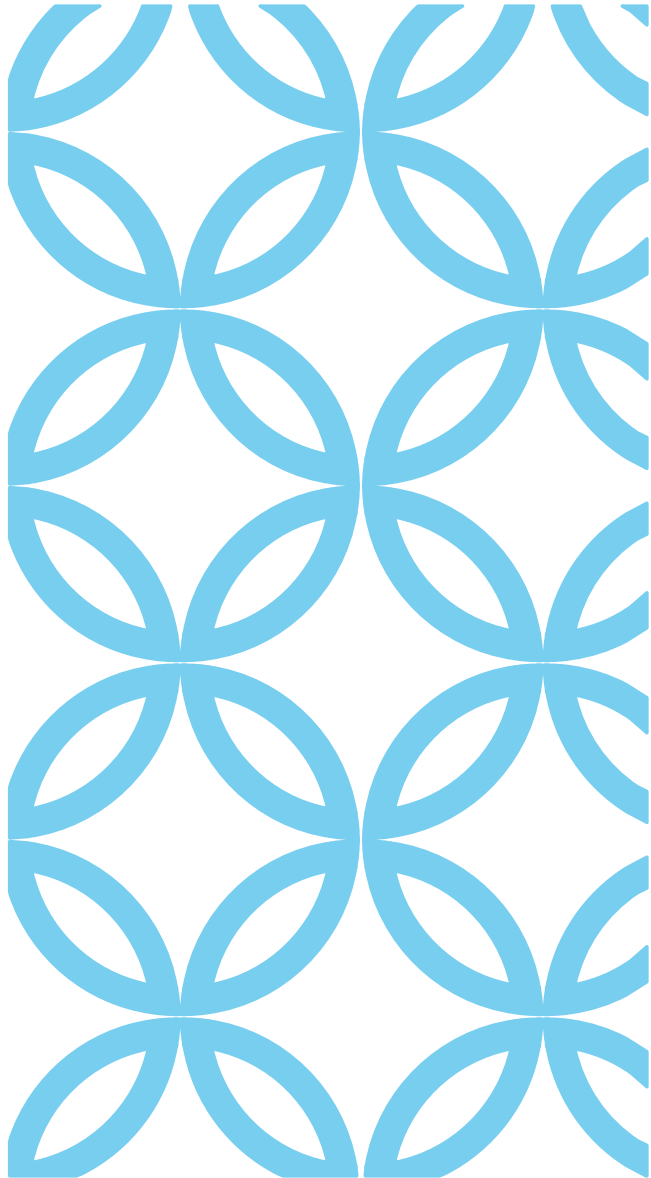




THE ENGLISH AND WELSH WATERS KING SCALLOP FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

A short presentation by
Jim Portus, Chair of the SICG &
SICGWG.



It is nearly 20 years since the publication of “Successful Fisheries Management”, edited by Stephen Cunningham and Tim Bostock.

Tim tells readers that, in many cases, fisheries management has been characterised by the level of failure, rather than by its successes.

Success in fisheries management has at least 3 dimensions:

biological (meeting conservation objectives),

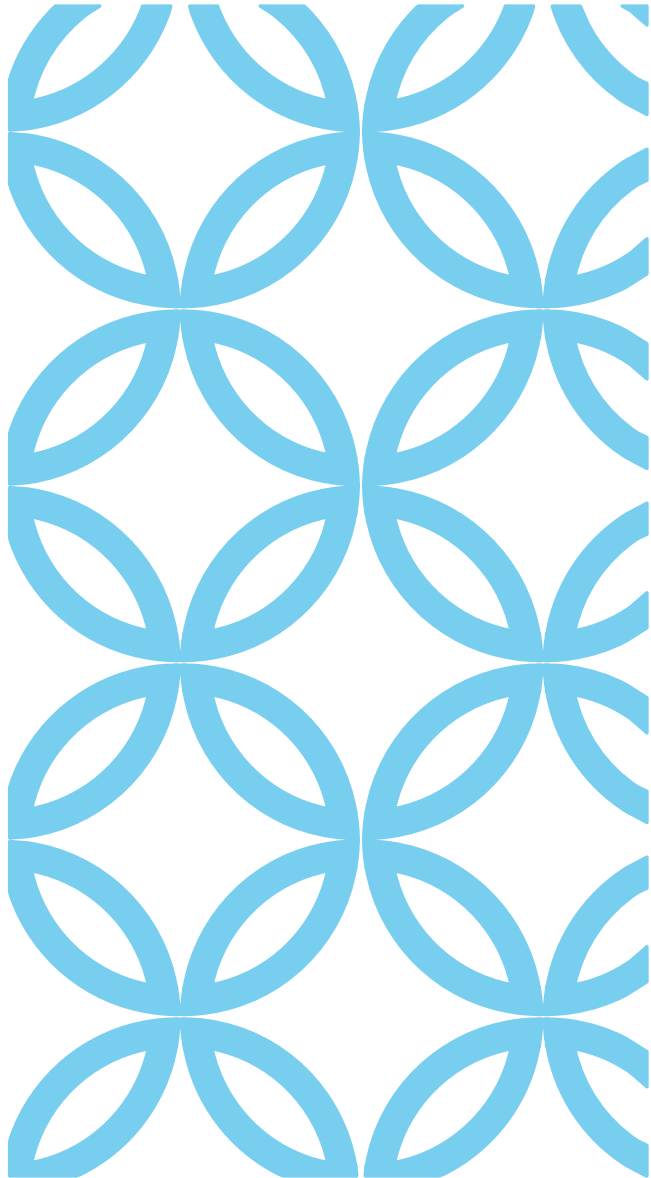
economic (meeting wealth and efficiency objectives) and

