



EUROPARC
Conference 2018
Cairngorms National Park
Scotland



An Island Community
Marine Protected Area

Forward to effective ongoing management



COAST

Established 1995

Until 2011 run by volunteers

Now has 3 full time staff and dozens of volunteers

The main issue

Scotland's seas have been & continue to be managed by Government for the benefit of just a few vested interests.

Coastal communities in general are excluded or sidelined from its management .

As islanders we have been excluded from having a say on our most Important resource.

Howard Wood, Don MacNeish

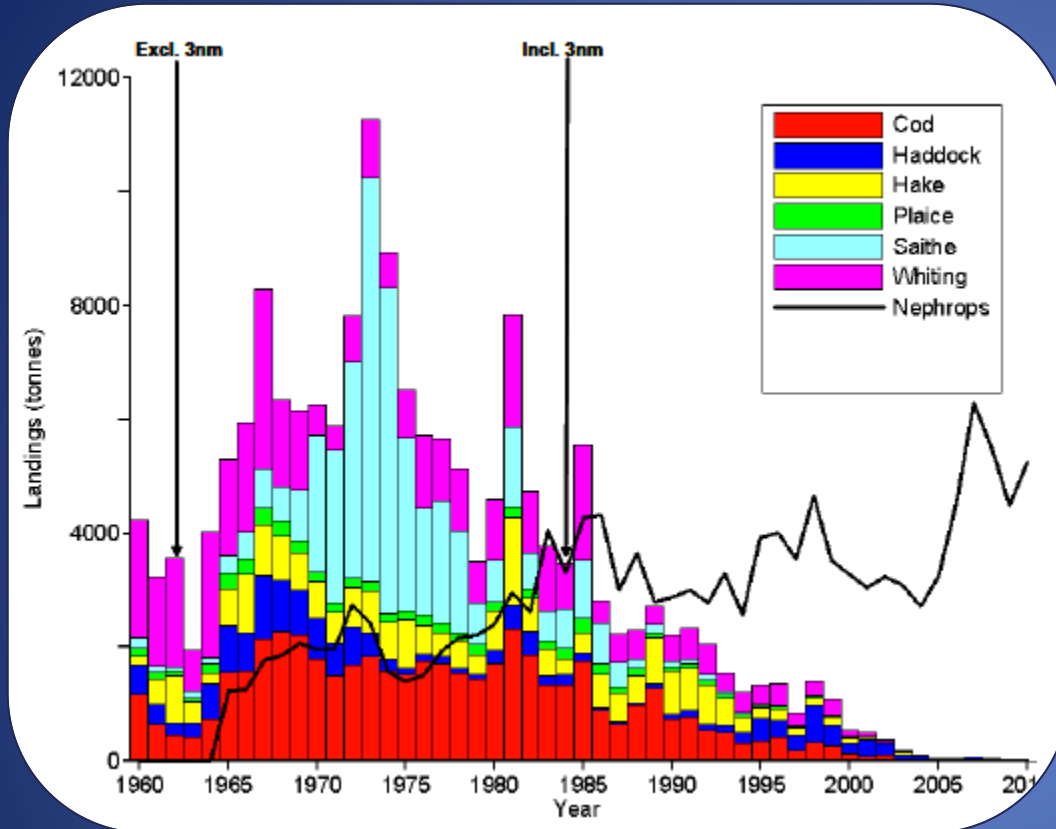


CLYDE SEA AREA
3650 Sq Km.
Now known as the
Newfoundland of Europe,
due to the collapse of fish
stocks.



THE CLYDE IS NOW A FISHERY OF LAST RESORT

- Reduction in diversity and abundance of catch



The landings of the principle demersal fish, and of Nephrops , from the Clyde since 1960

Commercial catches of fin fish ceased in 2003

Nephrops and scallop, at the bottom of the food chain account for over 99% of commercial catch in the Clyde today

The removal of the 3 nautical mile exclusion zone to trawling coincides with the decline in landings





Our community's use of Lamlash Bay & Arran seas
Children & adults involved in lots of water sports



Recreational Sea Angling
has, due to lack of fish, decreased by
90% over past 25 years



A Brown Et-al 2012 Fishing For Answers

The Final Report of the Social and Community Benefits of Angling Project

- **The Benefits of Angling for Rural Communities**

Recreational Angling can contribute to rural communities in diverse ways; in addition to the direct impacts on local economies generated by angling tourism, there is a range of more nuanced impacts, such as reducing seasonality economic effects and sustaining cultural heritage.

- **Angling's Contribution to Tackling Youth Social Exclusion**

- Provide personal and social development opportunities
- **Improve achievement in education and employment**
- **Divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour.**

- **Diversion From Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

- The most effective angling diversionary programmes establish exit routes into clubs and wider angling opportunities.
- “By the time I was really starting into fishing I was hanging around with the wrong sort of people. I had two choices, it was either fishing or go out and start taking drugs. I chose fishing” (Interview with 18 youth)

- **Angling is particularly suited to helping young people with additional welfare needs and behavioural or learning difficulties, especially ADHD.**

- Young people suffering behavioural or learning difficulties, experiencing bullying, or bereavement, who have difficult family circumstances, low school attendance, or are experiencing difficulties making friends, can benefit from the additional personal support provided by dedicated angling programmes.
- Angling also appears to have a very particular benefit for young people with **hyperkinetic disorders, such as ADHD.**

So where's the Scottish Governments
RSA policy ?



