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