social (meeting equity objectives, both in terms of distribution and access).

To be successfully applied, these dimensions require

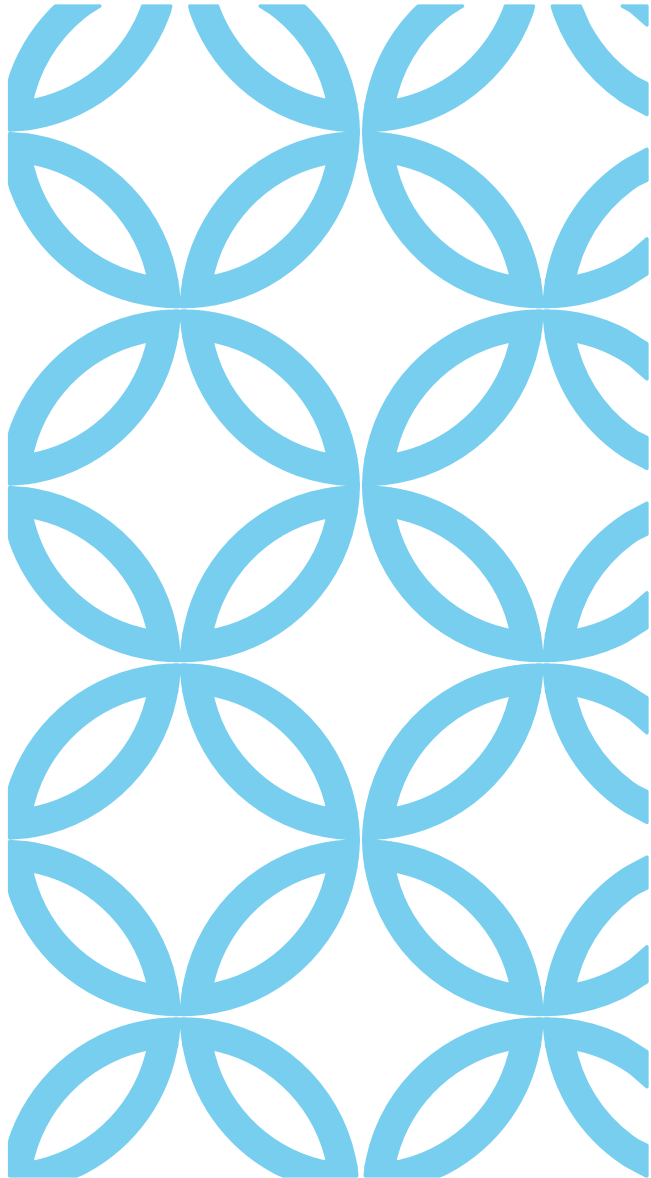
absolute political will and commitment.

JOHN GOODLAD, ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN FISHERMEN’S LEADER, FROM SHETLAND, REMINDS US THAT ONE OF THE MAIN CRITICISMS OF “TRADITIONAL” FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IS THAT FISHERMEN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES FEEL NEGLECTED AND IGNORED; A WARNING THAT IS WELL TO BE REMEMBERED IN THE NEW WORLD OF CO-MANAGEMENT.



Set up in 2012 by Defra to assist UK Fisheries Administrations (UKFA) to manage dredge fishing effort limits imposed by the EU Western Waters Effort Regime (ICES Areas 6 and 7). Since its inception, SICG has evolved and grown in membership to include wide representation of the UK scallop catching and processing sectors. The SICG plays a pivotal role in helping develop the future fisheries co-management for King and Queen scallops throughout domestic waters and in those waters of the EU where UK boats operate.

THE SCALLOP INDUSTRY CONSULTATION GROUP (SICG):



The primary role of the PSB is to oversee and help CEFAS deliver the King scallop stock assessments in selected English waters. This highly collaborative project between the scallop industry (catchers and processors), Defra and CEFAS, supported by Seafish, was formalised in 2017 with the establishment of a Project Steering Board (PSB), to oversee the design of data collection techniques for dredge and underwater TV surveys.

