



## Scottish Scallop Sector Working Group (SSSWG)

### Appraisal of Current Management Measures and Options for the Short and Longer Term

#### Function of the Sub Group

The SSSWG Management Sub-Group was convened to utilise industry expertise in baselining current measures for managing scallop stocks in Scotland and outlining possible future options. The group is focussed on management of scallop activity in Scottish waters, but recognises the nomadic nature of many Scottish dredge vessels throughout UK waters.

#### Guiding Principles

Marine Scotland's 2020 Future Fisheries Management Strategy sets out our strategic approach for the next 10 years. In considering options for scallop management we will ensure alignment with the Strategy's ecosystem-based approach, working in close collaboration with our stakeholders.

- Fishing at stable and sustainable levels.
- Building a robust scientific evidence base.
- Using fishers' knowledge to evidence fisheries management decisions which mitigate negative outcomes both for the environment and the fishing sector.
- Supporting fishers to demonstrate their compliance with rules and regulations, including through the use of technology.

#### Drivers for Management Decision-Making

##### Evaluation of Current Management Effectiveness

- To form an assessment of what policies and measures might best serve the future of our scallop fisheries we will consider the effectiveness of what policies and measures are currently in place and whether these could be better utilised.
- We wish for our stakeholders to outline proposals in writing and then present them for discussion at the SSSWG. This aspiration recognises that inshore interests will use the Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (RIFG) network to help formalise such proposals, whereas offshore interests may favour their own representative organisation.
- Proposals may seek to consider removal of ineffective or obsolete measures, or replicate measures or approaches considered successful elsewhere.
- It is important that consideration be given to how proposed measures or approaches would be evidenced. Where the evidential requirement does not exist, consideration should be given to how it might be enabled and financed.
- Table 1. outlines varying approaches to scallop management and suggests how each could be modified in the short and long term.



- Table 2. gives an overview of legislative mechanisms currently imposed on scallop fishing in the Scottish Zone.

### Social and Political Pressures

- Pressures generated by Brexit / COVID19 have had acute impacts on the scallop fishing sector.
- There is a need to adapt to new circumstances (TCA, Annual International Fishing Agreements, The Fisheries Act 2020, Future Fisheries Management Strategy).
- There is particular concern from the industry about their ability to respond to EU market demands and customer expectations for sustainability, traceability, quality and consistency.
- The TCA will most likely cause changes to scallop fishers' ability to access certain EU scallop grounds. This may in turn displace effort into UK and Scottish waters.
- Retailers now expect assurances not just about the quality, traceability and sustainability of the catch but also about wider social issues such as crew welfare.

### Pressures of the Shared Marine Space

- Fishers are having to adapt to working with the many other interests competing for the 'Shared Marine Space'.
- Decisions on marine usage must take place in accordance with [Scotland's National Marine Plan](#), which has general policies to ensure co-existence, alignment with other plans, fairness, early engagement, sound science and consideration of cumulative impacts.

### Recognising the Expertise of Our Stakeholder Network

- Table 3. outlines various proposals for management of scallop fisheries in Scotland and the wider-UK, including those developed by external groups of stakeholders.

## **Objectives of Management Measures**

Key considerations in selecting management methodologies for scallop fisheries:

- Ensuring sustainability of stock status over the long term.
  - Can improved engagement across our stakeholder network help us better understand scallop stock distribution?
  - Are we making best use of the scientific advice that we have been given?
  - Is that advice in a form that is correctly shaped to guide management decisions?



- Are we content that fishing opportunities are proportionate to the stocks and can we adequately evidence this?
- Ensuring that our approach allows fair and equitable access to available resources.
  - How do wider marine and fisheries management decisions impact on the activities of the scallop sector?
  - Are we taking a management approach that recognises regional variations in the fishery as opposed to blanket measures.
- Obtaining optimal economic and social value.
  - We should consider how best to use input and output controls to enable our scallop sector to attain best economic and social value.
  - Could quality, traceability and sustainability be encouraged or incentivised to optimise economic and social value?
  - Are we working with communities to retain industry link and promote sustainable economic growth?
- Ensuring that impact on the marine environment is minimised.
  - Are we making optimal use of monitoring to evidence environmental impacts?
  - Are we enabling the scallop sector to demonstrate compliance / responsible fishing?
  - Are environmental benefits proportionate to economic impacts?
  - Are we considering fisheries implications of the Blue Economy Action Plan and transition to carbon net zero – should research into more environmentally friendly gear be accelerated?
  - Can the regulatory environment be adapted to facilitate trialling of innovative gears and practices?

