



Next steps for the Project UK Nephrops FIP

29th March 2023



What makes this FIP different



Its massive

2 ICES Ecoregions

4 ICES Divisions

12 Fishing Grounds (functional units)

UK, Scottish and Northern Irish POs, federations, fishery scientists and governments

274 boats categorised as nephrops trawlers = 36% of UK trawl vessels ¹

2nd highest value fishery in 2021 : £92m in 2021 = 10% of UK catch value ¹



Its complicated

Management system already in place, so not deemed a priority

Fear of reducing value of fishing rights, not defining them.

Fishing is a devolved matter... for some things.

Its market lead, not industry lead






Barriers to Success (or certification)



Certification fails

Harvest control rules




Current harvest strategy isn't robust

- Make request to ICES for define reference points (e.g. b_{lim})
- Develop FMPs that allow for functional unit management


ETP Interaction

Research from FIP has identified overlap between trawl areas and ETP species

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- Insufficient granularity on area fished and location of ETP species to be certain around interaction. Increased resolution needed

Whiting by-catch in the Irish Sea

Zero TAC recommendation for Irish Sea Whiting yet major by-catch for nephrops

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- Support NI gear selectivity work (coverless trawl being most hopeful)
 - Support FIS Smart Trawl Project

Challenges along the way



PERMA-CRISIS



BREXIT



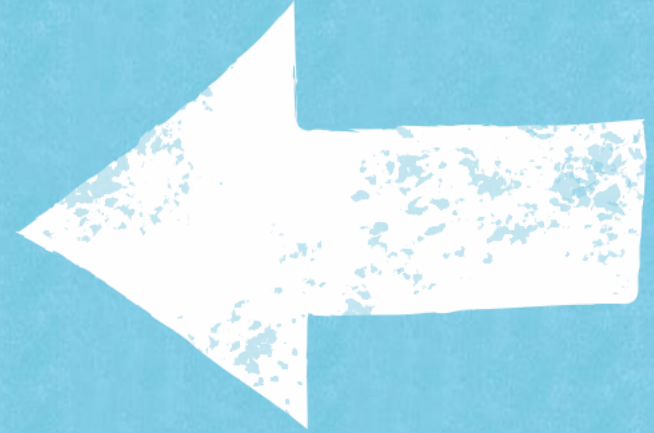
COVID



Fuel



Crewing



BREXIT

Resource suck – government representatives, POs and fishery scientists.

Time suck – little appetite for activity in advance on JFS and Fisheries Bill

Scottish Independence – Devolve fishing away from UK...focus on Future Fisheries Bill



Lack of catching sector engagement

- › Sceptical of the science, as catch often way above F_{msy} due to recruitment rather than effort.
- › Fear of further fishing restrictions – spatial squeeze and landing obligation difficult enough.
- › UK retail driven – Europe not asking for it
- › Biomass in all Scottish areas in a healthy state, so why do we need it?





What Next?

Success

Give Up

Keep going



Success

- FIP is due to conclude April 2024
- Feasible that some, if not all areas could meet the standard with conditions
- Worth considering the conditions when significant fails outstanding?
- Needs commitment from industry and government (Scottish Government in particular) to meet this timeline



Give up

- Some parts of the industry waiting for unsuccessful end...hopefully it'll just go away.
- Initial indications that extension to the FIP unlikely due to lack of commitment from government and some parts of the catching sector.
- Arent we going round in circles without catching sector and government support?



Implications of giving up

- Certain nephrops fishing grounds become 'no go' for the UK market due to sourcing policy.
- Based on recent GFG scores, if fished as today, this would include:
 - Botney Gut,
 - The Smalls
 - Farn Deep
 - The Clyde,
- This would be dire for WSF, would lead to a dramatic reduction in scampi and have the potential to close some fisheries down completely.

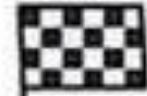




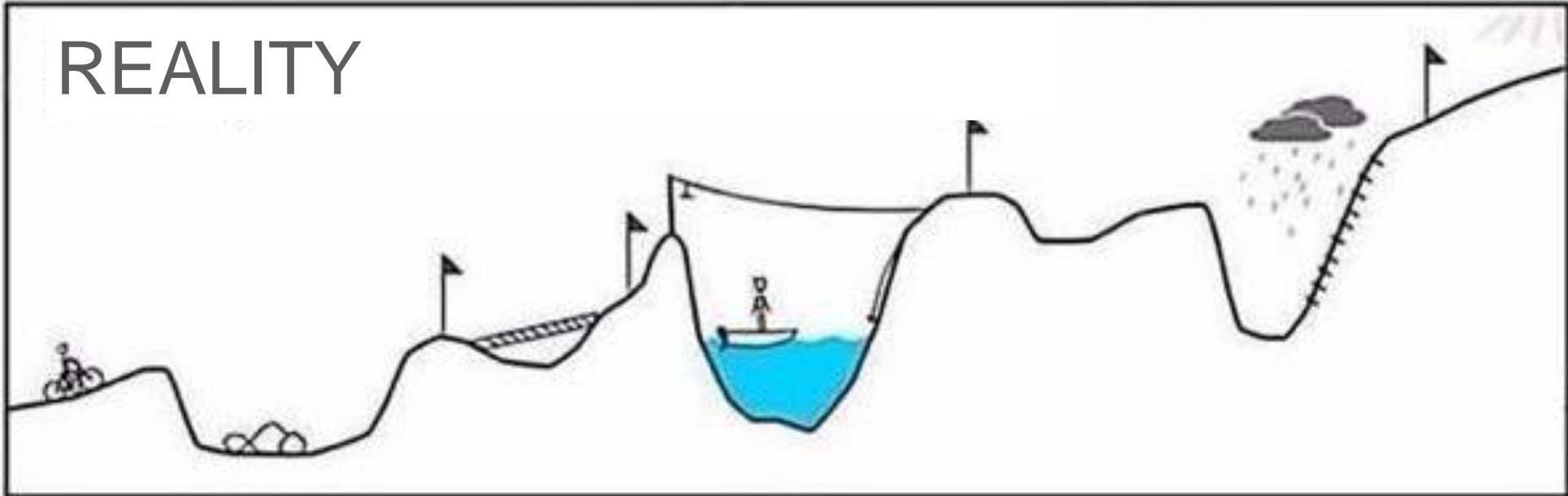
Why keep on going?



FIP ACTION PLAN YEAR 1



REALITY



‘DO NOT JUDGE ME
BY MY SUCCESSES,
JUDGE ME BY HOW
MANY TIMES I FELL
DOWN AND GOT
BACK UP AGAIN’



Likely triggers for improvement

- Fisheries Bill will deliver FMPs, just not to the FIP time line (end '24). Can we influence them?
- Future Fisheries Policy will change management in Scotland, and might give necessary management changes
- ICES request:
 - should have happened already (is in multi-annual plan regulation)
 - will take many years to conclude
 - right thing to do long term
 - wont happen if no one drives it



Possibilities for post April 24

- Extension? What would be required?
- Certification for those nephrops grounds that could pass?
- Alternative/Informal FIP to continue working to deliver required actions.
- Alternatives to MSC (e.g. Scottish sustainability standard)

PRIORITY SHOULD BE SUCCESS IN APR'24



Questions and Suggestions

Daniel.whittle@whitby-seafoods.com

