



The Clyde Inshore Fishery: Developing an economically and biologically viable fishery

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Who are Seafish?

- A Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) set up in 1981
- Work with all sectors of the seafood industry
- The UK's only cross-industry seafood body
- Funded by statutory levy on all fish, shellfish and seafood products landed or imported into the UK.



Seafish mission

Working with the seafood industry to satisfy consumers, raise standards, improve efficiency and secure a sustainable future

Key areas we work in

Fisheries Development

Sustainability, conservation, management

Research

Food technology, economics, consumer

Standards

GMP, quality, legislation, supply chain

Training

Safety at sea, safety on land, career promotion

Trade Development

NPD, export drives, new markets, aquaculture

Promotions

Seafood Week, awards, health, education



Clyde Inshore Study Background

- Structure of the UK Fleet has changed
- Inshore fisheries more important
 - Whole inshore study not feasible
- Pilot Study of Clyde undertaken



SEAFISH

Aims

- Trace the economic history of the fishery
- Present a picture of current economic situation & management tools
- Present stakeholders views on
 - The effectiveness of current management tools
 - Issues facing the sector
- Present alternative regimes and potential outcomes

Methods

- Background Research
 - Current economic situation in the Clyde & management tools in place
 - Potential management regimes employed elsewhere - Torridon, New Zealand
- Fieldwork
 - Interim consultation with representative groups
 - Surveying catching & onshore sectors

Industry Structure

- 125 vessels (static, mobile - trawlers, nomadic)
- Landings value £15.6M (91% shellfish)
 - Whitefish declined, heavily reliant on Nephrops
- 300 - 400 fishermen
- 350 - 425 local onshore staff
 - Processors, merchants, fish farmers

Economic Pressures

- Downturn in fleet profitability
 - Nephrops trawlers earnings -25%, profits -56%
 - Poor prices threatening further
 - Potters / creelers are smaller scale / more profitable
 - Tight margins in onshore businesses
- Labour resource issues
 - Crew share variable
 - Physical work, risky work
 - Alternative employment

Underlying Issues

- Sustainability of current catch levels / techniques
 - Diverging opinions
- Conflict between techniques
 - Increase in risk
 - Economic cost
 - Mediation required

Building a sustainable future

- Fishing can sometimes be viewed as damaging ecological sustainability
 - Clyde catches maintained over past 40 years
- Fishermen aware need to maintain sustainability
 - Current weekend ban
 - Support for restrictions - days at sea, no. of creels, mesh sizes, no. of dredges
 - Closed areas - no consensus
- Agreement co-operation required

