



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Your ref:** LMH.HQ.24977  
**Our ref:** RFI 5883  
**Date:** 01 November 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Documentation and information regarding the Western Waters (ICES Area VII) Edible & Spider Crab Effort Management**

Thank you for your request for information about edible and spider crab effort management under the Western Waters Regime which we received on 4 October. As you know, we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I enclose some of the information you requested. Additional information is in the possession of the Marine Management Organisation and will be provided to you by them.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.



If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at [shaun.mclennan@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:shaun.mclennan@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours Faithfully

Shaun McLennan

## **Annex A**

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## **Annex B**

### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: [requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Documentation and information regarding the Western Waters (ICES Area VII) Edible & Spider Crab Effort Management**

**Request for documentation under the EIRs**

- 1. “We refer to the DEFRA/MMO letter of 10 June 2013 to Rick Mitchelmore. In paragraph 5 of the ‘Background Note’, it states that: ‘In a recent visit to the MMO, EU inspectors conveyed their increasing concern over the lack of active management in this fishery and the corresponding exceedances of UK effort limits. Please provide the official report(s) of the EU inspectors’ visit to the MMO and any response(s) provide by the UK.” *Paragraph 13.***

We have discussed this request with the MMO. They will provide information to you regarding this request in their letter (ref: ATI583).

- 2. “Please provide any written responses from fishermen received by the UK government in response to the request for comments set out in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the ‘Background Note’ appended to the DEFRA/MMO letter of 10 June 2013 to Rick Mitchelmore.” *Paragraph 17.***

No written responses were received from fishermen in response to the request for comments set out in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the ‘Background Note’ appended to the DEFRA/MMO letter of 10 June 2013.