

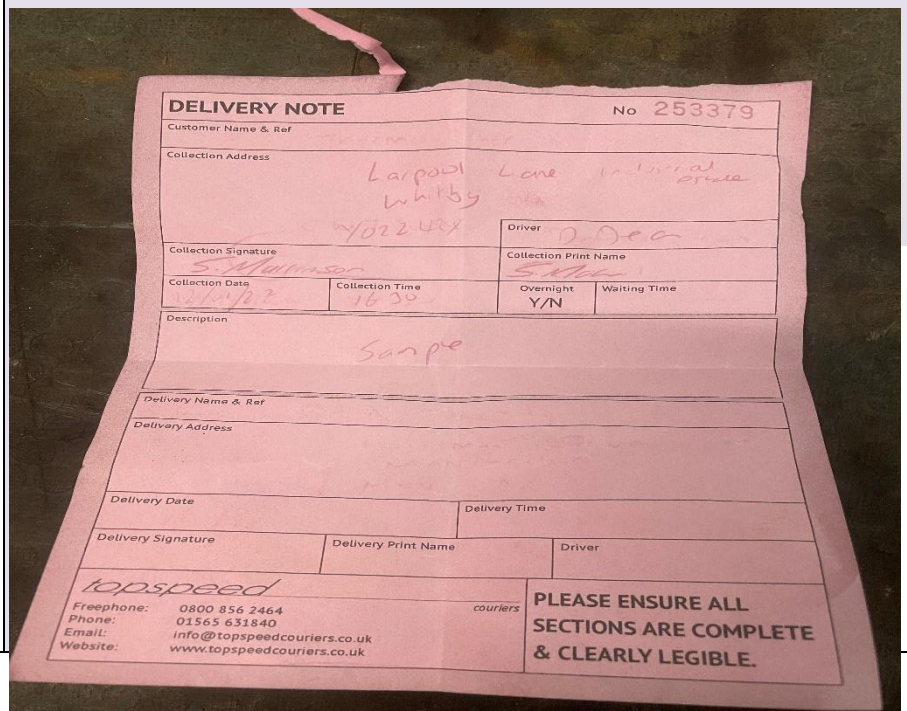


North East coast wash up incidents and recordings log Dec 2021 to May 2022

| Date | Time | Area |
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| 29 th December | 09:36 | Boggle Hole |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Email received from public | Email received from public stating he/she had received reports of dead crabs washed up along the beach at Boggle Hole with image attached from 27 th December. | |
| Supporting Evidence | | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 3 rd January | - | Social Media |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Social media fishing site | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Mark Cole Ross Winsler the tees has been a chemical hub for years now after dredging the grounds resemble black death on the seabed it's ruined the yorkshire coast yet authorities can't find nothing it's a big cover up job as sumbdies fucked the creelmen over I'm trawling and feel for the local potting fleet it's devastating</p> <p>9 hrs Like Reply More</p> <p>Ross Winsler Mark Cole we have 2 mussel farms and an inshore fishery for both white fish and shellfish directly in the area where they were dumping it and they said it wouldn't wash ashore or effect the fishing. Within a day of the first dumping it was all over the beaches</p> <p>9 hrs Like Reply More</p> <p>Mark Cole Ross Winsler all test on crabs they have done said they found nothing yet the pollutant that take s oxygen out of water cyanide and basically drowns the crabs was not tested for</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Mark Cole dredging the tees on a large scale to make it a Freeport and dumping the sediment at sea years of chemicals in the mud been disturbed now with half of the dredging done they now decide to take rest of it to landfill mmmmmmm</p> <p>9 hrs Like Reply More</p> <p>Ross Winsler Mark Cole that would make sense. We had a similar issue here off of teignmouth when they dredged Exmouth docks. It was labelled black sludge as thats what was washing up on the local beaches. They said that what they were dredging from the dock was just fine sand but you only had to go down at low tide to see it was a thick black mud which contained god only knows what from decades of commercial shipping that used the dock in the past.</p> <p>9 hrs Like Reply More</p> <p>Ross Winsler Mark Cole oh and they couldn't put it into landfill as it was deemed too toxic 🤢</p> <p>9 hrs Like Reply More</p> <p>Mark Cole Ross Winsler the tees has been a chemical hub for years now after dredging the</p> </div> </div> | |

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| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 12 th January | - | Social Media / Press |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Social media and news press articles (guardian, mirror, hull daily express, ITV) | <p>Vets across North Yorkshire and Teesside say they've been 'inundated' with calls about dogs experiencing sickness and diarrhoea.</p> <p>It has been reported in towns and villages along the North coast including Scarborough, Whitby, Saltburn and Seaton Sluice on North Tyneside. It is not yet known what is causing the illness.</p> <p>The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs told ITV News Tyne Tees it is aware of the issue and in contact with the Animal and Plant Health Agency.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | Websites and social media sites | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 12th January | - | Social Media |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Yorkshire coast pet care | <p>Advertised across various social media sites the following information has been issued by vets in the north east</p> <p>Yorkshire Coast Pet Care</p> <p>🚫 Public Announcement 🚫</p> <p>I work within several practices up and down the North East coast and we have recently been inundated with dogs coming off the beaches with vomiting and diarrhoea.</p> <p>Personally, until the local authorities have got to the bottom of it I would not recommend taking your pets on the beach for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>I have been in touch with governing bodies and they are currently looking into it.</p> <p>If your dog is showing symptoms, please make the local authorities aware as well as seeking veterinary attention should your pet need it.</p> <p>Stay safe 🐾🐾</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | Social media post | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 12th January | 12:30 | Social Media |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Scarborough Borough Council | | |

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| Supporting Evidence | Social media post | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 12th January | 16:30 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Courier TOPSPEED | <p>Courier topspeed, collected samples from secure lock up freezer. Courier collected the following samples from wash ups around the north east coast</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> 8th October – Brand sands P03921856 8th October – Redcar P03921857 22nd October – Merchant AB – P03921934 25th October – Marske wash up – P03921858 4th November – Hartlepool headland – P03921870 5th November – Redcar – P03921859 8th November – Runswick Bay – P03921863 9th November – Runswick Bay – P03921869 1st December – Runswick Bay – P03921855 </p> <p>Samples collected to be examined by CEFAS. Collection note issued by courier. Note number 253379.</p> | |



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| 8-10-21 | 8-10-21 | PO3921884 | Thomas Habron | Motive of crabs and lobsters etc |
| 8-10-21 | 8-10-21 | PO3921883 | Beach Sands Dead Sea Creatures Thomas for sea port Redcar | Motive of crabs, shellfish etc |
| 22-10-21 | 22-10-21 | PO3921934 | Thomas Habron Thomas for sea port Redcar | 1 lobster die when in presence of mud water from sea port, large amount |
| 25-10-21 | 23-10-21 | PO3921858 | Thomas Habron Thomas for sea port Redcar | Exhibits all die in presence of mud water from sea port, large amount |
| 5-11-21 | 5-11-21 | PO3921859 | Thomas Habron Thomas for sea port Redcar | Exhibits all die in presence of mud water from sea port, large amount |
| 8/11/21 | 8/11/21 | PO3921863 | Thomas Habron Thomas for sea port Redcar | Exhibits all die in presence of mud water from sea port, large amount |
| 4/11/21 | 4/11/21 | PO3921870 | Thomas Habron Thomas for sea port Redcar | Exhibits all die in presence of mud water from sea port, large amount |
| 9/11/21 | 9/11/21 | PO3921869 | Thomas Habron Thomas for sea port Redcar | Exhibits all die in presence of mud water from sea port, large amount |
| 1/12/21 | 1/12/21 | PO3921856 | Thomas Habron Thomas for sea port Redcar | Exhibits all die in presence of mud water from sea port, large amount |
| 1/12/21 | 1/12/21 | PO3921857 | Thomas Habron Thomas for sea port Redcar | Exhibits all die in presence of mud water from sea port, large amount |

