**Marine Project**

**Oral History of Fishing in Coigach Brief**

**Background**The Marine Project forms part of the Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape Partnership (CALLP) Scheme which is delivering 28 heritage projects from 2016-2021. The Marine Project involves Scottish Wildlife Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage and has the following vision:

* *‘Generate greater awareness and knowledge of Coigach and Assynt’s rich marine heritage and how people can engage more actively with it.‘*

Within this vision are the four main activities of the project:

* *Inter-Tidal Zone Surveying*
* *Cetacean Monitoring, with Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT)*
* *Sustainable Seafood Festivals*
* *Oral History of Fishing in Coigach*

This Brief pertains only to the *Oral History of Fishing in Coigach* component of the Marine Project and provides further detail on the scale and scope of the works proposed over the project’s duration.

**Oral History of Fishing Industry in Coigach**

The contractor for this activity will seek to record the present status of the fisheries and the remembered history and stories associated with the development of fishing around the peninsula following the first use of creels for catching prawns in the early 1970s and Salmon Fisheries in the 60s/70s. The project will seek to chart and record the evolution and progression of fishing practices and the livelihoods that these have supported over the last half century, in turn recording lessons for contemporary management approaches.

The objective is to shadow different fishing practices that make up the Fishing in Coigach and recording interviewees about their work, getting them to speak about their experiences and what they did, and now do, and how present conditions are shaping their future livelihoods. Each interviewee would discuss their job, history, what they like/dislike about the work, views on industry in context of what is happening environmentally, and the threats and potential benefits they see. The interviewees targeted would include workers on Ullapool trawlers, Ullapool/Coigach creel boats, Scallop divers, Fish Farmers, Tour boat operators, Ferry crews, Winkle pickers, and oyster/Seaweed farmers. The interviews will make up a valuable record of the status of marine livelihoods and the wider marine environment.

**Activity Aims**

* 10 interviews of local fishers (past and present) covering a combination of fisheries and gears from Coigach
* Document historical photographs or photograph related paraphernalia that may be shared during the interview
* To review available relevant interviews previously recorded e.g. Ullapool Museum, Two Lochs Radio
* Summarise the interviews, highlighting relevant information with regards to the fishing industry of Coigach
* Write a booklet charting the evolution of fishing practice and livelihoods over the last 50 years in Coigach in A5 format or similar, with DVD pocket.
* Produce Display on foam board/pop up banner to 4 x A1 layout
* Collate contents of interviews, booklet, documented historical photographs on interactive DVD
* Presentation of the summary of the Fishing in Coigach for validation with interviewees and wider community of Coigach

**Oral history project activities/ Scope of the work**

***Community Interviews*:** Oral history will be collected through interviews with a selection of people relevant to the Coigach Fishery. Some of these will be older local residents who have been involved in the fisheries of Coigach; some of these will be workers presently involved in the fishery of Coigach; some of these have been identified, others will be selected by the oral historian; further interviews will be referenced from previously recorded interviews.

***Supporting Documents****:* Research will be undertaken to identify and document existing archival material related to the Fishery of Coigach that interviewees may wish to highlight to the interviewer. Also local and regional heritage agencies including Coigach Heritage, Ullapool Museum, and other relevant organisations.

***Presentation:*** A summary of the Oral History Researcher‘s findings will be presented to the interviewees and community of Coigach for validation.The oral history material collected will be preserved and made accessible within Coigach Heritage, Ullapool Museum’s oral history archive, and the Assynt Community Digital Archive.

**Budget and Timescales**

The Marine Project Oral History Activity has allocated a budget of £7,650 (inclusive of VAT) for completion of this work, and the production of materials. It is envisaged that the project will be undertaken within the following timescales:

* By 30th July 2018: Contractor appointed
* By early December: Interviews/transcripts relating to Fishing in Coigach completed
* January 2019: Validation interview to interviewees and community of Coigach
* February 2019: Full project completed

**Key documents and Information Sources**

There are various sources of information available, including project briefs, and budgets. The project team will also be available to provide information. There is a large amount of material available in the public realm, including but not limited to those listed below. These should be referenced and drawn upon by the contractor: Coigach Community Heritage Group, Ullapool Museum, Two Lochs Radio, The Scottish Fisheries Museum (Anstruther), and other relevant organisations.

**How to apply**

Interested parties should send an expression of interest and CV to CALLP Scheme Manager Boyd Alexander either by email to balexander@coigach-assynt.org or by post to Boyd Alexander, CALLP, 1 Old Coach House, Lochinver, IV27 4LE.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 23rd July.