

# Orkney Shellfish Research Project

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# Orkney Shellfish Research Project

- 15 month project involving development of an inshore fisheries management framework for Orkney
- Aims to formalise management principles for crab and lobster fisheries and establish Fishery Improvement Projects for scallop and whelk fisheries
- Building knowledge and management framework for local inshore fisheries generally
- £110,170 awarded by Orkney FLAG (100%)



# Orkney Shellfish Project, crucial steps (1):

## 1. FLAG Business Plan broad enough to encompass objectives

- Orkney Islands Council consulting with Marine Scotland over access to EMFF funds
- Consultation with local fisheries organisations, principally OFA and OSF/OFS
- Local development strategy 2014-2020 published in 2014 after 18 months – 2 years consultation

## 2. Involvement of active fishers at all levels in Orkney Sustainable Fisheries Ltd

- Active fishers involved from the start in 2006, through OFA, OFS and other local organisations, continues on an ongoing basis
- OSF emerged over discussions about running the local lobster hatchery

## 3. Early engagement with fisheries in developing evidence base for fishery management

- Developed organically from start of OSF – EFF funded crab tagging and catch monitoring activities were important in engaging fishers
- Recognition by local fisheries of need for more responsible fishing
- Commercial advantages seen by Orkney Fishermen's Society
- FLAG members are from the local community

# Orkney Shellfish Project, crucial steps (2):

## 4. Fishery Improvement Project for brown crab, started 2012

- Support from retailers (Marks and Spencer Plan A)
- Support from NGOs (WWF and MSC)
- Engagement with government (Marine Scotland, Science and Policy)
- Fishery formally entered full MSC assessment in May 2017

## 5. Orkney Sustainable Fisheries Ltd recognised by Marine Scotland as local Inshore Fisheries Group for Orkney in 2013

- Regional IFGs aim to improve inshore fishery management out to 6 NM
- Giving fishers a voice in wider marine management developments

## 6. Engagement of fisheries science specialist from 2011 onwards

- International Centre for Island Technology – Heriot-Watt University

### ***BUT***

- FLAG could have been better informed about the nature of the fishing industry in Orkney, to address the question of how existing processes are best enhanced