



# Marine Spatial Planning & Co-Existence

## Fishing Perspective

**Kenny Coull : Science Officer**  
**Scottish White Fish Producer's Association**



# Scottish Fishermen's Federation

- Formed in 1973
- Federation comprises 8 constituent associations covering the smallest under-10m creel boat to the largest most modern pelagic vessel
- Membership of around 400 vessels (*or businesses*)
- The Scottish Fishermen's Federation constituent associations account for circa 90% of the total Scottish quota
- Over 65% of the UK total
- SFF Executive Committee and Working Groups underpin Policy and workstreams
- Represent and lobby for the fishing industry at national and international level





SWFPA formed in 1943 and is the largest fishing association in Scotland (and in Europe)

As an organisation we represent:

- 220 vessels (demersal, nephrops, scallop and inshore)
- 1400 fishermen
- Contribute £250m to Scottish economy (first sale)

Provide Policy and Science support to MNWFA





## Landings and Value of Fish Landed by Scottish Based Vessels - 2023

	Demersal	Pelagic	<i>Nephrops</i>	Other Shellfish
<b>Number of vessels</b>	165	20	230 (<10m = 54)	1530
<b>Total landings</b>	100,156 t	346,750 t	20,515 t	33,454 t
<b>Total value</b>	£170 million	£314 million	£81 million	£86 million

Total Value all landings:  
£652 Million

# 2023 Scottish Fisheries – Employment and Income

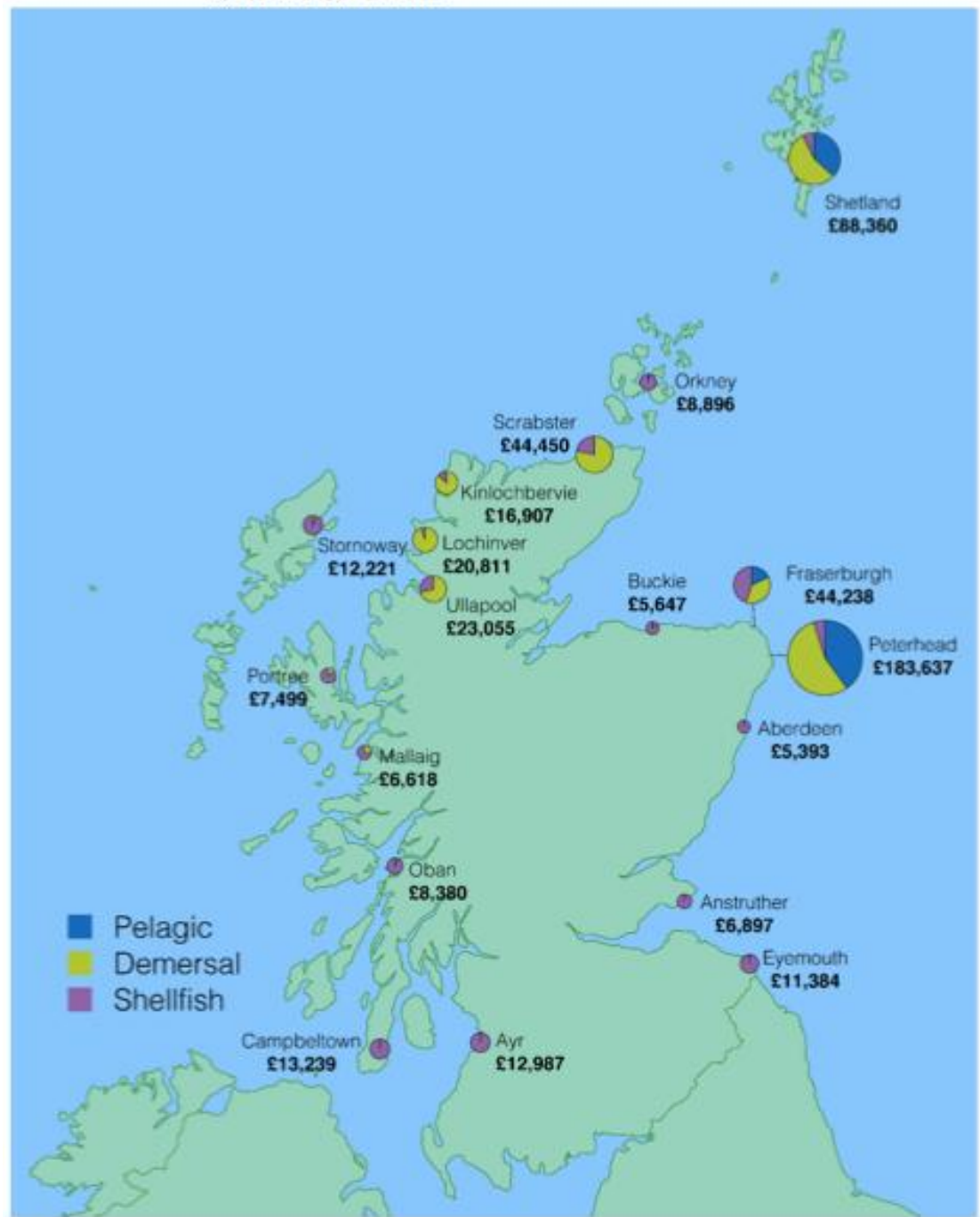
**3793** Fishermen employed  
 3218 Employed full time  
 575 Part time/seasonally employed

Fishermen from Shetland, Orkney and Western Isles areas account for 2.3% of direct jobs.

