



# SEAFISH INSHORE FISHERIES PROJECT

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## WP8. Establishing a dedicated information resource base for Scottish Inshore fisheries – a pilot study

Name of contractor: Poseidon and Acoura



Start date of project: 30th June 2014



End date of project: 30th September 2015

### Aims and objectives:

The aim of this project was to develop a searchable database of information on Scottish inshore fisheries that responds to the current and future information needs identified in the IFG management plans.

The key objectives were to ensure the product was:

- Searchable, secure and relevant for Scottish inshore fisheries
- Populated to identify information shortfalls, updates and additional information of relevance to the IFG management plans; and
- Explore the potential and develop a specification for a shared information platform

A searchable database of Scottish fisheries information aims to enable IFGs to explore the information available for their specific fisheries and be better prepared for current and future information demands. It will also enable information providers such as Marine Scotland to prioritise information and identify where economies of scale might be achieved in that provision.

### Approach:

The database was developed identifying:

- Type of information (stock, environment, management, other);
- Scope (geographic range, scale, frequency);
- Robustness (based on an estimated confidence level);
- Source and ownership (with hyperlinks and contact details - for refresh alerts);
- Current update cycle (if relevant), and;
- Recommended update cycle (if relevant)

The database provided a framework for the subsequent analysis of currently available information. An initial review of the IFG management plans was made to access and upload existing data and discussions with stakeholders sought to identify future requirements for access, presentation and interpretation of the range of information relevant to inshore fisheries management.

A two-year license from the service provider, Acoura, was established as part of the project to enable users to work within the pilot information hub and enable access both throughout the project and for an extended trial period.

Easy access to catch data reports, stock assessment figures and mapped areas will help IFGs in fisheries management



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## Contact details

All general enquiries about the project should be directed to the MASTS Project Manager – Dr John Thompson at: jbt5@st-andrews.ac.uk

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## Weblink

[www.seafish.org/research-economics/  
evidence-gathering-in-support-of-  
sustainable-scottish-inshore-fisheries](http://www.seafish.org/research-economics/evidence-gathering-in-support-of-sustainable-scottish-inshore-fisheries)

## Funders and partners



## Results / key conclusions and recommendation:

The initial review of the IFG management plans resulted in a database of 233 records which was uploaded into a web-based information hub.

### Accessing the information hub:

The web-based information hub is accessible at <http://services.acoura.com> using the following general log-in:

username/email: [general@acoura.com](mailto:general@acoura.com)  
password: S3aFishWP8



Future information requirements were explored via a webinar held in March 2015 and through feedback on the information hub provided by IFG members. A gap analysis identified a number of data gaps mainly relating to:

- Stocks in certain fisheries lacking assessments;
- Socio-economic data lacking or out of date;
- Locational data missing/ key fishing areas not identified.

The development team updated existing information provisions within the fisheries management plans with the most recent available data and expanded the range of information sources available to local fisheries managers.

The information hub was developed and revised based on stakeholder feedback to reflect information requirements. The development undertaken exceeded the originally proposed structure which would have been used to inform subsequent specifications for inshore fisheries management and instead now provides a functional resource which may be used and further developed as the requirements for Scottish inshore fisheries management are further defined.

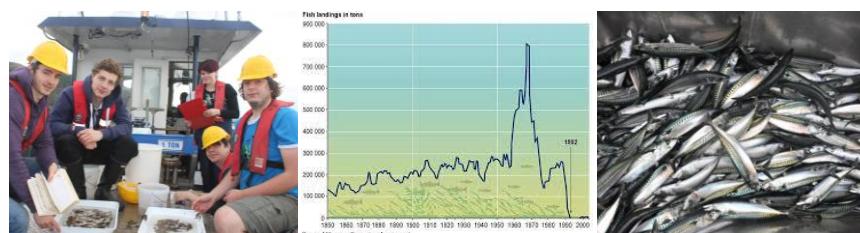
This study has also assisted the IFGs by addressing some of their immediate needs in updating available information sources.

Initial feedback on the information hub/database was positive with the key highlights being ease of access and the usefulness of the included resources.

### Future use and development:

The information hub has the flexibility to be further developed as the operational remit of the Inshore Fisheries Groups evolves. Maintenance and updating of database content can easily be carried out centrally or by individual IFGs as required. To facilitate this the document library can be integrated with a task management system which utilises:

- Expiry dates for documents
- Automatic email alerts
- Hub management dashboard for stakeholders and information owners



Access to research reports and environmental data

Historical trends and statistics assist local fisheries management

Up-to-date catch and stock assessment figures