Scottish Islands Award Programme (SIA)

Effective from 1st May 2024
Administered by the Scottish Islands Award Committee
Website: www.scottishislands.org
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Introduction

The Scottish Islands Award (SIA), managed by the Scottish Islands Award Committee, invites amateur radio operators worldwide to explore, contact, and activate some of Scotland's most beautiful and remote locations.

Scotland's islands offer breathtaking beauty and a warm, friendly welcome from their communities. Numerous activators from various countries have already experienced these enchanting islands and have plans to return. We encourage you to seize the opportunity to engage with this vibrant amateur radio culture - you won't be disappointed.

Historically, similar programs like IOSA and SCOTIA have been instrumental thanks to the dedicated efforts of many activators. However, after the cessation of IOSA by GMDX and the conclusion of SCOTIA following the passing of its founder, André Saunders GM3VLB, there was a noticeable void.

In 2024, George Funkner MMØDFV revived this cherished tradition under the new banner of SIA, with generous support from our main sponsor, Unicom Radio.

We have received official endorsement from Rob Ferguson GM3YTS and the GMDX Committee to proceed with the new Scottish Islands Award program. This initiative continues the legacy of its predecessors while starting afresh, retaining the original IOSA numbering system to maintain continuity with past and future activities.

For those interested in delving deeper into the Scottish Islands, several publications offer valuable information for visitors, activators, and chasers alike:

- **The Scottish Islands** by Hamish Haswell-Smith
- **The Western Islands Handbook** by David Perrott
- **The Outer Hebrides Handbook and Guide** by David Perrott
- **The Orkney Guide Book** by Charles Tait
- **The Shetland Guide Book** by Charles Tait

We wish all participants happy hunting and happy activating!

A. Award Categories and Criteria

A.1 To stimulate engagement with the islands, there will be two distinct categories of awards: one for the **chasers**, who make contacts with island stations, and another for the **activators**, who physically operate from the islands.

A.2 Only the islands specified in the SIA list qualify for the awards. Given the growing interest in the programme, new islands will be added regularly as they become activated.

A.3 The SIA program distinguishes between the objectives of chasers and activators, offering graded awards based on their respective achievements. These are structured to accommodate the different challenges faced by each group in their pursuit of radio contacts and activations.

A.3.1 Award Levels for Chasers:

A.3.1.1 Scottish Islands Seagull Award - Make radio contacts (QSOs) with stations operating from 10 different islands across at least 5 different island groups listed in the SIA islands list.

A.3.1.2 Scottish Islands Guillemot Award - Make radio contacts (QSOs) with stations operating from 25 different islands across at least 7 different island groups listed in the SIA islands list.

A.3.1.3 Scottish Islands Gannet Award - Make radio contacts (QSOs) with stations operating from 50 different islands across at least 8 different island groups listed in the SIA islands list.

A.3.1.4 Scottish Islands Razorbill Award - Make radio contacts (QSOs) with stations operating from 70 different islands across at least 9 different island groups listed in the SIA islands list.

A.3.1.5 Scottish Islands Fulmar Award - Make radio contacts (QSOs) with stations operating from 100 different islands across all 10 island groups listed in the SIA islands list.

A.3.1.6 Scottish Islands Cormorant Award - Make radio contacts (QSOs) with stations operating from 120 different islands across all 10 island groups listed in the SIA islands list.

A.3.1.7 Scottish Islands Shearwater Award - Make radio contacts (QSOs) with stations operating from 150 different islands across all 10 island groups listed in the SIA islands list.

A.3.1.8 Scottish Islands Puffin Award - Make radio contacts (QSOs) with stations operating from 200 different islands across all 10 island groups listed in the SIA islands list.

A.3.1.9 Scottish Islands Petrel Award - Make radio contacts (QSOs) with stations on 25 distinct islands listed in the SIA islands list throughout the calendar year, spanning from January 1st to December 31st. Unlike other awards, there are no island group specifications, offering participants flexibility in their pursuit of this achievement.