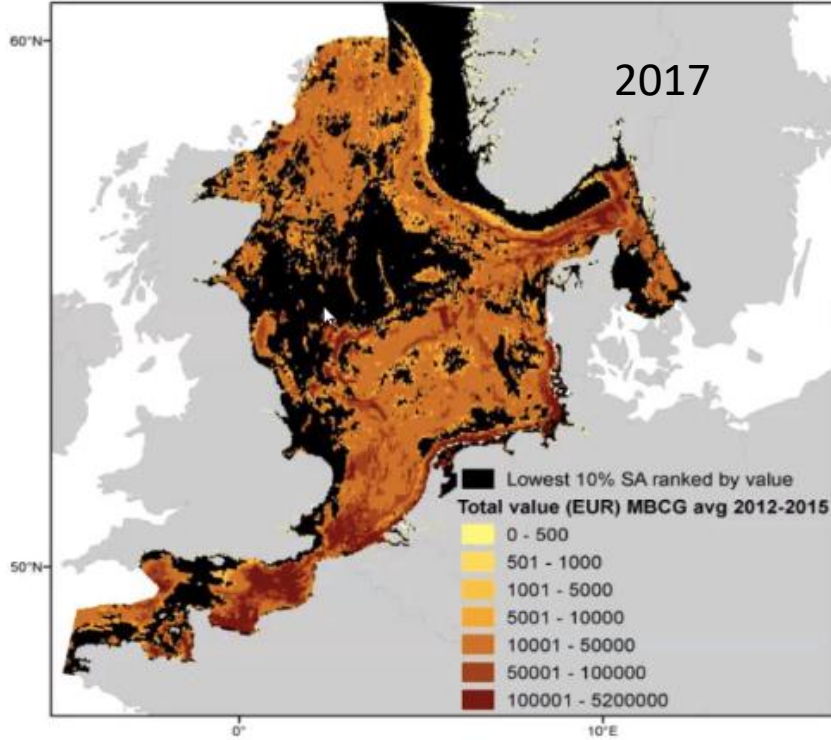
## Economic value of UK Fishing & Aquaculture to UK Marine Economy (2018)

	Primary Activity	Secondary Activity	Total
GVA	0.5bn	1.5bn	2bn
Jobs	9,000	34,000	43,000

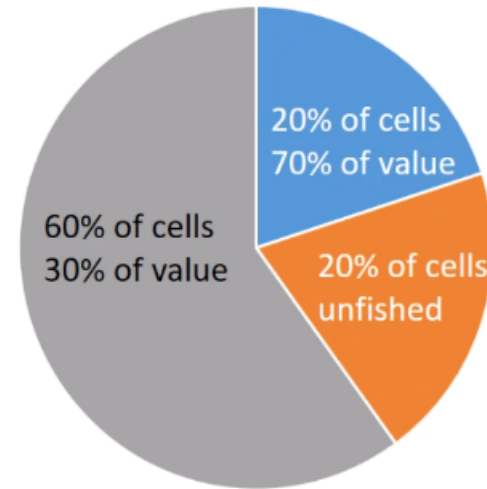
Figure 7. Value of landings (£'thousands) into Scotland by all vessels by district by species type in 2018



# Where Do We Fish?



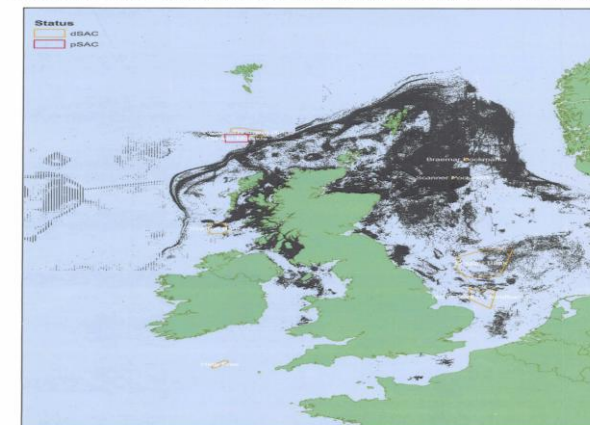
- Fishing pressure, value and landings were found to be highly aggregated in the Greater North Sea



