



Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network

Welcome to Lifelines

Sea Angling in Scotland really took off in the mid 1960s when it became one of the fastest growing sports. Its quality was recognised as the equal of anywhere else in Europe, and the Tourist Board at the time trumpeted it as “...offering immense scope, big catches and many specimen fish...”

It developed throughout the 60s and 70s and major festivals were run at several locations including the Isle of Arran, Ullapool, Eyemouth, Stornoway, Gourock, Saltcoats – often attracting 2000+ entries, a large percentage of which came from outwith Scotland.

However, in 1979, areas closed to trawling for most of the 20th century were reopened precipitating an astonishing collapse of fish stocks, by 1990 all the major festivals had ceased due to lack of fish.

For many years sea angling organisations throughout the UK have asked Fisheries Ministers to look at ways to improving recreational stocks and for greater inclusion in coastal fisheries management.

UK Fisheries Minister John Shaw MP has begun the process of greater inclusion for sea angling in England and Wales through regular meetings, committing to develop a strategy for sea angling and by including sea angling representatives on Sea Fisheries Committees.

If sea angling, the businesses and communities which depend on it, and the inshore marine environment are to be regenerated and reinvigorated, then Scottish politicians need to support our efforts and develop **A vision for Scottish sea angling** which addresses :

- **Better fisheries management of stocks**
 - Break new ground and actively include sea anglers
 - Give sea angling organisations direct input into the management of our coastal fisheries
 - Implement a collaborative approach where all sectors and interests work closer together
 - Incorporate a strategy for the regeneration and development of recreational fisheries
- **Drive for Best Value**
 - Recognise the contribution sea anglers make to the economy
 - Evaluate the impact of different management measures on stocks and economic activity
 - Review all commercial activities and introduce the necessary measures where the cost/benefit analysis favours recreational use
- **Introduce Angling Centres**
 - Facilitate a process and funding mechanism for local initiatives
 - Provide access and facilities for the socially and physically disadvantaged
 - Improve access and angling facilities, as well as building awareness and communication
 - Create artificial inshore and offshore reefs and shore structures – slipways, piers etc

Unless this happens, sea angling and the communities will dwindle away just like the fleet of charter boats – we can do no more without your support but -

TO DO NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION



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Thanks to all concerned

Many members of SSACN, internet forums and individual anglers have provided input, advice and information regarding the various issues discussed within this document.

Special thanks are of course due to the business people of Drummore who contributed to the DVD and gave so freely of their thoughts and time.

We are also indebted to Amber.org.uk, FishScotland, Carl Hansen, Penn Europe, SFSA Executive, SFSA Clyde and West Region, Silver Lure SAC, Skipper Miller, The Sports Shop – Stranraer, Tony Wass and Torcuill Torrance whose kind donations have helped make this Event possible.

Organisations Represented at Lifelines

Angling Development Board of Scotland	RSPB
Arran COAST	Save Our Sharks
Ayrshire & Clyde Static Fisherman's Association	Scottish Anglers National Association
Clyde Forum	Scottish Creelers and Divers
Corinthians SAC	Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers
Dumfries and Galloway Council	SFSA Clyde and West Region
East Fife SAC	SEAFISH
East Lothian SAC	Sea Life Centres
European Anglers Association	Shark Alliance
European Federation of Sea Anglers	Silver City SAC
European Fishing Tackle Trades Assoc.	Silver Lure SAC
FishScotland	Solway Heritage
Hebridean Partnership	South Queensferry SAC
Peever SAC	UKCC Source Group

The Lifelines document

In Lifelines we are trying to show how certain businesses and communities are very dependent on sea angling, which is itself very dependent on the diversity of the marine environment.

This has never been recognised or understood by Scottish Governments.

We hope this document will help begin that process, it contains a summary of the input from the Drummore business people, copies of the slides used in the presentation and SSACN documents summarising Angling Centres; how Scotland is failing in its duty to protect sharks in danger of extinction; the destruction of fish stocks and marine biodiversity in the Clyde and off the West and South West coasts; the need for 'Best Value' management of fisheries; the depletion of skate and ray stocks; and finally a nightmare scenario for one of sea angling's most prized species.

'Best Value' fisheries within a healthy and sustainable ecosystem is the goal.