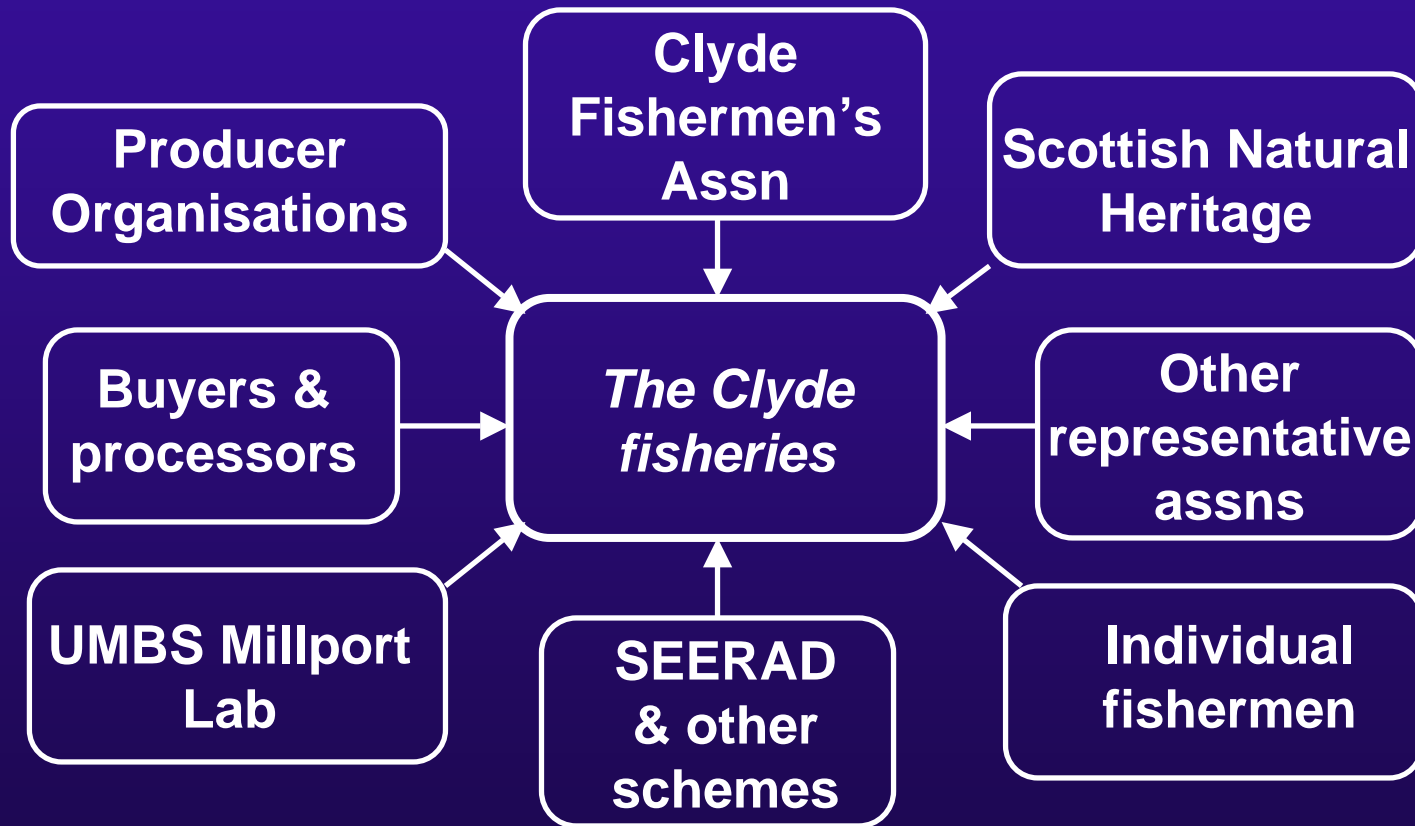
Stakeholder Integration

- Perception of fishermen wrong
- Recognition of wider marine environment stakeholders
- Common interests
- Fishermen have economic interest
- Fishermen central to future development
- Positive engagement: develop sustainable marine environment & economically viable fishing industry

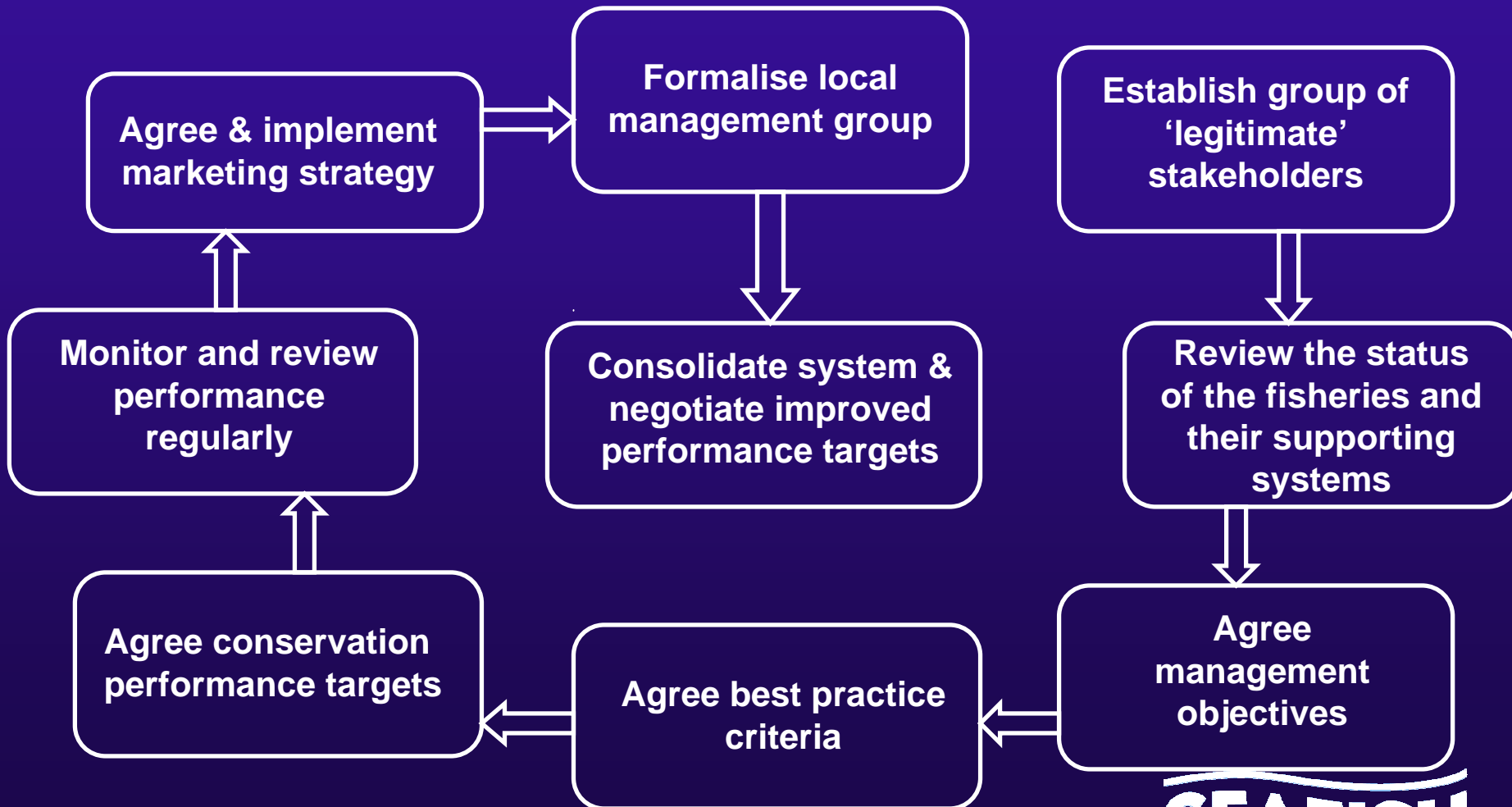
Next Steps

- Key recommendation - to develop a local management group
- Basis for co-operation, wider stakeholder engagement later
- Steps taken - Clyde Management Pilot

