



Overcoming market access barriers for socially responsible and environmentally sustainable small-scale fisheries

14th July 2026

Who We Are



Community Catch is a unique initiative that promotes **Social Responsibility** and **Environmental Sustainability** to empower small-scale fishing communities to gain market access through an **affordable, accessible, and credible** certification standard.

The importance of small-scale fisheries

Small-scale fisheries are the backbone of coastal communities worldwide. They play a crucial role in food security, nutrition, poverty alleviation, and sustainable resource management.

Despite making up roughly 40% of the global catch, with 26% of their harvests exported, small-scale fisheries often struggle to gain recognition and fair access to markets.

They also provide employment for nearly 90% of all fisheries-related workers, including 45 million women, making them one of the largest employers in the ocean economy.



What is Community Catch?

A practical, affordable and credible approach designed specifically for small-scale wild-capture fisheries

Community Catch helps small-scale fisheries demonstrate responsible practices, strengthen their identity and improve access to markets.

- Built around the realities of small-scale fisheries.
- Addresses environmental sustainability and social responsibility together and more
- Combines free tools, clear guidance and independent evaluation.
- Supports recognition, improvement and market access.



Affordable

Accessible

Credible

Where Community Catch is useful?

Take into consideration existing country context and priorities

- Small-scale coastal fisheries that need practical recognition or improvement pathways.
- Conventional certification is too costly or complex.
- Social responsibility, Fisher participation and Working conditions need stronger evidence and improvements
- Self-Assessment can act as a low-cost diagnostic before deciding next steps.
- Fisheries where partners want to align market access with FAO SSF principles, human rights, health and safety and ecosystem-based fisheries governance.



The challenge of meeting market requirements



However, many seafood retailers and food service providers rely on certification or ratings schemes to assess sustainability.

While many large industrial fleets from developed nations can often meet these certification requirements, small-scale fishers are frequently excluded—either due to the high costs of certification or because existing standards do not fit the realities of small-scale fisheries.



4. OK – Needs improvement
How we work out our ratings

What to check for
Location **Scotland (East): All areas**
Technical location **FAO 27: Atlantic, Northeast**

Caught by
Pot, trap or creel

Rating summary
This stock is data limited. There is concern for the biomass due to a decline in the abundance index, and concern for fishing pressure as it is above FMSY in all areas where data is available (for either males, females, or both). There is a
Show more

How we worked out this Rating

Stock status

Management

Capture method

5. Avoid
How we work out our ratings

What to check for
Location **Scotland (East): All areas**
Technical location **FAO 27: Atlantic, Northeast**

Caught by
Pot, trap or creel

Rating summary
This stock is data limited. There is concern for the biomass due to a lack of biomass data, and concern for fishing pressure as it is above FMSY in all areas where data is available (for either males, females, or both). There is a minimum size in place for this fishery however, there is no limit on creel numbers, no spatial controls and no total allowable catch in place. Management would benefit from effort controls that are responsive to the state of the stock. Potting, or creeling, for European lobster has minimal impact on the surrounding environment.
Rating last updated: June 2023.
Show less

