

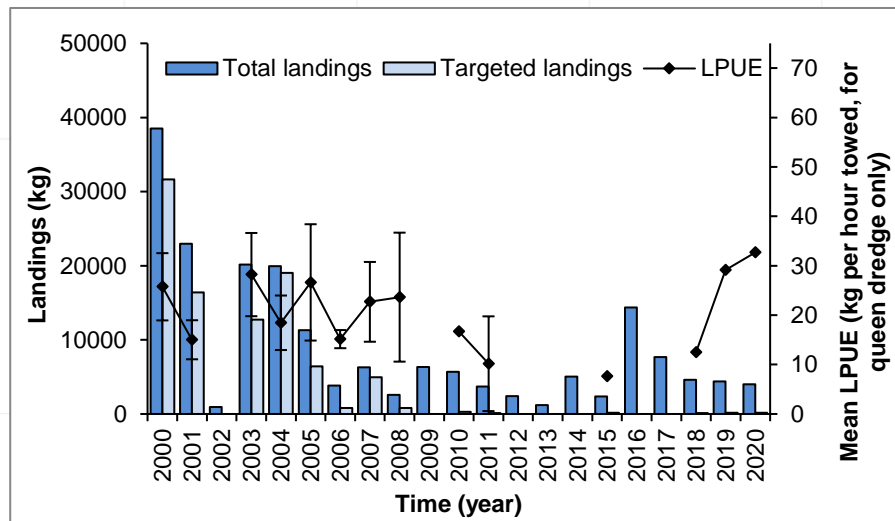


Queen Scallop Fishery

The Shetland queen scallop (*Aequipecten opercularis*) fishery is comprised of some limited targeted queen fishing with the majority of landings resulting from bycatch in the king scallop fishery (*Pecten maximus*). Most queen scallops are processed locally, the remainder are shipped live by vivier operators, most notably in the winter. Market conditions are thought to be the driver of the fishery, affecting effort and landings.

Historically, the queen scallop fishery was an important one in Shetland. Since data has been recorded via the submission of SSMO logsheets, annual landings have ranged between one and 40 tonnes, and these fluctuations in landings reflect an irregular fishery (Figure 1).

The overall trend in landings of queen scallops around Shetland declined between 2000 and 2015 with a slight peak in 2016 with landings just over 7.5 tonnes. This has since fallen under 5 tonnes in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (Figure 1). There has been little in the way of targeted queen scallop fishing since 2008.



obtained from SSMO logbook data with 95% confidence intervals shown.

The mean landings per unit effort (LPUE) from targeted fishing has shown a degree of variability, partly due to the level of data available from this sporadic fishery, and significant variations in LPUE are found between vessels, and the non-targeted fishery for queen scallops. It is therefore difficult to draw any conclusions from LPUE data.

Targeted queen fishing occurred in only two SSMO squares in 2020 on the west coast of the Mainland (Figures 2&3) while the landings as bycatch were caught in Yell Sound and to the north and east of Whalsay (Figure 4). The targeted and bycatch fisheries both show consistent spatial distribution from year to year.

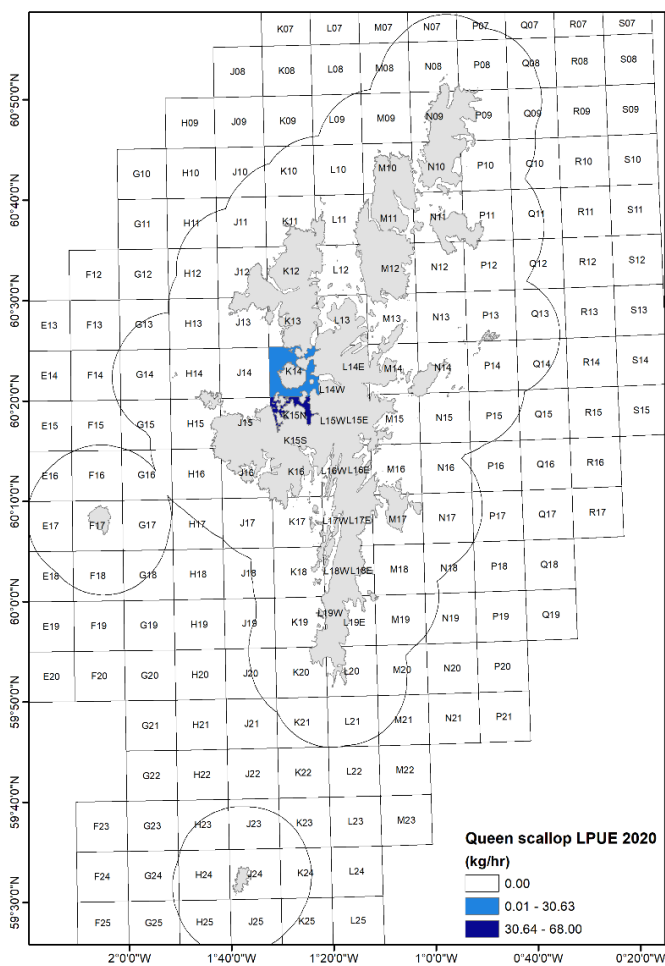


Figure 2 Geographic distribution of queen scallop LPUE per SSMO statistical square in 2020.

