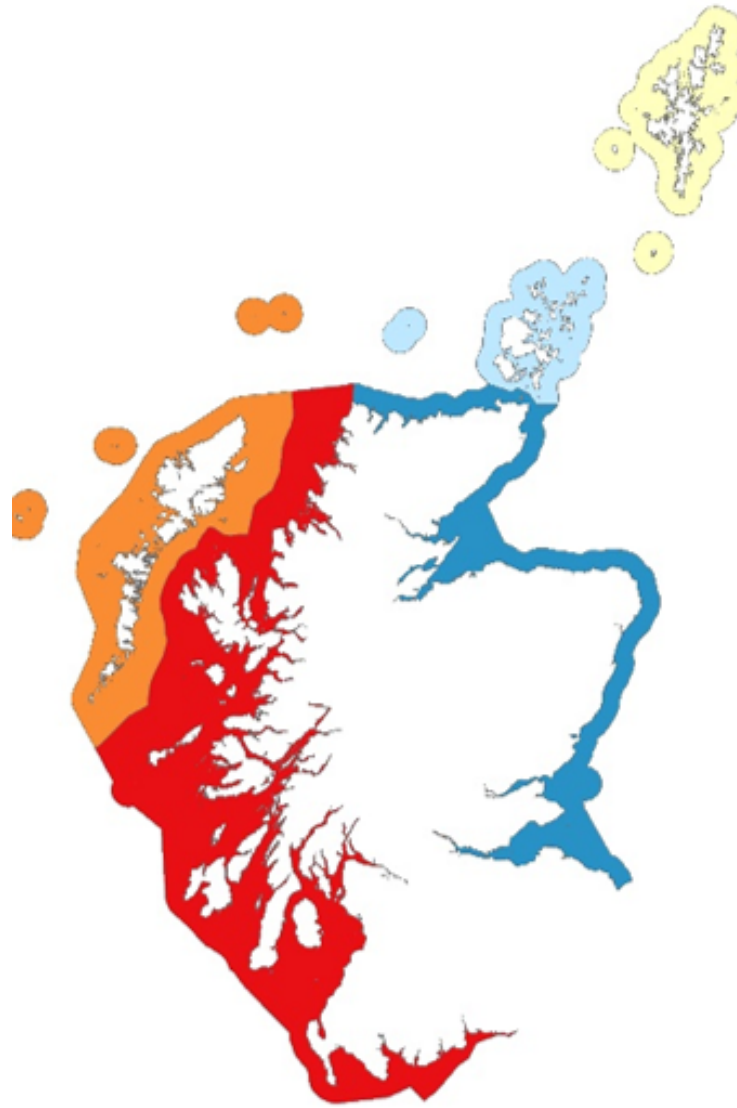


Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Opportunities and Challenges

Jennifer Mouat



Regional
Inshore
Fisheries
Group
Network

RIFGs – Who we are?

Scotland has five Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups where local fishers come together to explore local fisheries management initiatives.

The five groups are:

- North & East Coast
- West Coast
- Outer Hebrides
- Orkney Sustainable Fisheries
- Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation

The RIFG Network covers 10250 miles of Scottish Coast

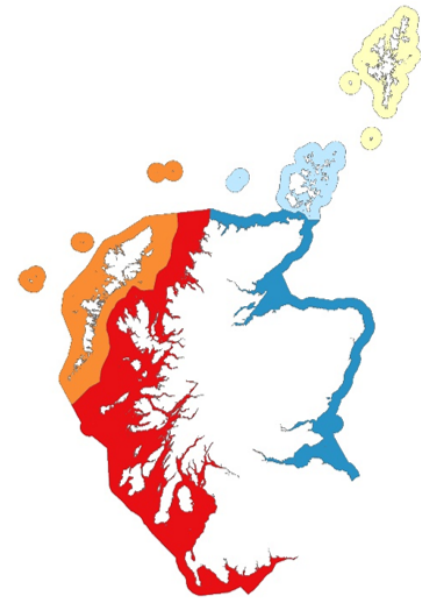
RIFGs – What we do?

Each Group develops their Fisheries Management Plan with projects and initiatives designed to promote local sustainable fisheries. Some example projects include.

- Short term pilot fisheries e.g. to test out gear separation or new fishing methods
- Trial fisheries to test a small scale fishery as a means of diversifying from main target species
- Setting up and getting voluntary closures with members to protect a particular stock or portion of the seabed, for a time, to allow for recruitment.

Our Aim

- To improve the sustainable management of inshore fisheries and to give commercial inshore fishers a voice in wider marine management developments.