A.3.2 Award Levels for Activators:

A.3.2.1 Scottish Islands Otter Award – Operate from 5 distinct islands within a minimum of 3 diverse island groups featured in the SIA islands list. Achieve a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations from each activated island, ensuring contact with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

A.3.2.2 Scottish Islands Seal Award – Operate from 10 distinct islands within a minimum of 4 diverse island groups featured in the SIA islands list. Achieve a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations from each activated island, ensuring contact with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

A.3.2.3 Scottish Islands Shark Award – Operate from 25 distinct islands within a minimum of 5 diverse island groups featured in the SIA islands list. Achieve a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations from each activated island, ensuring contact with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

A.3.2.4 Scottish Islands Dolphin Award – Operate from 40 distinct islands within a minimum of 7 diverse island groups featured in the SIA islands list. Achieve a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations from each activated island, ensuring contact with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

A.3.2.5 Scottish Islands Turtle Award – Operate from 50 distinct islands within all 8 island groups featured in the SIA islands list. Achieve a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations from each activated island, ensuring contact with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

A.3.2.6 Scottish Islands Skate Award – Operate from 55 distinct islands within all 9 island groups featured in the SIA islands list. Achieve a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations from each activated island, ensuring contact with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

A.3.2.7 Scottish Islands Orca Award – Operate from 60 distinct islands within all 10 island groups featured in the SIA islands list. Achieve a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations from each activated island, ensuring contact with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

A.3.2.8 Scottish Islands Whale Award – Operate from 100 distinct islands within all 10 island groups featured in the SIA islands list. Achieve a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations from each activated island, ensuring contact with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

A.3.2.9 Scottish Islands Jellyfish Award – Operate from 10 distinct islands within any island groups featured in the SIA islands list throughout the calendar year, spanning from January 1st to December 31st. Achieve a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations from each activated island, ensuring contact with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

A.4 Participants are eligible to request an optional plaque for any award, which is engraved with their name, callsign, and details of the award. This option is available to both chasers and activators. The cost of the plaques may vary, so participants are advised to inquire about pricing when applying for the plaques.

A.5 For those earning the Scottish Islands Petrel Award (chasers) and the Scottish Islands Shellfish Award (activators), a special trophy can also be requested, with its cost subject to variation.

A.6 All awards under the SIA programme are issued at no cost as high-quality PDF files. Applications for these awards must be submitted through HamLog, requiring both chasers and activators to establish accounts on this platform.

A.7 After each expedition to a Scottish island, activators are required to upload their ADIF logs to [HamLog](#) to validate their activations.

A.8 Activators may accrue credits for the islands they have activated, which can be applied towards the awards for chasers.

A.9 Additionally, individuals (activators and chasers) achieving the highest levels of SIA awards will have their accomplishments featured in the SIA Digest at least once a year.

B. Eligibility and Communication Standards

B.1 Participants must be licensed amateur radio operators. The programme is not open to short wave listeners.

B.2 All QSOs with Scottish islands must be made by a licensed amateur radio station within the same DXCC country under a call sign personally assigned to the operator or club station.

B.3 An activator on an SIA-listed island who makes a QSO with another activator on a different SIA-listed island can claim that contact for the chaser's award.

B.4 QSOs are valid at any time across the following bands: 1.8, 3.5, 5, 7, 10, 14, 18, 21, 24, 28, 29, 50, 70, 144, and 430 MHz. Cross band, cross mode, satellite, repeater, and maritime mobile contacts are not permitted. There are no endorsements for specific modes.

B.5 The programme uses an automated application and verification system via [HamLog](#), eliminating the need for physical QSL cards.

C. Rules for Activators

C.1 Activators are required to submit their ADIF logs via [HamLog](#). For each island claimed, they must provide evidence of having made a minimum of 100 QSOs with different stations, including contacts with stations from at least 5 DXCC countries outside the United Kingdom.

C.2 The entire setup of an activator's station must be located on an island. This includes all components from the power supply to the antenna. Operating from boats, even if docked or anchored within a harbour, is strictly prohibited.

C.3 Activators may need to demonstrate proof of permission to operate, as well as evidence of landing on specific islands, especially those managed by the National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, or other proprietors. This requirement does not apply to radio amateurs who are residents or who own second homes on the islands. Permission is defined as the authorized right both to land on and operate an amateur radio station from an island. In some instances, approval from multiple agencies may be necessary. Simply holding an amateur radio license does not constitute permission to operate from any island. Compliance with any existing laws or regulations set forth by island authorities is mandatory to uphold the program's integrity and ensure responsible behaviour by all activators.