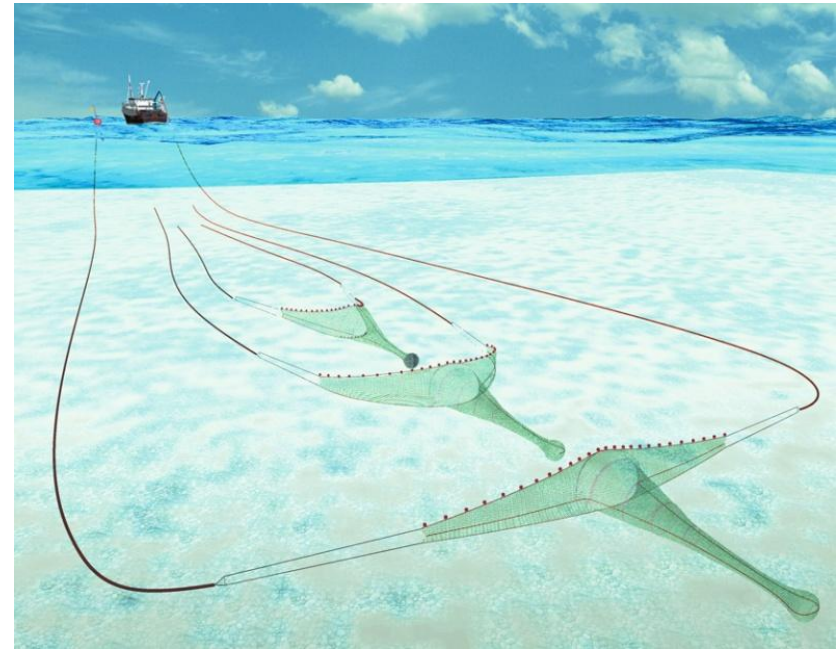
**Greater North Sea in 2015 (0-200 m)**  
70% of value in 20% of grid cells

Approximately 55% of North Sea grid cells unfished (black area)

Scottish vessels VMS fishing data 2005 (where speed 4 knots or less)



# Demersal Fisheries



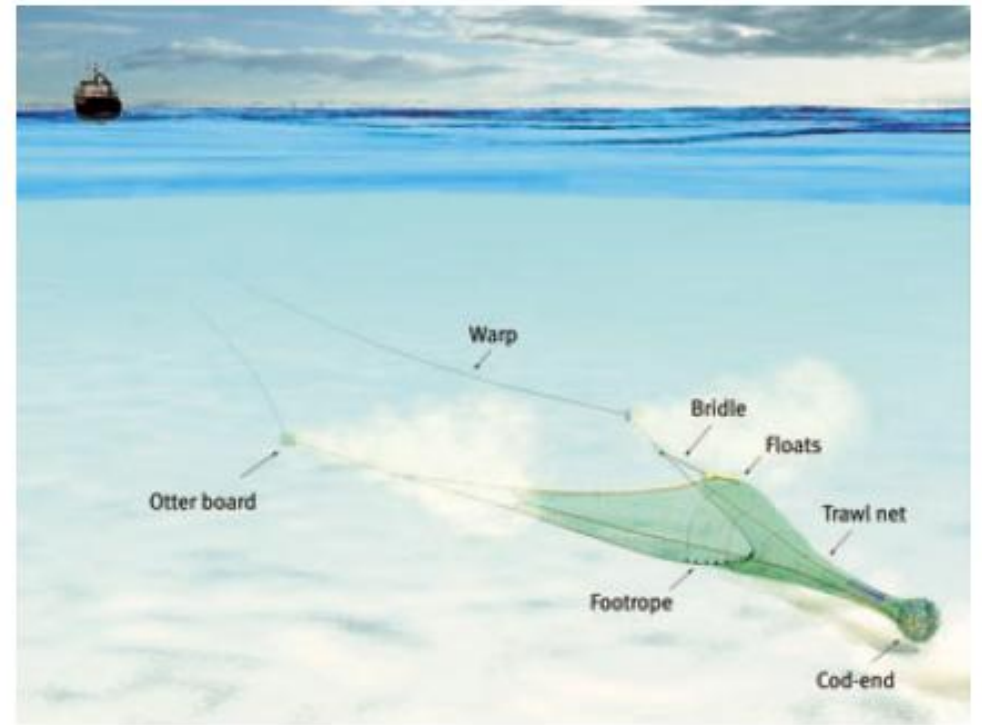
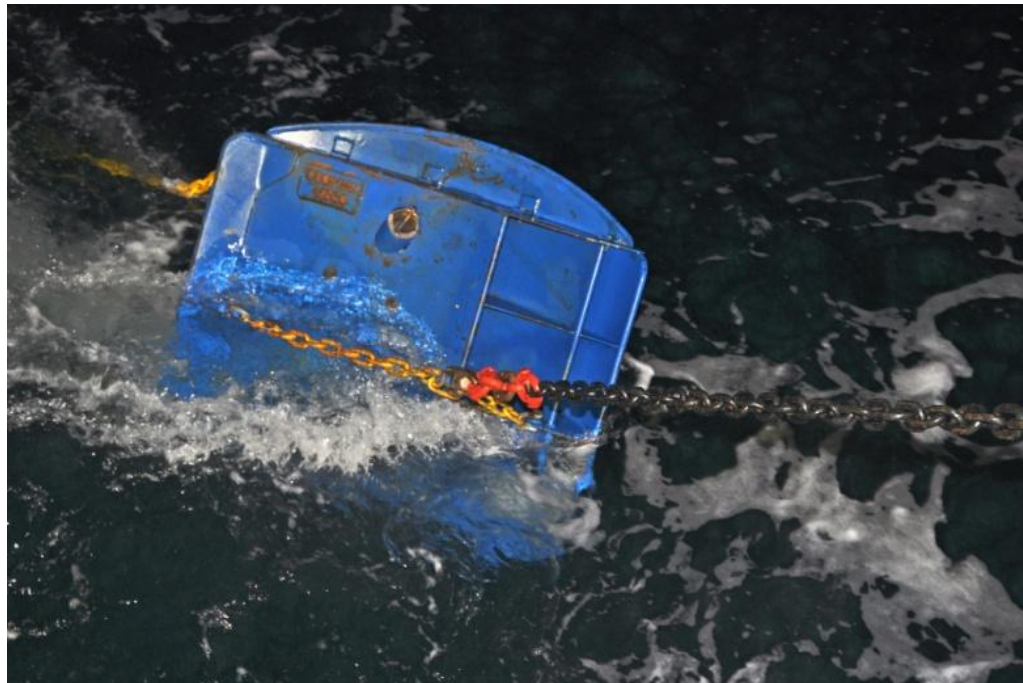


