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# Closed areas as conservation tools for fisheries management & thoughts for CFP reform



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- Provide an example of closed areas as a conservation tool for fisheries management
- Describe the structure of management
- How this relates to WWF proposals for CFP reform





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## Scottish whitefish demersal fleet

Problem – cod stocks depleted, high discard rates, need to reduce cod mortality. How to manage the fishery while continuing to exploit other target species



Solution – Scottish Conservation Credits Scheme established with objective of reducing cod mortality.





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# Scottish Conservation Credits Scheme

- A scheme which credits fishermen for taking conservation measures with a currency of value to them – days at sea



## The key measures under the scheme:

- Closures – real time, seasonal and permanent
- Gear regulations – one net rule, selective gear
- High grading ban
- Trialling catch quotas – landing everything caught
- Observers – human and onboard cameras (REM)
- Effort management





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# Decision making

- The conservation measures are decided by consensus by a multi stakeholder Steering Group which meets monthly
- The Scheme is dynamic and responsive so measures are adapted and revised according to any changes in either resources or opportunity





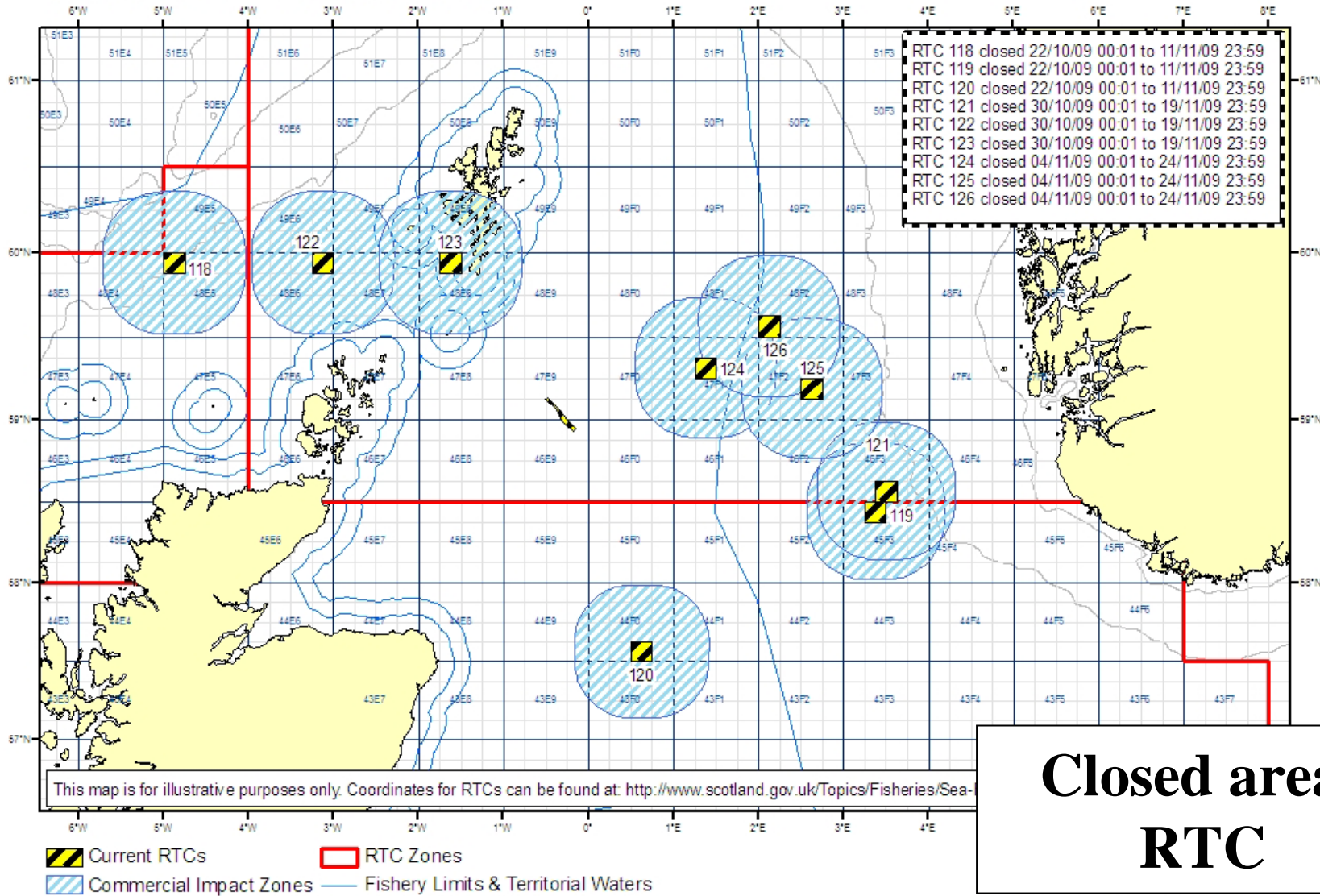
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## Real Time Closures (RTC)

