Appendix 4 – Interview Codebook

Below is the Codebook of themes that arose during in the semi-structured interviews conducted between the 17th and 22nd of July 2022 (n=28). Each interviewee is documented in a file, hence the maximum number of files is 28. References are parts of interview transcripts that were highlighted under a specific code and are not reliable quantitative measures. Many statements given by interviewees have been coded both with the theme with which they relate and also with an attitude code to highlight the sentiment pertaining to that theme.

Name	Description	Files	References
Anecdotes		13	44
Attitude	The coding of any interesting anecdotes given by interviewees which are not necessarily relevant to the project hypotheses but still portray useful information and experiences regarding the Creel Limitation Pilot and more.	28	620
Negative	Coding for negative sentiment or negative change reported by the interviewee.	28	171
Neutral-Stayed the Same	Coding related to neutral sentiment or no change in circumstances as a result of the Creel Limitation Pilot, reported by interviewees.	27	181
Positive	Coding for positive sentiment or positive change reported by interviewees.	27	267
Consultation	Coding related to aspects of the consultation process for the Creel Limitation Pilot, focussing on personal interest and attendance to the consultation events. Any suggestions for improvement have been coded under 'Management Suggestions'.	26	73
CLP Interest	Coding of comments related to the level of interest in the Creel Limitation Pilot when it was proposed.	25	36

Consultation Attendance	Coding of those that attended consultation events when the Pilot was proposed.	26	34
Creel Limit	Coding relating to comments on the creel limits as set out by Marine Scotland in the Creel Limitation Pilot scheme.	27	108
Accept lower limit	Coding to identify all the interviewees that are willing to accept lower creel limits if evidence arises to suggest that this is advantageous for sustainability.	20	23
Just Right	Coding to identify that the participant believed the creel limits to be about right.	7	8
Not Conservative Enough	Coding to identify that the participant believed the creel limits to be too high.	15	21
Too Conservative	Coding to identify that the participant believed the creel limits to be too low.	2	3
Economics	Coding related to any economic issues or comments raised by interviewees.	28	135
Market Prices	Coding related to comments on the current market prices or the change in market prices for shellfish.	10	18
Operational Costs	Coding related to operational costs, including fuel, gear and bait.	15	39
Bait Costs	All coding and comments related to the cost of bait.	2	2
Fuel Costs	Coding of specific comments relating to the cost of fuel, including speculation as to whether the fuel cost is impacting fishing locations.	10	16
Gear Cost	Coding related to comments on the cost of gear.	12	18
Gear Conflict	Coding related to any comments made regarding the theme of gear conflict by the interviewees.	26	131
East-West	Coding related to the geographic location of reports surrounding the presence or absence of gear conflict, noting that on the east of the Hebrides	17	29

	lies the Creel Limitation Pilot Area and to the west, there is currently no creel limitation scheme in place.		
East or Inside	Coding related to comments made about fishing on the east or inside the pilot area	11	13
West-Outside	Coding on comments related to fishing on the west or outside the pilot area.	7	12
Static-Mobile	Coding related to specific reports of gear conflict between static and mobile gear fishers (predominantly trawlers and dredges).	10	18
Entanglements	Coding related to comments on entanglements of static gear, resulting in incidents or loss of gear.	2	14
Fewer Trawlers	Coding related to comments made about fewer trawlers being present in the area.	4	5
Static-Static	Coding related to gear conflict between static gear fishers, predominantly consisting of conflict for space and stocks.	16	43
Health and Safety	All coding related to the questions and comments from the interviews about health and safety.	26	69
CLP H&S Implications	Responses to the question 'Are there any health and safety implications from the Creel Limitation Pilot?'	22	22
Reduced Creels	Responses to the question 'Do you believe there would be a benefit to your health and safety by reducing creel numbers?'	21	23
Satisfaction	Responses to the question 'Are you more or less satisfied with your health and safety now compared to before the Creel Limitation Pilot? '	19	19
Management	Coding related to the management of the inshore fishery, including the comments made regarding the management and policing of the Creel Limitation Pilot. Included here are also suggestions for adjustment for the pilot	23	164

