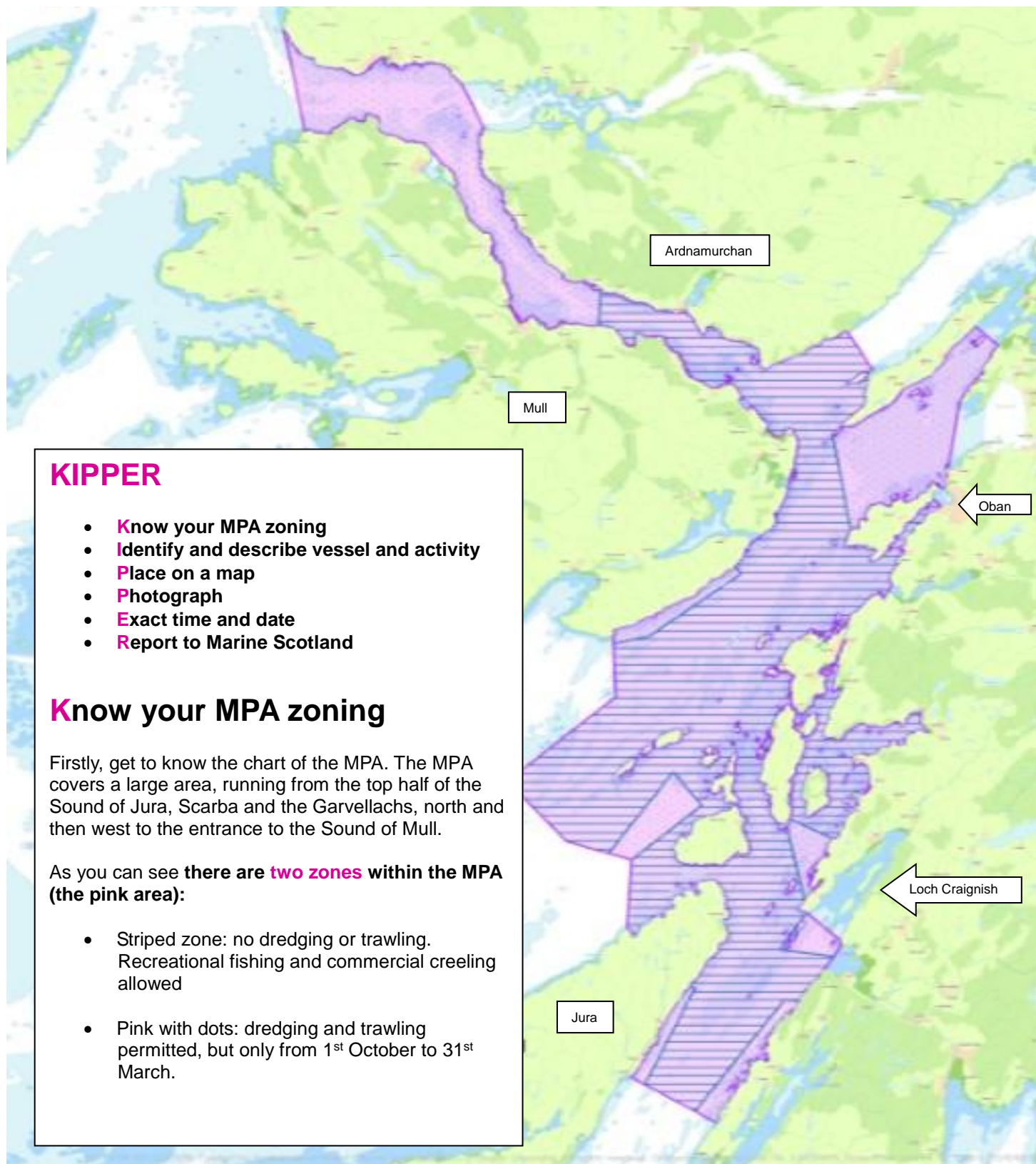


Compliance for the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura MPA: the **K.I.P.P.E.R.** Guide



The Loch Sunart to Sound of Jura MPA came into force in 2016 to protect our resident population of common (or flapper) skate, the world's largest skate species. But how can we help protect this vital resource? The Government in the form of Marine Scotland currently has very limited resources to monitor our inshore waters. We have put together a short (and hopefully memorable) guide to reporting illegal fishing in the MPA. **We've copied the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) and called it the **K.I.P.P.E.R.** guide.**



KIPPER

- **K**now your MPA zoning
- **I**dentify and describe vessel and activity
- **P**lace on a map
- **P**hotograph
- **E**xact time and date
- **R**eport to Marine Scotland

Know your MPA zoning

Firstly, get to know the chart of the MPA. The MPA covers a 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 two zones within the MPA (the pink area):**

- Striped zone: no dredging or trawling. Recreational fishing and commercial creeling allowed
- Pink with dots: dredging and trawling permitted, but only from 1st October to 31st March.

Identify and describe vessel and activity

What kind of information do the authorities need to identify a vessel?

1. Type (see below the three main types of fishing vessels),
2. Colour,
3. Approximate length,
4. PLN (Port Letters and Numbers) - usually 1-3 letters + 1-4 numbers e.g. OB1234 (if visible)
5. If the fishing gear is stowed or in the water (if visible),
6. The speed of the vessel (is it towing gear or making passage - which is not illegal)

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"*.

How do we tell what kind of fishing boat we're looking at? Here are some examples:



This is a **prawn trawler**; the gear is normally stowed on deck at the stern; there is a large bow wave. When fishing they would be moving slowly – about 2-3 knots; a leisurely walking pace. The lines to the net are usually over the stern or close in to the sides. These boats work the deeper muddy sea floor.

This is a **scallop dredger**, the lines to the dredges come from small 'arms' protruding from the sides of the boat.

This is an example of a **creel boat**; when setting, checking or collecting creels, the vessel may be stationary for several minutes, then move off quickly. Often they can be seen working very close to the shore in rocky areas. Usually fluorescent marker buoys will be seen in the water near these boats.

These are the main types of vessels you will find, but there are more that may need to be reported, eg: electrofishing

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 1 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 date and time

Try to capture information to identify the vessel and locate it with some photos.

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 (like the trawler above) 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 for the authorities.

Report

Reports of possible infringements should be made to the local Marine Scotland Fisheries Offices: fo.oban@gov.scot tel 0300 244 9400 or fo.campbeltown@scotland.gsi.gov.uk tel 0300 244 8690. You can report details online at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Compliance/suspiciousactivity> and please also try to email us about any activity at cromachgroup@gmail.com to help us to track the effectiveness of what we are doing - one of us may have seen it too! A copy of the Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura Conservation MPA Order is available online: search "Loch Sunart marine conservation 2016." This gives exact coordinates for the MPA and details of what fishing is and is not permitted there.

We hope that the MPA will soon show the true benefits of a healthy, diverse and productive sea for all the people who live and work here