- Triggered by high density of cod (over 40 cod per hour of fishing effort)
- Maximum size of 50 square miles, identified by maximum of 6 points
- Aim to have minimum of 6 and maximum of 9 RTC in place at any one time and no more than 3 in a Commercial Impact Zone
- Set for 21 days, which has been shown to be long enough to allow aggregates of cod to disperse.



# Current Real Time Closures



RTC 118 closed 22/10/09 00:01 to 11/11/09 23:59  
 RTC 119 closed 22/10/09 00:01 to 11/11/09 23:59  
 RTC 120 closed 22/10/09 00:01 to 11/11/09 23:59  
 RTC 121 closed 30/10/09 00:01 to 19/11/09 23:59  
 RTC 122 closed 30/10/09 00:01 to 19/11/09 23:59  
 RTC 123 closed 30/10/09 00:01 to 19/11/09 23:59  
 RTC 124 closed 04/11/09 00:01 to 24/11/09 23:59  
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**Closed areas  
RTC**



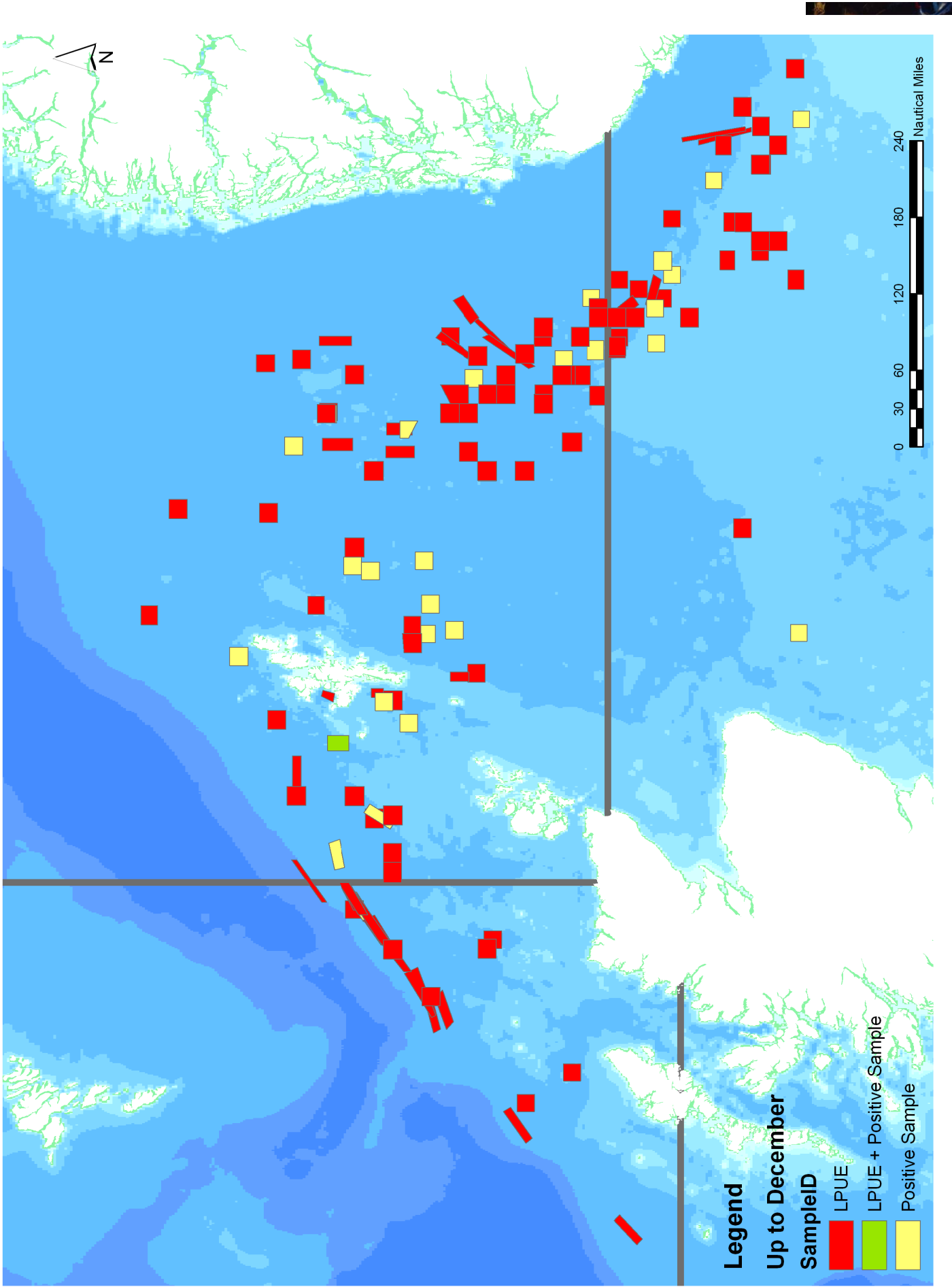


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# Results

- In 2009 a total of 144 RTCs established
- Represents an estimated 11% reduction of cod mortality
- Considering increasing this target in 2010







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# Results

- Compliance is almost 100% by both Scottish and foreign vessels fishing in Scottish waters.





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## Who makes the decisions?

- Scottish Government (managers)
- Marine Scotland Science scientists
- Fishing industry representatives (fishermen's associations and PO representatives)
- Retailer and processor representatives (since Dec 09)
- Environmental NGOs (WWF)
- Observers (other decision makers and fishermen's associations, other interested parties)





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## Reasons why WWF supports this scheme

- It is innovative – a great example of government, industry and NGOs working together towards a common goal (cod conservation) and **achieving significant results**.
- Provides stakeholders with a sense of ownership, thereby improving the chances of **compliance**
- A good example of how regional governance and co-management can work and how **management can be tailored** to meet the specific needs of a fishery





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## Future CFP management – what is needed?

- The new Regulation should establish a mandatory requirement for all fisheries to be managed according to a Long Term Management Plan (LTMP)
- LTMPs should aim to meet centrally agreed objectives and be based on standard criteria set out in the Regulation