**Table 1. Possible approaches to scallop management**

Type of Measure	Short Term	Long Term
Licencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Further removal of latent effort.</li> <li>● Extend scallop entitlement to &lt;10 meter vessels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inshore permitting for scallops</li> </ul>
Quota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Appraise lessons learned for existing management of species via quota (should it be tradeable? Provisions to prevent monetisation of quota? How should determining a reference period be approached?).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce national quota for scallops.</li> <li>● Consider strategy for quota swapping with other countries.</li> <li>● Work with other authorities to develop a UK-wide approach to scallop quota.</li> </ul>
Seasonal Separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review and consider retention / removal of existing measures.</li> <li>● Use knowledge of juvenile/spawning areas to outline possible restricted areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use learning from existing areas and scientific evidence to outline vulnerable areas for protective measures.</li> </ul>
Spatial Separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review and consider retention / removal of existing measures.</li> <li>● Use knowledge of juvenile/spawning areas to outline possible restricted areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use learning from existing areas and scientific evidence to outline vulnerable areas for protective measures.</li> </ul>



MLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review current 105mm MLS as per consultation commitment with reference to possible increase to 110mm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use scientific evidence to consider the feasibility of tailoring MLS to discrete areas.</li> </ul>
Gear Restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out a scientific review of dredge gear to inform future management approach.</li> <li>Assess Gear restrictions/efficiency measures against type of fishing limitation (effort and TACs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further restriction on dredge numbers.</li> <li>Restriction on bar length.</li> <li>Incentives for use of 'environmentally friendly' dredge solutions.</li> </ul>
REM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage current scallop dredge fishers to volunteer for installation of REM systems.</li> <li>Requirement for REM on scallop vessels is set to become law in 2022.</li> </ul>	
Curfew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider development of voluntary approaches to explore the value of curfews.</li> <li>Test limited temporal / spatial use of curfews.</li> </ul>	

### Next Steps

The Scottish Government have been clear that, as a Coastal State, we will work to ensure our inshore fisheries legislation is fit for purpose. Our chosen approach will consider appropriate use of measures such as inshore permitting, quota for non-TAC species, as well as modifications to existing legislative mechanisms.

We would like the approaches set out here to form the basis of discussion by the 5 nationwide RIFGs and representative associations of offshore scallop fishing businesses and for those discussions to feed into future SSSWG meetings. The intent is to canvas stakeholder opinion on the concepts within, considering them in the context of our FFM implementation plan (due to be published in 2021).



**Table 2. Overview of current legislative mechanisms in place in the Scottish Zone**

Measure	Summary	Seasonal Sep	Spatial Sep	MLS	Gear Restriction	REM	Curfew	Effort Restriction
<a href="#">UK Fishing Vessel Licensing System</a>	Prevents prosecution of stocks without a valid fishing licence, contains entitlement to fish for scallops with dredge.				X			
<a href="#">The Regulation of Scallop Dredges (Scotland) Order 2005</a>	Imposes technical limits on dredges including dimension and frequency of teeth.				X			
<a href="#">The Shetland Islands Regulated Fishery (Scotland) Order 2012</a>	Grants authority to implement system of licensing and management for fisheries, including scallops, inside 6nm of the Shetland Islands.		X	X	X	X	X	X
<a href="#">The Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing and Fishing Methods) (Outer Hebrides) Order 2017</a>	Prohibits dredge fishing within a designated area during certain times of year.	X	X					
<a href="#">The Inshore Fishing (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) (Luce Bay) Order 2015</a>	Prohibits fishing with dredges within a set area.	X	X					
<a href="#">Inshore Fisheries Plots Initiative - The Mull Crab Box</a>	Prohibits dredge fishing within a designated area during a certain time of year.	X	X					X (voluntary)
<a href="#">The Regulation of Scallop Fishing (Scotland) Order 2017</a>	Restrictions on number of dredges, bar length, which is altered by carriage of an REM system.			X	X	X		
<a href="#">Council Regulation (EC) No 1954/2003 - The Western Waters Effort Regime</a>	System of effort limitation (kilowatt days) applicable to ICES areas VI and VII.							X



**Table 3. Known proposals for management of scallop fisheries in Scotland and the wider-UK**

Measure	Summary	Licence	Quota (TAC) / effort restriction	Seasonal Sep	Spatial Sep	MLS	Gear Restriction	REM	Curfew
Scallop Conservation and Management Strategy in West Coast Waters Report	Report commissioned by MRAG through the West Coast RIFG to outline several approaches to management of scallop fisheries within defined areas of the Firth of Clyde.	X				X	X	X	X
A Review of the Scottish Scallop Fishery	Report commissioned by Poseidon in 2013 characterising the fishery nationwide and making a series of overarching recommendations for future management for scallop fishery improvement.	X			X	X	X	X	X
SICG Co-Management Proposals	Discussions around establishing an agreed UK-wide management plan establishing industry and government as equal partners. Seeks to reevaluate Western Water Effort Regime removing latent capacity and 15m threshold.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Project UK	Project UK is a pre-competitive multi-stakeholder project, identifying best practice in science and management to develop a pathway for King scallop fisheries to improve on their sustainability, through utilisation of best available data and identification of data and research gaps to better inform management.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
CEFAS – Management Options for UK crab and scallop fisheries in western waters	DEFRA-funded advice paper outlining options for western waters management. Discusses practices adopted in similar fisheries in other countries to make recommendations for the UK benefit.		X	X	X				