

# INSHORE FISHERIES – REGIONAL INSHORE FISHERIES GROUPS (RIFGS)



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## Introduction

Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups (RIFGs) are non-statutory bodies that aim to improve the management of Scotland’s inshore fisheries, giving commercial inshore fishermen a strong voice in wider marine planning initiatives.



The current Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups (RIFGs) in Scotland were established in April 2016 when they replaced the previous Inshore Fish Groups (IFGs) structure.

The RIFG network includes:

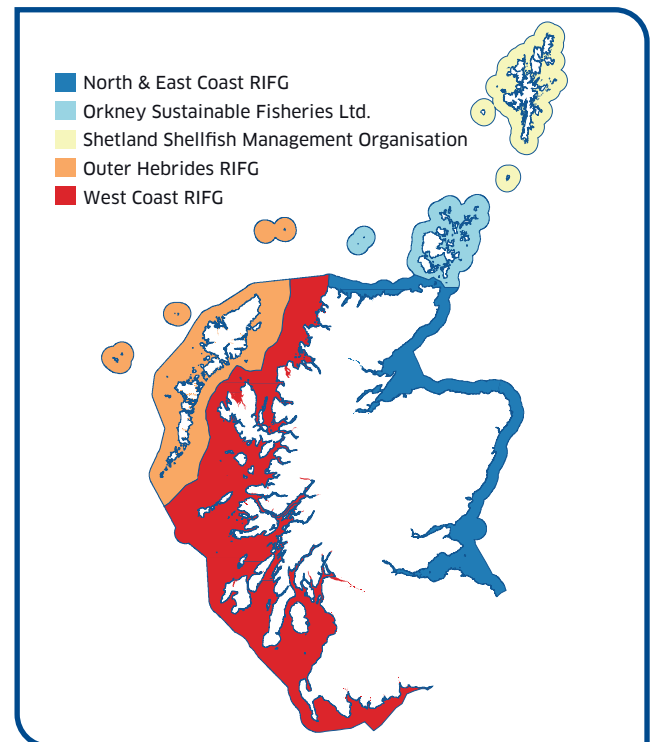
- North & East Coast RIFG
- Outer Hebrides RIFG
- West Coast RIFG

There are two associated network groups undertaking inshore management functions

- Orkney Sustainable Fisheries Ltd (OSF)
- Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation (SSMO)

The introduction of RIFGs links with the 2015 Scottish Government Inshore Fisheries Strategy

which encompasses some broader aspects of the development of sustainable inshore fisheries:  
[www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/InshoreFisheries/InshoreFisheriesStrategy](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/InshoreFisheries/InshoreFisheriesStrategy)



REGIONAL INSHORE FISHERIES NETWORK FROM APRIL 2016

## Area of remit

0-6 NM	6-12 NM	12-200 NM
<b>National Fisheries Issues</b>		
<b>IFMAC</b> main group plus sub groups as required		<b>FMAC</b>
<b>Local Inshore Fisheries</b>		
<b>Five Regional IFG's</b> Plus Local / topic sub groups as required	<b>Where there are Marine Planning Partnerships</b>	
	<b>IFMAC</b>	

National management initiatives (out to 12nm) will continue to be discussed with industry through the Inshore Fisheries Management and Conservation Group (IFMAC). It should be recognised that any new legislative provisions or alterations to existing fisheries management legislation or processes in Scotland will continue to be subject to guidance and full public consultation by Marine Scotland.

## Roles

Each RIFG has a management committee which is responsible for maintaining a Fisheries Management Plan. This plan may be divided into geographic regions to recognise Scottish

marine regions and Marine Planning Partnerships constituted under the Scottish National Marine Plan.

Local Working groups are key to the functioning of RIFGs and are convened to consider specific issues within the RIFG, whether a single topic affecting the whole RIFG or a local issue specific to one area.

The RIFGs are a key stakeholder within the National Marine Plan and Scottish Marine Region marine planning process.

Further information on Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups can be found at:  
<https://rifg.scot>

## Remit

RIFGs will be expected to operate local management initiatives which meet the Key Objective and Aims of Marine Scotland - To deliver sustainable use of the natural resource recognising national and international obligations, and safeguarding fish stocks while optimising the economic return for inshore fisheries and dependent communities.

## Contact

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