Compliance for the South Arran Marine Protected Area: The K.I.P.P.E.R. Guide

The South Arran MPA management measures came into force on the 8th February 2016. The Scottish Government in the form of Marine Scotland has assigned very limited resources to monitor our inshore waters. The more accurate the detail reported to Marine Scotland the higher the ranking they will give it and the higher the chance they will take the report seriously and investigate it. To prosecute 'court quality' evidence is required. We have put together a short guide to report illegal fishing and suspicious activity in the MPA, **it is called the K.I.P.P.E.R. guide:**

- **Know your MPA zoning**
- **Identify and describe vessel and activity**
- **Photograph or video with land reference in foreground and background where possible**
- **Place your location and vessel location on a chart**
- **Exact time and date**
- **Report to Marine Scotland**

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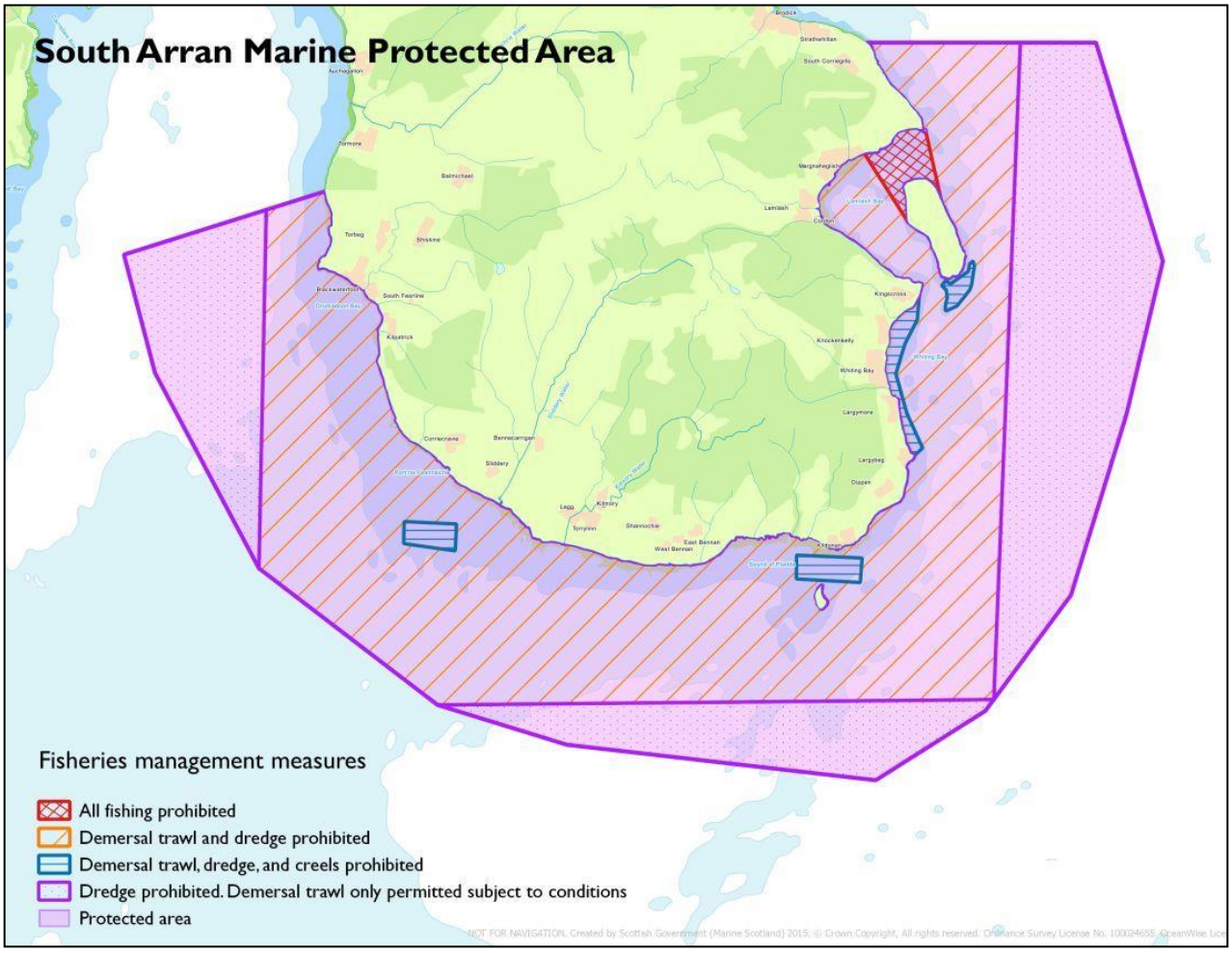
Know your MPA zoning

