

INSHORE FISHERIES GROUPS

newsletter

spring 2014



Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFGs) have made great progress since six new groups were established in 2013.

This newsletter gives just a flavour of some of the recent work undertaken and projects in the pipeline. Updates will be posted on the IFG website www.ifgs.org.uk

**Industry Led
Working with all sectors
Local management initiatives**

Delivering an integrated approach to sustainable inshore fisheries management for Scotland

Inshore Fisheries Groups

Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFGs) are non-statutory bodies that aim to

- improve the management of Scotland's inshore fisheries out to 6 nautical miles
- give commercial inshore fishermen a stronger voice in marine management developments
- represent local fisheries interests in relation to wider Scottish and regional marine planning

In 2013 six new IFG areas were set up covering the whole coast of Scotland, excluding Shetland which has its own Management Organisation. These cover the East Coast, Moray Firth and North Coast, North West, South West, Outer Hebrides and Orkney areas.

The groups are now firmly established and really starting to make their mark in terms of local fisheries management. Meetings are well-attended and IFGs are now being recognised as a valuable forum for cross-sector discussion; they provide members with a chance to hear the views of other associations and sectors, to start to identify common ground and work towards practical solutions to local and national issues.

The **Fisheries Management Plans** developed by the pilot IFGs were approved by Marine Scotland in late 2013 after a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and public consultation process.

These can be viewed online at: <http://ifgs.org.uk> (Click on the area name, then 'Downloads').

The SEA report is at: - <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00430277.pdf>

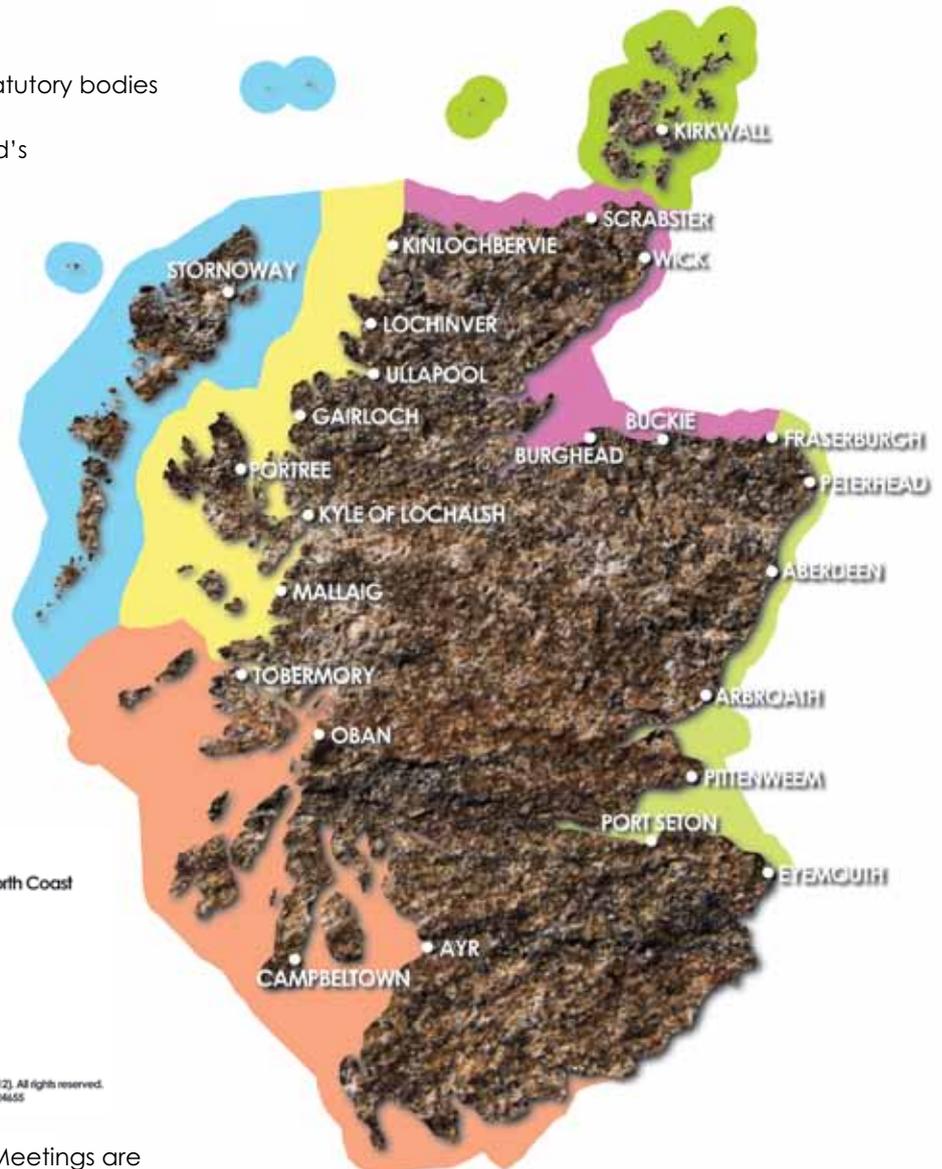
In general the six Fisheries Management plans cover:

