

# FISHING IN SCOTLAND'S CROWDED SEAS



Elspeth Macdonald  
Scottish Fishermen's Federation

# SFF's Constituent Associations



# Many different ways to catch fish.....

- Static gear
- Seine netting
- Single trawlers
- Pair trawlers
- Twin trawlers
- Dredgers
- Pelagic



## .....And most of them are impacted by windfarms

Static gear – least affected, but not unaffected

Seine netting – **almost impossible** within a fixed foundations windfarm

Single trawlers – **difficult** within a FF windfarm

Pair trawlers – **almost impossible** within a FF windfarm

Twin trawlers – **difficult** within a FF windfarm

Dredgers – **difficult** within a FF windfarm

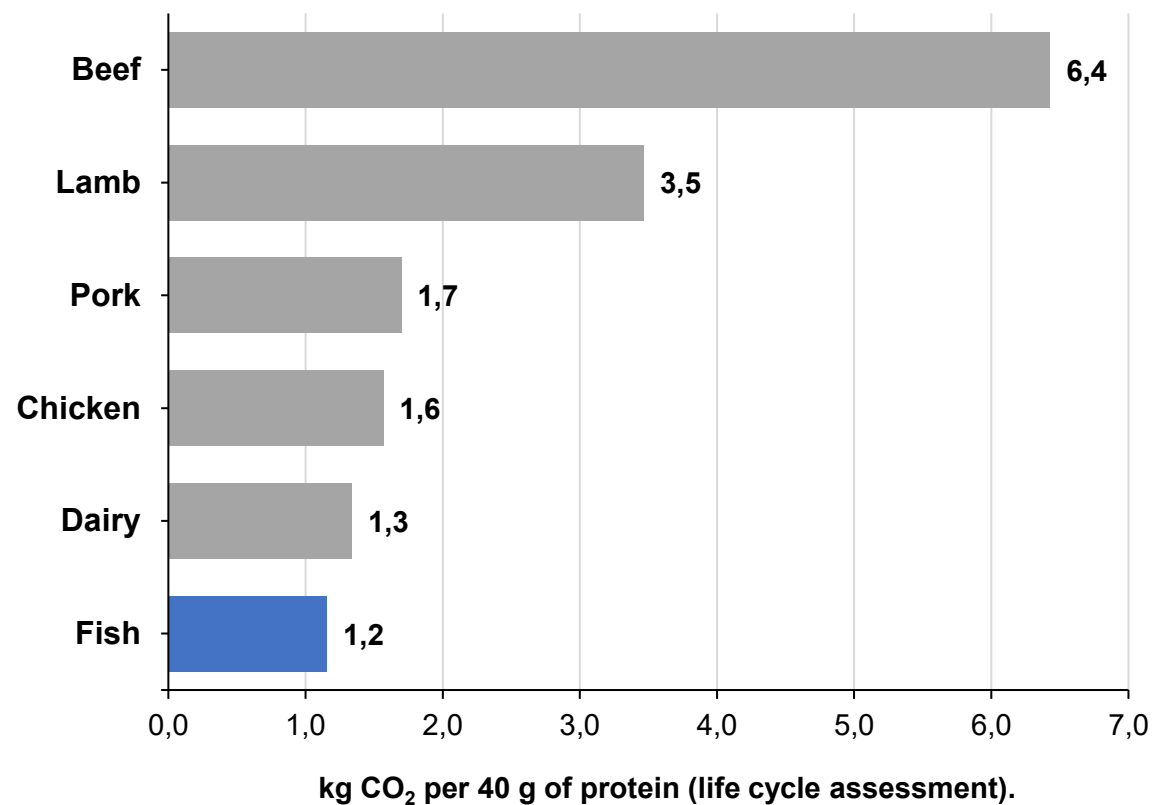
Pelagic – **impossible** within a FF windfarm