	that can be aggregated and proposed to the management authority.		
Management suggestions	Coding related to suggestions and recommendations given for the management of the Creel Limitation Pilot or the fishery going forwards.	23	149
Management Area	Coding of the comments made regarding the extent or geography of the Creel Limitation Pilot Area	11	22
Policing	Coding related to comments on the policing of the Creel Limitation Pilot.	7	10
Quota system	Coding of comments made suggesting a quota system as an alternative to a creel limitation.	1	1
Responsiveness	Coding of comments relating to the responsiveness of the management approach and adaptability to change.	3	4
Species Fished	Coding of comments whereby fishers think different species and fisheries should be taken into account when setting the creel limits.	5	13
Suggestions for Creels	Coding of recommendations for management specifically relating to creels	17	33
1000 Creels Across the Board	Coding for those interviewees that specifically shared the idea of a 1000 creel limit.	6	11
Creel Tagging	Coding of comments where fishers believe creels should be tagged.	2	2
Crew Dependent	Coding of comments where fishers want to see the number of crew accounted for in the creel limits.	1	1
Lower limit	Coding of comments where fishers wanted to see the limits reduced further.	11	18
Trial Date Extension	Coding of comments where fishers wished to see the pilot extended beyond the 31st of October 2022	5	6
Vessel Limit	Coding of comments where fishers are concerned about the number of vessels	7	19

	fishing in an area or moving into their areas if the pilot is successful.		
Operational Implications	Coding concerning the shifts in operational patterns reported by interviewees. Only those that reported changes to their operating patterns have been coded. Included is a sub-branch for any changes an interviewee has perceived in the fishing practices of others.	27	96
Distance Travelled	Coding related to changes in distance travelled as a result of the Creel Limitation Pilot.	4	7
Other's Fishing Activities	Coding related to the perceived changes in the operational activities of others as a result of the Creel Limitation Pilot.	26	52
Personal Creel Numbers	Coding related to changes in personal creel numbers as a result of the Creel Limitation Pilot.	10	22
Soak Times	Coding related to changes in soak times as a result of the Creel Limitation Pilot.	3	4
Trip Time	Coding related to changes in trip times as a result of the Creel Limitation Pilot.	4	4
Other concerns	Coding for other concerns noted by interviewees. Participants were asked specifically what their biggest concerns were and where these did not specifically relate to the creel limitation, these were noted here.	19	79
Aquaculture	Coding related to changes and expansion in the aquaculture sector as a concern because it encroaches on fishing grounds.	1	6
Bad Weather	Coding related to concern over bad weather, preventing fishing vessels from going to sea.	5	9
BREXIT	Coding related to ongoing concern over the separation of the United Kingdom from Europe and its implications.	1	6
Creel Storage	Coding related to issues raised of storing creels because the limits stipulated that	3	3

	some of their creels had to be taken ashore.		
Crew	Coding related to issues in finding crew.	2	2
Greed	Coding related to concern over greed in the fishing industry and the undermining of sustainability	4	5
Hobby Fishermen	Coding of concerns over hobby fishermen.	1	7
Illegal Activity	Coding of concern over illegal activities such as selling catch directly to hotels.	1	1
Inability to Diversify	Coding of concern at fishers being unable to diversify their fisheries if stocks decline.	2	4
Industry Pollution	Coding of concern about marine pollution caused by the creeling sector.	1	2
Inefficiency	Coding of concern that other fishers are fishing high numbers of creels inefficiently rather than fewer more efficiently.	1	1
Landing Berried Lobsters	Coding of concern over the landing of berried female lobsters. This is currently legal in Scotland.	1	3
Marine Protected Areas	Coding of comments concerning the creation of new Marine Protected Areas taking up valuable fishing grounds.	1	3
MCA	Coding of concern about the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) particularly over their new regulations for vessels 15m and under and vessel inspections.	3	6
Next Generation	Coding of concern related to the next generation, either with the lack of new entrants and stability for young fishers or shifting perspectives where younger fishers are unaware of what healthy stocks looked like many years previously.	4	6
Technology	Coding of concern that new technologies may undermine sustainability.	2	5

Relationships	Coding of comments given by interviewees specifically relating to relationships with other fishers, Marine Scotland and the wider community.	26	78
Marine Scotland	Coding related to the relationship held with Marine Scotland.	3	3
Static-Mobile	Coding related to the relationships held between static and mobile gear fishers.	7	11
Shellfish Stocks	Coding of comments on interviewee's perception of shellfish stocks around the Western Isles. Some overlap with landings as they are not mutually exclusive.	25	53
Landings	Coding related to all comments concerning catch and landings. There is some overlap with Shellfish stocks as the status of one is potentially indicative of the status of the other.	27	49
Vivier Crabbing Vessels	Vivier crabbing vessels were a concern for the majority of interviewees. Coding here is related to comments and concerns made regarding the vivier crabbing boats in the Western Isles.	14	33
Well-being	Coding on comments relating to personal well-being. Included are comments made on health and safety.	23	33