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| Supporting Evidence | Delivery Note 253379 and evidence exhibit log. |
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| Date | Time | Area |
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| 14th January | - | News media |

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| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured |
| Member of the public | One owner, said: "My six-month-old Lab has had horrendous diarrhoea for the past four days, thankfully he's now almost back to his usual self." She added: "We have walked on both the beach at Robin Hood's Bay and the railway line at Bay / Thorpe ." |

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| Supporting Evidence | NA |
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| Date | Time | Area |
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| 14th January | - | News media |

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| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured |
| Member of the public | "My dog fell ill last weekend after being walked down the gare at Redcar... five days he was ill, whilst in the vets there was also another dog who had been walked down there and was ill." |

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| Supporting Evidence | NA |
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| Date | Time | Area |
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| 15th January | - | News media |

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| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured |
| ITV News | Fishermen are stating that they are scared for livelihoods. Fishermen across Yorkshire fear they could be forced out of business after masses of dead sea creatures have been washed up on the shoreline. One fisherman from Filey in North Yorkshire, said he is scared for their livelihoods amid claims there "isn't a living thing" within three miles of the coast. Dead crabs and rotting lobsters were littered across the coastline |

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| | <p>between Marske and Saltburn in October but now fishermen in Filey are experiencing a similar issue. According to him, fishermen believe they have lost up to 40 miles of fishing along the coastline, as crabs and lobster have disappeared from the North Yorkshire coast. He said: "Fishermen will be out of business. It will be a disaster, there will be no tourists or anything. The tourist industry will be knackered this summer. "No shellfish in the sea, no crabs or lobsters, everything is dead for three miles out. "Fishermen don't catch much at this time of year but there is hardly any stock left, it's a catastrophe."</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | ITV News article | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 21st January | - | News media |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| BBC news | <p>Fishermen in Whitby are calling for financial support from the government to "save" the North East fleet amid a mystery over mass shellfish deaths.</p> <p>Crabs and lobsters are dying by the thousands due to an unknown cause. Fisherman have alleged it may be linked to the dredging of the River Tees and want an investigation and compensation.</p> <p>The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) said it was "engaging with fishermen" but inquiries had ruled out dredging as a cause. However, Whitby Fisherman's Association said it believed the mystery deaths were linked to the work which began on the South Bank Quay in October.</p> <p>Two million tonnes of material are expected to be excavated in total to create a deep-water berthing facility - a move which the Tees Valley Combined Authority said would "unlock significant new opportunities for growth". Adrian Noble, who has been landing crabs and lobsters for 40 years, said his catch was affected about a week and a half after the work began.</p> <p>He said: "I had 8,000kg of lobster in eight weeks before this thing, now it's 12 lobsters out of 300 pots - something seems to have killed everything along the coast.</p> <p>"We're losing our livelihoods, we use £250 of bait a day, £50 a day for diesel and I have three men and myself that need to make a living out of it. "My boat's paid for but savings only last so long, the lads need money to live, we'll go bankrupt, it's very, very serious."</p> <p>He described the situation as "the death knell for the North East coast" and said serious answers were needed, along with a compensation package. Robert Goodwill, the Conservative MP for Whitby and Scarborough, described the situation as a "complete mystery" and "a matter of great concern".</p> <p>He said: "I'm vainly hoping that at some point Defra will say 'there's a Second World War vessel that has some munitions on and it's leaking out and that's what's causing it'.</p> <p>"But to affect such a large area and for traces of chemical either in the water or in the dead fish not to be seen is really quiet a mystery."</p> <p>He added that he would be "happy" to hear from fishermen about how it was affecting their income.</p> <p>"If we could pinpoint some particular spill or discharge that has caused it then of course compensation would be available following action taken against that, but we have no real way of knowing what's caused it."</p> | |

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| | But he warned that speculation about the situation could potentially undermine the markets as no toxins and no disease had been found. | |
| Supporting Evidence | BBC News article | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 26th January | - | News media |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Social Media and News articles | <p>Dead seals have begun washing up on an English shore - just months after thousands of perished crustaceans were found piled up on the same coastline.</p> <p>Worrying pictures show the marine mammals lying dead on beaches in the North East, near to the mouth of the River Tees.</p> <p>It comes four months since reports first emerged of crabs, lobsters and even octopuses being found dead on beaches stretching from Whitby to Hartlepool. The 'ankle-deep' piles of crustaceans sparked an investigation by concerned environmental bosses. The probe came amid claims by local experts and fishermen that deep dredging in the mouth of the River Tees had exposed local marine wildlife to previously buried underwater toxins. But the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) bosses have since ruled out dredging as a cause. And they say Environment Agency (EA) testing on the dead crustaceans has showed no signs of poisoning. Defra says it remains a mystery how the marine creatures died. And as of yet there is no known link between the seal deaths and those of the crustaceans four months ago. The investigation into the October mass wash-up remains ongoing and MailOnline understands findings could be published 'within weeks'. But with dead seals now being discovered on beaches in the area, pressure is growing on to crack the mystery sooner-rather-than-later. Academic and lobster fisherman, Joe Redfern, who holds a Masters in marine biology and works for the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities, says a lack of information about the investigations by Defra has fuelled speculation. Joe, who has been researching inshore marine life in the region for around two years and fishes for lobster off Whitby, said: 'What has happened isn't natural from my perspective, something has happened and we need to get to the bottom of it. We need answers and the fishing community needs answers. 'There has been a really massive impact on fishing and at the end of the day, that is people's livelihoods - and more than that, it is a whole community, a whole way of life for these people who have been fishing for generations.' Joe, who is also involved in the Whitby Lobster Hatchery project to raise and release juvenile lobsters back into the sea, believes better communication is needed between the investigating agencies and the fishing community. He said: 'I think it is unusual for an investigation to be taking this long. 'There have been a lot of unanswered questions and there has not been enough transparency from the agencies to the industry and not enough effort has been made to ask the fishermen questions. 'The fishing community knows about the populations of the animals and the species more than the vast majority of these researchers who are sat behind desks all over the country. 'They are the first people to see the warning signs and to know what is happening. 'I think a lot of fishermen feel let down by the agencies and there is an element of mistrust there as well and it really comes from this vacuum of not having any answers and not enough information from the agencies. 'It creates this vacuum where people are forced to speculate.' The calls come</p> | |