**All mobile gears considered not possible in floating offshore wind farms**

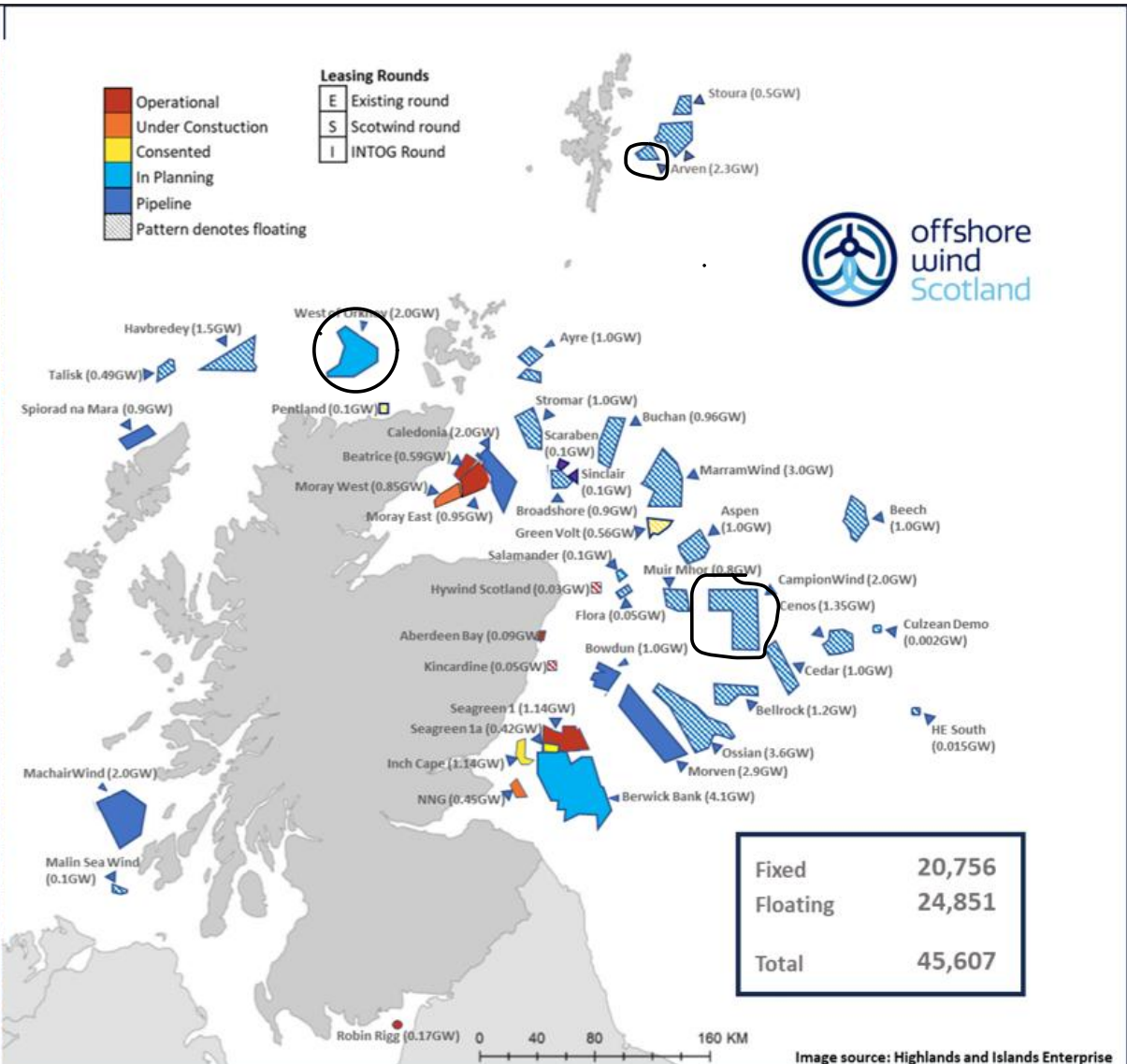
# Offshore Wind and Fishing – what needs to change?

- We understand the enormous drivers behind the expansion of offshore wind – offshore wind is clearly part of the solution to achieving net zero. As too is fishing!
- Fishing industry is not opposed to offshore wind farms – but we need far better engagement, planning and genuine commitment to coexistence and finding solutions.
- Political drive for OW – needs to take responsibility towards other seabed users – so far only words not actions, from government.
- There is an opportunity to do things better. So far, no solutions to all the problems.
- Indeed we *must* do better, because the costs for the fishing industry will otherwise be so high