- activities to support the opening of new and/or closed fisheries, including collecting baseline information
- fisheries management measures e.g. permit control, increases in minimum landing sizes, restrictions on gear, reduction of discards/by-catch
- conflict resolution mechanisms e.g. codes of conduct

INSHORE FISHERIES GROUPS

- East Coast
- Moray Firth and North Coast
- North West
- Orkney
- Outer Hebrides
- South West

Projection: British National Grid
Scale: 1:2,500,000
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- economic activities e.g. marketing, labelling, sustainable fisheries
- accreditation and measures to support economic diversification

The plans are live documents, and can be amended as required. The IFGs are now working to identify priority actions and start to deliver practical results for each area. Some of the activities and projects planned for IFG area are outlined overleaf.

George White, the **IFG National Liaison Officer**, is tasked with getting out and meeting as many inshore fishermen and their representatives as possible. As well as providing support for the IFG Chairs and attending Executive Committee meetings, he represents the IFGs at external meetings such as Fishing Focus Groups, IFMAC (Inshore Fisheries Management and Conservation group) and FLOWW (Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables).

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Support and Funding for IFG work

As part of the Inshore Fisheries Strategy 2012, Scottish Ministers agreed to support and focus on the priorities identified in the IFG area Management Plans.

Funding has been provided through Marine Scotland (MS) to support the work of IFGs, and also to help deliver actions identified by the various Fisheries Management Plans.

The **process** agreed is:-

- 1) Associations or organisations with project ideas submit an **Expression of Interest (Eoi)** to the Chair of the IFG. (Application forms are available from MS or the local IFG Secretariat)
- 2) The Eoi will be considered by the local IFG Executive Committee. If the group agrees in principle that the project is worth supporting, the application will be referred to MS.
- 3) MS will then consider the application and request any further information it considers necessary, which may include business plans, tenders, etc. MS will decide which applications should be funded, at what % level of grant and what conditions should apply.
- 4) The beneficiary will be asked to agree to the terms and conditions of the grant. Funds will be released to the applicant at agreed stages. An end of project report will be submitted to MS for approval and copied to the IFG.

Pilot projects and innovative work will be more likely to get a grant than large scale applications for equipment or facilities, or simple replication of projects from other areas. The proposals will also be expected to contribute to delivering key objectives under the local Fisheries Management Plan.

Information will be released soon by Marine Scotland regarding the funding available and criteria for 2014/15. Funds will be limited, so this will continue to be a competitive process and depending on the demand for funds there might not be further funding rounds in 2014/15. For larger scale projects, applicants may be expected to try to secure match funding from other local sources.

Applicants will be guided through the application process. For more information, contact **Michael.Cutts@scotland.gsi.gov.uk** Policy Manager, Inshore Fisheries & Coastal Communities, Marine Scotland Fisheries Division, Area 1B South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. Or contact your local IFG chair.

Projects that have received offers of funding to date will be listed on the IFG website: <http://ifgs.org.uk>



IFG banner

A new pull-up banner has been designed for IFGs and will be used at the Scottish Inshore Fisheries Conference on 28 March 2014. We are most grateful to David Linkie who provided most of the images used and to Seafood Scotland.

The banner can be borrowed by local IFGs – contact **George White**.

New IFG Secretariat Services

The South West IFG has a new Secretariat provided by Fiona Mills and staff at the Firth of Clyde Forum, a local coastal partnership. The Forum is a neutral organisation, helping to deliver integrated coastal zone and marine management for the Clyde area and has a wide range of contacts that will help the IFG in providing an integrated approach to local inshore fisheries management. Contact: **admin@sw-ifg.com** Tel: 0141 951 0848

The Moray Firth Partnership, also a neutral coastal partnership, has been providing secretariat services to the Moray Firth & North Coast IFG since the group was set up. As of Jan. 2014, the MFP was asked to support for the North West and East Coast IFGs too. Contact Kathryn Logan: 01463 725028 - **admin@mfnc-ifg.com**, **admin@ec-ifg.com** or **admin@nw-ifg.com**.

