



# SFSA Member Newsletter

April 2020

## Message from the President



Hello everyone, I hope you and your families are staying safe and well.

Normally at this time of year we would be in the middle of the crabbing season, the match scene for shore and boat would be well underway and we would be waiting for the first show of the mackerel but due to the COVID-19 lockdown we are stuck indoors desperate to get out and do some fishing.

Unfortunately at the moment it's simply not allowed, we have tried speaking to the Police on your behalf, they had no hesitation in their answer, stay at home..

We are also in constant communication with the Angling Trust who are lobbying government, we are hopeful of a solution in the next few weeks but at the moment it's the same message as the police.

We all want to do the right thing for our families and communities so respect the instructions and we will keep you informed of updates by facebook, newsletter and word of mouth.

The good news is that the shed and my tackle box have never been as tidy.

Stay safe

Mike Horn  
President SFSA

## Memberships



I would like to thank all our individual and club members who have renewed for 2020. I apologise that I haven't got a communication out to you sooner but I am still getting up to speed with organising everything and re-organising work and home life over the last month or so has delayed me further. But I have now settled into the home working routine ( bar any emergency call outs) and have started to get time to work on Federation matters.

I have a few things to send to folks like receipts and a few missing calendars (please let me know if you haven't got one). Over the next few months I intend on updating our membership logs as I had suggested in my previous update and have some work to do to update the website with up to date information. Hopefully you will start to see some of these improvements soon. In addition, as Mike says above, we are working on ensuring the right information is available to those who need it to make informed decisions about angling when the time comes. You can see the Angling Trust statement here-

[https://joinanglingtrust.net/when-we-fish-again-latest/?utm\\_source=website&utm\\_medium=ATWeb&utm\\_campaign=WWFA](https://joinanglingtrust.net/when-we-fish-again-latest/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=ATWeb&utm_campaign=WWFA)

Please let me know if there is anything in particular you can suggest to improve the website or other membership services (which could reasonably be implemented ☺). Unfortunately as you would expect at this time, there is very little to update on in the newsletter , hopefully by the next one, we will have some fishy photos to show. Please stay safe everyone and stick to the guidance.

Alasdair Campbell  
Vice President SFSA

# Conservation & Environment



## CLYDE MARINE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AND CLYDE 2020

The ongoing process of forming “The Clyde Regional Marine Plan” has moved forward in the past year with the draft plan expected to be passed to Marine Scotland in the coming few months which will pave the way for the plan being taken through a public consultation later in the year. Following the consultation the “Plan” will be updated before being presented to the minister for approval. The public consultation process is the chance for Sea Anglers to voice their opinions alongside other stakeholders and members of the public.

The Clyde 2020 Steering Group which is part of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership has now been existence for 5 years which gives you an idea of how slow the process of marine planning moves – having sat through many meetings during this period I can say that I feel very frustrated in the lack of progress. That being said this is the first time that representatives of from local councils, the commercial fishing sector, Marine Scotland as well as conservation organisations such as the COAST (Community of Arran Seabed Trust), SIFT (Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust), The RSPB, Environment Link (A coalition of conservation organisations) and SSACN representing recreational sea anglers have sat round the table to try and find a way forward.

More information on the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership can be found on the website .....

<https://www.clydemarineplan.scot/> and from the latest newsletter <https://mailchi.mp/5509acb34afc/february-news-from-the-cmpp>

Along with many of you reading this report I have fond memories of fishing in the Clyde in my younger days, it is these memories that got me involved in fighting for a healthy marine ecosystem in the Clyde with a sustainable and vibrant recreational fishery – I live in hope. I would appreciate some help so if you have some time and are passionate about the Clyde then please get in touch.

Willie Kennedy  
SSACN/SFSA



# Conservation & Environment



## Blue Fin Tuna

Over the last few years the interest the sightings of Blue Fin Tuna in Scottish Waters has been increasing significantly. The main sightings in Scottish waters have occurred of the west coast of Harris in the Outer Hebrides and have been recorded by Angus Campbell of Kilda Cruises (there have been other sightings elsewhere too).

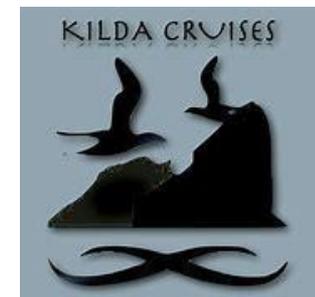
Angus is a keen angler and has been keen to get a recreational Blue Fin Tuna fishery in operation. However there is currently no quota available to the U.K to allow this fishery to be opened. Therefore for the last year Angus has been involved in scientific tagging of Tuna which aims to give scientists a better understanding of the numbers of Blue Fin Tuna in Scottish waters and their migration patterns. I attended one of these trips last year to assist with the work and learn a bit more about the study and despite seeing large numbers of tuna up to 400lb right beside the boat, we never caught one to tag.

This year the Harris Development Trust in conjunction with Marine Scotland are hoping to take this work a step further by conducting a full socio-economic study which may support a future recommendation to open a recreational Blue Fin Tuna fishery in Scotland. The Federation will be supporting this work in any way it can and I personally intend to be heavily involved in assisting with this study. I understand there will be some information required from anglers and I will be in touch with the membership once I have further details.

Alasdair Campbell  
Vice-President SFSA



marine  
scotland



# Conservation & Environment



The Federation continue to support the “Sea Angling Diary”- The Sea Angling Diary Project is for UK sea anglers to help improve the sustainable management of marine stocks and demonstrate the value of sea angling. The project is delivered by Substance and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) on behalf of all the UK governments and devolved administrations. It helps report the activity, catches and value of recreational sea angling to assist better informed decision making. Around 2,000 participants take part from every country and region in the UK.- see <https://www.seangling.org/#about>



**Extract from SNH Website - An online resource for tracking the movements of some of the largest and rarest creatures in British waters has been expanded.**

The Skatespotter website, which includes details of 1,500 critically endangered common or flapper skate, has been updated to include historic records that give an improved insight into the lives of individual fish over time. The refresh was announced as Scotland’s Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 gets underway. Anglers are encouraged to submit any photographs of common skate they catch and release to the database, allowing researchers working to conserve the species to identify individual fish by the distinctive spot patterns on their backs and study their movements.

For the first time, historic information from the Scottish Shark Tagging Programme (SSTP) dating back to 1975 has been added, as well as additional tagging data and photographs from Orkney, Shetland, the Outer Hebrides and Portpatrick.

The data reveals interesting results- see <https://www.nature.scot/endangered-skate-movements-revealed>





## Obituary

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of Bud McClymont.

Bud was a stalwart of our West of Scotland region, a Scottish International angler and a terrific ambassador for our sport.

I'm sure all of you who knew Bud will have fond memories, he was always the life and soul of every gathering.