Figure 1. The Principal Features of Demersal Otter Trawl Gear





# Pelagic Fishing



# Nephrop Trawl Fishery

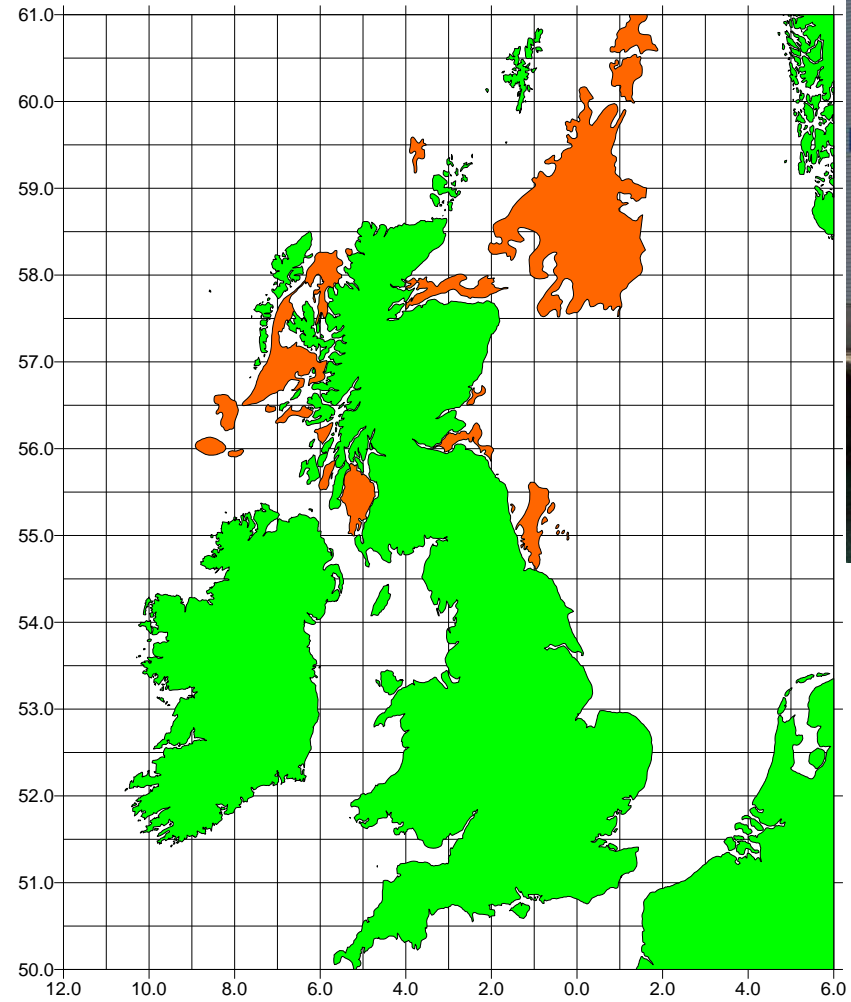


Figure 12.

# Inshore Fisheries

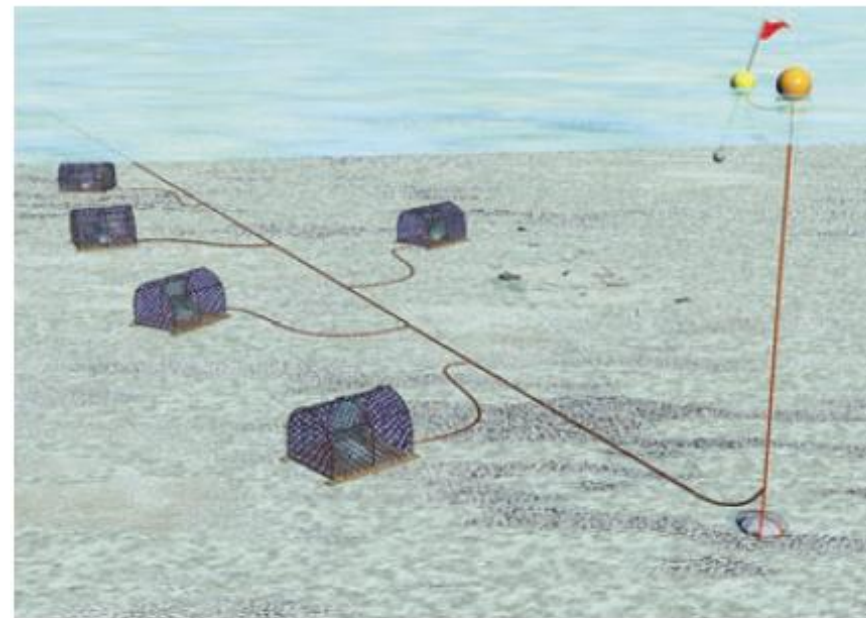


Figure 22.