Thanks go to Martin Docherty at SCVO who previously serviced the EC, NW and SW areas.

Area News

EAST COAST

Contacts

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East Coast IFG – new chair

John Davidson was appointed in February 2014 as Chair of the East Coast IFG. He describes himself as a fisherman owner / operator of twenty five years standing mostly of inshore prawn / creel vessels. His company recently took delivery of fishing vessel "New Dawn FR 470" returning her to Scotland from Northern Ireland after a two year absence. His other particular areas of interest include vessel licensing and regulation, harbour regulation, and generally protecting fisherman's rights and interests.

The first EC meeting John chaired at Montrose on 26/02 had a record attendance and the group is looking forward to making continued progress. Thanks go to Sandra Turnbull who stepped in as acting chair pending the new appointment.



Artist's impression- Neart na Gaoithe wind farm (© Mainstream RP)

EC fishing interests represented on Forth & Tay Commercial Fisheries Working Group

Bill Hughes of the Fife Fishermen's Mutual Association, and Sandy Ritchie of Anglo Scottish Fishermen's Association and other EC IFG members have been attending meetings of the Forth and Tay Commercial Fisheries Working Group to make sure that local fisheries interests are fully represented, particularly in relation to the planned Neart na Gaoithe Wind farm in the Firth of Forth. A decision on the Neart na Gaoithe wind farm application is expected this spring, and the EC IFG has been consulted recently by Marine Scotland during final stages of the process. A number of mitigation measures have been proposed to help protect fisheries interests once construction work gets underway, and there will be continuing dialogue with the developers via the Fisheries Working Group.

Information from this group, which is part of the Forth and Tay Offshore Wind Developers Group, has been fed into the Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables (FLOWW) working group. This has just produced "FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison". The guidance is available online at: <http://www.thecrownstate.co.uk/media/495620/floww-best-practice-guidance-for-offshore-renewables-developments-recommendations-for-fisheries-liaison.pdf>

MORAY FIRTH & NORTH COAST

Contacts

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Kathryn Logan	Secretariat	admin@mfnc-ifg.com	01463 725028

New Fishing Association

Fishermen from Banffshire are the latest to set up a new association. 'Gardenstown Line and Static Gear Association' was formed in February 2014 and already has 15 members. The Association has been registered with Marine Scotland and will apply to join the Moray Firth and North Coast IFG Executive Committee at the next meeting. Bill West, the new Chair, advised that local fishermen were missing out on the information and support that was coming through the Inshore Fisheries Group, so set up an association to have a seat at the table. (Non-affiliated fishermen can also be represented on the IFG.)

The group used the draft Remit for Fisheries Associations prepared by the National IFG coordinator, George White. This is a simple, one page document that individuals can sign up to (but is not a full constitution). Associations are recommended to have 10 or more members.

The GL&SGA members unanimously agreed to work to help stamp out reports of illegal shellfish landing practices in the area, and will be taking part in the government funded scheme to promote the V notching and return of berried lobsters etc. They will be looking at options for other funded projects in due course.

For more information about the Gardenstown L&SGA, contact the Chair, Bill West: atlasBF182@hotmail.co.uk, or the Secretary, James West: james.ck365@yahoo.co.uk

FA Draft Constitution

The Moray Firth Inshore Fishermen's Association developed a full constitution when it set up in 2013, and has offered to let other new Associations use their basic template as a starter to save a lot of work. Anyone wishing to see this should contact Edwin Flett - flette@btinternet.com.

New Pilot Project underway - Insulated Bins

Buchan Inshore Fishermen's Association have taken delivery of 39 insulated bins as part of a pilot project to assess their effectiveness for small boats without other temperature controlled storage facilities. Storing mackerel in ice / chilled sea water in the bins should help reduce any wastage due to exposure in warm weather, and help achieve maximum sales prices.



photo credit: David Linkie

BIFA members opted for 'Saeplast' double walled insulated and lidded containers that have a polyethylene exterior and an extra thick expanded foam interior. The bins are stencilled with the vessel number.