How we worked out this Rating

Stock status

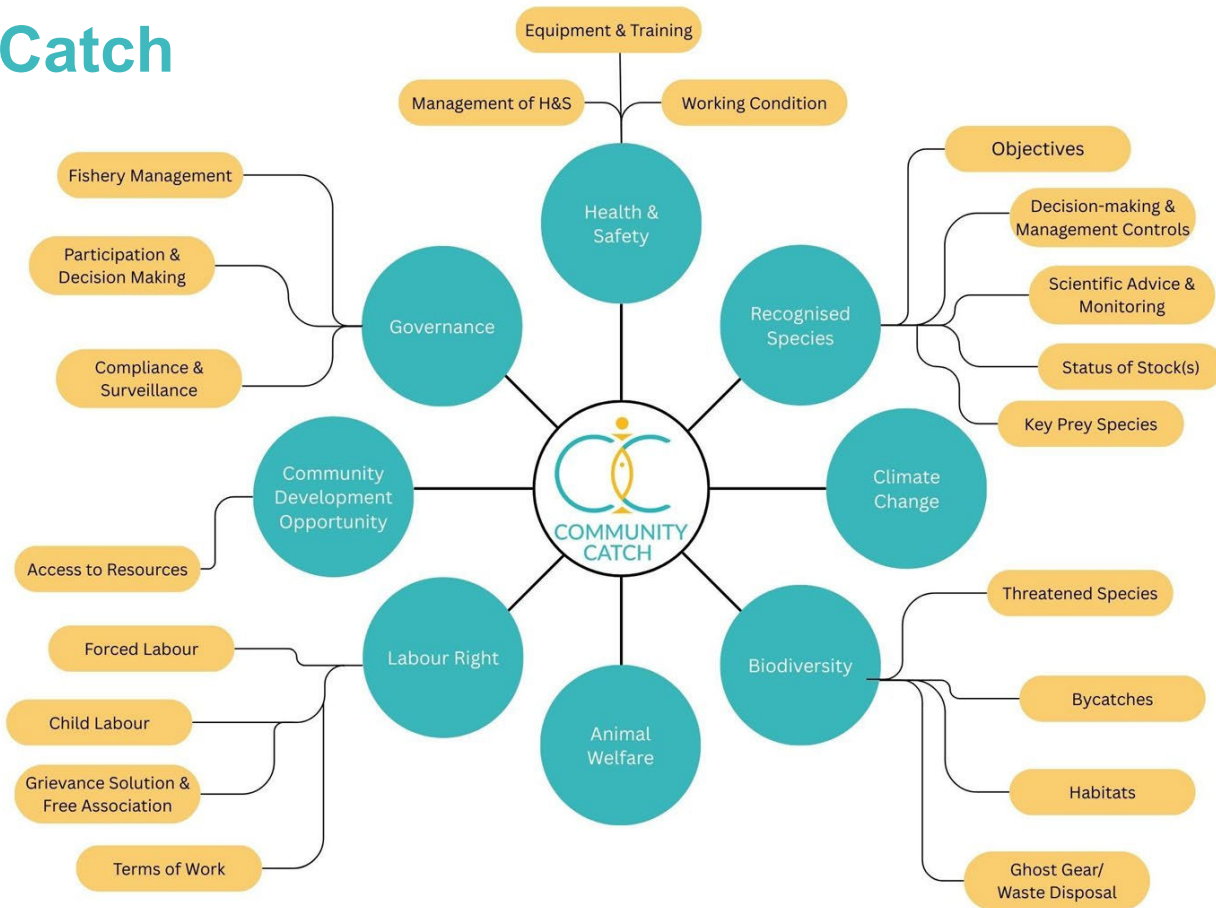
Management

Capture method

The Community Catch Standard

The Standard takes a holistic view, including

- Labour rights
- Health and safety
- Governance
- Community development
- Recognised species
- Biodiversity
- Animal welfare
- Climate change



Credibility/Governance

Community Catch is founded on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. Community Catch is working towards recognition by global benchmarks in standard setting for sustainable seafood production:



- **GSSI:** The Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) Global Benchmark Tool for seafood certification schemes, based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and the FAO Guidelines for Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine/Inland Capture Fisheries.



- **ISEAL:** ISEAL's Credibility Principles provide an international reference for defining the foundations of credible practices for sustainability standards

Fishery Map

A growing global pipeline with fisheries across regions, gears and markets



Community Catch is already being tested and implemented across multiple geographies, with live fisheries moving through Self-Assessment, FVS, stakeholder consultation, CAB review and improvement planning.

Self-Assessment

FVS deployment

CAB review

FIP Action planning

Recognition

Progress so far



Orkney Creel Fishery

1

**Certified
fishery**

15

**active
fisheries**

18

**species
represented**

10

**fishery clients
/ partners**

5

**broad regions
represented**



Recognitions of Fisheries already in Community Catch

Orkney Creel Fishery



Brown Crab, European Lobster & Velvet Crab

Located in the Orkney Islands, north of mainland Scotland, where the North Sea meets the North Atlantic. This fishery operates within 12 nautical miles of the Orkney coastline in FAO Area 27, ICES Subarea 27.4a (Northern North Sea).

