



Angling Regeneration Centres (ARCs)

Introduction

Recreational sea anglers have witnessed decline in the numbers and size of fish and species available to them.

We have long held an ambition for areas to be aside for recreational and environmentally friendly industrial practices – Angling Regeneration Centres.

As species by species legislation is slow, costly and time consuming, there didn't seem to be a way of achieving our goal until the Marine (Scotland) Act introduced Demonstration / Research MPAs.

Demonstration / Research MPAs.

These MPAs are a new concept and are intended to be used by Ministers to demonstrate, or research into, particular management approaches.

They will be established to deliver priorities within inshore waters only and may be proposed by a range of organisations and communities. Areas selected as D/R

Angling Regeneration Centres would provide a local solution to local issues and help ensure the survival of sea angling communities.

MPAs are anticipated to be fairly small in scale.

Throughout the development of these MPAs, national representatives along with stakeholders with a direct, local, interest in the proposal should be represented.

SSACN would like to see pilot scheme D/R MPA's in areas where their introduction would allow stocks and habitats to recover; naturally these would need to be in areas where there is a realistic chance of recovery.

Angling Regeneration Centres (ARCs)

The designation of an ARC needs to be flexible eg: it could consist of several areas within a coastal feature such as a Firth, or it could encompass the entire feature itself. It could also be part of a bigger MPA.

The following regions are already used extensively for sea angling and certain areas and species within them may benefit from becoming an ARC

- Solway – tope, flatfish, rays and bass
- Loch Etive and Sunart – spurdog, skate and rays
- Clyde – all species recovery programme
- Moray Firth – all species recovery programme

ARC Management

An ARC management team, drawn from all interested stakeholders, would be responsible for running the centre and for developing the activities necessary to meet its regeneration and revitalisation goals.

Educational Outreach

A primary requirement of an ARC is that it should provide a valuable educational asset for anglers and non anglers of all ages.

The make-up of an ARC

In summary, an ARC should provide :

- A building with classroom facilities
- Disabled access to angling 'hot spots'
- Casting and training area
- Designated angling areas on piers and beaches
- Information boards throughout the Centre
- Safe slipways and easy access
- Communication - Magazine / website

Benefits of an ARC

- Minimise the need for species by species legislation
- Benefit all species and habitat within an ARC
- Protect and promote inshore marine biodiversity.
- Promote “Best Value” use of a natural resources
- Create new business opportunities
- Increased tourism opportunities
- Increased public awareness and knowledge of the inshore marine environment.
- Increased the number and diversity of people taking part in the sport.
- Provide a platform for the further development of other marine recreational / service activities.
- Improve commercial catches round the fringes
- **Put Scotland on the world sea angling map**

ARCS can only be achieved if all parties, inc. Local and Regional Government, sea angling clubs, voluntary bodies, commercial fishermen etc, work in partnership.