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| | <p>after dead seals were found on beaches at South and North Gare, Sandsend and Whitby. Four months ago thousands of dead crabs and lobsters were found piled-up along the Teesside coast, between Marske and Saltburn.</p> <p>One woman said she had lived in the area for 21 years and had never seen anything like the scenes in October - even after a rough high tide or a storm. Some experts and fishermen remain convinced the deaths could be linked to dredging of the Tees to create a greater depth for the Teesside Freeport - which opened in November.</p> <p>They believe this may have dislodged long-dormant chemicals from the riverbed which have entered the sea and poisoned marine life. But Defra, which is leading the multi-agency investigation, has ruled this out as a possible cause. It says that nothing in the testing of sediment or evidence from Environment Agency sampling suggests a chemical contaminant is a cause. They claim sediment at the Inner Tees disposal site took place in April 2021 and there was no evidence of significantly elevated contaminants. The investigation continues. Today a Defra spokesperson again confirmed that sediment testing has ruled out dredging as a likely cause of the dead crabs and lobsters. She added: 'Our priority is to understand the cause of the issue and investigations are ongoing.' A spokeswoman for PD Ports, which is the Statutory Harbour Authority, said they were also frustrated at the lack of answers. She said: 'As the Statutory Harbour Authority for the River Tees, we are equally disturbed by the number of deceased crustaceans that appeared across North East beaches late last year. 'We have continued to work alongside the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the Environmental Agency (EA) and other official bodies to provide all information we have available to assist with this enquiry which, subsequently, has ruled out dredging activity as a possible cause. 'We are committed to the conservation of the River Tees and share in the frustration that a cause has not yet been identified for this issue.'</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | News article | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 26th January | - | South Gare |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Fishermen and news | <p>Fishermen have described how their catches dried up 'overnight' and their businesses taken to the brink of collapse, after thousands of dead crabs and lobsters were washed up on beaches along the North East of England. An investigation is under way by the Environment Agency after dead shellfish - in some cases waist deep - began appearing along the Teesside coast between Marske and Saltburn, North Yorkshire, in Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, and Seaham, last autumn. It is understood that lab analysis will test the water for pollution while also analysing the dead marine life for parasites and disease. Now, fishing boat owners have described how the discovery of the dead sea creatures has 'absolutely decimated' their businesses. One fisherman, who has fished lobsters and crabs off South Gare for 40 years, as did his father before him, said he had not had a wage for three months. He told Teesside Live: 'It stopped overnight. It was like somebody flicked a switch.</p> <p>'I haven't had a wage for three months. A lot of people are looking into it. It seems strange, you would think if there's something there they would find it.</p> | |

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| | <p>'I've been to meetings nobody seems able to put their finger on anything. The problem seems to be spreading down the coast, all the way to Scarborough.' He said he fished before Christmas and got just 'three or four lobsters' after a full day's work. He continued: 'It's just not feasible. I've had to lay off my crew. You can't keep crews when you're not getting paid. It knocks the stuffing out of you.' The bigger boats that go out to sea are still catching. If it's your only job, you're knackered. 'We all got a good hammering with [Storm Arwen] too, gear got badly damaged, it all came ashore. 'As to whether it's totally killed things off, I don't know. We've got a long wait until the main lobster season in July and August, to see if they come out. 'I can't see there being anything before that. I've been fishing all my life - I've never known anything like this. 'You get quiet periods, but not stuff dying overnight like this.' A fish shop owner in Middlesbrough, said: 'Along this coast there's hardly any lobsters now, and for those you can get hold of, the prices have gone silly. I deal with two suppliers. One has jacked in, he's on about selling his boat because there's nothing out there to catch. 'Another lad went out all day for three lobsters, there's nothing in the pots. It's terrible, heartbreaking. 'They are just so upset about it all. I sell quite a lot of crabs and lobsters. They used to catch and then come in the shop and see me. 'I've not been able to get any locally, I have to go a lot further afield every couple of days. 'Everybody has their theories, it seems to be heading south now. It's just a big knock-on effect, it's absolutely decimated things. 'I know lads that have traps at the top of the Tees, at the Barrage. Everything was dead. '</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | ITV News article | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 26th January | - | News media |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Whitby Fishermen | <p>Leader of The Fisherman Association, told Yorkshire Live the problem is working its way south. 'Fishermen had seen other things come ashore dead too, like octopuses and limpets which had come off the rocks, it would take a nuclear disaster for them to come off the rocks,' he said. Mr Cole also claims to have spoken to a fisherman in his 20s from Hartlepool who had been living off £100 wages for the last two months after his fishing business was ruined from the lack of sea creatures to fish. He added: 'He said he was suicidal, he phoned me up crying saying my life and my job are ruined.'</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 26th January | - | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Whitby fishermen and lobster hatchery | <p>A Whitby lobster hatchery could be needed "now more than ever" - with populations "decimated" following the mystery of the dead shellfish washed up along the coast.</p> <p>Fishermen from Hartlepool to North Yorkshire have reported catches being wiped out "overnight", since masses of dead crustaceans started appearing on beaches including Marske and Saltburn in October.</p> <p>Government agencies leading the probe have ruled out both pollution and dredging as a cause, while port chiefs said on Tuesday they were "equally disturbed" by the discoveries. The Whitby Lobster Hatchery and Marine</p> | |

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| | <p>Discovery Centre is busy raising funds for a summer opening, to begin its work rearing vulnerable young lobsters.</p> <p>It aims to increase the chance of survival for 100,000 juvenile lobsters, releasing them back into the wild and "preserving the region's industry for years to come". Joe, who has a background in marine biology and is also Secretary of Whitby Commercial Fishing Association, said morale is "really low" among the fishing community in Whitby. "I deal with a lot of the fishermen at the quay and it's affecting businesses," he said. "You can just sense it down here, the way of life is really under threat. "People are concerned about what's going to happen in the future. "Catches are certainly down. "It's a worrying time. "These are people's livelihoods, they have to pay crews, mortgages, put food on the table at the end of the day." One man told him he's putting off investing in a new boat and gear. "It would be a big risk at the minute," Joe said. Whitby has two fleets, inshore - which fishes a few miles from the coast - and offshore. "It's definitely affected the inshore fleet, who don't have as much gear to take out. "With tidal flows, it's started to push [whatever the problem is] south." He added there had also been reports of dead man's fingers, the soft coral that attaches itself firmly to the rocks, washing up along shorelines. "They can survive anything; you usually never get them washed up. "Dead crabs have been seen and there are reports of limpets from off the rocks. "One guy has been fishing since he was seven, through storms and freak weather events, algal blooms - and he says he's never seen anything like this." Offshore boats are still catching, he says. "We're waiting till the end of January to be able to compare catch rates with last year.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 30 th January 2022 | - | Whitby / Staithes |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Fishermen | <p>Article in the Sunday Times, Headline reads Claws for concerns over mysterious killer wiping out Whitby lobster and crab. When fisherman Craig Locker put to sea last Wednesday, he came back with six lobsters in 14 hours — from 500 pots. In recent months his income has halved because of a mystery killer causing lobsters and crabs to wash up dead in Whitby, on the Yorkshire coast. The father-of-two has made a living from fishing for 25 years, the fifth generation of his family to do so. "These last few months have been very difficult," Locker, 40, says. "I have two sons, but they'll not be doing this." "We're struggling ... I've had a lifetime at sea, and now it's eating into my retirement funds," his father Howard, 65, adds. Whitby is one of the biggest lobster suppliers in Europe, with its fish served.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |

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| 2 nd February | 10:00 | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Merchant, Fishermen | Conversation had with NEIFCA shore officers, Merchant expressed concerns that no one from FSA, EA or Environmental health had offered any form of guidance on selling to the public since October 2021 | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 2 nd February | 10:00 | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Merchant, Fishermen | Conversation had with NEIFCA shore officers, Merchant told officers that fishermen have been going from South gare and not catching anything alive inside 2NM and have recently laid crew off due to the financial implications of not catching shellfish. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 2 nd February | 10:15 | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Merchant, Fishermen | Conversation had with NEIFCA shore officers; Merchant told officers that one fisherman is going from Redcar currently. The fishermen is catching lobsters but not catching any crabs. When fishermen is fishing he is still getting lobsters in the pots that are very weak and after fishing and making way to keep pots (6hrs) the lobsters are dead. Fishermen has been losing 10 percent of catch at the moment. The catch when going to merchant, merchant is still getting lobsters that are going on to their backs in the tanks. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 3 rd February 2022 | - | Whitby, Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| News | <p>The mystery of thousands of dead crabs and lobsters that were found washing up on the North East shores might finally be solved. Experts who spent months carrying out tests say they believe the creatures died as a result of a natural algae. An investigation was launched by The Environment Agency after the crustaceans were discovered on several beaches stretching over several miles in Redcar, Saltburn, Seaton Carew and Seaham. A government statement said: "Defra and partner agencies consider that the deaths of the crabs and lobsters potentially resulted from a naturally occurring harmful algal bloom. "No traces of chemical contaminants have been found that could have caused an event of this scale. "Follow up survey work carried out by the Environment Agency on the 18th and 19th of January 2022 has also shown live healthy crabs present in the area, albeit in reduced numbers." Some theories linked the issue to dredging in the area, but the review found "no evidence of a link between the disposal of dredged sediment and the deaths". The statement added: "Evidence gathered by Government scientists and multiple agencies throughout the investigation will continue to be collated and studied. "While this is no longer an active investigation, the agencies will</p> | |

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| | continue to work with local fishers and remain on standby to respond if further events occur." | |
| Supporting Evidence | ITV | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 3 rd February 2022 | - | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Merchant | Owner of company and merchant stated on ITV news that the business was becoming more difficult in getting shellfish since the wash ups, stating that orders were more difficult to achieve due to the fishermen not catching as much. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 3 rd February 2022 | - | Redcar, Saltburn |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| GNB News | On you tube GNB news presented Redcar to Saltburn chefs, mongers, fishermen and NFFO were on the video clip and broadcast | |
| Supporting Evidence | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkfykwTFWnw | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 3 rd February 2022 | - | National |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| DEFRA | <p>Press release issued stating the following:</p> <p>Defra and partner agencies have completed a thorough investigation of the cause of dead crabs and lobsters which were found washed up on the North East coast between October and December 2021. Following significant testing and modelling to rule out possible causes, Defra and partner agencies consider that the deaths of the crabs and lobsters potentially resulted from a naturally occurring harmful algal bloom. From the evidence found during the investigation it is unlikely that chemical pollution, sewage or infectious aquatic animal diseases were the cause of the deaths. No traces of chemical contaminants have been found that could have caused an event of this scale. Follow up survey work carried out by the Environment Agency on the 18th and 19th of January 2022 has also shown live healthy crabs present in the area, albeit in reduced numbers. A review of dredging activity and water samples found no evidence of a link between the disposal of dredged sediment and the deaths. The sampling of sediment that has been licenced by the MMO for disposal to the designated sites off the Tees confirmed that no chemical determinants exceeded concentrations ('Action Levels') that would be harmful to marine life. A further review of dredging, disposal activity and water samples found no evidence of a link between the disposal of dredged sediment and the mass crustacean deaths. This investigation was a multi-agency response, involving Defra, the Environment Agency, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA), the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Food Standards Agency (FSA), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), to identify what could have caused the event. Evidence gathered by Government scientists and multiple agencies throughout this investigation will continue to be collated and studied.</p> | |

While this is no longer an active investigation, the agencies will continue to work with local fishers and remain on standby to respond if further events occur. The in-depth investigation considered evidence from:

- Surveys by an EA boat, Humber Guardian, and shore-based monitoring teams.
- Traditional and innovative screening methods of samples of water, surface sediments, and crab which looked for over 1,000 potential chemical contaminants.
- Follow up on any indicative chemical signals, including pyridine, involving further testing of water, sediment, blue mussels and crabs.
- Washup events reported by the public and fishers.
- An analysis of crab samples for signs of infectious disease and naturally occurring marine harmful algal toxins.
- A review of environmental permits and industrial sites for evidence of abnormal discharges.
- A review of licenced marine activity in the local area (or deemed licence).
- Satellite imagery and phytoplankton samples.




While the chemical pyridine was initially identified in crab from impacted areas, further investigations by the EA established that pyridine was not present in water and surface sediment samples collected off the Tees, and that pyridine is found in crabs taken from non-impacted areas. As such, the presence of pyridine in crab is likely to be linked to biological processes.

Results from cyanide analysis were below the detection limit of the test. There is no evidence linking any reports of dead seals around the UK coasts to the investigation on crab and lobster deaths in the North East. The joint investigation has not found any evidence of a food safety risk from healthy fish and crustacea, including crabs and lobsters caught off the North East coast. While there is no food safety risk from eating crabs that have been caught in waters off the North East coast, it is unsafe to eat dead or dying crabs found on the affected coast. The public are encouraged to continue report any incidents of concern to the EA helpline on 0800 80 70 60 and industry are encouraged to contact NE IFCA on 01482 393 515 or ne.ifca@eastriding.gov.uk. Further information:

- Dredged sediment must be tested before it can be disposed to sea in accordance with international obligations under the London Convention, London Protocol and OSPAR convention. Sediment disposed at the Tees was previously tested and met necessary requirements.

Specific roles of each agency include:

- EA – Investigating pollution related incidents.
- Cefas – Investigating disease, harmful toxins and hydrodynamic modelling.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMO – Investigating whether licensable activity, including dredging and disposal, cabling and offshore windfarm activity, might have caused the mortality event. • NEIFCA – Liaison with local fishing community and intelligence on stranding. • FSA – Advising on food safety implications • UKSHA – Advising on any threat to human health. • Local councils – local outreach and advice on local areas. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 4 th February 2022 | - | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Fishermen | Fishermen was not happy with the response given regarding the Algal bloom being the cause for all the deaths. "Algal blooms in October not possible, yes in May maybe as they have been seen but it does not affect shellfish to the extent they have". | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 4 th February 2022 | - | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Fishermen, Merchant | Merchant did not believe the press release issued by DEFRA. More testing needs to be done if lobsters are still dying and further camera work and studies need to be undertaken as believes shellfish are still on the sea bed dead. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 5 th February | - | Affected wash up areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Fishing news social media | <p>On social media Fishing news Concerning that government are denying dredging on the Tees is the cause...when MMO authorised the dredging!</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Terri Portmann We know from the Whitsand bay case that the sediment sampling (perhaps our strongest ground) required sampling every 5 years and allowed the developer to collect samples. AL2 areas not permitted to dredge and dump, AL1 levels without tge required additional test allowed to be dredged, annually. They had not considered in a river with tidal flow that the AL2 adjacent to holes from AL1 dredged but would fill in 🙄 I'd be sediment sampling dump site AND checking AIS might show they didn't always dump in the prescribed area 😊</p> <p>Share 1 w</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;">  <p>Chris Attenborough The MMO are a complete shower... we have an area here that's a no tow zone to protect some silly worm in the ground, yet the MMO in their infinite wisdom granted an aggregate dredging licence in the exact same spot.</p> <p>Share 6 d 👍 1</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px;">  <p>Edward Temple Chris Attenborough big money talks its never been any different..</p> <p>Share 6 d 👍 1</p> </div> | |