SUPPORTING

year of young people
bliadhna na h-òigridh
2018



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION





We engage with
Government &
politicians

Over 24 years COAST has gained the support
of a wide range of MSPs MPs MEPs & members of
the House of Lords



INSIDE THE NO TAKE ZONE...

York University NTZ research

Scallops (2015)

Larger and more
plentiful

More individuals
and a wider variety
of species

Seafloor (2015)

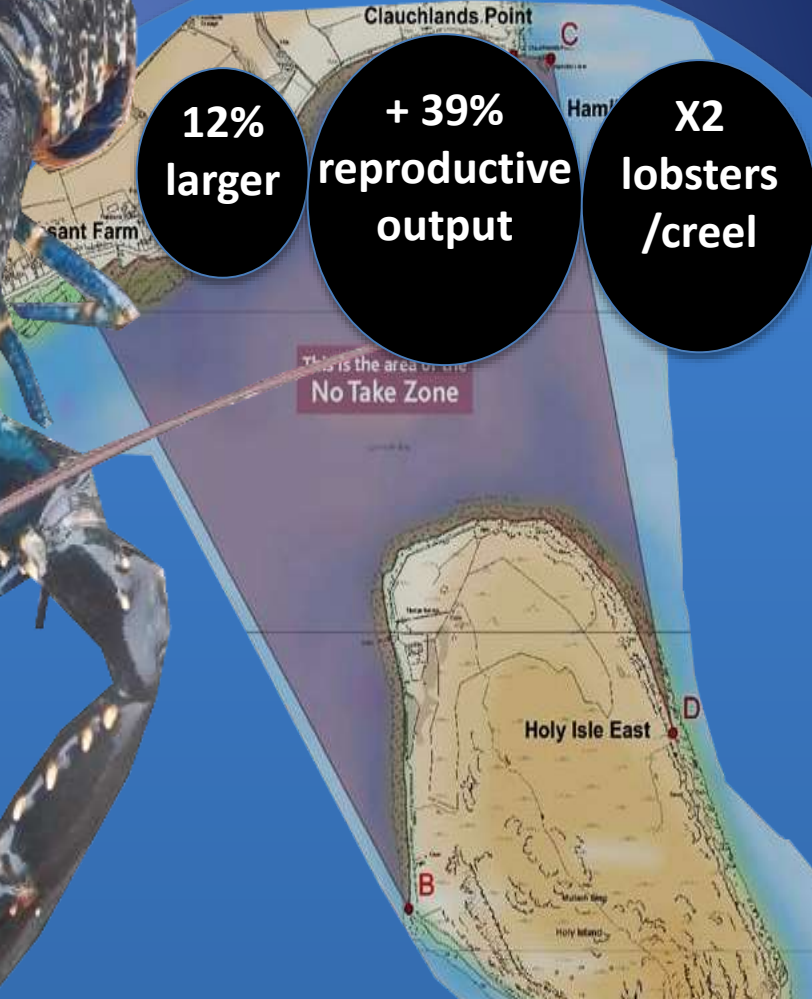
Animals and
plants that attach
to seafloor **twice**
as abundant

Lobsters (2017)

12%
larger

+ 39%
reproductive
output

X2
lobsters
/creel





COAST's experience

- Must be a **real desire and rationale** to campaign for change
- Strength is in **community roots** - broad based and inclusive
- **Single objective/ clear agenda**
- **Tenacity and resilience** over the long-term
- Requires **political awareness** and campaigning zeal
- **Government will only implement progressive change with strong support from local communities**



