

Isle of Man Scallop Management Board: Overview

Functioning of the Board

1. The Isle of Man Scallop Management Board (SMB) is a non-statutory advisory Board, [constituted](#) and formed by the Isle of Man Government Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA).
2. Its function is to provide considered, representative and balanced advice and proposals, regarding the king and queen scallop fisheries within the Isle of Man territorial Sea, via a quorate process and in the form of a formal recommendation, to the Minister for the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.
3. Decision making responsibility rests with the Minister for DEFA.
4. SMB recommendations may be rejected or accepted in full or in part, with those decisions being communicated to the Board in due course.
5. The Board aims to meet at least four times a year, communicates on a frequent basis (typically weekly), considers evidence-based and scientific data to assess the king and queen scallop stocks and develops management proposals for scallop fisheries within the territorial sea. It then submits recommendations to the DEFA Minister relating to new measures, or adjustments to existing measures within the scallop management frameworks.
6. Management measures that currently exist under the Management Frameworks for these fisheries, and which are regularly adjusted, include Total allowable Catch (TAC), daily or weekly catch limits, and temporary spatial closures. Recommended adjustments take into consideration the best available scientific data and evidence relating to the main pillars of sustainable fishing – biological (stock) and social and economic aspects.
7. Minutes of SMB meetings are recorded and agreed by the Board, and are available on the DEFA website under a separate Isle of Man Scallop Management Board [page](#)
8. The SMB aims to achieve sustainable management of the available resource within the existing fleet capacity and effort. The [DEFA Future Fisheries Strategy](#) was approved by Tynwald in 2015, and provides a policy context to decision making.
9. A sub-group of the SMB meets at least fortnightly during the two main scallop fishing seasons to examine fisheries-dependent data as a season progresses, reporting back to the wider SMB membership, and, as necessary, providing evidence and draft recommendations for in-season changes which the SMB then collectively considers ensuring a quorum is maintained with regard to the final recommendations put forward to the DEFA Minister.

Membership & Representation

10. The constitution requires that membership of the SMB consists of individuals with relevant scientific, commercial fishing, fish processing, or public administration experience associated with the Isle of Man king and queen scallop industry. All appointments are made with the approval of the Minister for DEFA.
11. Membership currently consists of 6 active fishermen that prosecute the fisheries using a range of vessel *metiers*, 2 processors, and 2 individuals with scientific backgrounds and knowledge of stocks and surveys within and out-with the territorial sea.
12. In addition, scientists from Bangor University, who are under contract with DEFA to provide independent fisheries science advice until 2025, attend the meetings to present scientific

survey data as well as analyses of fisheries-dependent data. Bangor University scientists are not part of the SMB membership, and attend meetings as DEFA appointed attendees.

13. DEFA officers attend the SMB meetings and provide background knowledge in fisheries administration, and enforcement and compliance expertise. DEFA also provide a secretariat service.
14. The current membership offers a broad range of knowledge and experience. The SMB operates on the basis that members must put aside any personal interests, and work to reach consensus on decisions that are important for the sustainable management of the fishery and those that depend on it. Political representation is actively discouraged and decisions are reached through consensus
15. The SMB is not constituted such that members are required to act in a representative democracy role, such as in an elected parliament. The composition of the appointed membership aims to broadly reflect the various stakeholder interests that exist within the king and queen scallop industries, and the membership are not required to address the SMB as a direct representative of a specific sub-group of stakeholders, but rather bring specific experience to the Board
16. The SMB operates more like a citizen's forum, whereby DEFA seeks advice from a cross-sample of stakeholders in order to build consensus and make balanced recommendations that are subsequently considered by the Minister for DEFA. The Minister for DEFA is ultimately responsible for the statutory administration and management of Sea Fisheries within the Isle of Man territorial sea on behalf of the Manx public, as required under the Fisheries Act 2012.
17. Nonetheless, the SMB membership are requested to, so far as possible, make themselves available for input and comment from stakeholders outside the SMB membership, and to bring any relevant information, data, proposals, and comment from outside the SMB to the regular meetings.

Current SMB Membership

Appointed Member	Role / Background
Dr David Beard	CEO Manx Fish Producers Organisation. Scallop Industry Consultation Group (UK) member. SMB Industry Spokesperson.
Dr Carrie McMinn	AFBI (Northern Ireland) Shellfish Scientist
William Caley	Processing sector
Craig Woodbridge	Catching sector
Brian Horne	Catching sector
Juan Canipa	Catching sector
Geoffrey Chambers	Catching sector
Mark Roberts	Catching sector
Domhnall Maclachlainn	Catching sector
Scott Merrick	Processing sector
Dr Peter Duncan	Chair

DEFA Attendee	Role / Background
Neil Milsom	Head of Fisheries, DEFA
Dr Jack Emmerson	Sea Fisheries Policy Manager, DEFA
Rebecca Richardson	Executive Officer, DEFA
Dr Isobel Bloor	Independent Scallop Scientist, Bangor University