

Marine Scotland Newsletter July 2021

For Commercial Fisheries Working Groups (CFWGs)

CFWG Website

Marine Scotland (MS) in discussion with our web-team, has agreed that the CFWG Website will sit alongside the webpages for the two Research Advisory Groups (RAGs). The CFWG terms of reference, minutes and associated newsletters are ready to be added to the pages. There has been a delay in getting resource to assist MS with the page layout, however, we anticipate that pages will be live in September 2021. Once this is done MS will issue links to the CFWG membership. MS-LOT has resource in place that can update these pages once they are live.

Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) Guidance

The guidance document is in final draft and will be made available on the MS website once completed. MS-LOT anticipate the final guidance will be available in September 2021. References and definitions requested by stakeholders in the FMMS will be dealt with in the FLOWW draft guidance. MS are happy to engage with stakeholders over any queries.

The Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) Guidance

Following the last FLOWW meeting on the 23 June 2021 effort has been focused on the five main modules and a first draft of the revised guidance will be submitted to FLOWW by the end of August. Additional work is required on appendices, references, definitions and glossary. **CFWG members should note there is an outstanding request made by Roger at the last CFWG meeting, for definitions and references to be forwarded, please do so by end-August.** Final sign off and agreement from all FLOWW members will take some time particularly as the cabling subsection is still being finalised by that subgroup.

Scottish Marine Energy Research (ScotMER) update

The ScotMER Fish & Fisheries evidence map is being revised to incorporate stakeholder comments from the ScotMER – Fish & Fisheries Specialist Receptor Group (FFSRG) and the recommendations from an evidence map literature review

MS has just received the 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 CFWG members in due course.

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

MS is seeking project proposal to collate data on Essential Fish & Shellfish Habitat (EFH), model the data and create GIS maps that are consistent with MS National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi). The project will also include identifying EFH proxies such as functions and habitat types. Award of 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 is in 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 2021, 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 Group

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

Damage to Gear Template Group

At the last Moray CFWG meeting there was an action to form a subgroup to develop a template that fishermen would be able to use to claim for damage or loss of gear as a result of Offshore wind/marine renewables activity. The proposal is to make this template available online so that fishermen can access and complete it at sea. Similar concerns have been raised by the Forth and Tay fishermen. It is therefore our proposal to add F&T reps to those volunteers from Moray CFWG to progress this work. **If you are interested in participating please contact Roger May on Roger.May@gov.scot by Friday 20 August.** MS will then arrange a meeting to take forward during September.