Are social and economic values for fisheries presented appropriately in impact assessments?

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www.sff.co.uk
MPA management measures – evidence at the correct resolution

A Cautionary Tale
Potential Cumulative Displacement of fishing activities
We always do this:

- *Note:* parallel requirements of *healthy* and *productive* seas
- *Proceed to:* subjective advocacy
- *We can agree:* both required
Story & Conclusion:

• In Scotland – a sound process that went wrong

• Lesson to be learned? Avoidable mistakes? – Yes!
Practical Experience

• Sound process for search, selection and designation: *Why, what, where, how much?*

• Evidence competently presented, *but ignored because it “didn’t make much difference”*
Preferred Option of Marine Scotland and Statutory Advisors
Outcome

• Ban Scallop Dredge across area
• Reduce restrictions on static gear
• Restrict trawling for Nephrops
What went wrong?

• Flaw in socio-economic assessment
• “Representative Democracy” versus “Participative Democracy”
The Flaw

• No Socio-Economic analysis at the relevant level
• *Let me explain*...
Socio-economic Effects of the proposed MCO 2015 Scoping Study (South Arran and Sound of Jura MPA)

- Marine Scotland reports based on catch assumptions and on potential future scenarios.
- Overall approach of estimating only revenues from the proposed MPA is too high level.
- Not based on primary research at the local level, therefore is seen to underestimate the true socio-economic impact of MPA designation on businesses and communities.
- The loss of revenue maybe so significant to some fishing businesses that owners decide to cease trading.
- Fishermen recognise the ability and opportunity to fish in other areas but fishing displacement may result in overfishing in other areas.
- The MPA areas are sheltered areas – fewer days at sea during winter and inclement weather.
Scoping Study

• Scoping study confirmed that there are expected to be detrimental socio-economic effects greater than those presented in the national level economic appraisal.

• Sector supports a range of onshore business and jobs.

• Additional pressure of further restrictions will shrink the fleet further, potentially putting a significant proportion of current vessels under threat.

• Assuming a turnover reduction of 50% would potentially have the following economic impact:
  - Loss of 140 fishing crew jobs
  - Further potential loss of 700 onshore fishing related jobs
  - Threat of further depopulation of the area
  - £12.5 million loss to fishing businesses, resulting in £7-8 million to supply chain

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Firth of Clyde Regulating Order Application

Prepared by the Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT)

Economic Impact of a Proposed Fisheries Regulating Order for the Clyde Sea

www.sff.co.uk
Marine Scotland’s Scallop Review clearly shows that the RO will impact heavily on scallop dredging activity, not 28% as suggested. Economic Impact claims only 20% loss of value???
Conclusion

• Build in socio economic analysis, *at a suitable resolution* into the evidence gathering