

OHRIFG Website UPDATES April—June 2025

ENTANGLEMENT PROJECT: OUTER HEBRIDES INVOLVEMENT.

The OHRIFG arranged two workshop meetings with the Scottish Entanglement Alliance (SEA) on the practicalities of using negatively buoyant rope in creel ground lines. This is part of a national project initiative.

The meetings were held in Benbecula on 12/2/25 and in Tarbert in Harris on 13/2/25. At the workshop meetings, most participants were initially unsure about whether negatively buoyant ground lines were practical for a variety of reasons, especially working on hard, boulders ground. By the end of the meetings, most of the fishers present had decided to give the entanglement project a go and trials would take place over the summer months. The SEA team will report back in the autumn and hold further workshops to discuss how the rope trials have gone and assess how the project will continue in future.

NATURSCOT: MONITORING RISSO'S DOLPHINS in NE LEWIS MPA.

Six acoustic mooring devices are to be placed in the NE Lewis MPA to monitor movement of Rissos Dolphins for a six month period. OHRIFG and WIFA organised the original meeting with NatureScot staff and will facilitate future meetings with fishers and the Rissos team. The project team will continue to liaise with fishers in case mooring buoys drift from the seabed. An assessment of the project will be conducted in the autumn and all shareholders will be informed of the results.

INTERIM SHELLFISH MEASURES and CALL FOR EVIDENCE.

Fishery meetings were organised throughout the Outer Hebrides and also by Teams by OHRIFG and WIFA to gauge fishers reactions to the MD proposals. Formal submissions will be made by OHRIFG and WIFA and individual fishers to the proposals by the May deadline.

BLUE TUNA FISHING LICENCE for the OUTER HEBRIDES.

Angus Campbell from Harris has been successful in obtaining a Bluefin Tuna licence for the 2025 season which opens on 1 July. Angus has been granted an individual quota of 3 tonnes and is one of only fifteen skippers in the UK to be issued with a licence for the 2025 season.