



Section 2: Sector Policies

The policies within this Plan are designed to guide all marine and coastal users in terms of proposed and existing development(s) and activities. Users of this Plan must also comply with the National Marine Plan and other relevant legislation.

The general policies within Section 1 of the Plan provide a framework for the sustainable development and use of the marine and coastal environment. These general policies should be adhered to in advance of policies within Section 2 as they are all potentially relevant to any proposal for development or activity by any sector or user of the marine and coastal environment.

Section 2 outlines policy relating to the key current economic activities taking place in the Clyde Marine Region. These policies provide a framework to ensure that the economic, social and environmental benefits are delivered for each sector. The chapters are ordered in the same way as the National Marine Plan.

Each chapter follows the same format, this includes:

- A context which sets out a summary of the main information relevant to the policy area. More information on each of the areas can be found within the [Clyde Marine Region Assessment](#).
- Objectives and policies; objectives provide a measurable strategic aim or goal for each policy area and policies which will deliver the objectives are set out underneath.
- Maps are included at the end of the chapter. For the latest available spatial data, see [National Marine Plan interactive](#) (NMPi). It is recommended that NMPi is used in conjunction with this Clyde Regional Marine Plan.
- Links to further information on the policy area.



Chapter 9: Sea Fisheries

The [West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group](#) (WCRIFG) is a non-statutory body working with fisheries industry representatives, statutory bodies and other parties to improve the management of inshore fisheries. The WCRIFG Fisheries Management Plan aims to deliver the sustainable use of natural resources, recognising national and international obligations, and safeguarding fish stocks while optimising the economic return for inshore fisheries and dependent communities. The overarching strategic objectives are: 1. Biological – to conserve, enhance and restore commercial stocks in inshore waters and the supporting ecosystem, 2. Economical – to optimise long-term and sustained economic return to local coastal communities that are dependent on inshore fisheries and to promote quality initiatives, and 3. Environmental – to maintain and restore the quality of the inshore marine environment.



Fishing boats in Tarbert Harbour.

Clyde Marine Region Context

Sea fisheries cover all commercial fishing activity within inshore waters including trawling, dredging, pots/creels/traps, diving and line fishing. Historically, the Clyde Marine Region was renowned for its herring fishery and the reasons for the collapse of the fishery are complex. Other fisheries for cod, hake, saithe and whiting have also been important, however, these stocks have also declined. There are ongoing initiatives to recover these stocks through quota, gear selectivity and area/temporal management.

The majority of commercial activity within the Clyde Marine Region is undertaken by small vessels under 15 m and is now focused on the trawl and creel fishery for Nephrops, also known as prawns, langoustine, scampi or Dublin Bay prawn. King scallops, and now rarely queen scallops, are also taken, mainly by dredging vessels. There are also creel fisheries for brown crab, velvet crab, lobsters and wrasse, dive fisheries for a range of shellfish, fishing using traps and controlled trials of electrofishing for razor clams. The sector remains important for supporting both direct and supply chain employment, particularly within more rural communities, for example on the Kintyre peninsula.

The Clyde Marine Region Assessment identifies many concerns for fish and shellfish populations which have led to the decline in historic fisheries for herring and groundfish such as cod. Brown crab, velvet crab and lobster are currently overfished in the Clyde and more data is needed to assess the state of scallop stocks. Management measures, such as catch limits and seasonal closures (e.g. “The Cod Box”), have been implemented with the help of fishermen to help support stock recoveries.

For further detail on this sector, see Chapters 6.2 and 5.4 of the [Clyde Marine Region Assessment](#).

Objectives



Objective FISH 1 The long-term objective is a sustainable, diverse and resilient marine ecosystem which supports a wide range of sustainable fishing opportunities supplying both local and other markets. Sustainable fisheries operating at or below Maximum Sustainable Yield ensures optimisation of the socio-economic contribution of the fishing industry and supply chain.

MEASUREMENT: Accredited scientific data. Marine Scotland economic statistics for sea fisheries.



Objective FISH 2 Improve spatial data on areas of importance to fisheries activities and ensure that interactions with other marine users are well managed.

MEASUREMENT: Vehicle Monitoring Systems fisheries activity data available on NMPI. Marine licence determination process.