Regional
Inshore
Fisheries
Group
Network

Opportunities



Potential Fishing Opportunities



Encouraging access to new entrants



Diversification



Development of Onshore Infrastructure



Marketing, Branding and Certification



Science

Potential Fishing Opportunities

Can we build on the success of pilots such as Mackerel?

Are there any opportunities for development of quota for non sector vessels

Benefits include financial, diversification and easing pressure on other stocks



Herring

Sprats

Razor fish

Cockles

Management measures must keep
pace with new opportunities!

Diversification

Onshore Facilities

- Development of onshore facilities such as cranes, cold storage etc is key in supporting fishing opportunities
- Benefits to coastal communities
- Links to the successful marketing of a premium product



Marketing

Supporting
skippers to
find premium
markets

Development
of strategy for
the
certification
of key species

Project UK –
nephrops and
scallops

Aspiration of
sustainability
stamp





Science & Innovation

Healthy stocks lead to development of fishing opportunities and sustainability

Innovation in data collection - industry initiatives

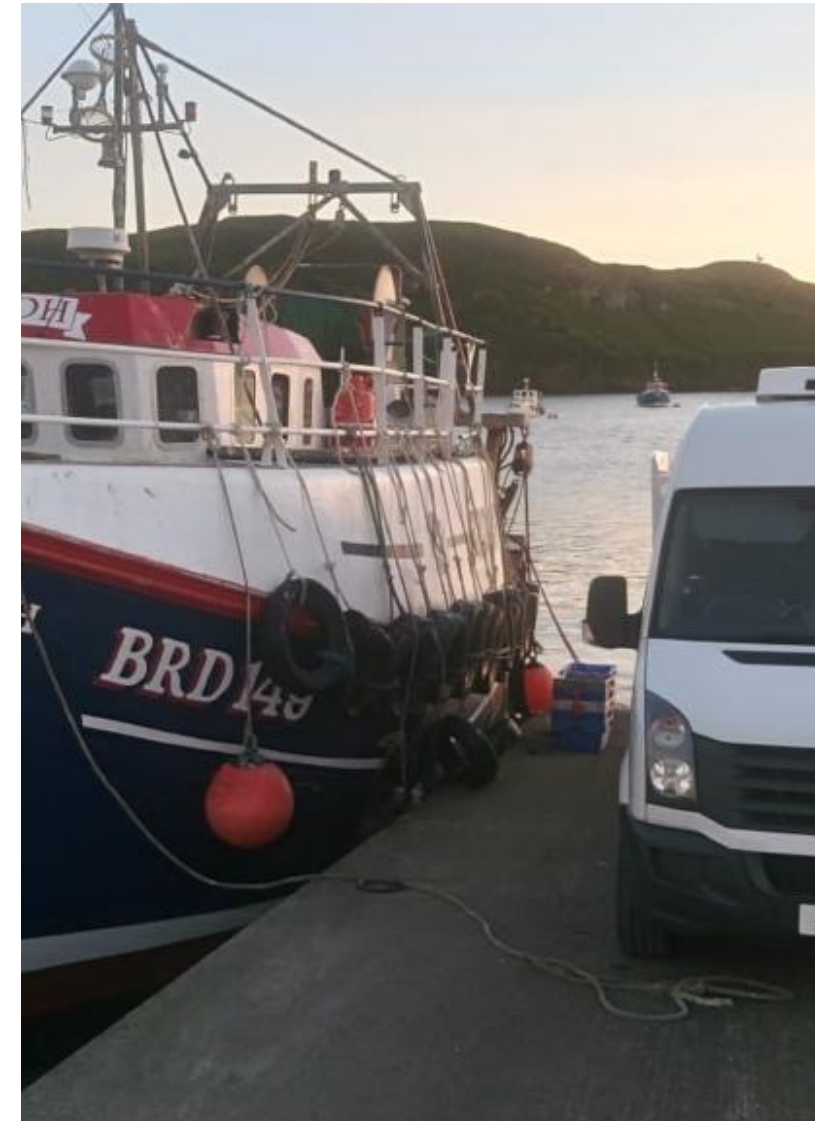
Industry led Innovation in gear technology

Policy Developments

The Joint Fisheries Statement – out for consultation and covers 8 objectives including sustainability, scientific evidence and national economic benefit.

The Future Catching Policy which will include the framework for a workable landing obligation and REM for scallop and pelagic vessels.

