

Compliance for the South Arran Marine Protected Area: the **K.I.P.P.E.R.** guide

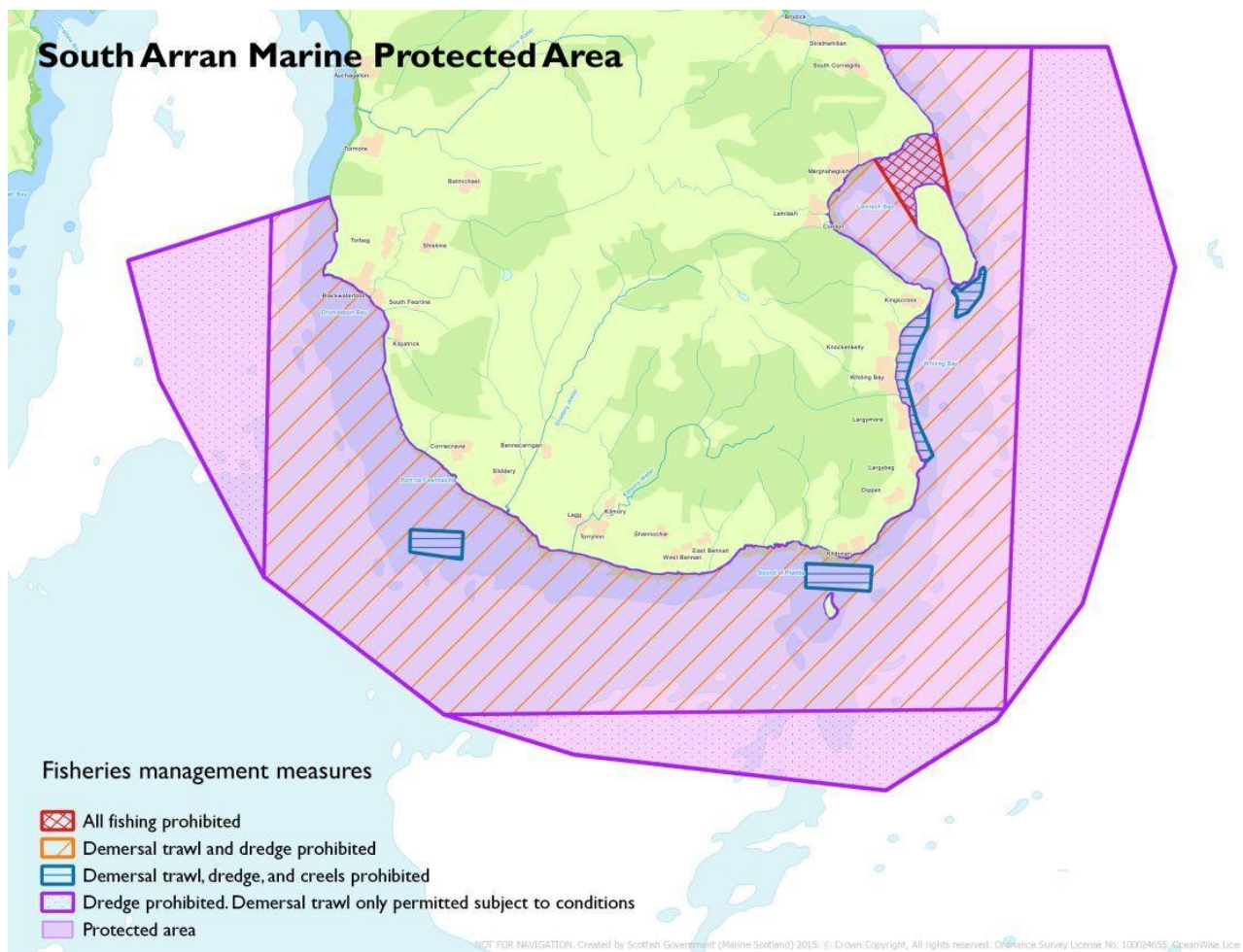


The South Arran MPA came into force on the 8th February 2016. But how can we help with the protection of this vital resource? The Scottish Government in the form of Marine Scotland currently has very limited resources to monitor our inshore waters. We have put together a short (and hopefully memorable) guide to report illegal fishing in the MPA. We've called it the **K.I.P.P.E.R.** guide :D