ENGLISH KING SCALLOP STOCK ASSESSMENT PROJECT STEERING BOARD (PSB):

THE SCALLOP INDUSTRY CONSULTATION GROUP WORKING GROUP (SICGWG):

The SICG established a working group (SICGWG) in March 2019, to help develop short and longer-term proposals that would enable the fisheries to be better managed, and ultimately help achieve the objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020. The group was expanded in September 2021 to include representatives from the UKFAs to become a partnership of co-managers. This working group was commissioned by Defra and the Welsh Government as the delivery partner for the King scallop FMP in April 2022.

SCALLOP SCIENCE GROUP (SSG)

a new group of independent scientists (biologists, social scientists and economists) drawn together to advise the SICGWG specifically on development of appropriate management interventions and associated evidence needs in support of the FMP development work.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME (SEP), LED BY SEAFISH:

Between September and November 2022, the SICGWG hosted a series of in-person and online events as part of informal engagement to:

- Raise awareness about development of the king scallop FMP for English and Welsh waters amongst stakeholders, and;
- Present early draft FMP content – aims, objectives, and proposed management interventions – to stakeholders in order to gather feedback, alternatives, and additional evidence that the SICGWG should take into account.

OVERVIEW OF FMP AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

Representatives of the SICGWG's FMP drafting group presented the first draft of proposed aims and objectives for the king scallop FMP. The proposal sets out an overarching vision (“Contribute to sustainable and well managed UK king scallop fisheries”) and three objectives as follows:

- Deliver biological, social, and economic sustainability;
- Deliver effective fisheries management of English and Welsh fisheries applicable to all fishing vessels, and;
- Deliver effective management that contributes to ecosystem functionality.

Aims and Objectives of the King scallop FMP

WHAT?

Contribute to sustainable and well managed
UK King Scallop fisheries

HOW?

Deliver biological,
social & economic
sustainability

Deliver effective
management of E&W
fisheries applicable to all
FVs

Deliver effective
management that
contributes to
ecosystem functionality

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY:

The UK Government set out in the 2018 White Paper on Sustainable fisheries a clear ambition for sustainable stewardship and management of UK fisheries that committed to deliver -

“a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK, setting a gold standard for sustainable fishing around the world”.

The Fisheries Act 2020 (‘the Act’) sets out the legal framework to achieve this ambition and places an expectation on the UK to prepare and publish Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). The Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS), published in November 2022 sets out how this ambition will be achieved in practice and the detail on how the development of FMPs will deliver the objectives of the Fisheries Act.

KING SCALLOP FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) FOR ENGLISH AND WELSH WATERS:

The Fisheries Act (2020) instructs Defra and the devolved administrations to prepare and publish Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) to achieve the objective for sustainable fisheries. The Act describes an FMP as "a document that sets out policies designed to restore one or more stocks of sea fish to, or maintain them at, sustainable levels".

FMPs will be evidence-based action plans, developed in collaboration with the fishing sector and other stakeholders. Their purpose is to deliver sustainable fisheries for current and future generations.

The King Scallop FMP is a joint plan between Defra and the Welsh Government and will cover stocks in English and Welsh waters. The Scallop Industry Consultation Group Working Group (SICGWG) is working with Seafish to draft the king scallop FMP.

What is the King scallop Fisheries Management Plan?

- King Scallop FMP for English and Welsh waters has been identified as a frontrunner based on a number of factors, including recognition of the work already underway by the SICG to develop future scallop fisheries management
- FMP covers all commercially harvested King scallops (dredged and hand-dived) from English and Welsh waters, and will apply to all sized FVs from all nations (UK and non-UK)
- Delivery partner = Scallop Industry Consultation Group Working Group (SICG WG)
- Scallop Science Group has also been established to assist the process
- Defra and Welsh Govt. have roles in developing and implementing the FMP

What happens this year?

- Key themes analysed following stakeholder events and used to reflect on long/ short-term management measures as they should be prioritised in the FMP
- Seafish publish a paper summarising the feedback from these events
- FMP drafting group work with science sub-group and fisheries policy authorities to gain advice on the management priorities and incorporate this into draft FMP
- **January 2023** - draft FMP will be completed and submitted to Defra for formal review by the end of January 2023
- Once the FMP has been reviewed by Defra, any final amendments will be made and circulated to the working group delivery body for review
- **March 2023** - final FMP draft will be compiled and formal consultation launched in **April 2023**
- **June 2023** - stakeholders will be sighted on potential changes to the draft FMP in response to feedback from the consultation
- **September 2023** - aim to have the final FMP published following Secretary of State sign off



THANK YOU.
QUESTIONS PLEASE?