C.4 In situations where there is uncertainty or suspected non-compliance with these rules, the SIA Committee will request additional information from the activator as outlined in Rule C.3. Should an activator refuse to cooperate, object, or behave obstructively, the SIA Committee reserves the right to take disciplinary action, which could include exclusion from the program. It is assumed that a cooperative activator has nothing to conceal and would readily provide all requested information, as many have already done voluntarily.

C.5 Should an activator repeatedly fail to cooperate or violate the rules, the integrity of the program takes precedence. Such behaviour may result in the termination of the individual's participation in the SIA, emphasizing the program's commitment to maintaining high standards and the credibility of its awards.

D. Guidance to Activators

D.1 Ensure you have secured all necessary permissions to land and operate on your chosen island(s). This is particularly crucial for many uninhabited islands and should ideally be arranged prior to your departure for any expeditions.

D.2 During your activations, it's important to gather evidence of your presence on the island, which can be presented in various forms:

D.2.1 Photographic Evidence: Take photographs that show you and your station against a backdrop that clearly identifies the island. This is especially important for uninhabited islands. For inhabited islands, capturing images near a recognizable landmark such as a name plaque or road sign is advisable.

D.2.2 Logbook Signatures: Have a reliable person, such as the boatman or another service provider involved in your transport to the island, sign your logbook. They should include their name, address, and the date and time of your activation. Ensure that the signatory is traceable.

D.2.3 Transport and Official Documents: Retain boat tickets, invoices, and official receipts that can serve as proof of your journey and activities on the island.

D.2.4 Signed Statements: Obtain a signed statement from a recognized official on the island, detailing the dates, times, and their eyewitness account of your activation. It's important that the official is someone whose details can be verified.

D.3 These suggestions are intended to assist activators in documenting their activations comprehensively. How you choose to gather and maintain this documentation is at your discretion but ensure that all evidence is verifiable and retained for future reference.

D.4 Challenges have arisen when multiple activators have simultaneously arrived and operated on the same island. To mitigate these issues, it's beneficial when activators proactively announce their plans, which is particularly appreciated by directory holders from abroad.

D.5 Activators planning to operate on any listed islands are encouraged to inform the SIA Committee of their intentions as early as possible. This early notification allows the dissemination of their plans and provides an opportunity for other activators with similar intentions to coordinate and avoid overlapping operations.

D.6 The SIA Committee will facilitate the coordination of these activations to prevent conflicts. This coordination is contingent upon the full cooperation of the activators and their commitment to either stagger their activations or reach a mutual agreement if simultaneous operations are inevitable.

D.7 Therefore, activators are advised to provide as much advance notice as possible of their activation plans. The SIA Committee will assist in publicizing these plans through various channels such as radio, digital packets, the Internet, or other available means. This proactive approach aims to ensure smooth operations and enhance the overall experience for all participants involved in the activation of islands.

D.8 Activators have the freedom to choose their method of operation, as long as it adheres to the conditions of their licensing agreements. This flexibility allows each activator to operate in a manner that best suits their capabilities and preferences without violating regulatory requirements.

D.9 Many radio amateurs value collecting QSL cards as part of IOTA, DXCC, WAE, and other award programs. Activators in the SIA program are encouraged to respond to all QSL requests, whether they are received directly or via the bureau. While fulfilling these requests can be demanding, timely and consistent responses are crucial. Inadequate response to QSL requests can negatively impact the reputation of both the individual activator and the broader SIA program.

E. Management of the Scottish Islands Award (SIA)

E.1 The SIA Committee is responsible for overseeing the Scottish Islands Award programme. All inquiries regarding the programme should be directed to info@scottishislands.org.

E.2 The SIA Committee and any radio amateurs involved in administering the SIA award program cannot be held liable for any financial or other losses incurred by participants resulting from their actions related to the programme or communications with the committee.

