

**NOTE OF MEETING** of the  
SW Regional Inshore Fisheries Group  
Held at The Creebridge Hotel, Newton Stewart at  
18 00 on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025.



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| Present- in person: | Skippers: J Brouls, A Lochhead, A Watson, P Maguire, S Mcguire, F Scott, J Aspinall, J Colman, S Patterson, I Patterson<br>A Hamilton- Chair |
| Present-online:     | E Whyte- CIFA; Mark Caldwell, Hans Unkles                                                                                                    |

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| <b>1.</b> | <p><b>Welcome and Introduction.</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed the attendees and confirmed that the meeting is only open to those with a direct commercial interest in the Fishing industry. After confirming domestic issues, he declared the meeting open.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>2.</b> | <p><b>Marine Directorate Update:</b></p> <p>The Chair provided an update regarding the Marine Directorate's current activities- including Inshore Fisheries Management Improvement programme- that may impact the inshore industry in the coming months This included information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans to introduce inshore vessel tracking systems in 2026:</li> <li>• Personnel changes in the Marine Directorate Policy Team:</li> <li>• The development of the National Marine Plan 2.</li> </ul>                                                                                                            |
| <b>3.</b> | <p><b>Update on Solway Science Project:</b></p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the progress on the Solway science project. It is widely known that data collection was to cease with effect 31<sup>st</sup> October. This was discussed in detail, with attendees questioning the validity of the data due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No data being collected between November and January- the quarter when berried hen lobsters were most prevalent:</li> <li>• The equipment being issued to and, on occasions, retained by part-time fishermen. It was felt that this would both yield consistent data:</li> </ul> |

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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lack of summer data:</li> <li>• A lack of science staff carrying out the shoreside measuring.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting sought the Chair to lodge a robust request for the project to be continued for a further year in order for conclusions to be based on robust data. It was noted that this had been considered by the Marine Directorate, but dismissed in recent months.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>4.</b> | <p><b>Scoping Exercise Regarding National Creel Limits:</b></p> <p>A discussion on a scoping exercise to lay out options for introducing national creel limits took place. Many skippers believe that the current voluntary 600 creel limit that is widely observed locally, is reasonable. It was noted, however, that the Interim Measures had led to an increase in fishing effort. .</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>5.</b> | <p><b>Cetacean Entanglement:</b></p> <p>Susan Calderan of the Scottish Entanglement Alliance attended the meeting. She manages a trial project using weighted line in fleets with 100 vessels involved. She presented details of her project and offered participation to Solway skippers who thought the matter of relevance.</p> <p>Many questions regarding technical details of the project took place with all skippers participating.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>6.</b> | <p><b>Planning and Other Consultations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Chair reported that the organisation had responded to the Clyde Cod Box consultation supporting the argument that the recently-introduced extension to the fishing restrictions should be removed:</li> <li>2. The Chair reported that he is awaiting detailed charts regarding the Machair Wind Farm Power Export cable. Skippers were interested in whether there was compensation planned, should any reduced fishing grounds be available:</li> <li>3. The Chair requested that skippers remain aware of the imminent launch of the Inshore Marine Protected Areas &amp; Priority Marine Features consultation.</li> </ol> |

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| <b>7.</b> | <b>Date of Next Meeting:</b><br><br>A question was posed as to whether there is to be a return to one annual meeting of the Group, supported by Regional working Groups. The Chair confirmed that he was working towards that with regional meetings having already taken place in Argyll, and two on the Solway and that he had attended the CFIA AGM. The meeting agreed that the proposed meeting scheduled for Glasgow at 15 00 on 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 was accepted. |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Any other business:</b><br><br>Code of Conduct: The meeting requested that the Chair re-issue the Code of Conduct for scallop dredgers as had been done in previous years. AH agreed to look into this.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>Close:</b><br><br>There being no further business the meeting closed at 19 40.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |