

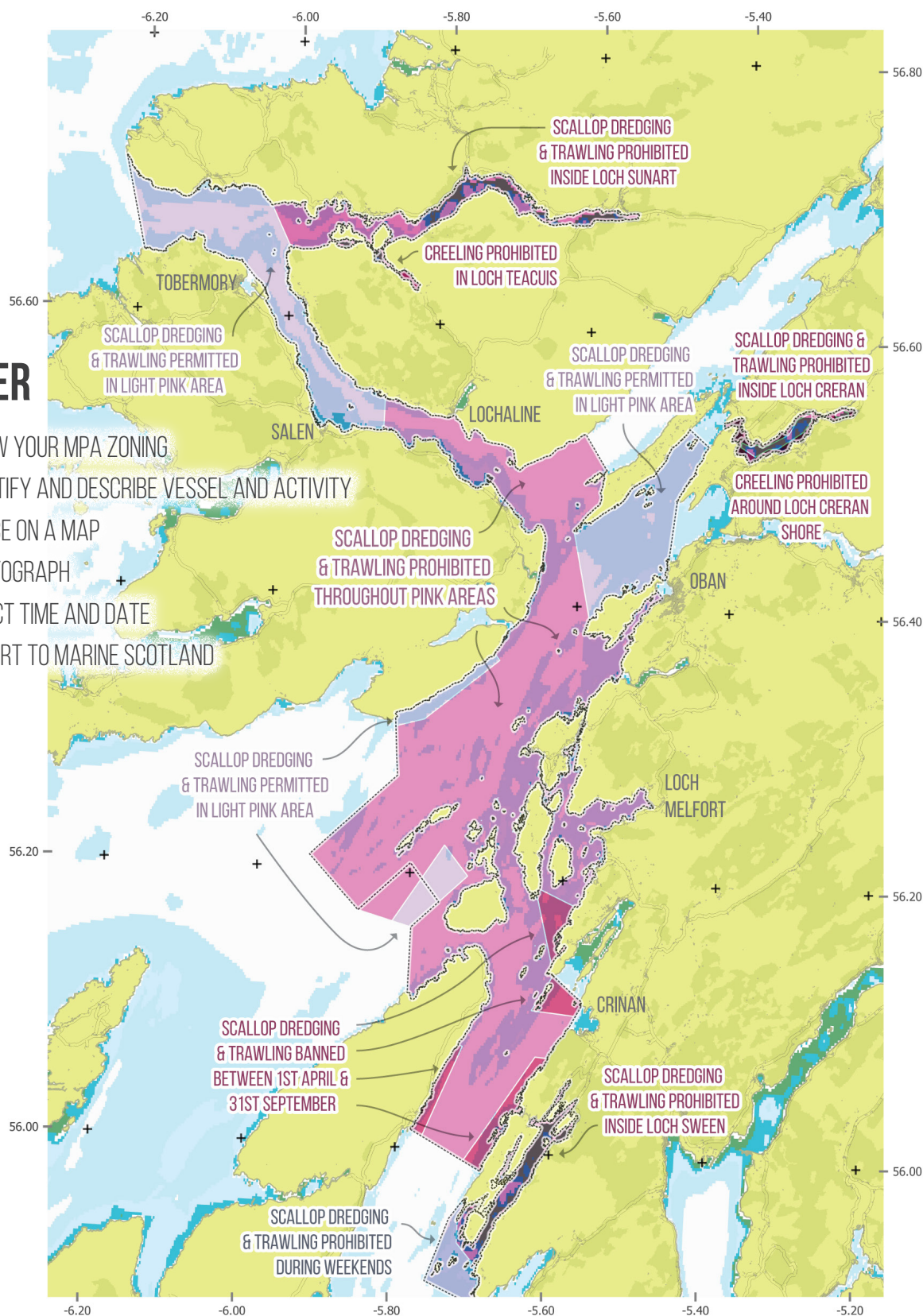
YOU'RE IN PROTECTED SEAS.