Policy – Management

Policy FISH 1 Fisheries representatives, scientists and other parties should work collaboratively with the West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group and the Clyde 2020 initiative to deliver scientific research and practical measures to enable fisheries management to contribute to an improvement in the marine ecosystem. This includes, but is not limited to:

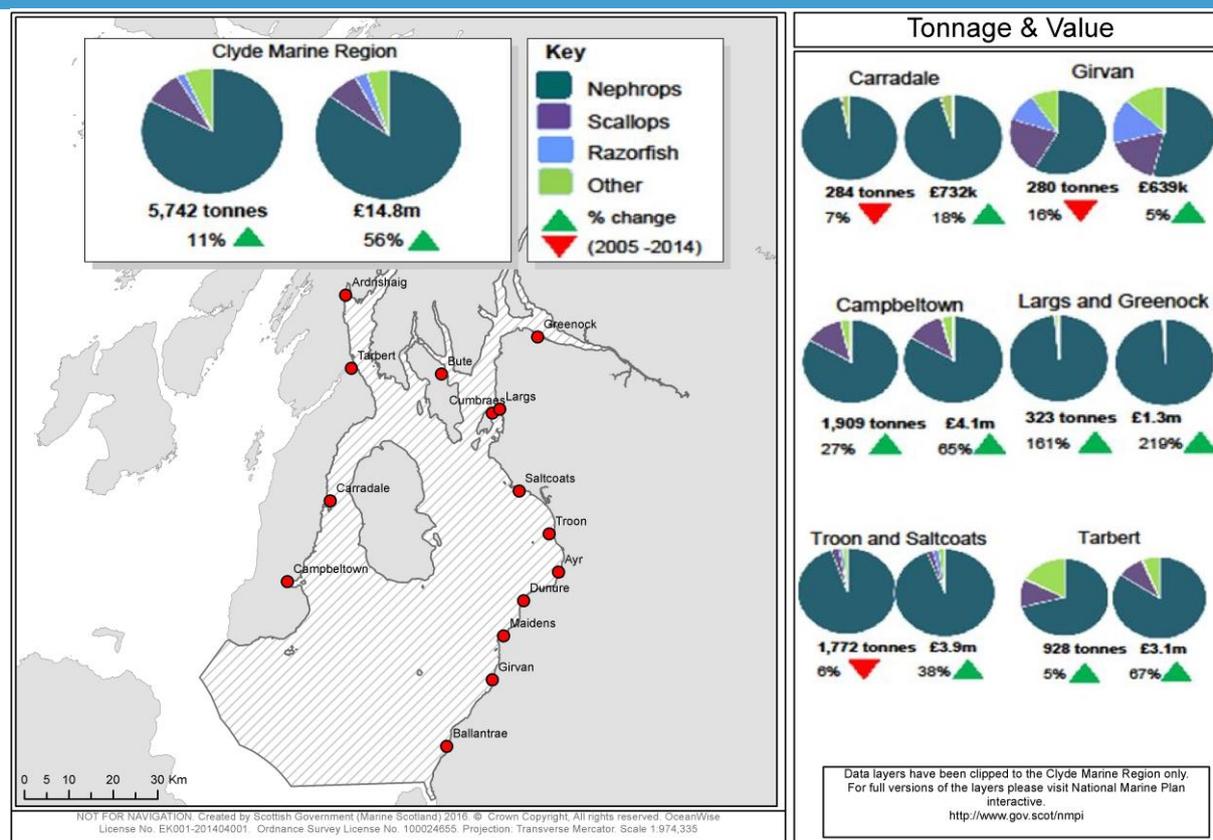
- improved understanding of the habitats that support fisheries including pressure/state relationships and ecosystem role/function, leading to spatial and other management measures to protect the most important areas,
- stock assessments for all commercial target species, including consideration of other pressures such as predation and climate change, leading to appropriate management measures to ensure no species is fished above Maximum Sustainable Yield,
- continued monitoring of seabed habitats and species which are sensitive to fishing activity, leading to further agreed spatial management as appropriate,
- measuring the contribution of fisheries to the local and national economy, or
- improved technology used by fisheries, including to reduce bycatch and improve gear selectivity.

It is acknowledged that to deliver certain elements of this policy, funding streams will need to be identified and secured.

Policy FISH 2 Industry initiatives to implement tracking for all commercial fishing boats operating in the Clyde Marine Region are strongly encouraged.

Policy FISH 3 Static gear fishers should follow best practice guidelines and any future legislation issued by Marine Scotland in relation to static gear buoy markings.

Map FISH 1 – Landings at ports in the Clyde Marine Region in 2014.



These maps are indicative only. For up-to-date mapping with interactive features, visit [National Marine Plan interactive](http://www.gov.scot/nmpi).

Further information

Marine Scotland: [Scottish Inshore Sea Fisheries Strategy 2015](#)

Note that Marine Scotland is consulting on a [National Discussion Paper about 'Future Management of Sea Fisheries in Scotland'](#) until 7 June 2019.

West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group: [Fisheries Management Plan](#)

Clyde 2020: information [on Clyde Marine Planning Partnership website](#) including the Layman's Guide and animations on *'The condition of seabed habitats, fish and shellfish of the Clyde Marine Region'*

Marine Scotland provide [guidelines for marking static fishing gear](#).

Seafish supports a range of working groups and initiatives, such as the [Discard Action Group](#) and [Project UK Fisheries Improvements](#), to improve efficiency and raise standards across the seafood industry.

Scotland signed up to the [Global Ghost Gear Initiative](#) in 2017.