

## INSHORE FISHERIES



MALLAIG HARBOUR



CREELS STACKED AT ANSTRUTHER HARBOUR

### Introduction

Scotland's inshore waters extend from the coast out to 12 nautical miles (nm), with a concentration of fishing taking place within 6 nm.

There are over 2,000 active Scottish fishing vessels and three quarters of them fish primarily in inshore waters. Typically these are smaller boats of 8-10 metres in length with one or two crew members, fishing daily from local ports.

The inshore fleet is diverse and includes trawlers, creelers, netters, dredgers and divers. Hand gatherers may collect cockles from the foreshore. Shellfish is the main target - brown and velvet crab, lobster, scallops and *Nephrops* (langoustines).

Inshore fishing is mostly conducted by one of two methods **Static gear fishing** for crabs, lobster and *Nephrops* by placing baited pots or creels on the sea bed and **mobile gear fishing** involving the towing of gear, such as nets for *Nephrops* or dredges for scallops, behind a vessel.

### Governance

Marine Scotland manages inshore fisheries using a variety of legislation. The Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 allows regulation of the size of fish landed, gear type that can be used, and restrictions on species that can be landed. The Sea Fish (Shellfish) Act 1967 allows local management of fisheries through the granting of Several and/or Regulating Orders. The Inshore Fishing (Scotland) Act 1984 allows regulation of species fished, location and the methods as well as vehicles used.

There is, however, widespread acceptance that the current legislation is somewhat outdated and does not allow sufficient flexibility or the ability to limit fishing pressure. The 2016 SNP Manifesto committed to a new Inshore Fisheries Bill. Any new legislative provisions will be subject to full public consultation by Marine Scotland.

Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups (RIFGs) are non-statutory bodies that aim to improve the management of Scotland's inshore fisheries out to six nautical miles, and to give commercial

inshore fishermen a strong voice in wider marine management developments. The RIFGs will consider local issues raised by fishermen in the 0-6 nautical mile zone.

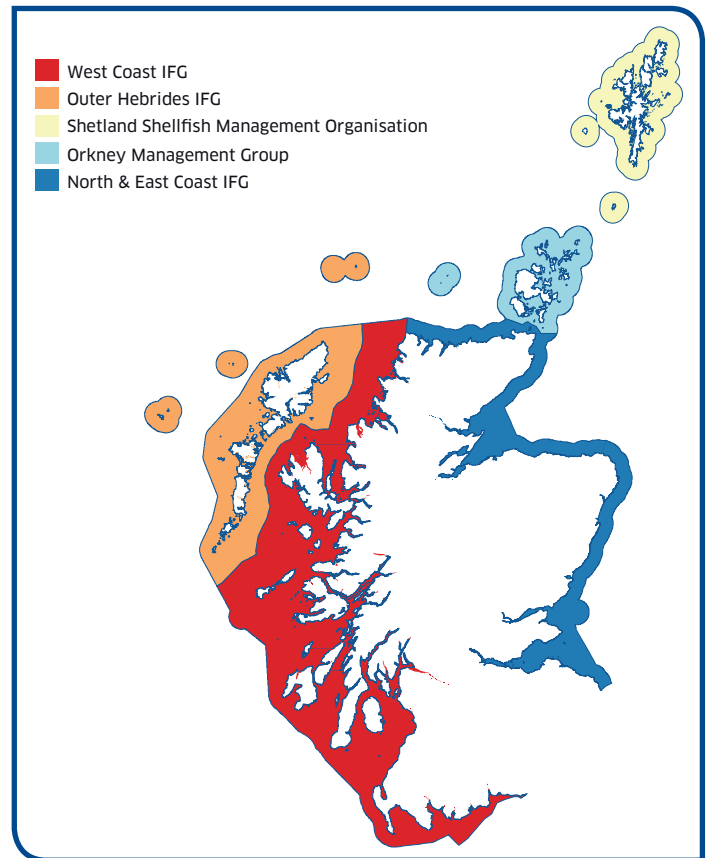
National management initiatives will continue to be discussed with industry through the Inshore Fisheries Management and Conservation Group (IFMAC).

Area of remit		
0-6 NM	6-12 NM	12-200 NM
<b>National Fisheries Issues</b>		
IFMAC main group plus sub groups as required		FMAC
<b>Local Inshore Fisheries</b>		
Five Regional IFG's Plus Local / topic sub groups as required	IFMAC	

## Inshore fisheries strategy and implementation

The Inshore Fisheries Strategy sets out that “Our vision is to support the development of a more sustainable, profitable and well-managed inshore fisheries sector in Scotland. We aim to do this by modernising the management of our inshore fisheries in Scotland and reaping long-term sustainable rewards for the inshore sector, the marine environment and our coastal communities.”

Since the 2012 Inshore Fisheries Strategy there have been many developments in fisheries management and its role in management of the wider marine environment has been redefined through the National Marine Plan. Marine Scotland requires that management decisions are based on sound evidence with input from fishermen and other stakeholders.



REGIONAL INSHORE FISHERIES GROUPS FROM APRIL 2016

The three key elements of the 2012 strategy - improving science and data required for more effective management; improving engagement with fishermen; and supporting the Inshore Fisheries Group network - are still central to our strategic approach but now with a greater focus on integration with the marine planning system.

The 2015 inshore strategy will therefore focus on:

- improving the evidence base on which fisheries management decisions are made
- streamlining fisheries governance, and promoting stakeholder participation
- embedding inshore fisheries management into wider marine planning

The Scottish Government Inshore Fisheries Strategy can be found at:  
[www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/InshoreFisheries/InshoreFisheriesStrategy](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/InshoreFisheries/InshoreFisheriesStrategy)