

**Cromarty Firth Fishery Management Plan update 2015**

The Cromarty Firth Fishery Management Plan is due to be updated but because of the Wild Fisheries Reform process it is not intended to update it in its present format. The existing document sets out much of the background and history of the fisheries of the region, along with information on land use, hydrology and geology.

The geographical boundaries of Fishery Management Organisations proposed by the Wild Fisheries reform process are likely to change and may result in the merger of the Cromarty Firth region into a larger management unit.

For this reason the Fishery Management planning process is being updated by splitting our present management units into the SEPA waterbodies and then listing fishery issues and proposed actions by these waterbody units. This will form a series of units which could then be combined to form the basis of a new Fishery Management Organisation plan whilst providing a continuity of management from the previous plan. This approach also will allow alignment with Water Framework and other planning processes to give combined catchment planning.

The Cromarty Fishery Board's proposed annual work programme for 2015 is contained in the Director's report to the June Board meeting.