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| Supporting Evidence | Fishing News Facebook | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 5 th February | - | Affected areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| BBC News, Experts stating not algal blooms | <p>A marine pollution expert has disputed findings that an "algal bloom" was to blame for the deaths of tens of thousands of shellfish and crabs. The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has been investigating after the animals washed up on the North East coast last year. On Thursday it said <u>algae was to blame</u>.</p> <p>But Tim Deere-Jones found Environment Agency data which showed quantities of the chemical pyridine were more than 70 times higher in some crab samples.</p> <p>Mr Deere-Jones, a pollution researcher and consultant of more than 30 years, compiled a report on behalf of Whitby Fishermen's Association after submitting a Freedom of Information request to the government department. He said: "The Environment Agency must have analysed for several hundred different chemicals, most of which were there in .0-something quantities, some of which were in quantities up to the tens, but what really stood out was pyridine, which was present up to 450-plus.</p> <p>"Apart from being astonished that nobody picked up that this one chemical was there in such quantities, I was astonished that nobody suggested that there be further work."</p> <p>Pyridine is a smelly colourless liquid used as an anti-corrosion treatment in marine infrastructure and is also released as an industrial waste product. The Environment Agency tested several crab samples and found 439mg/kg of pyridine in one from Saltburn, and 203mg/kg in Seaton, compared with 5.9mg/kg in a control sample from Cornwall. Other North East samples were lower though. Mr Deere-Jones said the River Tees was a potential source because of several possible ways the chemical could enter the local waters.</p> | |

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| | <p>"You've got a busy port with plenty of opportunities for it to enter the marine environment," he said.</p> <p>"We haven't got crabs and lobsters dying in, say, Newcastle, so it's to do with something happening in and around the mouth of the Tees."</p> <p>Defra previously ruled out dredging activity as a likely cause, however, Mr Deere-Jones claims his report "casts doubt" on that conclusion.</p> <p>"We had a very feeble attempt to suggest it was an algal bloom but I debunked that quite quickly," he added.</p> <p>"There was marine algae out there but it wasn't really what you'd call a bloom, and nobody took any samples to prove it was a lethal algal bloom."</p> <p>Sir Robert Goodwill, Conservative MP for Scarborough and Whitby, said he would be meeting Defra and the minister responsible next week to discuss the situation.</p> <p>He said if new evidence came to light "then we should definitely keep an open mind".</p> <p>"Algal blooms are quite common but usually associated with warmer weather," he said, adding: "I will ask them what is the degree of certainty they have regarding the cause."</p> <p>'Crab tissue'</p> <p>The BBC asked Defra why pyridine levels were more than 70 times higher in one North East sample, how Defra ruled that out as a cause and why <u>dogs had been getting sick on beaches</u>.</p> <p>Defra said it understood "the concern of the local fishing industry" and had completed a "thorough investigation" of the dead shellfish.</p> <p>"Significant testing and modelling has ruled out a number of potential causes including chemical pollution, sewage, animal disease or dredging. The most likely cause of the deaths seems to be a naturally occurring, harmful algal bloom," a spokesperson said.</p> <p>"Our sampling established that no pyridine was present in the water or sediment samples we collected but was detected in crab tissue from both impacted areas and non-impacted areas elsewhere in the country.</p> <p>"As such, any levels detected in crab tissue are likely to be linked to biological processes and not necessarily from the environment."</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | BBC NEWS | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 5 th February 2020 | - | Affected areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| News Articles | <p>DEFRA is standing by its conclusion that an algal bloom caused mass crustacea deaths on the region's coast, despite an independent report pointing the finger at a toxic chemical. Defra led the lengthy investigations involving multiple agencies that were carried out following the mass crustacea washup in October. This week it was concluded that a naturally occurring algal bloom was responsible but an independent report commissioned by the Northeast Fishing Collective says that the chemical Pyridine was the most likely cause of the mortalities. Pyridine is a hazardous chemical with various uses in industry and agriculture. It is released into the environment as a waste product from industrial processes such as steel</p> | |

manufacture, processing of oil shale, coal gas production, coking plants and from marine antifouling and anticorrosion applications. The Collective's report, written by Tim Deere-Jones, an independent consultant with 30-years' experience investigating marine pollution events, compares levels of Pyridine found in crabs on the North East and North Yorkshire coast with sample crabs from Penzance in Cornwall. It found that the Penzance crabs had 5.929mg per kg in their system compared to crabs analysed in Saltburn which had 439.611mg of the toxic chemical in their system. Crabs analysed in Seaton had 203.765mg/kg, in Runswick crab Pyridine levels were 22.0710mg/kg and further up the coast at St Mary's Lighthouse, crabs had levels of 77.917mg/kg. All of these were significantly higher than the 5.929mg found in the Penzance crabs, leading the report to state: "In the context of the relatively very high concentrations in NE coast crab samples it is very unusual and surprising that no further investigation of Pyridine in the environment has been conducted." The report goes on to suggest that these elevated levels were a result of dormant Pyridine being released by dredging the Tees for the Freeport which then entered the sea on local tides. It added: "It is proposed that the higher concentrations reported for Saltburn crabs may be a function of dredge waste disposal plumes and in-estuary dredge plumes transported southward by residual water body movements. "It is proposed that, the southward moving "residual" water has the capacity to carry combined (dredge and dump) plumes, with their associated pollutants, towards Runswick and points further south."

The report also concludes that following Freedom of Information requests to investigating authorities, 'there is no empirical evidence to support the hypothesis that the mass mortality was caused by any form of algal blooming'. Defra has maintained that dredging was not the cause of the crustacea wash up and a spokesman said that Pyridine levels detected in crab tissue are likely to be linked to biological processes and not necessarily from the environment. However, the chair of the Whitby Fishermen's Association, James Cole, has accused the authorities of a 'cover-up'. He believes that the authorities don't want to accept that dredging up toxic chemicals was the cause as it would harm the Government's green energy agenda of which the Freeport is associated as it will help serve a green energy manufacturing hub on Teesside. Mr Cole said: "We are very fearful that this Pyridine has got on to our beaches and if it has, how long is it going to hang around for and is it linked to dogs getting sick and seals dying?" "If

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| | <p>Defra is just saying that it is caused by an algal bloom and then somebody's dog is ill over it, we have a civic duty to bring it to the fore that it is possibly caused by Pyridine and why are they not investigating further when there is a public health issue?" Defra spokesperson told The Northern Echo: "Our sampling established that no Pyridine was present in the water or sediment samples we collected but was detected in crab tissue from both impacted areas and non-impacted areas elsewhere in the country. "As such, any levels detected in crab tissue are likely to be linked to biological processes and not necessarily from the environment. "Significant testing and modelling has ruled out a number of potential causes including chemical pollution, sewage, animal disease or dredging. "The most likely cause of the deaths seems to be a naturally occurring, harmful algal bloom." Defra says that satellite data shows that an algal bloom occurred along the Teesside coastal area from September 20 to 26 at high values and persisted until October 1, a week prior to the onset of the mortality event. Algal blooms are a naturally occurring rapid growth of microscopic algae which can lead to the formation of green scum making water toxic. When algae die, they are decomposed by bacteria, which can remove oxygen from the water, occasionally killing marine life.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | Northern Echo | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th February 2022 | - | National |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Fishermen, from affected areas | <p>Study links dead crabs and dog illness to dredging. An independent study has linked the deaths of thousands of crabs and lobsters and a mystery dog illness to dredging of the River Tees, raising concerns for the government's flagship freeport on Teesside – a key to the Conservative's post-Brexit, "levelling-up" agenda. The report has led local fishers to reject a government theory that an "algal bloom" is responsible for the huge piles of dead crustaceans that began washing up on beaches along England's north-east coast in October. A multi-agency investigation led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) concluded on Friday that the mass crustacean deaths, which the fishing industry says have threatened their livelihoods and led to fears of a collapsing ecosystem, "potentially resulted from a naturally occurring harmful algal bloom". Algal blooms are a rapid overgrowth of algae that can produce dangerous toxins in the water, sometimes marked by a coloured scum on the water. Scientists have warned that they are becoming more frequent and more toxic worldwide, and could be linked to the climate crisis. Tim Deere-Jones, an independent marine pollution consultant and author of the report, said there was "no empirical evidence to support the theory that it's got anything to do with an algal bloom". Deere-Jones, who has 30 years of experience around dredging issues as a consultant, instead said the data obtained via freedom of information requests from Defra and other agencies, linked the mass mortalities to a specific chemical, pyridine, which can be released into the</p> | |

environment as a waste product from industrial processes. "So far, the available evidence points clearly to pyridine as a potential cause of the mortality," he said. His analyses point to several potential sources of pyridine discharge to the estuary, which could date back decades, but has embedded deep into the seabed. "On the basis of the established fact that pyridine preferentially deposits out into estuarine sediments, rather than remains in the water column, it seems likely that the new deeper dredging being constructed has uncovered and redistributed pyridine-laced sediments to the regional marine environment," he added. While Defra said that "any levels [of pyridine] detected in crab tissue are likely to be linked to biological processes and not necessarily from the environment", Deere-Jones pointed out that samples from control crabs collected in Penzance had just under 6mg per kilogram of the toxic chemical, the Saltburn crabs were found to have more than 400mg per kg. "That's not a natural level, that's a human impact level," he said. Defra, which reviewed satellite data showing an algal bloom along the coastal area in late September 2021, rejected this explanation, concluding it is "unlikely that chemical pollution, sewage or infectious aquatic animal diseases were the cause of the deaths". The agency also said there was no evidence linking recent reports of dead seals, the mystery dog illness causing sickness and diarrhoea following walks along the coast in January, or the dead sea birds washing up in their hundreds in October. However, the North East Fishing collective, a group of commercial fishing associations, angling societies, conservationists and stakeholders along the north-east coast of England, have labelled the explanation as "utter rubbish". The group say they have all been "dramatically impacted by the recent events on the east coast. Our incomes have been slashed, our livelihoods under threat and our environments eroded." Fishers from Hartlepool to Scarborough say their catch of crab and lobsters remain 80%-95% down and dead crabs and lobsters were reported last week in Saltburn and Marske-by-the-Sea, which they say is unlikely to have been caused by an algal bloom in October. Following a protest last November, the group set up a crowdfunder and commissioned Deere-Jones to investigate. They have called for further investigations into the high levels of pyridine found in crabs and an immediate stop to dredging activity in the Tees, where they say one vessel "conducted a years' worth of dredging in 10 days". Commenting, Tees Valley mayor Ben Houchen said: "No dredging of the River Tees has been carried out by either Teesworks or the Teesside Freeport, the only dredging that has taken place is that carried out by PD Ports as the Statutory Port Authority. "I, like everyone across Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool, am concerned about the impact the death of so many crabs and lobsters has had on the livelihoods of people from across Teesside and the northeast coast that rely on a healthy sea. The Tees and the North Sea play a massive role in our communities, and I hope that we see our sea life and coast return to normal as soon as possible." A spokesperson for the fishers said algal blooms "do not occur naturally in our coastal waters in October. The temperatures are far too low" and demanded more evidence for the theory beyond satellite images. A Defra spokesperson said: "Our sampling established that no pyridine was present in the water or sediment samples we collected but was detected in crab tissue from both impacted areas and non-impacted areas elsewhere in the country". The headline and text of this article were amended on February 8, 10 and 11. An earlier version said that the independent study had linked the crab deaths and dog illness to dredging for Teesside freeport; although dredging has

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| | been carried out in the area, it has not been for the freeport development. A reference to "Maske" was corrected to Marske-by-the-Sea. | |
| Supporting Evidence | The Guardian | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th February 2022 | - | Affected areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| News article, affected fishermen | <p>Fishermen blast algal bloom theory</p> <p>A marine expert has disputed the findings of a government report into what caused mass crab and lobster deaths along the Teesside coast. Government department Defra blamed the strange occurrence on algal bloom following a four month investigation and extensive testing. But Tim Deere-Jones, an independent marine pollution consultant, says the cause is linked to a specific chemical called pyridine - quantities of which, he says, were more than 70 times higher in some crab samples taken from Saltburn and Seaton. Mr Deere-Jones has 30 years experience investigating marine pollution events around the world. He was commissioned to produce a report by North East fishermen working up and down the Teesside and Whitby coast who say their livelihoods have been dramatically affected since piles of dead crustaceans started to wash up on Teesside's beaches last October. Mr Deere-Jones submitted Freedom of Information requests to the government agencies involved in the probe to examine the data they found for himself. The North East Commercial Fishing Collective released his findings at the weekend following the publication of Defra's report which blamed an algal bloom for the mass mortalities. They maintain evidence points to chemical poisoning released from dredging in the Tees - although dredging was ruled out as a cause by the Environment Agency last November. Pyridine is a hazardous chemical with various uses in industry, agriculture and antifouling for marine vessels, said Mr Deere-Jones. It is released into the environment as a waste product from industrial processes such as steel manufacture, processing of oil shale, coal gas production, coking plants and incinerators and from marine antifouling and anti corrosion applications. The Environment Agency says they tested several crab samples and found 439mg/kg of pyridine in one from Saltburn and 203mg/kg in Seaton compared with 5.9mg/kg in a control sample from Cornwall. Mr Deere-Jones' report also says algal blooms do not occur naturally in our coastal waters in October because the temperatures are too low. An algal bloom would not impact the large area it did or last for this long - fishermen are still reporting dead crabs and lobster as recently as February 2 and 3 in Saltburn and Marske. The fishing community is now calling for a halt to dredging operations and more investigation. "We are a collective of commercial fishing associations, angling societies, conservationists and stakeholders along the North east coast. Over 50 concerned members were present at our most recent meeting on the February 5. "We have all been dramatically impacted by the recent events on the east coast. Our incomes have been slashed, our livelihoods under threat and our environments eroded," said a North East Commercial Fishing Collective spokesman. "Our collective rejects Defra's algal bloom theory as "utter rubbish". We release an independent investigation into the mass mortality events affecting our coastline showing the real reasons why we have been experiencing mass mortalities. "We are fighting for our environment, we are fighting for our livelihoods and we are fighting for our</p> | |