- **K**now your MPA zoning
- **I**dentify and describe vessel and activity
- **P**lace on a map or reference with land in background
- **P**hotograph
- **E**xact time and date
- **R**eport to Marine Scotland

Know your MPA zoning

Firstly, you should be familiar with the chart of the MPA; from Corriegills Point just south of Brodick round to the King's Cave north of Blackwaterfoot:



As you can see there are **four zones** within the MPA:

- The original **Lamlash Bay No-Take Zone**. In the NTZ no fishing at all is permitted.
- There are also four small 'highly protected' zones where fishing methods that touch the seabed – which includes creels as well as dredging or trawling – are prohibited. This is to safeguard delicate sea life such as seagrass and maerl. These four zones are: **off Sliderry/Corriecraive; between Pladda and Kildonan; from King's Cross to Largybeg Point; and south of Holy Isle.**
- **The next zone out is closed to both scallop dredgers and trawlers**, but can be used by creel boats and for sea angling.
- **The final three outer zones are closed to scallop dredgers**, but can be worked by trawlers subject to certain restrictions.

Identify and describe vessel and activity

What kind of information do the authorities need to identify a vessel?

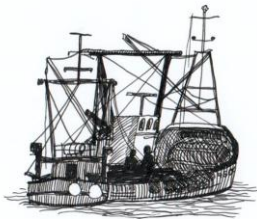
1. **Type** (see below the three main types of fishing vessels),
2. **Colour**,
3. **Approximate length**,
4. **Registration letters** (if visible),
5. **If the fishing gear is stowed or in the water** (if visible),
6. **The speed of the vessel** (is it just making passage - which is legal **OR** towing gear which is illegal)

Any fishing vessel moving through an area where its normal activity is prohibited should have its gear (nets, dredges, creels – and even rods and handlines in the NTZ!) *“lashed and stowed in such a way that it may not be readily used”*.

How do we tell what kind of fishing boat we're looking at? Here are some examples:



This is a **prawn trawler**; the gear is normally stowed on deck at the stern; there is a large bow wave. When fishing they would be moving slowly – about 2-3 knots; a leisurely walking pace. The lines to the net are usually over the stern or close in to the sides. These boats work the deeper muddy sea floor.



This is a **scallop dredger**, the lines to the dredges come from small 'arms' protruding from the sides of the boat.



This is an example of a **creel boat**; when setting, checking or collecting creels, the vessel may be stationary for several minutes, then move off quickly. Often they can be seen working very close to the shore in rocky areas. Usually fluorescent marker buoys will be seen in the water near these boats.

These are the main types of vessels you will find, but there are more that may need to be reported, ie: electrofishing

Place on a map

What kind of information do the authorities need to check if the vessel is working in the wrong place?

It can become difficult to give exact information. You may be able to say *“The vessel is about 1 mile south of Holy Isle”*; but can you say how far from the Whiting Bay shore it is? For most adults standing on the shore the horizon will appear to be less than 3 miles away. If possible, take a compass bearing and then move several hundred metres away and take another bearing. This will give a better indication of the boat's true position.

If you're at sea, take note of **your position** using GPS if possible, and where **the other vessel is in relation to you**. On no account approach the other vessel in such a way as to put anyone in danger.

It's also useful if two or more people can provide sighting details. This is corroborating evidence.

Photograph & Exact date and time

Try to **capture information to identify the vessel and locate it with some photos**.

Can you get to a good position and take a clear photograph? If you can, remember to include land in the photograph – a snap of a boat surrounded by water (like the trawler above) could have been taken anywhere!

Take a note of the time and date, if your photo has this information on it that will be very helpful as evidence for the authorities.

Report

Reports of possible infringements should be made to the Marine Scotland Fisheries Office in Campbeltown; telephone 01586 552251 or email fo.campbeltown@scotland.gsi.gov.uk **AND** marinemmc@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Alternatively the information can be passed to COAST - telephone 01770 600656 in office hours – who will relay your sighting. A copy of the South Arran Marine Conservation Order 2015 is available online:

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00491486.pdf> This gives exact coordinates for the MPA as well as details of what is and what is not permitted within the Marine Protected Area.

We hope that the South Arran MPA will soon show the true benefits of a healthy, diverse and productive sea for all communities who live and work in the Firth of Clyde.