Bottom-up approach

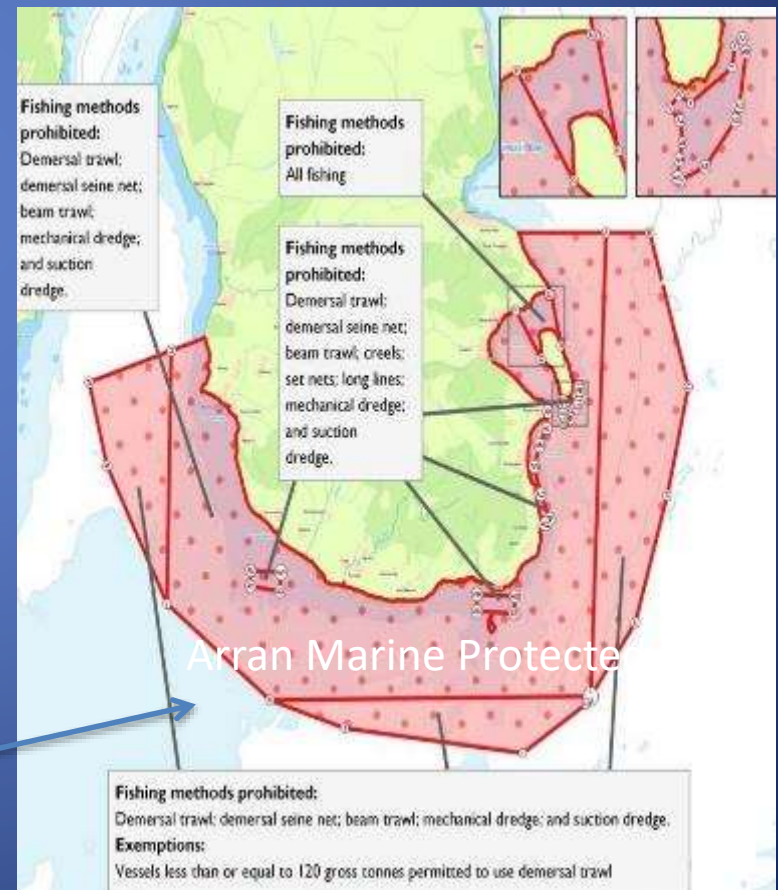
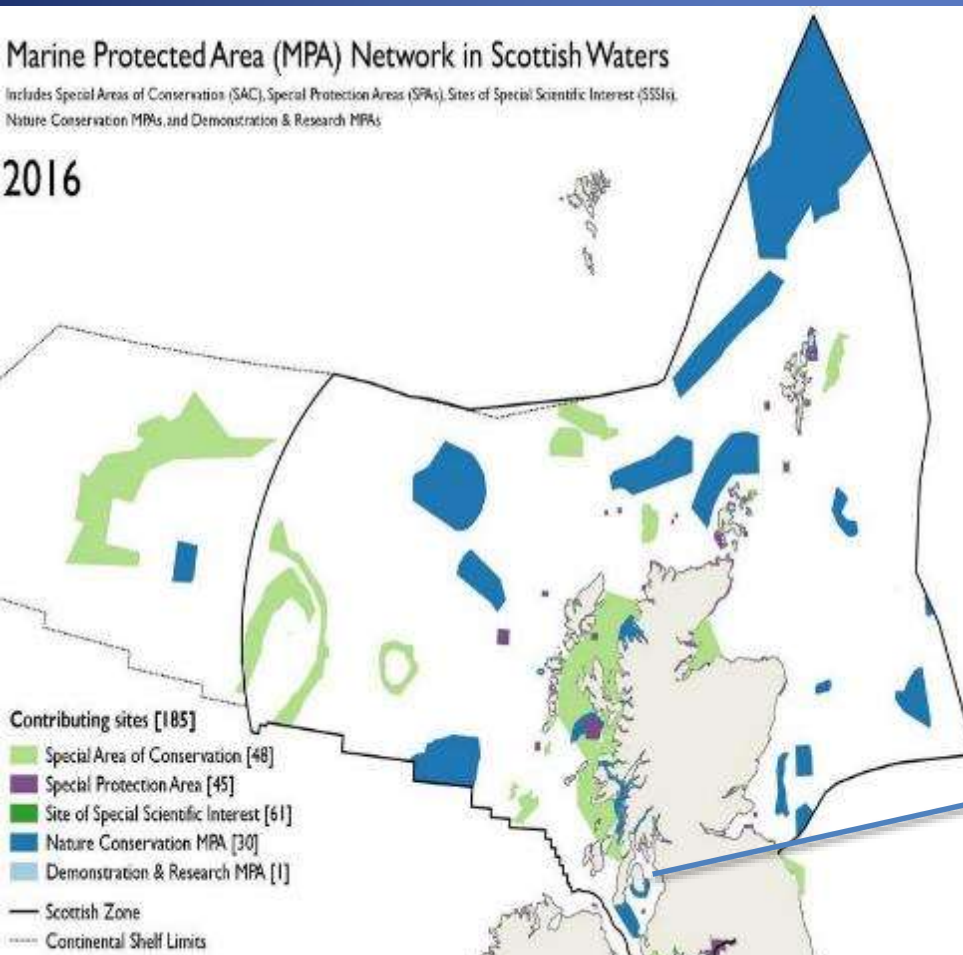
Creation of the Lamlash Bay NoTakeZone

- COAST is a grassroots community initiative.
 - Observed deterioration of the marine environment inspired its creation.
 - Campaign for NTZ long and hard fight (1995 – 2008), resisted by mobile fishing sector and government.
 - Strong community support on Arran and around Scotland won the day.
 - First NTZ (2.67sq km) in Scotland declared in 2008.
-
- Meant we were well prepared for the campaign for effective MPA between 2012 to 2016.

COAST's success is now being emulated by 12 other Scottish Coastal communities.

Scottish MPA network = 20% of our seas

Real protection from damaging activity is patchy



For successful well managed MPAs

1. Need to implement sensible baseline management at the start.
2. Scientifically monitor bio-diversity & targeted fish & shell fish species.
3. Monitor fishing activity & catches.
4. Effective compliance of law/rules.
5. Discuss with all stakeholders results of ongoing monitoring then implement changes to the original baseline management if necessary.
6. Promote economic benefits of sustainable management of stocks & habitats.