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| | <p>communities. We 100% do not accept the algal bloom theory. We demand the truth." "We want to know why further investigations were not conducted by the agencies in receipt of the crab samples showing high levels of pyridine," it continued. "If dredging activities will be halted immediately in the Tees until further investigations can rule out any hazardous impact of the dredging." Defra's report into the cause of the crab deaths was released last Thursday. It said no traces of chemical contaminants were found that could have caused an event of this scale and that follow up survey work carried out by the Environment Agency in January 2022 showed live healthy crabs present in the area, albeit in reduced numbers. Pyridine levels in crabs, it said, were also found in samples from out of the area and, as such, is deemed to be linked to 'biological processes.' A review of dredging activity and water samples also found no evidence of a link between the disposal of dredged sediment and the deaths. "Our sampling established that no pyridine was present in the water or sediment samples we collected but was detected in crab tissue from both impacted areas and non-impacted areas elsewhere in the country. As such, any levels detected in crab tissue are likely to be linked to biological processes and not necessarily from the environment," said a Defra spokesman.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | Teeside live | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th February 2022 | - | Affected areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Crowdfunding page established | Crowdfunding page established to raise £10,000 for the fishermen to undertake their own investigations and studies. Commercial fishermen are putting in roughly £100 in each. | |
| Supporting Evidence | https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/whitby-commercialfishingassociation-1 | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 8 th February 2022 | 10:30 | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Fishermen | Fishermen told shore officers that nothing was getting caught in the pots, the bait in the pots inside the 6 was not getting touched. Owner was having to weigh up the cost of fuel, bait etc to work out if fishing was worthwhile doing. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 8 th February 2022 | 09:30 | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Fishermen | Fishermen told shore officers that nothing was getting caught in the pots, after leaving pots for a few days if anything was in the pots it was hermit crabs. Pots over near Long scar bouy area showed no signs of life. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 8 th February 2022 | - | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |

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| <p>Press article on ITV news</p> | <p>Fishing industry Leader says algal bloom most likely cause</p> <p>Fishing crews say the mystery of missing sea life in part of the North Sea is proving “catastrophic” for their livelihoods. Investigations are continuing into why large numbers of crabs and lobsters have been washed ashore on the Yorkshire and North East of England coasts over the last four months, amid reports from crews of sparse catches. A range of theories have been put forward, including the role of dredging and pollution, but no answer has been found. One fishing industry leader said he believes an algal bloom may be the most likely explanation. Barrie Deas, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations, said on Wednesday: “An algal bloom – a natural event in the water that happens from time to time – might be the most likely cause, although not definite yet.” He said: “This is very serious for the vessels that are affected. “The fishermen are very anxious to find the solution and this is having a major impact on their livelihoods. So far, we’ve been talking to the scientists and we’ve asked local MPs to ask parliamentary questions to raise the profile of the issue.” George Lamplough, a fisherman from Whitby in North Yorkshire, said: “Our industry has collapsed in the last few months. We rely on these species for a living. “The effect this has had on us has been catastrophic. I haven’t made a wage in weeks. Things are getting desperate for us. It is impossible to go to sea, take the inherent risks and, at the end of the week, end up with less in the bank than before.” He added: “Eight years ago, I moved from the Isle of Wight to Whitby to be a fisherman. My livelihood is being stolen away and my choices are being reduced to losing the job I love or leaving the life I have built. George Lamplough, a fisherman from Whitby in North Yorkshire, said: “Our industry has collapsed in the last few months. We rely on these species for a living. “The effect this has had on us has been catastrophic. I haven’t made a wage in weeks. Things are getting desperate for us. It is impossible to go to sea, take the inherent risks and, at the end of the week, end up with less in the bank than before.” He added: “Eight years ago, I moved from the Isle of Wight to Whitby to be a fisherman. My livelihood is being stolen away and my choices are being reduced to losing the job I love or leaving the life I have built.” Fresh dead seals have been discovered on Yorkshire beaches as investigations into the death of marine life in the area continue. But the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), which is leading the inquiry, said there is no evidence linking the dead seals to the crab and lobster deaths in the North East. A spokesman said dredging of the River Tees has been ruled out as a likely cause of the crab and lobster deaths, with samples of dredge material required to meet the highest international standards protecting marine life before being disposed of at sea. He added: “If samples analysed for contaminants do not meet the standards, the disposal will not be licensed. “Testing of sediment at the Inner Tees disposal site has already taken place in April 2021 and there was no evidence of significantly elevated contaminants in sediment at locations around and within the disposal site.”</p> | |
| <p>Supporting Evidence</p> | <p>ITV</p> | |
| <p>Date</p> | <p>Time</p> | <p>Area</p> |
| <p>8th February 2022</p> | <p>-</p> | <p>News of affected areas</p> |
| <p>Person, platform reported</p> | <p>Conversation/ report/ evidence captured</p> | |
| <p>Fishermen in affected areas,</p> | <p>Fishermen are now calling for more evidence over shellfish deaths Fishermen struggling to make a living are calling for more proof from</p> | |

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| | <p>Government over the deaths of thousands of shellfish along the region's coastline. According to fishermen in Whitby, shellfish trade is down 90 per cent in the region with some now being forced to use food banks. It comes nearly four months after dead crabs and lobsters were first reported to have washed up on the region's shores. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has attributed the most likely cause to the naturally occurring harmful algal bloom - but the fishermen remain unconvinced. James Cole, chair of Whitby Fishermen's Association, said: "In all my experience as a fishermen over 35 years I've never known an algal bloom of this magnitude doing this much devastation. "We need more evidence of what's happened, we need more testing, we need more people to come. We've had nobody with any guidance come and see us and help us out of this situation. There is concern that pollution from decades of heavy industry on the River Tees may be partly responsible, with the chemical pyridine highlighted in particular. Calls from fishermen for more clarity from Government has gained support, with the local MP now involved. Robert Goodwill, Conservative MP for Scarborough and Whitby, said he has been meeting with the fishing minister - with another one set for Wednesday. He told ITV News Tyne Tees he would look into how strong the evidence is for algal bloom being the cause. He also said he wanted to see more detailed data on pyridine and whether it could provide an explanation. Dr Gary Caldwell, marine biologist from Newcastle University, said that algal bloom was a more likely explanation though further testing should not be ruled out. He said: "Large mortality events down to algal blooms is increasing and we think it's possibly linked to climate change. "But that's not saying that there aren't other factors that may be involved, because the site is impacted by industrial pollution through the Tees Estuary."</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | ITV | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 8 th February 2022 | - | National press |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Affected areas, media | Freeports is to blame for death of shellfish. The mysterious deaths of tens of thousands of crabs and lobsters along England's northeast coast may have been caused by dredging linked to the government's new flagship freeport in Teesside. | |
| Supporting Evidence | Independent | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 9 th February 2022 | - | National Press affected areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Affected areas and media. | <p>Why are crabs washing up dead in the north east?? Investigations have been taking place into why thousands of dead crabs and lobsters have been washing up on beaches in the North East. What do we know so far? The phenomenon was first reported in early October in Seaton Carew, Redcar and further north in Seaham. Crustacean deaths have been reported from Hartlepool down to Robin Hood's Bay. What is being done? Defra (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) has taken over the investigation from the Environment Agency, who were initially looking into the issue. So far, chemical pollution, sewage, undersea cabling, seismic survey activity and dredging have been ruled out as likely causes. Scientists are now focusing on whether disease or a natural event could have been responsible for the deaths. A spokesperson for Defra told ITV News Tyne</p> | |

Tees: "The Environment Agency and our science advisers Cefas have undertaken extensive tests to try to determine the cause and are reviewing the evidence gathered since the start of this incident, as well as considering any additional work needed. "The Environment Agency have not identified any chemical contamination in the area that is likely to have caused the crab and lobster mortalities." **What are the wider impacts?** Marine disease PhD student Amy Burgess explains why understanding and remedying the crabs' decline is so important, given the role they play in our ecosystem. Fishermen up and down the coast say their livelihoods are being affected because their catches are down. They are frustrated authorities do not know what is causing it and cannot plan for how long it will last or how far it will spread.