The fleet comprises small inshore creel vessels, generally under 10 metres, operating mainly as day boats with daily landings into several Orkney harbours. Vessels are locally owned and crewed by island fishers.



Brown Crab

Cancer pagurus – The primary target species, with approximately 1,000 tonnes landed per year by vessels supplying Orkney Crab Ltd.



European Lobster

Homarus gammarus – Caught alongside brown crab in the same creel operations, sold live or cooked.



Velvet Crab

Necora puber – Associated catch from creel strings, processed and marketed through the same supply chain.

Fishing Gear & Sustainability

Static baited creels (pots/traps) set on strings over crab and lobster grounds and hauled regularly. Creels are a passive fishing method with very little interaction with vulnerable species or habitats compared to mobile gears, targeting muddy and mixed substrates within a wider Scottish network of MPAs and SACs.

Fishery Client

Orkney Crab Ltd
Paul Knight & Kate Rytzkowski
paul@orkneycrab.com
sustainable@orkneycrab.co.uk



Community Catch Status: Participated in CC beta trials as pilot fishery. Now completing Self-Assessment online, with fisher survey tool prepared for implementation before March 2026.

West of Scotland Nephrops Trawl Fishery

Minch & Clyde

Operating in ICES Division 6a, this demersal trawl fishery targets Norway lobster (Nephrops) across the North Minch, South Minch, and Firth of Clyde plus Sound of Jura. The fishery is represented by the West of Scotland Fish Producers' Organisation (WSFPO) and comprises vessels over 10 metres targeting Nephrops and mixed demersal species from coastal fishing communities along Scotland's west coast.

Fishing Gear & Method

Demersal (bottom) otter trawl (dredge/haul/pot) targeting Nephrops with typical cod-end mesh size 80–100 mm. Tows conducted on muddy/silt-bottom habitats where Nephrops burrows occur, with Nephrops as main target and mixed demersal bycatch.

Species & Fishing Area

Norway lobster (Nephrops norvegicus) – Nephrops norvegicus, ICES Division 6a stock. Functional Units: FU11 North Minch, FU12 South Minch, FU13 Firth of Clyde & Sound of Jura. Soft-bottom shelf areas in the West of Scotland (NE Atlantic/FAO Area 27).



Annual Production

Total Nephrops UK catch for ICES Div. 6a (Minch & Clyde) approximately 6,700 tonnes per year (green weight, 2017). The portion linked to WSPPO's Nephrops fleet represents a significant share of this volume.

Supply Chain & Markets

Primary Processors: SFO, Lanna, Prime Seafoods, Manduff Seafoods

Secondary/Value added: Kilkeel Seafoods, Young's

Market Touchpoints: Tesco, ASDA, Waitrose, Whittys

Product Forms: Nephrops products as whole and tails, chilled and frozen. A share of production goes into value-added lines (prepared, ready-to-cook, meal components) for French and Spanish markets.

Fishery Client: West of Scotland Fish Producers' Organisation (WSFPO)
Contact: Kevin McDonnell - office@westofscotland.co.uk

Community Catch Status: Client group completing CC Self-Assessment with support from Poseidon and planning first Fishery Voice Survey between January and February 2026.

Fishery 5 of 7

West of Scotland Nephrops Creel Fishery

Minch & Clyde

This inshore creel fishery targets the same Nephrops stocks as the trawl fishery (FU11, FU12, FU13) but uses static creels (pots) rather than trawls, offering a low-impact alternative with negligible bycatch and minimal seabed disturbance. Small to medium inshore boats, typically with 1–3 crew, operate across the North Minch, South Minch, and Firth of Clyde plus Sound of Jura.

Fishing Method

Static creels (pots) targeting Nephrops on muddy burrow grounds. Strings of baited pots are left to soak, then hauled and re-baited. This gear is widely recognised as a low-impact method for Nephrops compared to trawl, with negligible bycatch and discards.



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Fishing Grounds

Inshore and shelf mud habitats across North Minch, South Minch, Clyde & Sound of Jura (ICES Div. 6a) where Nephrops burrow in soft sediments.



Supply Chain

Primary processors/buyers (to be confirmed): Kilkeel Seafoods and other shellfish processors. Market touchpoints include Tesco and live/fresh Nephrops exporters.



