

CONSULTATION

We have been approached by several fishermen concerning the Buckie fishery.

We are aware that more fishermen than previously are currently fishing for Buckies possibly due to the lack of a brown crab market and the poor velvet crab fishery.

Some of our members are concerned that if the Buckie fishery is exploited all year round that it will be over fished. The suggestion therefore of a seasonal Buckie fishery has been suggested to the Board. The directors are of the opinion that this seems to be a rational idea but wish to consult with our licensed members regarding this.

The suggestion is that the Buckie fishery is open from 1 January – 30 June each year and then closed for the rest of the year to protect the stocks when there are other fisheries to prosecute. This also works in well with the time they reproduce – typically October and November and, therefore, the period when catch rates decline.

I enclose a consultation paper which we hope you will consider and return to us.

All responses are to be back with us by 6 June 2016.