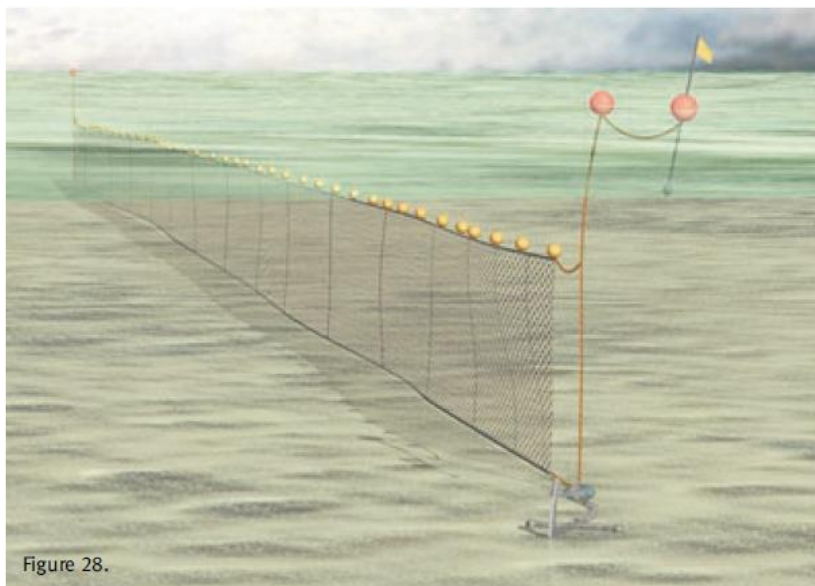


Figure 28.



# We are not alone... coexistence is not always easy *(in multiple use context)*

## Aquaculture

- Spatial overlap – loss of Nephrops fishing grounds
- Inshore waters but plans to expand into deeper waters

## Oil and gas

- Spatial overlap – loss of offshore fishing tows
- Decommissioning – looking less likely of return of fishing opportunities

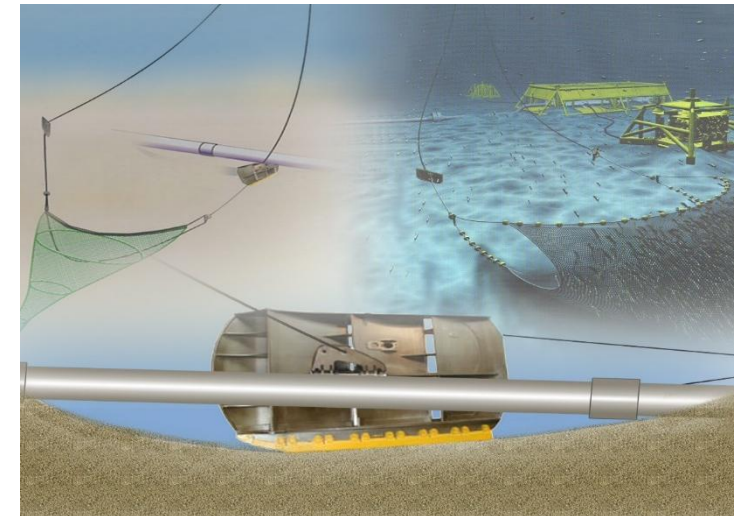
## Nature Conservation

- Resulting in restriction to activity based on risk to features

## Renewables

- Spatial overlap – loss of inshore fishing opportunities
- Low engagement with fishing industry in the planning process
- Impact on benthic and demersal species not fully assessed
- Floating Wind – incompatible with most fishing methods