Be familiar with the chart of the MPA; from Corriegills Point just south of Brodick round to the King's Cave north of Blackwaterfoot:



As you can see **there are four zones within the MPA:**

- The original **Lamlash Bay No-Take Zone**. **In the NTZ no fishing at all is permitted.**
- There are also **four small 'highly protected' zones where fishing methods that touch the seabed – which includes creels as well as dredging or trawling – are prohibited**. This is to safeguard delicate sea life such as seagrass and maerl. These four zones are: **off Sliddery/Corriecrave; between Pladda and Kildonan; from King's Cross to Largybeg Point; and south of Holy Isle.**
- **The next zone out is closed to both scallop dredgers and bottom trawlers**, but can be used by creel boats, scallop divers and for sea angling.
- **The final three outer zones are closed to scallop dredgers**, but can be worked by trawlers subject to certain restrictions.

Identify and describe vessel and activity

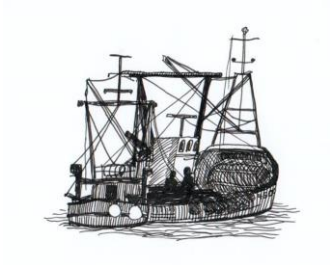
What kind of information do the authorities need to identify a vessel?

1. **Type (see below the three main types of fishing vessels),**
2. **Colour,**
3. **Approximate length,**
4. **Registration letters** (if visible),
5. **If the fishing gear is stowed or in the water** (if visible),
6. **The speed of the vessel** (is it towing gear or making passage - which is not illegal)

Any fishing vessel moving through an area where its normal activity is prohibited should have its gear (nets, dredges, creels – and even rods and handlines in the NTZ!) *"lashed and stowed in such a way that it may not be readily used".*

How do we tell what kind of fishing boat we're looking at? Here are some examples:

This is a **prawn trawler**; the gear is normally stowed on deck at the stern; there is a large bow wave. When fishing they would be moving slowly – about 2-3 knots; a leisurely walking pace. The lines to the net are usually over the stern or close in to the sides. These boats work the deeper muddy sea floor.



This is a **scallop dredger,** the lines to the dredges come from 'arms' protruding from the sides of the boat. There is scaffolding in the centre of the vessel and the winches are forward and not at the rear of the vessel.

This is an example of a **creel boat;** when setting, checking or collecting creels, the vessel may be stationary for several minutes, then move off quickly. Often they can be seen working very close to the shore in rocky areas. Usually fluorescent marker buoys will be seen in the water near these boats.

These are the main types of vessels you will find, but there are more that may need to be reported, e.g. electrofishing, scallop diving

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Photograph

Try to **capture information to identify the vessel and locate it with some photos or video.**
Can you get to a good position and take a clear photograph? If you can, remember to include land in the fore and background of the photograph – a snap of a boat surrounded by water (like the trawler above) could have been taken anywhere!

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Place on a chart or map & Exact date and time

What kind of information do the authorities need to check if the vessel is working in the wrong place?
It can become difficult to give exact information. You may be able to say "*The vessel is about 1 mile south of Holy Isle*"; but can you say how far from the Whiting Bay shore it is? For most adults standing on the shore the horizon will appear to be less than 3 miles away. If possible, take a compass bearing from your known GPS position and then move several hundred metres away and take another bearing. This will give a better indication of the boat's true position. **Take a note of the time and date,** if your photo or video also has this information on it that will be very helpful as evidence for the authorities.

If you're at sea, take note of **your position** using GPS if possible, and where **the other vessel is in relation to you**. On no account approach the other vessel in such a way as to put anyone in danger.
It's also useful if two or more people can provide sighting details. This is corroborating evidence.