During the study period, participating fishermen will split their catch between the insulated bin and their former storage container, and the resulting differences in condition / prices achieved will be recorded. Several comparisons will be made over a range of fishing and weather conditions. Calculations will show the payback period a fisherman could expect based on the full cost of a bin. A report will be submitted to the IFG and to Marine Scotland towards the end of the first season.

New Seafood Trail and Projects

Plans put forward by the Moray Firth Partnership for their innovative "Seafood- See Here" project were supported by IFG members who felt there was a need for this kind of local initiative. The various project elements will add value to work on developing local markets for seafood being progressed through IFG members and other organisations, as well as successful education programmes, such as Seafood in Schools. The project covers the Pentland Firth, Moray Firth and Aberdeenshire coasts, and aims to help raise awareness and increase the availability of and demand for local seafood. Separate plans are also progressing for an East Scotland Seafood Trail and the MFP and MF&NC IFG chair are both members of the working group looking at setting this up, potentially as a European Funded Project. This ESST project is likely to have a strong focus on marketing. The "Seafood-See Here" project is seen as a necessary forerunner to the Trail project and will also tie in to plans for 2015 as the year of Scotland's Food and Drink.

NORTH WEST

Contacts

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Alastair Philp	Vice Chair	ballycroft@btinternet.com	
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Lobster and Scallop Study Tour for NW Fishermen

Thanks to the offer of funding from the Marine Scotland IFG funds, a number of fishermen from the NW area will have the opportunity of a study tour to Orkney during the summer to learn at first- hand about the innovative lobster and scallop tagging project there using inshore fishing vessels. The NWIFG area fishermen wish to improve their understanding of movement of King scallops and will be looking at the issues of lobster hatchery management and their potential for lobster enhancement within NW inshore waters.

Seafood Expo - Brussels 6-8 May 2014

Congratulations to Alastair Philp, a west coast creeler and vice chair of North West IFG, who has been selected as part of the Seafood Scotland delegation that will attend the Seafood Expo in Brussels this May. (Formerly called European Seafood Exposition)

This Expo is the largest seafood trade event in the world and attracts more than 25,000 buyers and suppliers of fresh, frozen, packaged and value-added seafood products, equipment and services. Attendees travel from 145 countries to do business at the trade fair, which features more than 1,690 exhibiting companies from over 75 countries.

<http://www.seafoodexpo.com/global/>

ORKNEY

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The Orkney Fishery Research Project

Work is progressing well on the Orkney Shellfish Research Project, which started in February 2013. This is a collaboration between stakeholders that share an interest in the use of the inshore waters in the Pentland Firth and Orkney waters (PFOW).

The main objectives of the research project are:

- serving the planning, consenting and regulatory needs of the marine energy industry as it develops in the PFOW region (sponsored by The Crown Estate, Marine Scotland and Orkney Islands Council).
- moving towards demonstrably sustainable management of the creel fishery (sponsored by Marks & Spencer, The World Wide Fund for Nature and Orkney Islands Council).

The work involves identifying fishing grounds and routes taken by vessels in PFOW by using electronic vessel monitoring systems (Succorfish VMS units) as well as collecting biological and fisheries data, fishermen's logbooks, supplemented by onshore market sampling and offshore sampling to provide information on how these grounds are contributing to the fishery and the local economy.

Participation of local fishermen has been central to the whole project. The valuable data collected will be used for assessment of the creel fishery. The vessel movement data is essential for the integration of Marine Renewable Energy and Marine Spatial Planning.

A seasonal research assistant will shortly be appointed to help full-time officer Kate Walker with her work. This summer will also see the start of lobster habitat trials funded by Marine Scotland and Orkney Islands Council

OUTER HEBRIDES

Contacts

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Developing a Brown Shrimp Fishery

Trials are underway in the North and South Uist to gather information on developing a brown shrimp fishery, and reports are expected in Spring 2014.

Little information is currently available regarding the brown shrimp fishery, despite reports of high prices in the region of £25.00 per kilo and high demand in the export market (mainly Spain).

A shellfish marketing group based in South Uist is keen to investigate the potential for developing the fishery in the Uists and developing the live market, in conjunction with their other live shellfish products which are exported to Spain on a weekly basis.

The project aims to identify key issues relevant to developing a successful and sustainable fishery, such as seasonality, catch per unit effort in different areas, different types of bait, discards, mortality during transportation and market potential.

