Response ID ANON-SKBJ-HN4Y-D

Submitted to Sea Fisheries (Remote Electronic Monitoring and Regulation of Scallop Fishing) (Scotland) Regulations 2024
Submitted on 2024-04-04 17:54:28

About you

1 Please read the privacy notice below and tick the box below to show that you understand how the data you provide will be used as set out in the policy.

I have read and understood how the personal data I provide will be used.

2 How your response will be published

I would like my response to be published in its entirety

3 What is your name?

Name:
Lucy Kay

4 What is your email address?

Email:
email@arrancoast.com

5 Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Organisation details

1 Name of organisation

Name of organisation:
Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)

2 Information about your organisation

Please add information about your organisation in the box below:

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is a community-led charity that was established in 1995 and is working to improve the marine environment around the Isle of Arran and the wider Clyde region for the benefit of all, and to ensure that coastal communities have a say in the decisions that affect their seas. COAST have been successful in establishing the first marine No Take Zone (NTZ) in Scotland (the first community-led NTZ in the UK) and achieving the statutory designation of the South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Submit your views

1 Using the box provided below, please share your views on the legislative proposals to require the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) systems on certain scallop and pelagic boats, wherever they are fishing.

Please provide your response in the box provided.:

We welcome the publication of the draft Statutory Instrument for the legislative requirement for REM to be installed on scallop dredge fishing vessels. This is long overdue.

REM not only supports compliance monitoring but also provides essential information about fishing in Scottish waters which is urgently needed to inform decision about future fisheries management to enable recovery of Scotland's marine ecosystems. We consider that steps to implement REM on all vessels operating towed bottom fishing gear in Scottish waters are required as a matter of urgency.

It is essential that REM data is able to be used to inform science and management decision-making; the Statutory Instrument needs to address and enable these requirements. It will be a wasted opportunity if this is not an integral aspect of the Statutory Instrument.

The REM systems also need to enable the collection of data on bycatch. This information is essential to help inform understanding of fisheries and inform management decisions. It is also needed to comply with the requirements of Section 1(6) of the UK Fisheries Act 2020 "bycatch objective" which requires that catches are recorded and accounted for.

Fisheries are a public asset and as such management of that asset requires public transparency. To support this, REM data products need to be made available publicly.