

20 September 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

SEASONAL MOBILE GEAR FISHING RESTRICTION – MULL CRABBING BOX

In 2017, Marine Scotland launched the Inshore Fisheries Pilots initiative to look at alternative forms of inshore fisheries management. The commercial fishing industry was invited to propose sites where alternative arrangements could be piloted along with a justification for their proposal.

Following a public consultation, a proposal by the West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group for a 'Mull Crabbing Box' has been selected for introduction. The aim of the pilot is to protect and better understand a locally important brown crab fishery.

Further information on the Inshore Fisheries Pilots initiative and the proposals submitted and consulted on are available at www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/InshoreFisheries/InshoreFisheriesPilots.

What the Mull Crabbing Box means for mobile fishing

Analysis shows that vessels fishing for king scallops have a history of being active in the area. We are writing to you as your vessel has been active either in the relevant area or in the associated ICES rectangles during the past five years.

Mobile fishing (including scallop dredging) is to be prohibited in the relevant area in the periods:

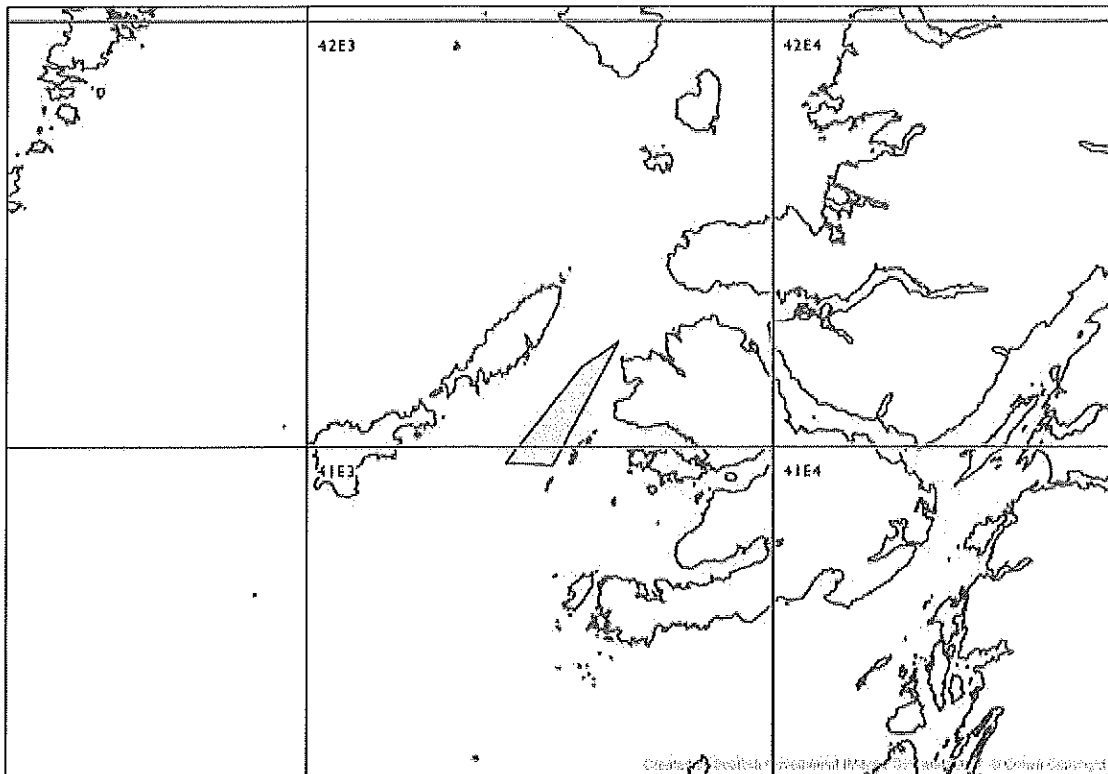
- 1 October 2018 to 31 January 2019
- 1 October 2019 to 31 January 2020

Outwith those periods fishing for mobile gear is permitted.

The coordinates and location of the Mull Crabbing Box, where mobile fishing will be prohibited, are as follows:

- 56° 37.460'N 006° 19.830'W
- 56° 35.620'N 006° 24.500'W
- 56° 28.850'N 006° 34.330'W
- 56° 28.680'N 006° 28.170'W

All coordinates are on WGS1984 datum.



If you have any questions regarding this licence change, you can contact me on 0131 244 4421 or malcolm.macleod@gov.scot.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm MacLeod
Marine Scotland