Two static gear vessels were selected to pilot the brown shrimp fishery in both North and South Uist, focusing on areas where small amounts of brown shrimp have been reported using traditional lobster/crab creels. Creels were provided from local company Stornoway Plastic. Different types of bait will be trialled, ranging from fresh to salted, with a variety of white fish, herring and mackerel.

Kilbride Shellfish, who are managing the project, will report on the different grades caught, areas fished, monitor mortality

rates from capture until departure and mortality in transit from Uist to Spain. The report will also detail the different catch rates depending on use of different types of bait. The report will be used to consider whether a viable seasonal fishery could be developed within the Uists and will be of use to other areas wishing to investigate opportunities to diversify from currently over-exploited shellfish fisheries to a high value fishery.

Cockle Survey

OHIFG have been conducting cockle stock assessments as part of a study on how best to manage stocks sustainably for the longer term. The area already has a Minimum Landing Size of 30mm for cockles, which is higher than the rest of Scotland. Surveys at 8 locations in North Uist, Harris and Lewis have provided data on abundance and age of cockles, and biomass by age group and for all ages. These will allow estimates of biomass at mm size intervals from 20 – 35mm and >35mm, and derivation of age, length and weight relationships. The data were sent to Marine Scotland to check the calculations before these were fed into the final report. The OHIFG Cockle Sub Group will make recommendations to the group on the way forward.

SOUTH WEST

Contacts

Alastair McNeill	Chair	alastair.mcruaraidh.mcneill@gmail.com	07799 572501
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Archie McFarlane	Vice Chair		
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New Projects

South West IFG is about to roll out two projects as part of a strategy to improve the conservation and sustainability of the fishery in the Solway Firth: - V-notching of lobsters and Creel Escape Panel trials

Supported by IFG project funding, the projects will be managed by the Solway Firth Partnership and will involve Solway Firth based fishermen.

Commencing in early spring 2014, V-Notching aims to encourage and support local participation; scope out the potential for longer term data gathering and research; assess the potential value of such research in informing management that supports the long term sustainability and viability of the creel fishery.

Creel escape panel trials will also begin in spring and aim to improve the selectivity of creels; reduce the mortality of lobster and crab below the minimum size; reduce the time associated with clearing pots and thus encourage operational efficiency; promote and explain the benefits and method of fitting creel escape panels to fishermen.

It is anticipated that both projects will run for two years and will include collaboration with relevant science bodies and other parties to maximise the opportunities to gain information and data.