Beatrice Windfarm Demonstration Project adjacent to Beatrice oil platforms



# Competition for space

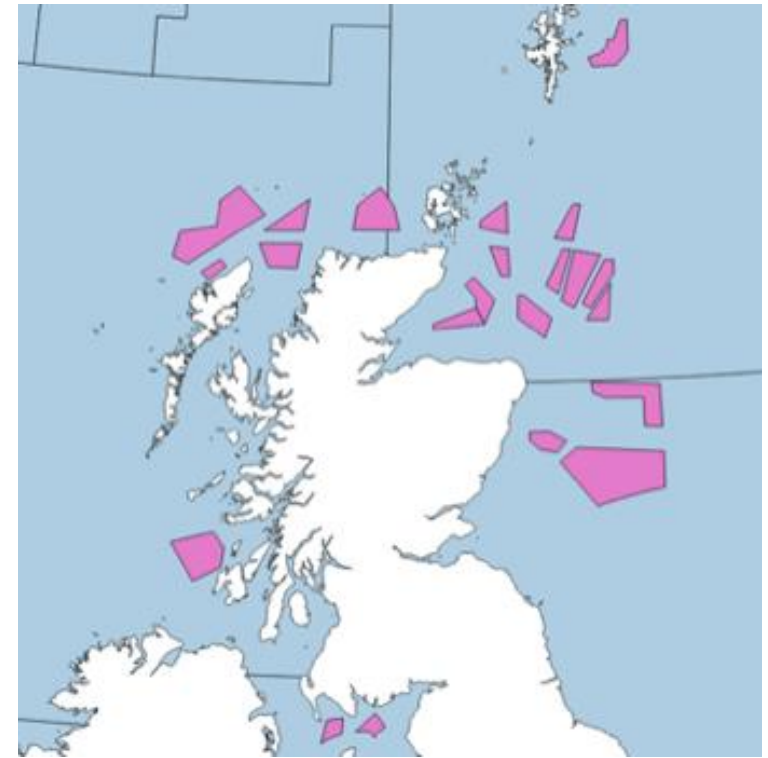
**Aquaculture**



**Renewable Energy - current**

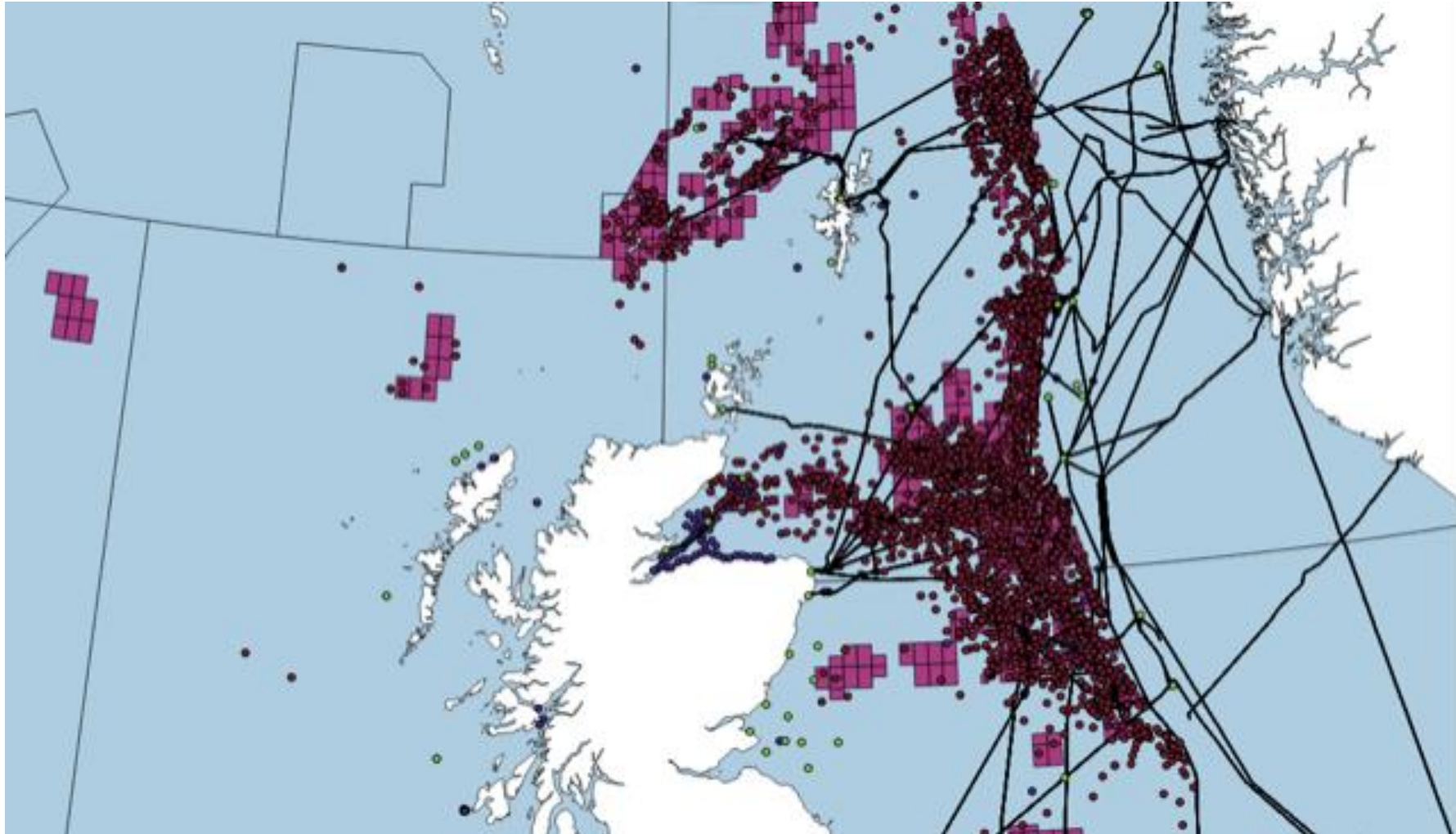


**Potential Offshore Wind Areas**



# Competition for space

Oil and Gas



# Competition for space

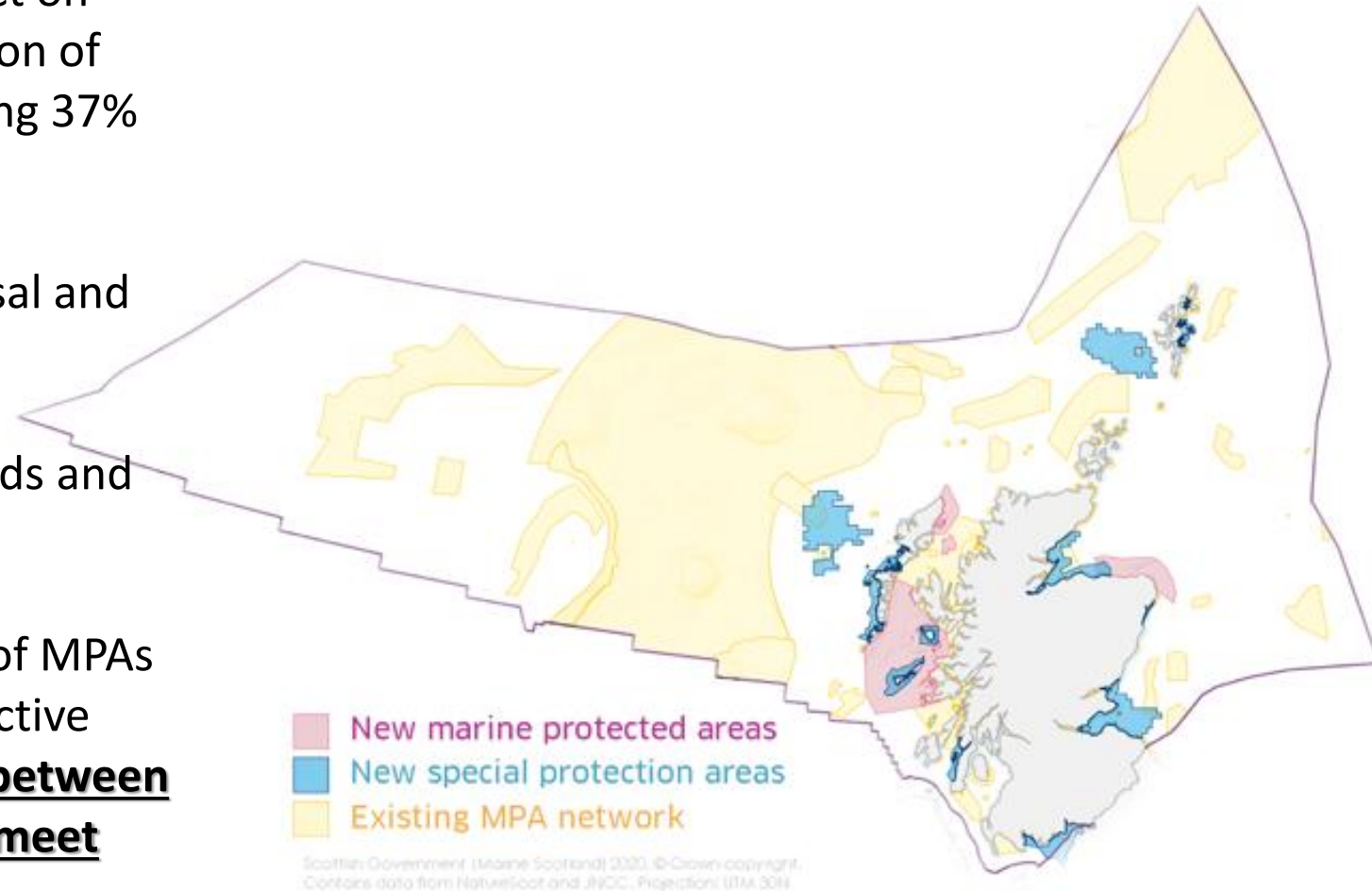
SFF supports the principles of UK's Marine Act on creation of a network of MPAs for conservation of biodiversity & geodiversity. (225 sites covering 37% of Scottish Seas).

Cooperation with SNCBs on selection, proposal and approval of sites is high on SFF priorities.

As are strategies to protect cetaceans, seabirds and PMFs.

Vitally important that the resulting network of MPAs is constructed and managed in the most effective way possible, **striking the essential balance between conservation and sustainable harvesting to meet the reasonable objectives of both.**

