EUROPARC CONFERENCE
06 — 10 Sep 2017
Montanhas Mágicas

New Voices
New Visions
New Values

for People and Nature in Europe
From ecological meltdown to community-led marine protection;
the Community of Arran case study

Howard Wood
Chair and Co-Founder of COAST
The Community of Arran Seabed Trust

1. The demise of the Clyde
2. Island community action
3. The hurdles
4. The success
5. Current situation
Community of Arran Seabed Trust
COAST
Established 1995

Until 2011 run by volunteers

Now has 3 full time staff and dozens of volunteers

The main issue
Scotland's seas were managed by Government & Commercial fishermen. Coastal communities were excluded from management.
In 2009 this paper was published.

It led to many more studies as to the real state of the Clyde.

What divers and sea anglers had been saying for over 20 years was true.
THE CLYDE IS NOW A FISHERY OF LAST RESORT

• Reduction in diversity and abundance of catch

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

The removal of the 3 nautical mile exclusion zone to trawling coincides with the decline in landings
THE EMERGENCE OF BOTTOM TOWED MOBILE GEAR

Key facts on bottom trawling and dredging

- They are **dragged across the seabed** by a boat.
- They are very **indiscriminate**; not only do they catch target species but damage non-target species and sea floor habitats.
- **Dredgers have teeth on springs which penetrate into the seabed to take scallops out of the sediment and are considered the most destructive fishing method worldwide.**

1889 Designated a complete ban on the trawling in the Clyde.

1962 Otter trawling became allowed within the Clyde up to the 3 nautical mile limit. This regulation was altered in 1968, allowing year round otter trawling in the Clyde.

1984 All restrictions inshore for trawling have been removed.

Boulcott & Howell, 2011
The many issues surrounding the controversial activity of scallop dredging
Dredging of Seabed

click to view
2009 Government report: Sea Angling was worth over £9 million to Clyde economy.
COAST HAD TO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION
In 2004 after a decade of procrastination, COAST appeal directly to the new Scottish Parliament.
Lamlash Bay Community Marine Conservation Area

A hidden world with thousands of magical plants and creatures...
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND MONITORING
INSIDE THE NO TAKE ZONE...

**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
Scottish MPA network = 20% of our seas

Real protection from damaging activity is patchy
27th January 2016
Dredge & Trawl Fishermen clash with COAST outside Scottish Parliament.
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**
Scottish Inshore fisheries management Groups still comprise only Commercial Fishermans representatives (Lack balance)

COAST have now been allowed membership of the newly Established CMPP
Bottom-up approach

Creation of the Lamlash Bay NoTakeZone

• COAST is a grassroots community initiative.
• Observed deterioration of the marine environment inspired its creation.
• 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 MPAs between 2012 to 2016

COASTs success is now being emulated by 6 other Scottish Coastal communities
SCOTLAND 1
costline 11,550 miles

ENGLAND 39
costline 6261 miles

2014 statistics  Dedicated inshore patrol boats
Thank you!

howard@arrancoast.com

www.arrancoast.com

Facebook: @arran.coast
Twitter: @ArranCoast
Youtube: @arrancoast