

UK Scallop Industry Good Practice Guide

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February 2009

Revision 6th May 2010

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Scallop Association



Summary of Principles and Articles, Scallop Industry Good Practice Guide

Principle 1. Operate in partnership with environmental managers and other marine users

Fishermen shall work in partnership with fishermen, fishery and conservation managers, and the Statutory Nature Conservation Agencies (SNCAs) to ensure that their fishing activities avoid damage and / or disturbance to sensitive seabed habitats and protected sites

Articles

- *Fishermen shall work with fishery and conservation managers, and the SNCAs to recommend management measures that will afford protection to sensitive seabed habitats and protected sites and will adhere to management practices that are put in place*
- *Fishermen shall provide data through their acoustic systems or local knowledge to better understand seabed habitats which would better inform decisions to protect sensitive habitats*
- *Fishermen shall work with fishery managers and Statutory Nature Conservation Agencies (SNCAs) to develop spatial management plans to ensure the protection of protected sites*
- *Fishermen shall work with the relevant organisations and researchers collecting fishing activity information which will ensure that the industry is sufficiently considered in the development of MCZs and other marine developments*
- *Fishermen shall report, avoid and maintain a protection zone around areas of reef or hard ground where sensitive species are encountered and observed in the dredges.*
- *Fishermen shall work in partnership with relevant bodies' research to assess fishing gears and promote and utilize new fishing gears and practices which minimise environmental impacts*
- *Where economically viable alternative harvest methods are available they will be adopted in preference to traditional scallop dredges*
- *Recognise and respect the needs of other users of the marine environment and take reasonable measures to ensure that direct conflict does not occur*

Principle 2. Compliance with voluntary and statutory regulations controlling access to fisheries

Fishermen shall comply with voluntary and statutory agreements and regulations and will work to promote compliance across the industry.

Articles

- *Fishermen shall fit Vessel Monitoring Systems to their vessels, where necessary, to ensure compliance with the spatial plans and regulation*

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- *The buyer and processor members of the industry commit to refuse to purchase from vessels bringing the scallop industry into disrepute by infringing voluntary agreements and statutory regulations*
- *Scallop fishermen should respect other marine users and inform fishermen's associations, SNCA's, Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCA's) and Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFG's) of intended activities in or adjacent to their area of remit*

Principle 3. Contribute to Science Knowledge base and to assist in the long term maintenance of sustainable scallop stocks

Fishermen shall engage with managers and scientists to promote research and best practice in the management of scallop stocks

Articles

- *Fishermen shall be prepared to cooperate and participate with research institutions and in the CEFAS Scallop Science Partnership Project to improve the scientific understanding of UK scallop stocks, this may include:*
 - *in the provision of activity and effort information that would inform statistical analysis*
 - *participation in at sea recording of stock data and enhanced log book recording*
 - *fitting environmental data loggers on gear/vessels*
- *Fishermen shall, where the opportunity arises, participate in local, regional and national management fora with the intention of promoting best practice in the management of the scallop fishery*
- *Fishermen may propose behaviours, activities or areas that will result in the maintenance and improvement of scallop stocks throughout the UK*