## Marine Protected Area Network (Scotland)



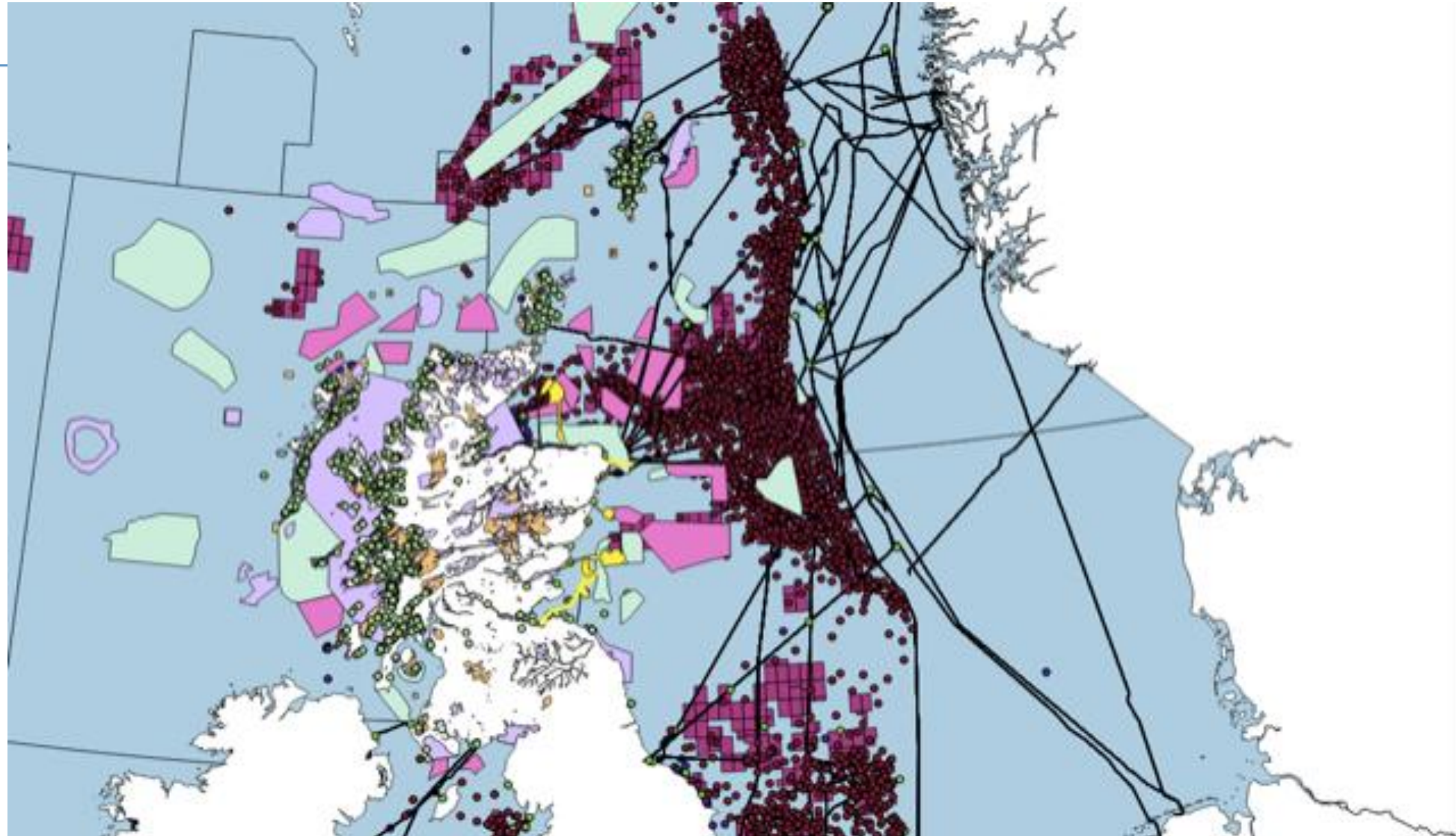
**Trust & cooperation** has been developed through years and UK (and Scotland) now has power to finalize fisheries management plans within MPA Network.

# Competition for space

## The sum....

- ▶   Licenced Windfarms
-  Areas of Search
-  aquaculture\_sitesPoint
-  SAC\_SCOTLAND
-  MPA\_SCOTLAND
-  SPA\_SCOTLAND
- ▶   Oil and Gas
-  ICES UK WGS84UTM30N

**Understanding the cumulative effect of the potential displacement is almost impossible and never attempted**







# Marine planning policies



**FISHERIES 1:** Taking account of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive, marine planners and decision makers should aim to ensure:

- Existing fishing opportunities and activities are safeguarded wherever possible.
- An ecosystem-based approach to the management of fishing which ensures sustainable and resilient fish stocks and avoids damage to fragile habitats.



**FISHERIES 2:** The following key factors should be taken into account when deciding on uses of the marine environment and the potential impact on fishing:

- The cultural and economic importance of fishing, in particular to vulnerable coastal communities.

## **Co-location and Co-existence**

In context of Scottish Fishing Industry and methods, opportunities for co-location is very limited.

Fishing opportunities will be lost, directly through loss of access to established fishing areas.

In some cases fishing may continue but this will likely be restricted to static gear such as creel fishing, which, in reality only applies in Inshore Waters.

The demersal and pelagic fishing methods in Scotland are almost exclusively mobile gears as opposed to static gear which is widely used in England.

We are aware that some scallop dredgers have been able to fish within Wind Sites.

Recognise that use of static gear may be suitable for co-location in England but this method not commercially viable for Scottish Fisheries, particularly in Offshore locations.

It now appears that compensatory measures may be developed to offset environmental harm associated with development of Wind Energy. These measures will, in effect, impact more on other sectors, such as Fishing.

## **We are told that;**

The NMP2 is being designed to allow existing sectors to continue operating in a sustainable and responsible manner and aims to include guidance on policy implementation in the context of planning policy.

The current consultation paper states that “[we] will consider if policy for co-existence can be combined with support to existing users”. We see from application of the current NMP that this is simply not enough as specific Policies relating to fishing have been ignored.

Recent statement from UK Minister aims to make it easier for offshore wind developers (in English waters), to progress their projects, by allowing strategic compensation for environmental harm done to protected features, rather than project-specific measures. This will include the designation of more MPAs (and extension of some), to offset the harm from offshore wind.

Undoubtedly, if similar lines are taken in Scotland, it would appear that in addition to initial loss of opportunities through inability to co-locate, the fishing industry will carry further loss in order to offset environmental harm from Offshore Wind Development.

In effect, fishing industry stands to lose access to development areas and access to areas set aside to mitigate environmental damage or loss.



# The Scottish White Fish Producer's Association



# Thank you !

Kenny Coull

Science Policy Officers