

# Fisheries in brief

## 6: Adequate resourcing

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Fishing opportunities are dependent on healthy and productive marine ecosystems. Despite this, the exploitation of fish stocks in Scotland is recognised as a significant and widespread pressure on the marine environment. Unsustainable fishing practices further drive climate change and biodiversity loss, and jeopardise the wider societal benefits provided by a healthy environment.

To ensure fishing activities, and the environment they depend on, are managed sustainably it is essential that adequate resources are available to develop, implement, monitor, and enforce management measures.

The benefits of allocating adequate resourcing include:

- Improved data collection, monitoring, and research to effectively protect, restore and enhance fish stocks and marine habitats.
- Informed decision-making that ensures fish stocks are sustainably exploited.
- Increased collaboration between industry and regulators, where fishers are involved in data collection, pilot trials and research.
- Fisheries management costs are distributed proportionally and public money is effectively utilised to deliver the greatest public benefit.

### What the Scottish Wildlife Trust would like to see:

- An assessment of whether current resourcing is sufficient for the data collection, monitoring and enforcement needed to deliver a sustainable, world-leading fishing industry in Scotland.
- Research into options for incorporating the 'polluter pays principle', 'beneficiary pays principle', 'principal-agent problem' and 'resource rent', into fisheries management.
- The phase out of environmentally harmful subsidies, particularly those that contribute to overcapacity, overfishing, and Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing.
- The incentivising of low-impact fisheries, supported by redirecting funds from harmful subsidies, that require evidence of environmental sustainability as a precondition for grant schemes.
- The development of funding schemes (such as the Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund) that ensure marine conservation action is financially supported through contributions from marine industries, including the fishing industry.
- A review of the potential benefits and challenges for establishing statutory regulators at a regional level, similar to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities in England.

To read our full Fisheries Management Policy, visit: [scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/living-seas](https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/living-seas)

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