photo credit: David Linkie

IFG group to use new 'Touch Table' Consultation Tool

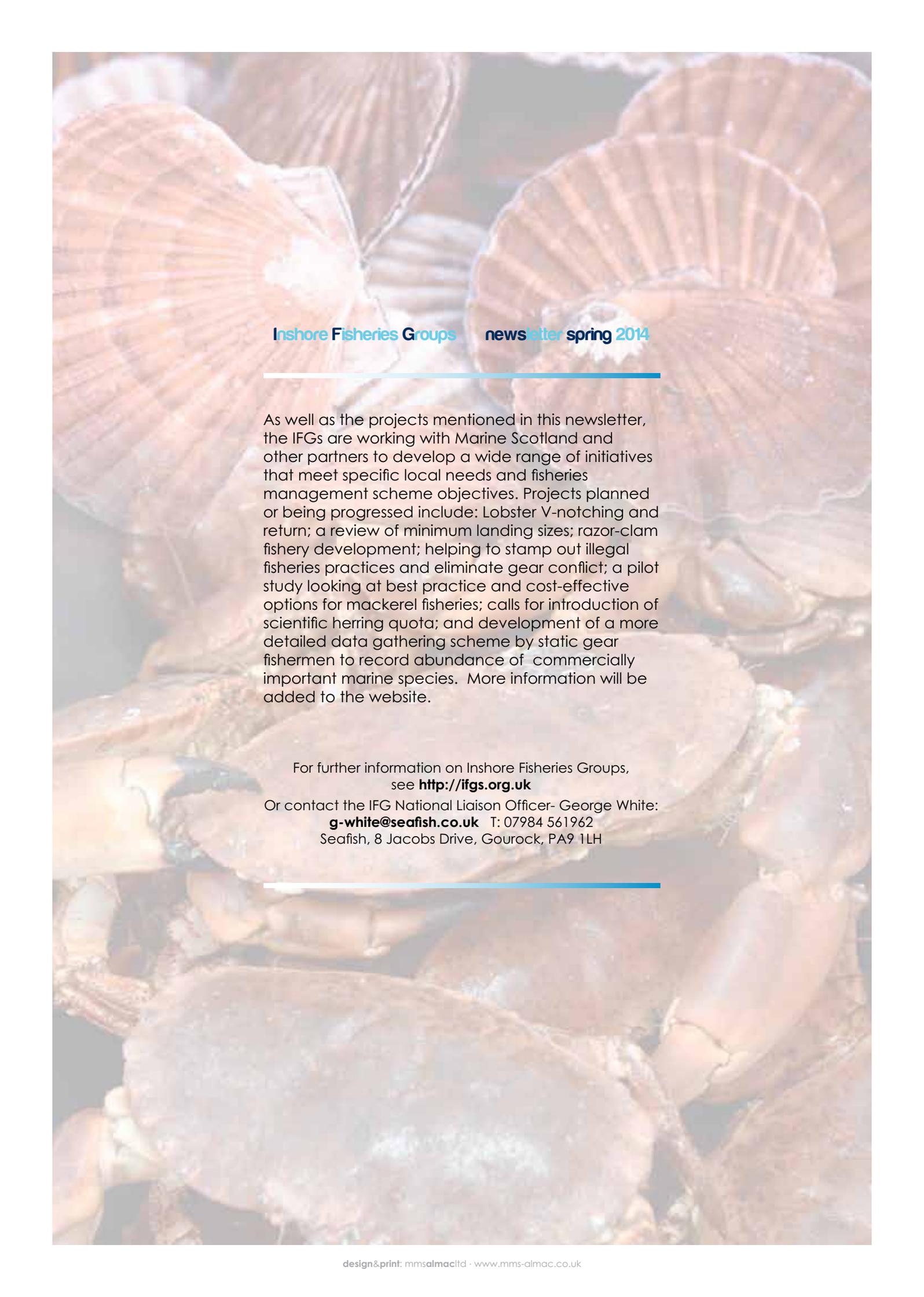
The MF&NC IFG has set up a sub-group to look at issues of rigs or other large vessels anchoring over fishing grounds off the Moray coast. Over this winter 13/14, a greater number of rigs than in previous years have anchored in these relatively sheltered waters and more are arriving each week. The anchors can scour large holes in the seabed, causing a hazard for fishing vessels towing gear, as well as damage to the fishing grounds. The IFG sub-group, including local fishermen, is in the process of contacting all relevant parties for a round table discussion, so they can alert vessel managers to the problems and try to identify suitable alternative anchorage locations. A new "Touch Table" consultation tool is going to be used to help with this process.

The Touch Table is like a giant I-pad, and can have GIS maps, data layers, photos etc. loaded, to help participants fully visualise and discuss the issues. Up to four people can sit round the table at one time and draw information onto the maps via the touch-screen. The aim of the sub-group is to identify where key fishing areas are off Burghead, where rigs are anchoring now, and what other areas could be used. If suitable anchorage areas can be identified away from fishing grounds after more widespread local consultation, these could be included on Admiralty charts.

The Touch Table is being developed as a consultation tool by the Scottish Association of Marine Science and the James Hutton Institute – contact Tavis.Potts@sams.ac.uk. The Moray Firth pilot is being run in conjunction with the Moray Firth Partnership. Contact: Kathryn@morayfirth-partnership.org



Photo credit: T.Potts, SAMS

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several scallops and crabs. The scallops are in the upper half, showing their characteristic fan-like shells with concentric ridges. The crabs are in the lower half, showing their legs and shells. The overall color palette is warm, with various shades of brown, tan, and orange.

Inshore Fisheries Groups **newsletter spring 2014**

As well as the projects mentioned in this newsletter, the IFGs are working with Marine Scotland and other partners to develop a wide range of initiatives that meet specific local needs and fisheries management scheme objectives. Projects planned or being progressed include: Lobster V-notching and return; a review of minimum landing sizes; razor-clam fishery development; helping to stamp out illegal fisheries practices and eliminate gear conflict; a pilot study looking at best practice and cost-effective options for mackerel fisheries; calls for introduction of scientific herring quota; and development of a more detailed data gathering scheme by static gear fishermen to record abundance of commercially important marine species. More information will be added to the website.

For further information on Inshore Fisheries Groups,
see <http://ifgs.org.uk>

Or contact the IFG National Liaison Officer- George White:
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