E.3 All participants, both chasers and activators, must cooperate with the SIA Committee. They are required to provide any information deemed necessary by the Committee to maintain the integrity of the programme upon request. If a participant fails to comply with the Committee's requests or acts in a manner detrimental to the programme, their participation may be terminated at the Committee's sole discretion. Decisions made by the SIA Committee are final.

E.4 The regulations of this programme are governed by the laws and jurisdiction of Scotland.

E.5 The content of the Scottish Islands Award programme, including island lists, rules, and award details, is the property of the SIA Committee. Reproduction of this content, whether in print or electronic form, is strictly prohibited unless explicit written permission is granted by the SIA Committee.

E.6 These detailed rules aim to maintain a high standard of integrity and engagement among amateur radio operators exploring the Scottish islands through the SIA programme.

Official SIA Islands List

CL - Firth of Clyde

CL01 - Isle of Arran
CL02 - Isle of Bute
CL03 - Great Cumbrae
CL04 - Little Cumbrae
CL05 - Ailsa Craig
CL06 - Holy Island
CL07 - Pladda
CL08 - Sanda
CL09 - Davaar
CL10 - Inchmarnock

CL11 - Lady Isle
CL12 - Horse Island
CL13 - Burnt Islands
CL14 - Eilean Dubh

FF - Firth of Forth

FF01 - Isle of May
FF02 - Bass Rock
FF03 - Craigleith
FF04 - Fidra
FF05 - Inchkeith
FF06 - Inchcolm
FF07 - Inchmickery
FF08 - The Lamb
FF09 - Cramond Island
FF10 - Inchgarvie

FL - Firth of Lorn

FL01 - Lismore
FL02 - Kerrera
FL03 - Seil
FL04 - Luing
FL05 - Scarba
FL06 - Garvellachs
FL07 - Lunga
FL08 - Shuna (E of Luing)
FL09 - Eilean Macaskin
FL10 - Eilean Righ
FL11 - Eilean Mhic-Chiron
FL12 - Shuna (NW of Appin)
FL13 - Torsa (NE of Luing)
FL14 - Easdale (W of Seil)

NH - Inner Hebrides

NH01 - Canna
NH02 - Rum
NH03 - Eigg
NH04 - Tiree
NH05 - Coll
NH06 - Muck
NH07 - Isle of Skye
NH08 - Ascrib Islands
NH09 - Rona
NH10 - Raasay
NH11 - Pabay (Skye)
NH12 - Crowlin Islands
NH13 - Longay
NH14 - Wiay (Skye)

NH15 - Mull
NH16 - Iona
NH17 - Treshnish Islands
NH18 - Ulva
NH19 - Colonsay
NH20 - Oronsay
NH21 - Jura
NH22 - Islay
NH23 - Texa
NH24 - Gigha
NH25 - Cara
NH26 - Soay
NH27 - Little Colonsay
NH28 - Gometra
NH29 - Staffa
NH30 - Scalpay (Skye)
NH31 - Trodday
NH32 - Fladda
NH33 - Mingay (Skye)
NH34 - Isay
NH35 - Eorsa (Mull)
NH36 - Calve Island (Mull)
NH37 - Inch Kenneth
NH38 - Harlosh (W of Skye)
NH39 - Tarner (W of Skye)
NH40 - Oronsay (SE of Skye)
NH41 - Eilean Flodigarry (NE of Skye)
NH42 - Staffin Islands (NE of Skye)
NH44 - Eilean Imersay (SE of Islay)
NH45 - Orsay (Islay) (W of Islay)
NH46 - Gigalum (SE of Gigha)

OH - Outer Hebrides

OH01 - Lewis and Harris
OH02 - North Uist
OH03 - South Uist
OH04 - Benbecula
OH05 - Berneray (N of N Uist)
OH06 - Monach Islands
OH07 - Vatersay
OH08 - Mingulay
OH09 - Eriskay
OH10 - Sandray
OH11 - Barra
OH12 - Great Bernera
OH13 - Scarp
OH14 - Taransay
OH15 - Pabbay
OH16 - South Berneray
OH17 - South Pabbay

