

# Fair Isle Marine Action Plan

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## Summary

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This document is a summary of a full report written with the input of the Fair Community. The full version of the document can be requested to the SSMEI Project Officer tel. 01595772332 or email: [lorraine.gray@nafc.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:lorraine.gray@nafc.uhi.ac.uk)

<b>Biodiversity Conservation</b>						
<b>Title</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Partners</b>
SPA for birds	To halt the decline in seabird breeding success by protecting their feeding and breeding locations and meet EU conservation objectives	Extend SPA into the area from which the seabirds provision their chicks, e.g. 4 km outwards from the coast; prohibit fishing activities targeted at sandeels and other small fish	strong populations of important fish species; reversal of seabird population declines	seabird breeding productivity and population trends; trends in prey captured	2010	FIBO, SNH, SFA
Fair Isle SAC	Promote and extend the protection of FI's coastal heath habitats.	Relocate SAC boundaries to incorporate the areas of the Rippack, Brecks o Busta and Hoini; monitoring of results.	Maintain habitat, management sympathetic to biodiversity values	representative and notable species for the sub-habitat types	2011	SNH, FI Community, NTS, tenants of land
Monitoring of ecosystem condition	Provide data for conservation management to form an early warning system for ecosystem condition and to evaluate the progress of sustainable management measures.	Continue FIBO monitoring programmes which monitor seabird population trends and breeding productivity, food items brought to chicks; seal breeding, cetacean and basking shark records.	Seabird population and breeding productivity at pre 1995 levels; growth in cetacean and basking shark records; maintain seal breeding population.	seabirds, cetaceans, grey seal, basking shark numbers	2009 +	FIBO, JNCC, SNH
Other priority habitats and species	To highlight priority habitats and species, prevent accidental damage or loss.	Update maps of priority habitats and species from established surveys and studies; disseminate information.	maintain current priority sites and species in favourable condition	Maintenance of significant species.	2009	SIC, NTS, FI Community, SSMEI

<b>Sustainable Management</b>						
<b>Title</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Selective fishing of shellfish	A sustainable shellfish fishery; use FI as demonstration site	Introduction of technical measures to prevent over exploitation; establish a no-take zone	Catch rate of one lobster per four creels.	Trends in catch rates	2011	SSMO, FI Operator, FIMETI
Sea-fisheries Technical Measures	Minimise by-catch, provide refuge to juvenile fish and use FI as a demonstration site.	Introduction of technical measures and establish a no-take zone	Re-establishment of a healthy, diverse fish population.	Fish numbers and size	2011	SFA, FIMETI, NAFC Marine Centre
Shipping Area To Be Avoided	To restrict shipping carrying potentially hazardous cargoes in sensitive sea areas.	Establish a legally binding protocol for shipping carrying potentially hazardous cargoes to keep to a central lane in the FI channel.	Legally binding protocol in place, MEHRA designation.	lane protocol respected by all relevant shipping	2011	SG, IMO, MCA

<b>Sustainable Development</b>						
<b>Title</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Sustainable use of resources for tourism	Maintain and diversify the quality and range of activities and facilities for tourists and ensure sustainable use of resources.	Produce a visitor management plan. Undertake a feasibility study to promote ventures which cause minimal negative impacts and produce codes of conduct.	Plan agreed and implemented; increased investment, expansion of tourism with no adverse impacts.	visitor numbers; visitor satisfaction, increase in "specialist" tourists, e.g. divers	2012	FI visitor management group, STA, SIC
Transport	To ensure that the current transport links are maintained and potentially improved	Develop a plan to include all aspects of transport e.g. staffing, training, demand and increased flexibility.	Transport programme which meets demand. Rolling programme of training.	Level of service; passenger numbers	2010	ZETRANS, SIC, NTS, FI community
New Bird Observatory	Sustain and enhance tourism, education and research facilities.	Construction of a new accommodation, education and research facility	Increased occupancy rate	Occupancy rates	2010	FIBO, SIC,
Shore access and coastal defence	To conserve and maintain FI's sea-borne access points and where appropriate use coastal defences.	Programme of work including preventative measures and monitoring	A maintenance programme including pre-emptive and remedial work.	Access points and defences in favourable conditions.	2009 - 2011	SIC Roads Department, NTS, FI community

<b>Landscape Conservation</b>						
<b>Title</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Landscape	To maintain FI's landscape values, NSA status and insure against inappropriate developments.	Prioritise FI as a landscape conservation zone; prevent inappropriate developments or activities	Maintain NSA status and the landscapes in a favourable condition	Inclusion in regional and national plans; visitor satisfaction.	2011	SIC, SG, FI Community

<b>Research and Education</b>						
<b>Title</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Demonstration site for maritime research and education	Establish FI as a pilot study site for monitoring the effects of new legislation and a demonstration site for tourism and education.	Implementation/expansion of programme of research and education. Extend seabird research to include the wider marine ecosystem	Expanded research programme; enhanced education facilities; greater use of FIBO facilities	External involvement and support; dissemination of results	2011	FIBO, GWMC, FI Weather Station, NAFC Marine Centre, SG

<b>Cultural Heritage</b>						
<b>Title</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Partners</b>
The George Waterston Memorial Centre	To expand and improve the facilities of the GWMC museum to enhance the interpretation and celebration of the culture and heritage of FI.	Expansion and maintenance of current building to incorporate increased facilities, equipment, access. Undertake staff training.	To achieve the improvements planned	Extent of improvements; visitor feedback and numbers	2010	FI Community, GWMC committee, SIC
Marine Archaeology	To manage wrecks as a tourism resource for their archaeological, historical and marine ecology interest.	Mapping of sites; establish a voluntary code of conduct for divers; prevent activities or developments liable to cause damage	Meet HS recommendations; increase interest in wrecks, no loss of artefacts or damage	Condition of wrecks; diver numbers and feedback	2011	HS, GWMC/ FI community, NTS, SIC
Coastal archaeology	To protect coastal archaeological sites from loss through erosion and maintain sites as a tourism resource.	Assess sites at risk and produce action plan for minimising/removing risk, develop heritage interpretation for sites.	halt deterioration; return sites to favourable condition	restoration to a satisfactory level as evaluated by an archaeologist	2010	NTS, HS, FI Community
Fair Isle Community / NTS Management Plan	The development of a management plan directing good stewardship and detailing the community aspirations, ensuring the continued success and viability of the isle.	Establish a FI community working group; preparation of plan which addresses needs and aspirations of FI community; consultation with support bodies; (see FI Management Plan 2009-2019).	Full implementation of plan and achieving acceptance of and support for the objectives and actions outlined in the plan	Marine environment in favourable condition; tourism levels.	2009-2019	FI community, NTS, FIBO, SIC, SG,

FI= Fair Isle, FIBO= Fair Isle Bird Observatory, FIMETI= Fair Isle Marine Environment & Tourism Initiative, GWMC= The George Waterston Memorial Centre, HS= Historic Scotland, IMO= International Maritime Organisation, MCA= Maritime Coastguard Agency, NTS = National Trust for Scotland, SFA= Shetland Fishermen's Association, SIC= Shetland Islands Council, SG= Scottish Government, SNH= Scottish Natural Heritage, SSMO= Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation, STA= Shetland Tourist Association