

How Industry has Engaged with Marine Planning in Shetland



Creels © Kathryn Allan

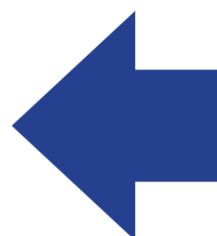
The inshore fishing fleet are an important part of Shetland's maritime economy. In order to protect important fishing grounds, the Marine Spatial Planning Team at Shetland UHI needed to gather spatial data to guide policy development.



Licensed creel and pot fishermen were invited through the Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO) to meet with members of the Marine Spatial Planning Team at Shetland UHI to map their important fishing grounds. Over a third of the fleet engaged in the information gathering process.



The map has been included in the Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan 2021 (SIRMP) to inform developers and add context to the *Policy MP FISH1: Safeguarding Fishing Opportunities* (pg 104-109).



The data was consolidated and anonymised to protect individual fishing vessel information.

GIS software was used to model the data to create one map showing important fishing areas around Shetland.



The knowledge provided by the fishermen was crucial in creating maps with the level of detail found within the SIRMP. Without the fishermen's engagement, the Marine Spatial Planning Team would rely on the use of modelled habitat distributions to predict areas, potentially missing vitally important fishing grounds.