The Bute House agreement – including a consultation on an inshore cap (including latent effort in the scallop fleet and REM), management measures for Marine Protected areas by 2024 and Highly Protected Marine Areas by 2026



North & East Coast Issues

Covid

Brexit

Gear Conflict

Increased Marine Traffic (Aid to Navigation)

New Aquaculture - Seaweed

Displacement of Effort

Increase in effort

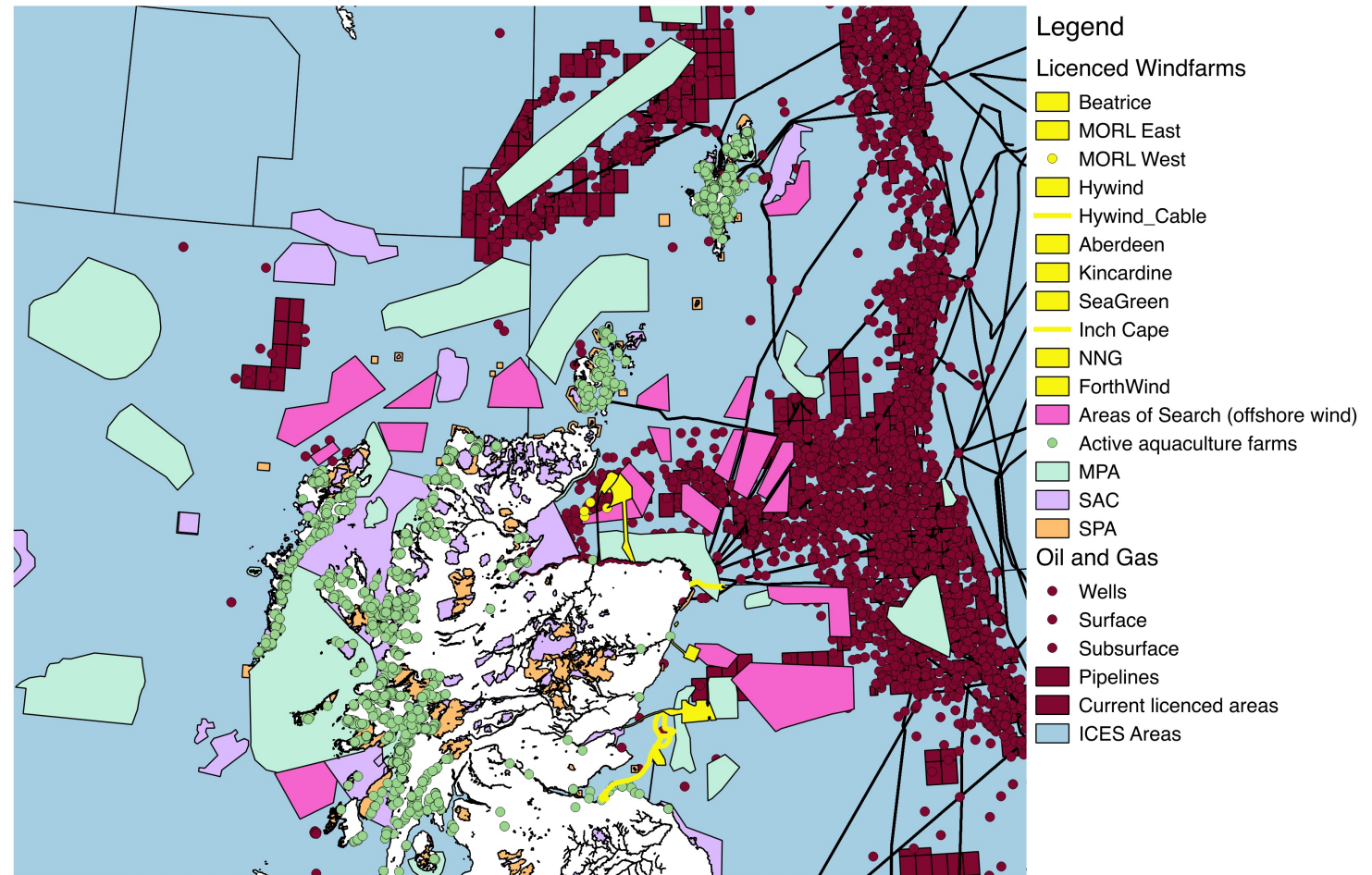
Extreme Weather Events

Spatial Squeeze



Spatial Squeeze

A just transition seeks to ensure that the substantial benefits of a green economy transition are shared widely, while also supporting those who stand to lose economically – be they countries, regions, industries, communities, workers or consumers.



Why the Inshore Sector matters

The inshore sector has strong historical and cultural links to our coastal communities and provide not only employment from fishing but also shore side. It's a low carbon food source which is contributing to the Net Zero target and we need to ensure this is recognized in both policy making and delivery.