CAN YOU HELP KEEP THEM SAFE?

A network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) were designated in 2014 in this area, and formally protected in 2016 to safeguard our local seas and sealife, including a resident population of common (or flapper) skate, the world's largest skate species, and reefs and other seabed habitats. The Government (Marine Scotland) have limited resources to monitor our inshore waters and there have been several reports of illegal fishing in the area so, borrowing from the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)'s K.I.P.P.E.R guide, we have put together a short guide to reporting illegal fishing in the Firth of Lorn and surrounding MPAs.

KIPPER

1. **KNOW YOUR MPA ZONING**
2. **IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE VESSEL AND ACTIVITY**
3. **PLACE ON A MAP**
4. **PHOTOGRAPH**
5. **EXACT TIME AND DATE**
6. **REPORT TO MARINE SCOTLAND**



KNOW YOUR MPA ZONING

Firstly, get to know the chart of the MPAs. The four MPAs, Loch Sunart, Sound of Jura, Loch Sween and Loch Creran cover a very large area, running from the top half of the Sound of Jura, Scarba and the Garvellachs, north and then west to the entrance to the Sound of Mull.

As you can see there are different zones,

- **The Large Pink Zone**, which makes up the majority of the Firth of Lorn and the sealochs, is where scallop dredging and trawling is prohibited.
- **In the Light Pink Zones**, dredging is permitted and trawling is permitted (so long as trawl beams and tickler chains are not used).
- **The Dark Pink Zones** in the north of the Sound of Jura are where dredging and trawling are permitted only for the winter months. Between April 1st and September 31st, they are both prohibited in these areas.
- **The Dark Red Zones** in Loch Teacuis and around the coast in Loch Creran are where creeling is also prohibited.
- **The Lilac Zones** at the mouth of Loch Sween are where there is a weekend ban on dredging and trawling

IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE VESSEL ACTIVITY

Try to record the following information

- Type (see images of the main types of fishing vessels)
- Colour
- Approximate length
- PLN (Port Letters and Numbers) - usually 1-3 letters + 1-4 numbers e.g. OB1234 (if visible)
- If the fishing gear is stowed or in the water (if visible)
- The speed of the vessel (is it towing gear or legally making), other details, eg if seabirds are following in the wake of the vessel.

Any fishing vessel moving through an area where its normal activity is prohibited should have its gear (nets and dredges) "lashed and stowed in such a way that it may not be readily used".

PLACE ON A MAP

What kind of information do the authorities need to check if the vessel is working in the wrong place?

It can become difficult to give exact information. You may be able to say "The vessel is about one mile south of Craignish Point" but can you say how far from the Jura shore it is? For most adults standing on the shore the horizon will appear to be less than 3 miles away. If possible, take a compass bearing and then move several hundred metres away and take another bearing. This will give a better indication of the boat's true position. If you're at sea, take note of your position using GPS if possible, and where the other vessel is in relation to you. On no account approach the other vessel in such a way as to put anyone in danger.

It's also useful if two or more people can provide sighting details. This is corroborating evidence.

PHOTOGRAPH & EXACT TIME AND DATE

Try to capture information to identify the vessel and locate it with some photos. A video is even better. Can you get to a good position and take a clear photograph? If you can, remember to include land in the photograph – a snap of a boat surrounded by water could have been taken anywhere!

Take a note of the time and date, if your photo has this information on it that will be very helpful as evidence.

REPORT

It is vital that you reports any possible infringements to Marine Scotland tel. **0131 271 9700**.

You can also report details online at www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Compliance/suspiciousactivity

Please also try to email us about any activity at kipperinfo@yahoo.com to help us to track the effectiveness of what we are doing.

Copies of the MPA conservation orders can be found at www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/MPAMGT/protectedareasmgt and some more detailed maps here www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00493862.pdf

EXAMPLES OF FISHING BOATS YOU MIGHT SEE

