at a meeting that was held in July in Burghead. Technical conservation measures were discussed and there will be another meeting held this month to discuss how we should go. Naturally, the voluntary agreement is what is favoured by the vast majority and we will make you aware of what is happening as soon as we get some more information but if you would like us to put your views forward then please do not hesitate to contact the office.

# 2016 Annual Scottish Fishing Conference

**UPDATE. The conference now has two overarching themes:  
“THRIVING IN SHARED SEAS and FISHING POST-BREXIT”**

## **Who Should Attend:**

- Fishermen and vessel owners from all fleet segments
- Fishing industry organisations
- Policy makers
- Fisheries scientists
- Fisheries managers

Other users of the marine environment

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fis-second-annual-scottish-fishing-conference-tickets-23169368204>

The 2016 ASFC will explore interactions between fishers and other users of the marine environment – including other fishers. There will also be a Panel discussion on the implications of leaving the EU.

The first half day of the conference on the 22nd August will take account of what was said regarding the Landing Obligation and other key issues during the inaugural 2015 event, and discuss details of how FIS has responded to that topic through its recent and current research projects..

Day 2 of the conference on the 23rd August will be opened by **Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity**. Prof Ray Hilborn from the University of Washington will then give the second keynote address, sharing his international experience with delegates. The remainder of Day 2 will focus on examples of how agreements can be reached in ‘shared seas’ scenarios, and also on a very timely discussion about the implications of Brexit for the Scottish industry. There will be ample opportunity for structured workshops and discussions, as well as informal networking.

The Conference Dinner will be held in the splendid Lower College Hall at St Andrews on the evening of 22nd August. Conference registration and attendance at the Conference Dinner are free. The number of places available is limited, and those wishing to attend should register early.

Accommodation is widely available in St Andrews and delegates are required to make their own accommodation arrangements. However, we would recommend the University’s Agnes Blackadder Hall ([agnes.blackadder@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:agnes.blackadder@st-andrews.ac.uk)).



FISH INDUSTRY TRAINING ASSOCIATION

*from water to plate*



Course	Venue	Date	Time	Cost
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	Training Room Dunstaffnage Marina, Oban	Monday 29th August	0930	£120
<b>Fire Fighting</b>	Training Room Dunstaffnage Marina, Oban	Tuesday 30th August	0930	£140
<b>Sea Survival STCW95 PST</b>	Training Room Dunstaffnage Marina, Oban	Wednesday 31st August	0930	£140
<b>First Aid STCW95 EFA</b>	Training Room Dunstaffnage Marina, Oban	Thursday 1st September	0930	£120

**For more information please contact Lachie Paterson**

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**email: lachie.paterson@btinternet.com**

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DATE	TIME	COURSE	VENUE
<b>08.08.16</b>	0900	First Aid/STCW 95 EFA	Fraserburgh
<b>09.08.16</b>	0900	FIRE FIGHTING	Fraserburgh
<b>10.08.16</b>	1000	SEA SURVIVAL/PST STCW 95	Fraserburgh
<b>11.08.16</b>	0900	SAFETY AWARENESS	Fraserburgh
<b>12.08.16</b>	0900	NEW ENTRANT HEALTH & SAFETY	Fraserburgh
<b>05.09.16</b>	0900	First Aid/STCW 95 EFA	Fraserburgh
<b>06.19.16</b>	0900	FIRE FIGHTING	Fraserburgh
<b>07.09.16</b>	1000	SEA SURVIVAL/PST STCW 95	Fraserburgh
<b>08.09.16</b>	0900	SAFETY AWARENESS	Fraserburgh
<b>09.09.16</b>	0900	NEW ENTRANT HEALTH & SAFETY	Fraserburgh

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