

fishermen, stewards of the sea

Dunbar, a town founded on fishing, once a leading Herring port

DUNBAR

CHANGES

Water

The water is cleaner than it used to be but some species like flounders and Jenny Rag love sewage outflows...
It's getting warmer, the fish have gone north. I've not seen Cod in a long while...

Species Change

Many more cetaceans...
After years of diving I see much less diversity - even on wrecks...
There's no more Scallops round the Isle of May...
Few Blue mussels...
Crabs no longer coming into shore, hardly any left...
Lots of large Jellyfish...
Hundreds of Brittle stars in the last 5 years, eating everything...
Hundreds of Octopus eating Crabs and even Lobsters in creels...
Still some Anemones, Deadman's fingers, Sand eels, Pipe fish...

Livelihoods

10 years ago there were 30 fishing boats now there are 14...
You inherit a boat or you have to mortgage your house to get one...
Most boats have been sold. All those livelihoods gone...
Creeling and prawning is affected by windfarm cable surveys...
Static gear bought with compensation has increased pressure and competition...
Plenty of smaller Lobsters and many more Lobster fishermen. Mounds of creels all round the harbour...
A couple of Prawn trawlers...
Only small local markets - most seafood is exported...
Not sustainable for future generations of fishing families.

Issues

Licensing, Regulations, Certificates, Building costs and rates...
No training or jobs for the next generation...

SOLUTIONS

Limit number of creels
'No Take' zones with no trawling. We've seen abundance in 'No Take' areas like Arran...
New local marine activities
Snorkelling trips
Funding for hatcheries
Boat tours
Climate Change Protection funding
Local autonomy
Training for young fishermen