**Marine Scotland Newsletter No 1**

**For CFWGs**

**CFWG Website**

Agreement is in place for the Website to sit alongside the Webpages for the two Rag groups. Tors, minutes and newsletters are available as data sources to add into the pages. We are waiting on help to do the page layout. This should be done in August once this is done we will issue links to the membership. Adding new data can be done by LOT staff and will not cause delays in the future.

**FMMS Guidance**

The guidance document has been finalised and will be made available on our website once senior management has reviewed. Should be done early August. References and definitions requested by stakeholders are being carried into the FLOWW draft guidance. Marine Scotland will be happy to engage with stakeholders over any queries.

**FLOWW Guidance**

Following the last FLOWW meeting on the 23/06/21 work is currently focused on the five main modules and first draft should be submitted to FLOWW shortly. Additional work is required on Appendices, references, definitions and glossary. **CFWG members should note previous request for definitions and references to be forwarded to Roger** . Sign off and agreement from all parties is likely to take some time as some components (cabling) were considered contentious in the original drafts. See layout below

**ScotMER work/projects update**

The ScotMER Fish & Fisheries evidence map is currently going through a revision to incorporate stakeholder comments from the ScotMER FFSRG and the recommendations from the evidence map literature review by Brown and May Marine.

MS have just received a final version of the ScotMER Fish & Fisheries evidence map literature review by Brown and May Marine. MS will undertake a final review before it is published and shared with stakeholders online. Brown and May Marine will also disseminate information via an online webinar and topic sheet. Information and invites for the webinar will be circulated to both sets of Commercial Fisheries Working Group (CFWG) members in due course.

Xodus continue to work on the Best practice guidance for assessing fisheries displacement and are in the process of finalising the literature review and addressing stakeholder comments.

MS have put a project proposal out for tender to collate data on Essential Fish & Shellfish Habitat (EFH), model the data and create GIS maps that are consistent with our National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi). The project will also include identifying EFH proxies such as functions and habitat types. This contract is dependent on a successful funding application to the Marine Fish & Fisheries Fund. If successful, the project would begin in August 2021 and end in March 2022.

MS are having discussions with The Crown Estate (TCE), Cefas and fisheries stakeholders regarding a project proposal for a Sensitivity Mapping Tool for Commercial Fisheries that includes clear sensitivity criteria/scoring for assessing impacts on commercial fisheries from the development of offshore renewables. The aim is to submit the project proposal to TCE’s OWEC funding call.

In June, MS undertook a short trial to test the safe deployment of static fishing gear in the Hywind Floating Offshore Wind Farm. This trial is in preparation for a larger trial next year where lesson’s learned will be used to inform the study.

**Monitoring sub-group**

A monitoring sub-group consisting of stakeholders from the ScotMER FFSRG and the both CFWG’s will be set up to discuss strategic commercial fisheries monitoring. Marine Scotland will be in contact with CFWG members in the coming weeks to make arrangements for the first meeting.

**Damage to Gear Template Subgroup**

At the last Moray CFWG an action point was raised to form a subgroup to look at a template for damage to gear and if possible to put it online so that fishermen can work on it at sea. Since that time similar concerns have been raised by the Forth and Tay fishermen. It is therefore our proposal to add to those volunteers from Moray CFWG to see if an agreed template can be devised for damage to gear and what resources are required to put this online. **Looking for volunteers from F& T to participate**. MS will then arrange a meeting to take forward.

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