

Single Area Licencing rules

The MMO is harmonising rules in relation to beam trawling for sole in 7e, which currently only apply to UK beam trawlers. This is known as Single Area Licencing. The new rules will apply to all nationalities of beam trawlers operating in the relevant area of 7e.

Beam trawlers that fish in the relevant area (UK waters of 7e east of 5° West. See chart) must not fish outside ICES area 7e on the same trip and must depart from and return to a UK port. Alternatively, vessels will be able to fish outside ICES area 7e on the same trip provided they contact the UKFMC before commencing fishing in the relevant area and prior to exit and on request make the vessel available at a checkpoint.

Notifications must be made to the UK FMC no less than 4hours, and no greater than 8hours prior to entering/leaving the relevant area. **UK FMC Contact details are: 0131 244 2286** and UKFMC@gov.scot . The information provided will be circulated to the MMO FMC Operations team who will determine any inspection requirements.

The UK FMC will inform the vessel to continue with their intended operations unless directly contacted by the MMO FMC Operations team for an inspection.

If, at the point the vessel enters the relevant area and the quantity of sole retained on board is different to the quantity reported in the original notification, then an additional notification must immediately, and before commencing fishing operations (in the relevant area), be sent to the UKFMC detailing the quantity of sole retained on board.

Where a vessel is not required by the MMO FMC to facilitate an inspection it may continue to any area outside ICES area 7e.

These conditions will apply from 04/10/2021 in British fishery limits, as defined within licence conditions and excluding waters of the crown dependencies.

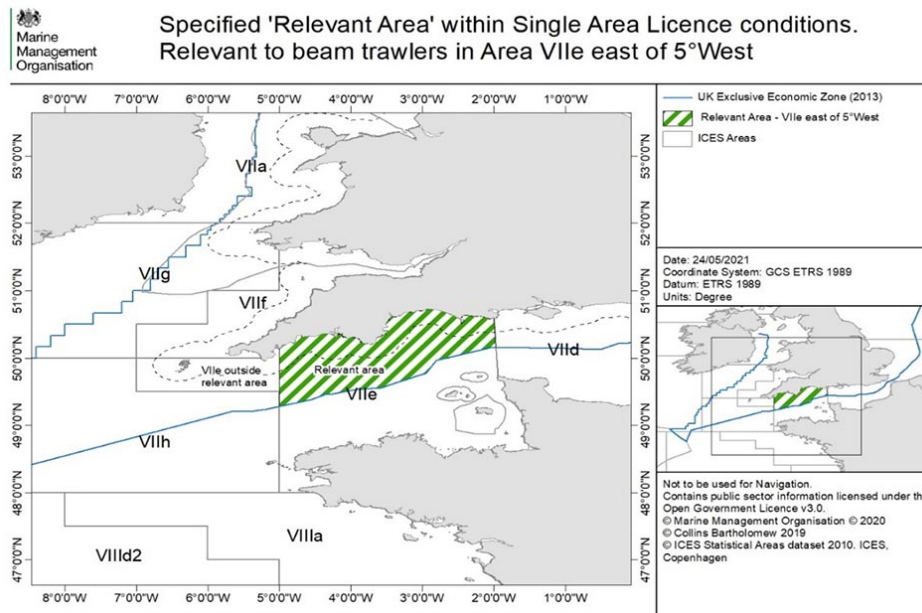


Chart 1: Single Area Licence - Relevant area (UK waters excluding waters of the crown dependencies)

Extract of Single Area Licencing conditions (please refer to your licence for full details)

Licence condition (based on foreign vessel licence):

- x.1 Where the vessel deploys beam trawls within that part of British Fishery Limits which falls within ICES area 7e east of 5 degrees west ('the relevant area'), it may not fish in any other ICES area within British Fishery Limits during the same voyage. For any voyage where beam trawls are deployed in the relevant area the vessel must depart from and return to (and only to) a UK port.
- x.2 The vessel shall be exempt from the provisions in condition 1 provided the following requirements are met;
 - a. The master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer vessel contacts the UKFMC at least 4 hours and no more than 8 hours prior to entry into the area in the relevant area and, if requested, facilitates an inspection of the vessel at a position and time provided by the MMO FMC Operations team, prior to commencing fishing operations; and,
 - b. The master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer vessel contacts the UKFMC at least 4 hours and no more than 8 hours before leaving the relevant area and, if requested, facilitates an inspection of the vessel at a position and time provided by the MMO FMC Operations team, before leaving the relevant area.
- x.3 The notification at 2(a) shall contain the following information:

- a. subject heading: NOTIFICATION OF ENTRY INTO SOLE RECOVERY ZONE RELEVANT AREA
 - b. the name, external identification, and international radio call sign of the vessel;
 - c. the name of the master of the vessel;
 - d. Date/time/location of intended entry into the area and the intended commencement of fishing activity in the relevant area in the following format:
 - i. in respect of the position of entry, the approximate latitude and longitude of the position at which the vessel will enter the area, and
 - ii. in respect of intended fishing grounds, the ICES statistical rectangles in which fishing operations will be commenced.
 - e. the total quantity of sole retained on board in kilograms live weight.
- x.4 The notification at 2(b) shall contain the following information:
- a. subject heading: NOTIFICATION OF EXIT FROM SOLE RECOVERY ZONE RELEVANT AREA
 - b. the name, external identification, and international radio call sign of the vessel;
 - c. the expected date/time/location of exiting the relevant area.
 - d. the total quantity of sole retained on board in kilograms live weight.
- x.5 If, at the point the vessel enters the area the quantity of sole retained on board is different to the quantity reported in accordance with condition x.3(e) above then the master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer of the vessel must immediately, and before commencing fishing operations, notify the UKFMC of the quantity of sole retained on board.
- x.6 The vessel may not be present in the relevant area whilst carrying beam trawls on board other than in accordance with condition 1 and 2 or when transiting at a speed of greater than six knots (except in the case of force majeure or adverse conditions) in accordance with condition 5.1 (*foreign licence condition*) or when in port. Beam trawls must be lashed and stowed in accordance with condition 5.3.