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## Key criteria for LTMPs

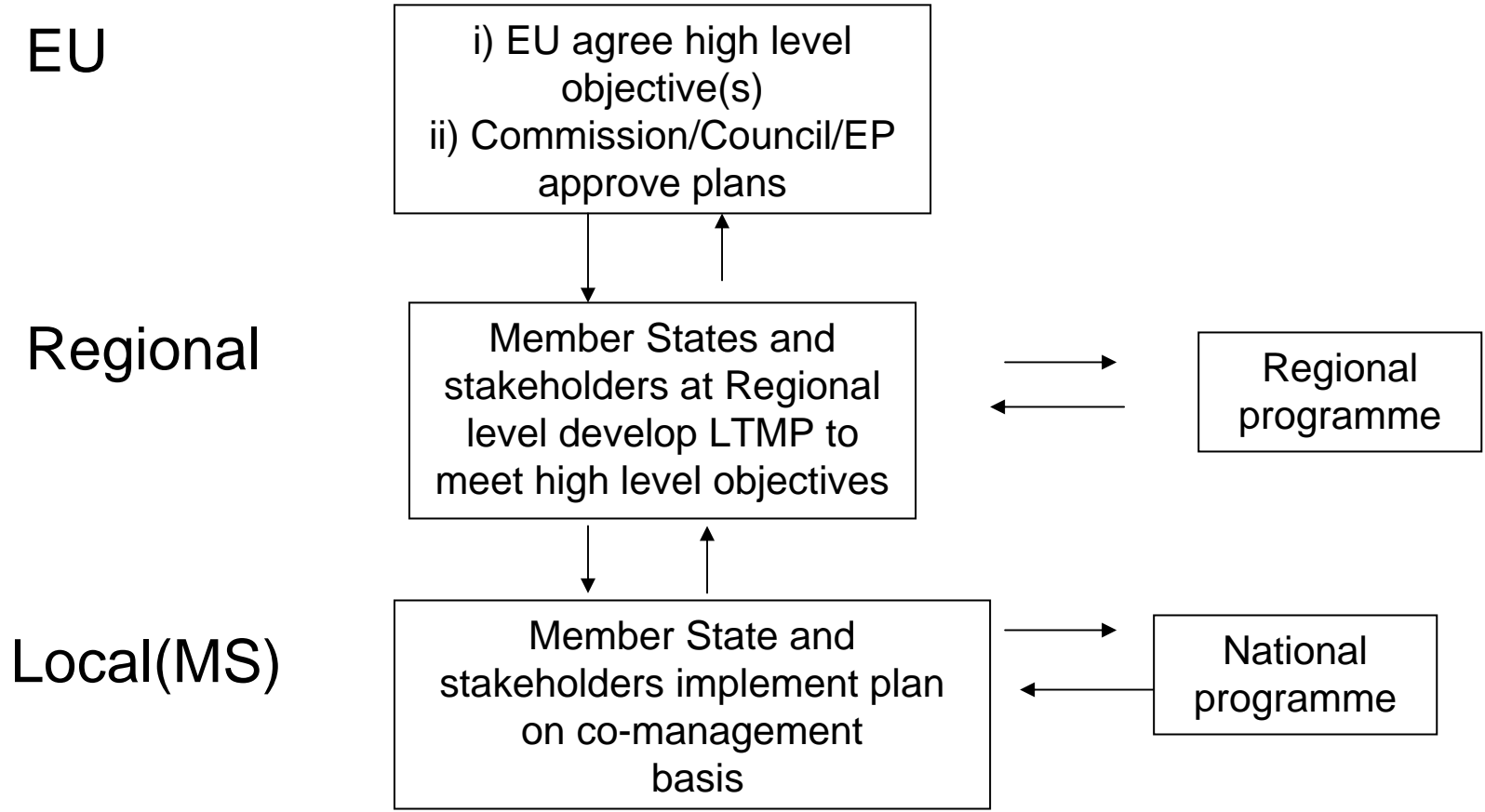
- **Mixed stakeholder groups** (catch sector, managers (govt), NGOs, processors, scientists)
- **Environmental Impact Assessment** – address impacts on target and non target species/habitats
- **Capacity assessment** – if overcapacity identified agree action at multi Member State level and implement at Member State level.
- **Identify clear targets** for management including discard mitigation, capacity reduction, habitat protection
- **Agree strategies for achieving targets**
- **Unambiguous harvest control rules**
- **Trigger level(s)** for plan to move from ‘normal’ to ‘recovery’
- **Review period agreed**





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## How it would work





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## Why WWF is promoting this approach

Fisheries based LTMPs provide an effective framework for setting and **meeting CFP objectives**

Provides effective **devolution of decision making** by establishing stakeholder co-decision at regional and member state level

It is **flexible**, can be scaled up or down depending on need of fishery





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It provides a means of tailoring management for each fishery, including the most appropriate **access mechanism** and **technical measures** for each fishery.

As these are agreed by the stakeholders themselves (bottom up) they should have high buy in and high levels of **compliance**.

Taken as a whole this should deliver **ecosystem based management** to European fisheries





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## In conclusion

- Well managed closed areas with clear targets can be an effective conservation tool in fisheries management
- Probably most effective when used as part of a suite of measures and when stakeholders form part of the decision making process
- Future CFP should establish a clear framework to facilitate this in the form of mandatory, stakeholder led long term management plans for all EU fisheries





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Thank you

