



An overview of the challenges facing small scale UK and Irish fishermen and the steps being taken to secure their long-term future. -

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## Background

- UK and Ireland have over 6,000 licenced fishing vessels under 12 meters
- Very important local employers for rural communities
- Dependent on availability of local resources and weather conditions
- Lacked a united voice and invisible to government



## Challenges faced by the fishing industry - Making Money

- Decreasing value of catch
- Increasing costs
- Lack of investment
- No young fishermen



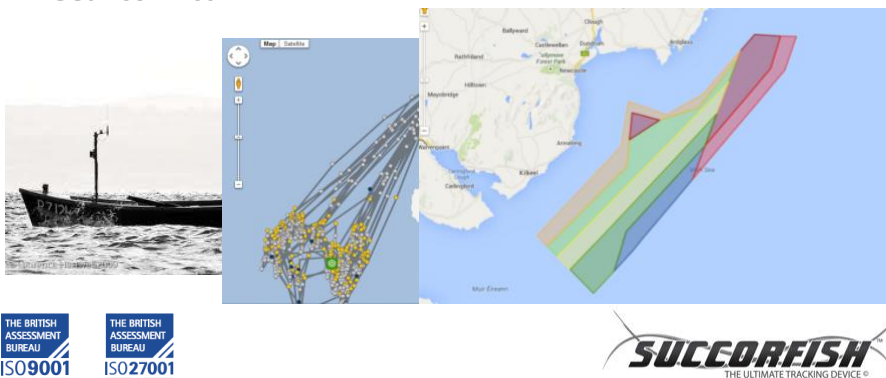
## Access to Fishing Rights

- No quota track record
- Quotas being introduced for traditional species
- Local fishing restrictions / laws (Grandfather clauses)
- Costs & availability of rights
- Fishermen becoming better organised & Represented
- Government working for the inshore sector more
- Inshore fishermen's PO being established



## Access to Fishing Grounds

- MPA
- Offshore renewables
- Other marine users
- Gear conflict
- Differentiate fishing methods
- Create a track record of activities
- Spatial management of resource



## Access to Fisheries within an MPA

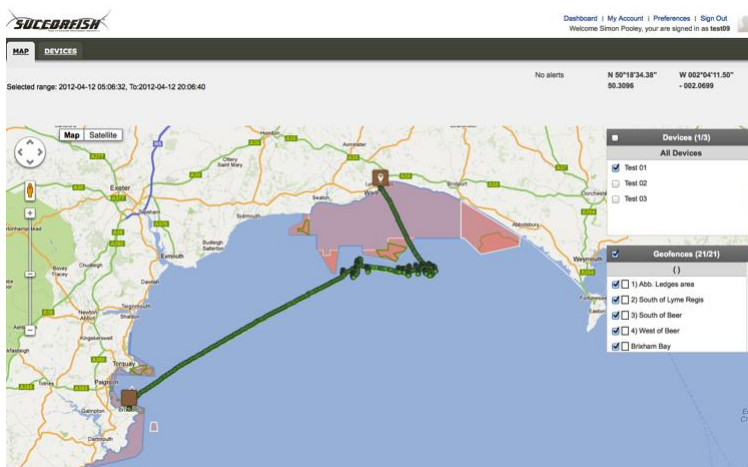
### Terminology: marine protected area

Marine conservation zones (MCZ) – 31 proposed

European marine sites (EMS) – 75 (34 SPA + 41 SAC)

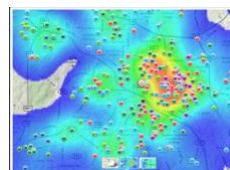


## Managing a Fishery within an MPA - Technology is your friend



## Access to Data

- Precautionary approach
- Fully documented fisheries
- E-logs
- Traceability
- Slow science and management
- Collect data from the deck in a manageable form – fishermen leading
- Collect once and use many times
- Turn the tables
- Make it work for the fishermen first and foremost.



## Safety

- By far the most dangerous occupation
- Economics mean singlehanded working is the norm
- Management restrictions incentivise increasing risk
- Better training and awareness
- Free or subsidised safety equipment
- Better and fit for purpose safety equipment



## Conclusions

- Inshore fishermen are fighting back
- Taking control of their future
- Making technology work for them

