

An Archaeology of Intertidal Fish-traps in Northern Scotland

Intertidal fish-traps occur where humankind has either modified natural features such as rock pools on exposed coasts or created traps on beaches within sheltered estuaries, typically built from stones and wooden stakes. These methods have probably been used since the earliest settlement of Scotland to catch many species of sea fish and migratory salmon as the tide dropped. Fish-traps were effectively banned in Scotland the early 19th century but many still exist in today's landscape, with examples of both types shown below.



Shoretown, Cromarty Firth
HES Canmore 13701



Scotlands Haven
NCAP-000-194-902

Archaeological investigation into intertidal fish-traps is however lacking, particularly in the northern counties of mainland Scotland (Fig-1) which forms the core area of my research.



Although research will focus mainly on archaeological and historical records, it is possible that knowledge of constructing or working fish-traps still exists within the memory of your local community. Therefore if you know of any legends, local history or verbal accounts about fish-traps within your area, I'd be very grateful for your input.

If sufficient interest is shown I'd be pleased to engage with your community through a discussion and presentation on intertidal fish-traps.

Please contact me by E-mail – r02ars15@abdn.ac.uk or Tel 01330 824957

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