



To maintain the environment, local conservation measures limit or prevent types of fishing activity. Scotland has a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which conserve and protect species, habitats and marine features of the seas.

All Scottish fishing vessels are licensed, based on their size, where they fish and what they catch. This helps maintain the size and catching capabilities of the fleet.

Nearly all Scottish catches are limited by a Total Allowable Catch (TAC or Quota). Based on scientific advice, TACs are apportioned by the EU and neighbouring States and decided annually by the European Council.

Signal & Regional M

1. Licencing

Modern Management & Regulation

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is Europe's regulatory regime governing fisheries in EU waters. It controls how much fish each Member State is allowed to catch and the conditions under which it must be caught. This includes the type of net used, how long a vessel can fish for, and the size of fish that can be landed.

Marine Scotland within Scottish Government is responsible for the management of the Scottish fishing industry and for ensuring that the fleet adheres to CFP rules and regulations.

4. Minimum Landing Sizes

> fishing pressure is to set the amount of time vessels are allowed to spend at sea. This is managed by Marine Scotland.

An additional way to control

A large number of regulatory measures restrict the type, design, construction or amount of fishing gear that Scottish fishermen can use. This helps to control fishing pressure and assists in targeting species more selectively.

Almost all Scottish commercial stocks have minimum sizes for landing and selling.



Scottish Focussed Conservation Measures

The Conservation Credits Scheme: This pioneering approach was developed by the Scottish government and industry. In return for participating in additional conservation measures during their fishing activity, vessels are allowed additional days at sea (effort) over and above their basic entitlement. Elements of this scheme are now used throughout Europe.

The additional conservation measures include:

- avoiding areas where high concentrations of cod occur
- using larger mesh sizes to allow juvenile fish to escape
- using specially designed gear that reduces the capture of cod, whilst still fishing effectively for other species.

Area Closures: The use of area closures has also contributed to reductions in fishing mortality for cod and other demersal species. Several types of fishing closure are operated by Marine Sotland and observed by Scottish industry.



Real Time Closures: These are declared when catches of cod exceed a set limit per hour's fishing. This triggers an automatic closure for a period of twenty-one days in defined latitude/longitude coordinates.

All UK administrations and EU Member States are advised of closures, and vessels are encouraged to observe them. Good compliance by the Scottish fleet is an excellent example of proactive uptake by industry helping to achieve sustainable stocks.

The Scheme has evolved rapidly, from an initial handful of closures to somewhere between 165-185 closures per year in the Scottish Cod Recovery Zone.

All sample results and information on current closed areas are published on the Marine Scotland website:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/17681/closures/closed

Seasonal and Juvenile Area Closures: These were introduced in 2009 in areas of sea known to host significant spawning aggregations of cod, or high aggregations of young cod that were seen as crucial to the successful recovery of the cod stock. Such closures are now also used to help conserve other whitefish species such as haddock and whiting.

Permanent Area Closures: Scotland has introduced permanent closures to enhance cod recovery in some specific habitats known to be important to the cod stock.

Species Specific Measures: Numerous regulations, particularly for shellfish, have been implemented to provide further conservation measures to enhance the sustainability of these fisheries.

They include a ban on landing egg-bearing female and newly moulted (soft) brown crabs, restrictions on landing crab claws, and local v-notching of egg-bearing female lobsters. Fishermen catching these are required to return them to the sea to help maintain healthy reproductive stocks.

Specific limitations on mobile scallop gear exist in inshore waters, limiting the size and capacity of fishing pressure on inshore scallop grounds.

Voluntary Programmes and Initiatives

Cod Catch Quota Scheme (CCQS): Launched in 2010 by Marine Scotland and DEFRA, a voluntary pilot Cod Catch Quota Scheme allows participating vessels to retain on board and land all cod they catch. These vessels carry on-board cameras which securely record all catches of cod, and the video footage is analysed onshore by Marine Scotland. In return, vessels receive additional days at sea and an additional allocation of cod quota.

The aims of this pilot are to reduce discards and stock mortality by encouraging fishermen to fish more selectively, whilst providing an economic driver to modify fishing behaviour.

Since the programme was introduced, the number of participating vessels has varied and there are currently around 25 vessels with cameras on-board. The technology has also been trialled in multi species fisheries, and most recently it has been piloted in the pelagic sector.

Fishing for Litter: Launched in Scotland in 2005, Fishing for Litter encourages vessels to safely land any litter they 'fish'. So far, 600 hundred tonnes of marine litter from Scotland's seas has been disposed of safely in participating ports. The scheme provides an environmental response to the issue of marine litter in the seas, with more than 200 boats and 17 harbours participating in the Scottish scheme.

The Seafish Responsible Fishing Scheme: This independently audited UK-wide certification scheme recognises best practice operation by vessels and crew. The scheme was originally piloted with Scottish boats, and there is now wide participation across all sectors, with approximately 90 vessels registered in the Scheme in Scotland.





Environmental and Sustainable Certification

Scottish fishermen have been active in gaining independent verification of the environmental and sustainable credentials of their industry. They have been quick to engage in internationally recognised programmes to add value and recognition to their fish and shellfish. This has helped to enhance Scotland's reputation as a leader in responsible fishing methods and to demonstrate a commitment to supplying sustainable products.

Current Scottish Accreditations:







Organic

· salmon and trout

Freedom Foods

· salmon



Label Rouge

· salmon

Scottish farmed salmon was the first fish and non-French food to obtain Label Rouge status in 1992. Granted by the French Ministry of Agriculture, Label Rouge is a prestigious quality mark given to foods of superior quality and taste.



Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)

 farmed and wild salmon and Arbroath Smokies



Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

- North Sea herring& West of Scotland herring
- · North Sea haddock
- · Atlanto-Scandian herring
- · West of Scotland & North Sea saithe
- · Shetland scallops, brown and velvet crab
- · Shetland & mainland mussels



Friend of the Sea

· mussels





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The European Fisheries Fund:
Investing in
Sustainable Fisheries