# Fishing – also part of reaching net zero



	SITE NAME	ROUND	DEVELOPERS	CAPACITY (MW)
2,965	Robin Rigg	E	RWE Renewables	174
	Hywind Scotland	E	Equinor	30
	Aberdeen Bay	E	Vattenfall	93
	Levenmouth	E	ORE Catapult	7
	Beatrice	E	SSE Renewables/ Red Rock Power	588
	Kincardine FOW	E	KOWL	48
	Moray East	E	Ocean Winds	950
1,330	Seagreen 1	E	SSE Renewables/ Total Energies	1,075
	NnG	E	EDF Renewables/ESB	448
2,234	Moray West	E	Ocean Winds	882
	Seagreen 1a	E	SSE Renewables/Total Energies	420
	Inch Cape	E	Red Rock Power/ESB	1,142
	ForthWind	E	Gero	12
6,252	Pentland FOW	E	Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners	100
	Green Volt	I	Flotation Energy/Vargrønn	560
	Berwick Bank	E	SSE Renewables	4,150
	Culzean Demo	I	TotalEnergies	3
	West of Orkney	S	RIDG, Corio Generation and TotalEnergies	1,999
	Salamander	I	Ørsted/Simply Blue Group	100
	Bowdun	S	Thistle Wind Partner	1,008
	Arven	S	Mainstream RP and Ocean Winds	2,300
	Aspen	I	Cerulean Winds	1,008
	Ayre	S	Thistle Wind Partners	1,008
32,825	Beech	I	Cerulean Winds	1,008
	Bellrock	S	BlueFloat Energy; Renantis Partnership	1,200
	Broadshore	S	BlueFloat Energy; Renantis Partnership	900
	Buchan	S	Floating Energy Alliance	960
	Caledonia	S	Ocean Winds	2,000
	CampionWind	S	ScottishPower Renewables and Shell	2,000
	Cedar	I	Cerulean Winds	1,008
	Cenos	I	Flotation Energy/Vargrønn	1,350
	Flora	I	BP Alternative Energy Investments	50
	Havbredey	S	Northland Power/ESB	1,500
	HE Project	I	Harbour Energy	15
	MachairWind	S	ScottishPower Renewables	2,000
	Malin Sea Wind	I	ESB Asset Development	100
	MarramWind	S	ScottishPower Renewables and Shell	3,000
	Morven	S	BP and EnBW	2,907
	Muir Mhor	S	Vattenfall and Fred Olsen Seawind	798
	Ossian	S	SSE Renewables, CIP and Marubeni	3,610
	Scaraben	I	BlueFloat Energy/Renantis Partnership	100
	Sinclair	I	BlueFloat Energy/Renantis Partnership	100
	Spiorad an Mara	S	Northland Power/ESB	900
Stoura	S	ESB Asset Management	500	
Stromar	S	Ørsted and BlueFloat Energy; Renantis Partnership	1,000	
Talisk	S	Magnora Offshore Wind	495	



# Displacement of Fishing

- Unlike farmers, fishermen don't have property rights over the areas they work
- Fish are not uniformly distributed in the sea!
- Incorrect presumption that fishing activity can move elsewhere without significant cost or impact
- Different fleets fishing in Scottish waters – all jostling for space
- Not just OW arrays – wide range of subsea infrastructure – security concerns
- Wet storage – Moray Firth Flow Park
- Displacement on the scale now potentially envisaged could:
  - Force vessels inshore, with consequences for hard-pressed inshore grounds
  - Force inshore vessels offshore – where they would encounter a whole new range of safety challenges
  - Lead to gear conflicts – static gear and mobile gears – can also undermine safety at sea
  - Undermine sustainable fisheries plans – so could cause government to fail to meet other legal requirements
  - Undermine viable fishing businesses

# Recent Policy developments in Scotland/UK

- Impacts on protected features – new legal measures for “strategic compensation”
- Untried, untested and potentially undermining wider conservation efforts - but being rushed through
- Re-writing the law to allow OW to harm Scotland’s already threatened protected seabirds
- New legislation and statutory guidance – no proper Parliamentary scrutiny
- Compensation measures might include restrictions on fishing – so fishing may be expected to ‘pay’ twice – loss of access to array area then picking up the bill for OW’s harm to seabirds.

# Experience in Scotland so far:

- Lots of consultation and engagement – but the outputs don't reflect our inputs.
- Everything gets approved – no OW development refused consent.
- Impact assessments – problems of scale and subjective assessment.
- Fishing not being protected or prioritised – sends the signal our sector doesn't matter.
- Limited regard previously for fishermen's knowledge – but this is improving.
- Lacking enforcement of compliance with consent conditions
- ***Listening, but not genuinely hearing***

# So what would be better?

- Being genuinely 'heard' – not just window dressing.
- Better understanding of the value of fishing – also part of net zero transition and significant locally and nationally.
- Recognition and avoidance of the most important fishing areas from the earliest stage – too late once sites are selected
- Proper application of mitigation hierarchy – Avoid, Reduce, Mitigate, **Compensate**
- SFF calls for moratorium on further consents until impacts on fishing properly recognised and addressed

# Two sectors, trying to do their jobs.....



# Governments need to do theirs!



Thank you for listening!

