

1) How has whelk fishing been this year?

Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good
1		6	6	1

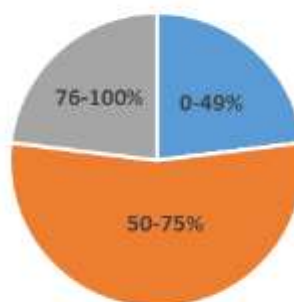
Is there any specific reason for this?  
**Very poor-average:** not right weather conditions, sea temp too hot  
**Good-very good:** resting the ground through Winter, not over-fishing, I'm the only one fishing in the area

2) Where have you sold your catch to this year (fill in estimated percentage)?

Within KEIFCA district	5	Within UK	8	Internationally (France, Belgium etc)	
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3) On average how many people have you employed fishing for whelks this year?

4) What percentage does whelk fishing contribute to your total income from fishing?



5) How have prices for whelks fared over the year?

Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good
1		4	7	1

Is there any specific reason for this?  
**Very poor:** whelk prices have not increased for many years  
**Good:** demand from buyers pushing up price, good demand

6) What kind of numbers of juveniles or small whelks have you seen this year?

Very Low	Low	Average	High	Very High
	1	8	2	2

Is there any specific reason for this?  
**High:** when large whelks are caught small ones move in on the ground, good stock

Any other comments on the fishery this year?

- too many part-time fishermen who have other jobs, too many boats from other ports fishing too many pots
- quantity of pots could be increased looking at amount of small whelks which will soon be sizeable
- the hot Summer killed it off for a while but back to normal now
- we would still like a reduction in pots in our area (area 4)
- fishing as normal Winter/Spring 2014, water temp above average for Summer/Autumn 2014. Whelks have not moved in from deep water to shallow ground as usual, ? reason is water temp or no stock to move in from deep water channels. Has dredging parts of channel had an effect on stocks?
- fishery has been very consistent, this I believe is to do with the number of pots being fished

7) What do you think fishing will be like next year?

Very Poor	Poor	Normal	Good	Very Good
		6	7	

**Is there any reason why you think that?**

- seeing a lot of small whelks on the ground and hopefully the weather will be normal
- loads of small whelks
- see how catches are in January 2015 after whelks stopped spawning. Fishing is usually good at this time for Jan, Feb, Mar if not too cold (water temp)

**8) What do you think the management of the stock should be next year?**

Number of pots

Category 1 (Full time)

Category 2 (Hobby)

Less than  
300 pots

Keep at  
300 pots

More than  
300 pots

Less than  
10 pots

Keep at  
10 pots

More than  
10 pots

4

5

5

2

2

**Additional comment:**

- 300 pots are far too many for one boat in a small area. You can earn a living with 120 without wiping out the beds. Hobby fishermen should not be allowed to put pots down
- it would be nice to have the option of putting more pots out when we are not netting as we go 3 handed
- fewer boats fishing = more pots per boat, for same fishing effort
- not giving out too many permits
- 300 pots is not enough to support 3 wages. 400 would be more suitable 100 each and 100 for running costs
- provided that the fishery isn't swamped with boats then a living can be made with 300 pots fished properly

Riddle size (The size of the gauge used to measure the riddle)

Less than  
22mm

Keep at  
22mm

More than  
22mm

2

12

**Additional comment:**

Less than 22mm: maybe a bit less to match the minimum size limit in length

Less than 22mm: inshore whelk fishing means smaller whelks usually. Whelks breed at well under the size of shell that passes through a 22mm riddle. This can be seen 1st hand during the breeding season Dec-Feb

Escape holes

Less than 2  
holes

Keep at 2 holes

More than 2  
holes

9

4

Less than  
22mm diameter

Keep at 22mm  
diameter

More than  
22mm diameter

8

**Additional comment:**

- in my fishery it all works well
- if we leave the pots for more than one week the whelks get out as the mud rises
- every hole should be 22mm not only 2 and loads of small holes

**9) Is there any research you think we should carry out to better understand the stock?**

- would like to know how far the whelks travel
- research into how long in time a whelk takes to grow from spawning to 45-50mm in size to gain an understanding of the stock we are fishing each year and from which spawning year we are catching by size of whelks
- breeding sizes of whelks should be better understood, small whelks are not necessarily immature. KEIFCA should stop all whelk fishing Dec-Feb to let them breed