Export Markets

Premium live Nephrops shipped (via live trucks/air freight) to France and Spain, representing high-value segment despite smaller tonnage.

Product Forms

Predominantly live and whole Nephrops of prime quality, graded and conditioned in seawater tanks. Some production sold as fresh/chilled whole or frozen whole.

Annual Production

Creel-specific landings to be determined. Creels represent smaller share of tonnage but high-value segment for premium markets.

Community Catch Status: Client group completing CC Self-Assessment with Poseidon support and planning first Fishery Voice Survey between January and February 2026.



FISHERY EVALUATION PROCESS



Step by Step Community Catch Process



1. Establish
Fishery Client



2. Agree Fisher
Group



3. Complete Self
Assessment and
FVS (if required)



4. Agree contract
with CAB
and appoint



5. Start 30 day
stakeholder
consultation



6. CAB review SA
and stakeholder
feedback



7. CAB
decision

Step by Step Community Catch Process

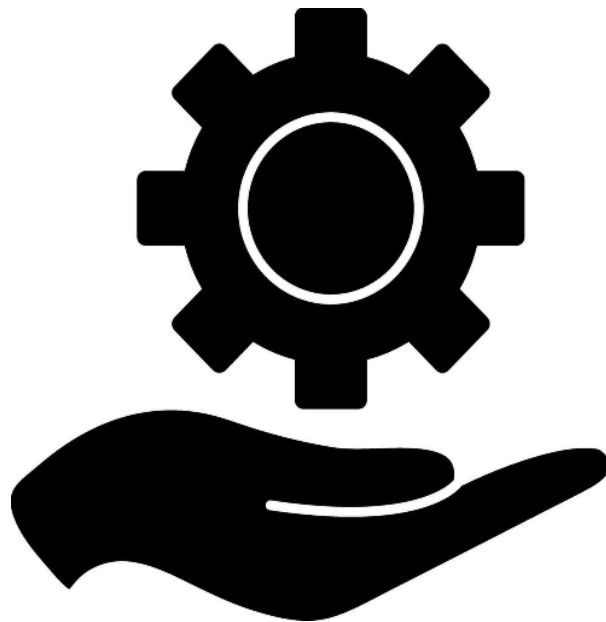


SUPPORT FOR FISHERIES



Assistance Providers

- Community Catch provides a link between fisheries requiring consultancy, advice or information and organisations or individuals who can provide such services to enable them to become certified.
- Whether you are a fishery client, cooperative or individuals looking to advance your fishery through certification, Community Catch provides the tools and connections you need.
- Use the resources on the website to explore support options, develop action plans, and take the next steps toward joining the Community Catch Initiative.



Assistance Providers

 Abalobi	 An Ocean Warrior Consultancy	 Bianglala Cahaya Cemerlang	 Conservación Sostenible de los Recursos Marinos y Acuáticos (COSOREMA)	 Ecomotus Ltd	 FisherFolkFirst
 Blue Economy Connect (BEC)	 Blue Transitions	 CatchCam Technologies Ltd	 Fishtekmarine	 MRAG Ltd	 Pinpoint Earth Ltd.
 Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Limited ('Poseidon')	 RS Standards	 Ulula - An EcoVadis Company	 Vekamar Sustainable Fisheries Consulting	 Wholechain	

GLOBAL MARKET RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY CATCH



Community Catch Members

M&S
— FOOD —

W WOOLWORTHS

WORLD
WISE
FOODS

AquaStar
SMART SEAFOOD™


Scottish Shellfish

MIGROS



SHIELD  FOODS™
EST. 1996

SELFRIDGES & CO

Community Catch Supporters



Pepper



giz

Community Catch Collaborations



FisheryProgress



Meet Our Executive Team



Linda Wood
CEO



Elodie Le Cornu
Head of Standards



Carlos Sonderblohm
Head of Fisheries Outreach



Abbie Topping
Operation Manager



Ahmad Husein
Communications Officer

Thank You!

Linda Wood – linda.wood@communitycatch.org

Mobile – 07766 550795

Website – www.communitycatch.org