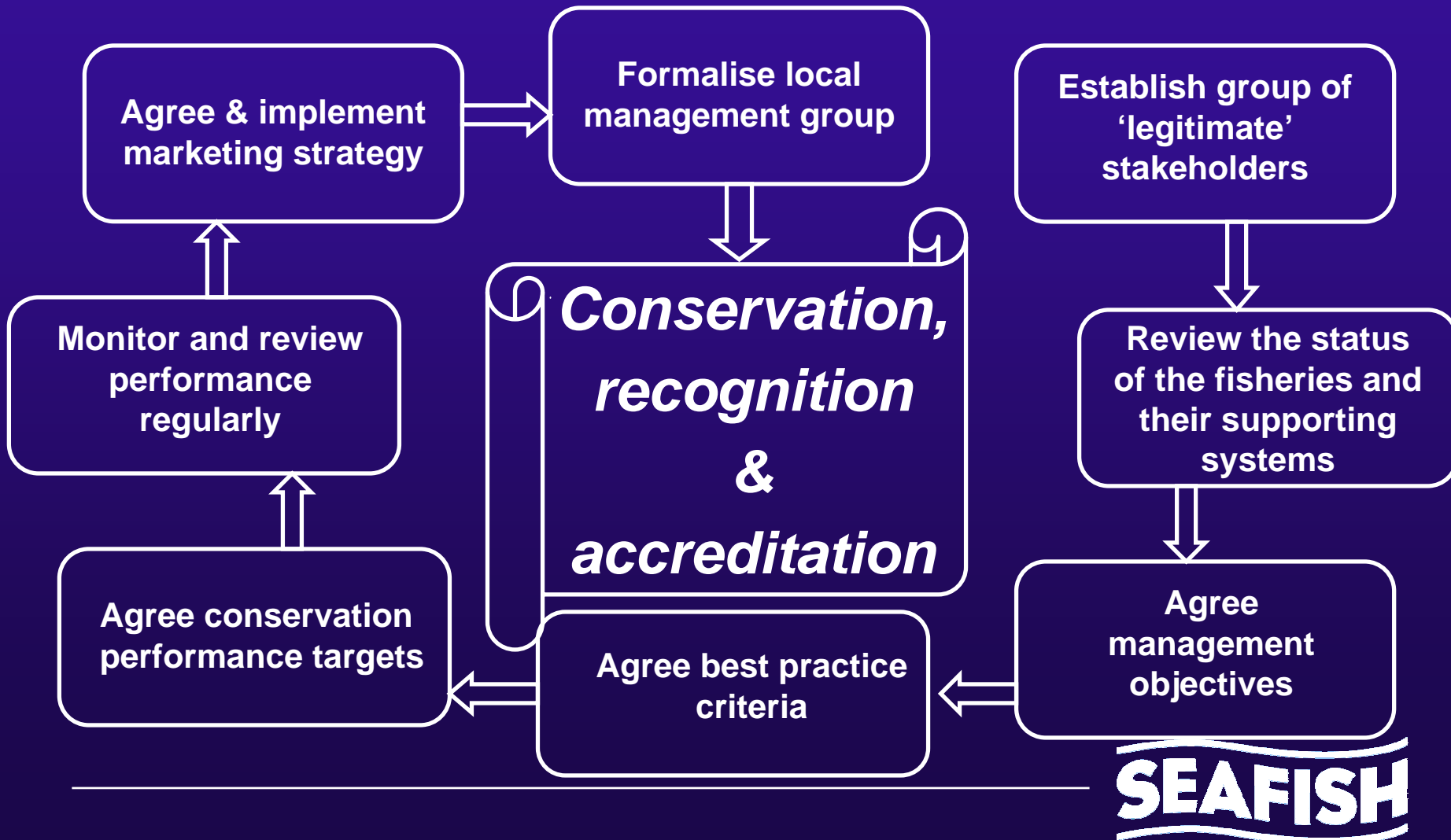
Partners



A roadmap for the Clyde



A roadmap for the Clyde



Outcomes

- Development of stakeholder group
- Draft of agreed strategy for development
- Establishment of a sustainable, economically viable fishery in the Clyde

Key messages for other stakeholders

- Sustainable fisheries possible
- Positive engagement with fishermen key
- Must be seen as legitimate, part of the solution, rather than a problem
- Solutions should assist development of an economically sustainable fishing industry, otherwise fishermen will not engage