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Report

Reports of possible fishing vessel infringements should be made to the Marine Scotland Fisheries Compliance Office in Edinburgh; telephone 0131 271 9700 (24 hrs); if possible phone while you are viewing the activity. Email UKFMC@gov.scot with the KIPPER details and photo evidence as above. Please also copy the Marine Scotland email to COAST at info@arrancoast.com If you do not have photo or video evidence you may also fill out a form online here http://www.marine.scotland.gov.uk/mscomplainceForms/ A copy of the South Arran Marine Conservation Order 2015 is available online: http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00491486.pdf This gives coordinates for the MPA zones as well as details of what is and what is not permitted within the Marine Protected Area.

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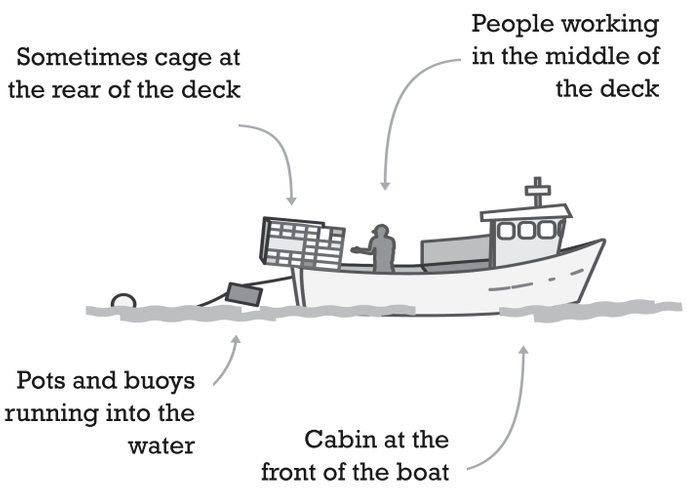
With your assistance the South Arran MPA can produce the benefits of a healthy, diverse and productive sea for all communities who live and work in the Clyde Region.

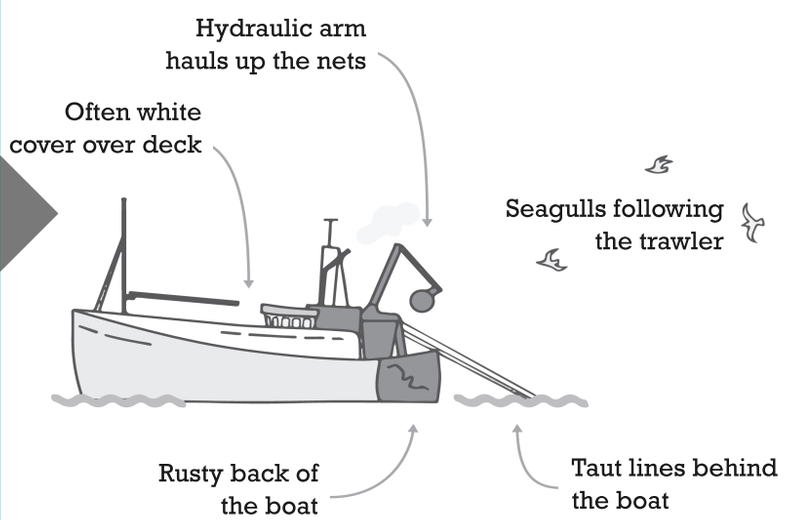
Local fishing vessels you can identify

1 Creel vessel



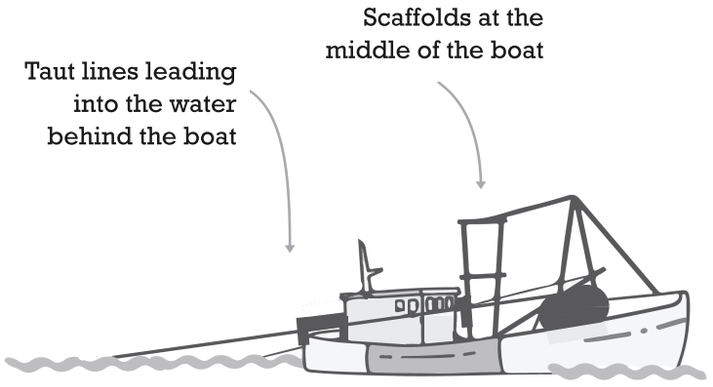
Local catch: shellfish (lobster, crab, langoustine, whelks) and wrasse

2 Trawler



Local catch: langoustine

3 Dredger



Local catch: scallops