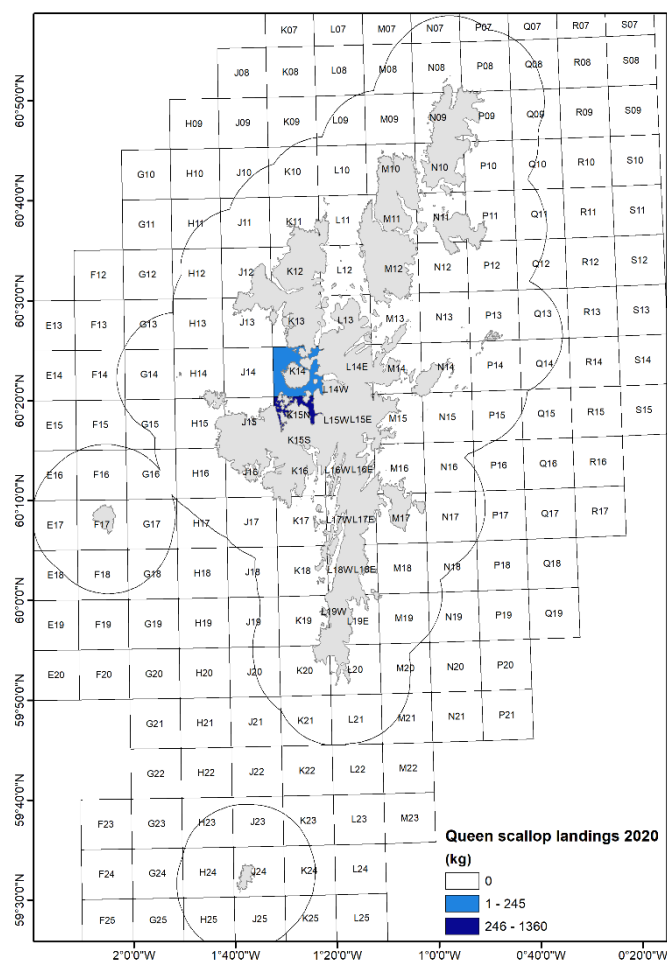


Figure 3 Geographic distribution of queen scallop landings per SSMO statistical square in 2020.

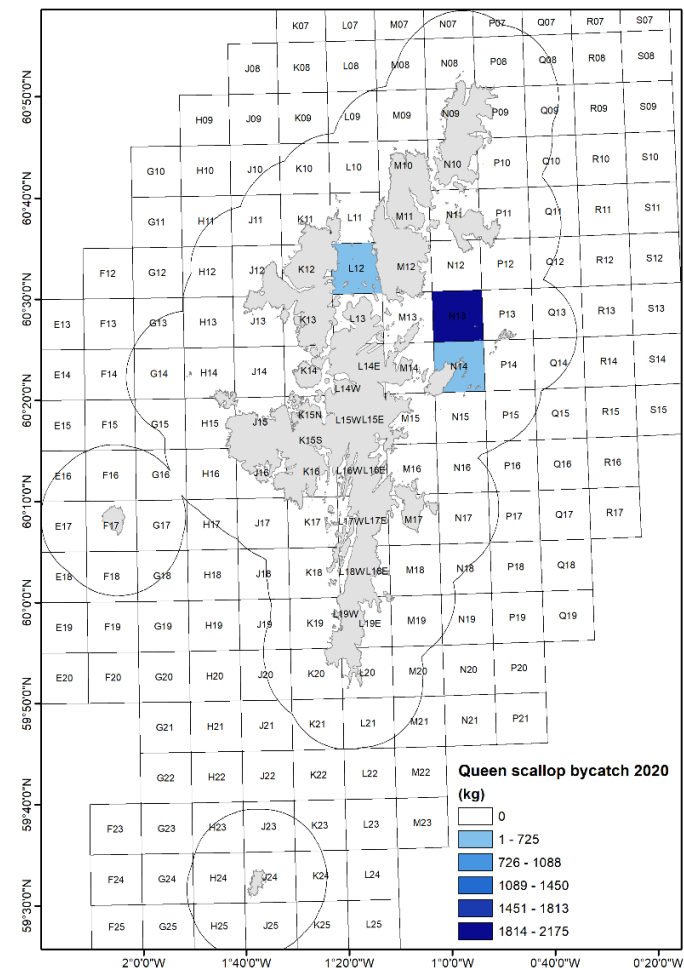


Figure 4 Geographic distribution of queen scallop bycatch per SSMO statistical square in 2020.