OH18 - Shiant Islands
OH19 - Boreray
OH20 - Killegray
OH21 - Ensay
OH22 - Eilean Lubhard
OH23 - Seaforth
OH24 - Mealista
OH25 - Scalpay (Harris)
OH26 - Baleshare
OH27 - Grimsay
OH28 - Vallay (NW of N Uist)
OH29 - Kirkibost
OH30 - Ronay
OH31 - Wiay (NE of S Uist)
OH32 - Little Bernera
OH33 - Eilean Chaluim Chille (E of Lewis)
OH35 - Fiaray (N of Barra)
OH36 - Fuday (NE of Barra)
OH37 - Fuiay (E of Barra)
OH39 - Rosinish
OH40 - Hermetray
OH41 - Scotasay
OH42 - Soay Mor

OL - Outlying Islands

OL01 - Flannan Isles
OL02 - St. Kilda Archipelago
OL03 - North Rona
OL04 - Sula Sgeir
OL05 - Rockall
OL06 - Sule Stack
OL07 - Sule Skerry

OR - Orkney Islands

OR01 - Mainland
OR02 - Westray
OR03 - Papa Westray
OR04 - North Ronaldsay
OR05 - South Ronaldsay
OR06 - Hoy
OR07 - Shapinsay
OR08 - Stronsay
OR09 - Rousay
OR10 - Sanday
OR11 - Eday
OR12 - Egilsay
OR13 - Flotta
OR14 - Burray
OR15 - Swona

OR16 - Swarf
OR17 - Fara
OR18 - Cava
OR19 - Copinsay
OR20 - Graemsay
OR21 - Gairsay
OR22 - Wyre
OR23 - Faray
OR24 - Eynhallow
OR25 - Auskerry
OR26 - Lamb Holm
OR27 - Glims Holm
OR28 - Hunda
OR29 - Calf of Eday (NE of Eday)
OR30 - Hellier Holm (SW of Shapinsay)
OR31 - Linga Holm (NW of Stronsay)
OR32 - Muckle Green Holm (SW of Eday)
OR33 - Holm of Scockness (E of Rousay)
OR34 - Papa Stronsay (NE of Stronsay)
OR35 - Holm of Grimbister
OR36 - Damsay
OR37 - South Walls

SC - Highland's Coastal Islands

SC01 - Pentland Skerries
SC02 - Stroma
SC03 - Neave
SC04 - Eilean Nan Ron
SC05 - Rabbit Islands
SC06 - Eilean Hoan
SC07 - Handa
SC08 - Oldany
SC09 - Gruinard
SC10 - Summer Isles
SC11 - Isles of Ewe
SC12 - Eilean Horrisdale
SC13 - Longa
SC14 - Isle Martin
SC15 - Shona (Moidart)
SC16 - Oronsay (Loch Sunart)
SC17 - Carna (Loch Sunart)
SC18 - Soyea Island (W of Lochinver)
SC20 - Isle Ristol (N of Summer Isles)
SC21 - Eilean Mullagrach (N of Summer Isles)

SF - Solway Firth

SF01 - Hestan
SF02 - Little Ross
SF03 - Islands of Fleet

SF05 - The Scares
SF06 - Rough Island

SH - Shetland Islands

SH01 - Mainland
SH02 - Unst
SH03 - Yell
SH04 - Fetlar
SH05 - Whalsay
SH06 - Bressay
SH07 - Foula
SH08 - Out Skerries
SH09 - Fair Isle
SH10 - Mousa
SH11 - Noss
SH12 - Vaila
SH13 - Vementry
SH14 - Papa Stour
SH15 - Hascosay
SH16 - Hildasay
SH17 - Papa Little
SH18 - Uyea (N of Mainland)
SH19 - Balta (E of Unst)
SH20 - Bigga (SW of Yell)
SH21 - Trondra (W of Mainland)
SH22 - East Burra (W of Mainland)
SH23 - West Burra (W of Mainland)
SH24 - Oxna (W of Mainland)
SH25 - Papa (W of Mainland)
SH26 - Linga (Olna Firth)
SH27 - Linga (E of Yell)
SH28 - West Linga (W of Whalsay)
SH29 - Muckle Roe (W of Mainland)
SH30 - Uyea
SH31 - Muckle Flugga & Out Stack
SH32 - South Havra
SH33 - Samphrey
SH34 - Ramna Stacks