January 24, 2022 - Teesside marine biologist calls for more testing as Defra rules out dredging as cause of crab deaths. An expert on Teesside thinks he's cracked the case and has called for the country's top testing lab to get involved. David McCready, who is now retired after a 40-year career as a marine biologist and oceanographer, has asked for samples to be sent to the government science lab, Porton Down. He thinks that recent dredging, the process of excavating river or sea beds of debris, is to blame.

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said it had ruled out dredging as the cause, telling ITV News Tyne Tees that samples of dredge material must meet the highest standards to protect marine life. DEFRA also said that testing across the Inner Tees and the Tees estuary took place last April and found no evidence of contaminants. An investigation was launched by The Environment Agency and a government statement that was released said: "Defra and partner agencies consider that the deaths of the crabs and lobsters potentially resulted from a naturally occurring harmful algal bloom. "No traces of chemical contaminants have been found that could have caused an event of this scale. "Follow up survey work carried out by the Environment Agency on the 18th and 19th of January 2022 has also shown live healthy crabs present in the area, albeit in reduced numbers." The statement added: "Evidence gathered by Government scientists and multiple agencies throughout the investigation will continue to be collated and studied. "While this is no longer an active investigation, the agencies will continue to work with local fishers and remain on standby to respond if further events occur."

7th February, 2022 - Call for more evidence for cause of shellfish deaths on region's coastline, According to fishermen in Whitby, shellfish trade is down 90 per cent in the region with some now being forced to use food banks. James Cole, chair of Whitby Fishermen's Association, said: "In all my experience as a fisherman over 35 years I've never known an algal bloom of this magnitude doing this much devastation. "We need more evidence of what's happened, we need more testing, we need more people to come. We've had nobody with any guidance come and see us and help us out of this situation." DEFRA repeated today (February 7th) that their investigation points to algal bloom as the most likely cause. Although the risk to human life is believed to be low, people are advised not to go near the dead crustaceans. The UK Health Security Agency advises:

- Avoid affected areas of beach and coastline where possible
- Make sure you wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after coming into contact with any affected crustaceans

| | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not touch or consume any sick or dead crustaceans that have been washed ashore • Follow general hand hygiene practices – do not just rely on hand gels but wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water • Do not touch your face without washing hands first or whilst washing hands • If you visit the beach take extra care when returning home when removing outer garments such as shoes and wash hands thoroughly afterwards • Keep pets away from any sick or dead crustaceans <p>There is currently no evidence of any risk to human health relating to consuming crabs and lobsters caught off the North East coast, so the Food Standards Agency is urging consumers to follow usual good hygiene practice when handling and preparing crabs and lobsters to eat. Further guidance on food hygiene can be found on the FSA website.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | ITV | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 10 th February 2022 | - | Media affected areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Affected areas media, MP Simon Clarke and MP Jacob Young | <p>ALGAL bloom remains the leading theory as to what killed thousands of crustaceans which washed up on beaches in the North East, MPs have heard – but an independent report points the finger at a toxic chemical. On Wednesday (February 9) Teesside MPs Simon Clarke and Jacob Young met the Minister for Fisheries, Victoria Prentis, and the top scientists who are leading the investigation into the coastal crustacean incident. A DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) Investigation concluded the sea life deaths were a result of naturally occurring harmful algal bloom. But Wednesday's meeting came after DEFRA's conclusion was disputed by some members of the fishing community and an independent marine pollution consultant amid concerns about levels of a chemical called pyridine found in the dead creatures and a proposed link to dredging work taking place at Teesport. Simon Clarke, Tory MP for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, who had previously met affected fishermen during a recent surgery in Loftus, raised these fresh concerns directly with Minister Victoria Prentis and DEFRA scientists during their meeting. But DEFRA officials have ruled out the alternative hypotheses noting that there was no evidence of any dredging out of the proposed designated areas and that the level of pyridine was likely to be a naturally occurring substance released as shellfish decay. The officials also explained that if the incident had resulted from a chemical leak, the volume of chemical required to have fatal effect, taking into account dilution, would have been detected in the waters - no chemical was found. Mr Clarke added:</p> | |

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|----------------------------------|---|-------------|
| | <p>"I met two fishermen at a recent constituency surgery in Loftus and I was very moved by the devastating effect this incident continues to have on their livelihoods. "It was always absolutely vital that all possible causes of this incident were tested for and ruled out before reaching any conclusions. "Had any human cause been identified, all necessary steps would have been taken to ensure this never happened again. "After DEFRA released their conclusion that this incident had been caused by algal bloom, an alternative hypothesis regarding concerns about dredging at Teesport was raised and highlighted in the press. "As a representative of my constituents, Jacob and I raised the alternative hypotheses and robustly quizzed the scientists on their findings. "These top scientists were able to assure us however that none of the alternative hypotheses were plausible given the wealth of evidence gathered as part of their investigation. "They also agreed to answer any further questions that may arise and to publish a Q and A about the incident with DEFRA. "I am assured that this incredibly unusual and alarming event was a result of rare but naturally occurring phenomena." Jacob Young, Conservative MP for Redcar, added: "We were all rightly concerned at the scenes on our beaches with thousands of crustaceans washed up dead or dying on our shores last year. "On top of the obvious harm to wildlife, the effect this incident has had on the fishing industry cannot be overstated. "Today we raised alternative explanations for the deaths with DEFRA, the EA, the MMO and CEFAS and I was very convinced by the quality of their evidence and the logic of their conclusions. "They maintain that the most likely cause was algal bloom and there comes a point where I - as an MP - must defer to DEFRA and their expertise in this field."</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | Northern Echo | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 10 th February | - | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| MP Simon Clarke | <p>Update: Coastal crustacean incident</p> <p>Tomorrow myself and Jacob Young MP - Redcar & Cleveland will be meeting with the Minister for Fisheries, Victoria Prentis, and the Defra scientists who are leading the investigation into the recent coastal crustacean incident.</p> <p>I met some of the affected fishermen during our recent surgery in #Loftus and I raised their serious concerns directly with Minister Victoria Prentis, both in person and by letter.</p> <p>Following the release of Defra's findings last week, further concerns have been raised over dredging and I shall be seeking assurances when we meet the experts tomorrow.</p> <p>I will keep you updated.</p> | |



Marc Jones

I've read information that massively contradicts the official report. Will this data be presented or just another Tory coverup?

6 d



"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



Author

Simon Clarke MP ✓

Marc Jones For God's sake. I am speaking to DEFRA's independent scientists today to discuss their evaluation of the evidence and I will raise the other report that has been commissioned.

6 d



Marc Jones

Simon Clarke MP I appreciate that, but you must understand the massive loss of confidence due to repeated lies and misdirection from the Prime Ministers office. After so long it becomes hard to trust much that government officials say.

6 d



Craigval Stead

Simon Clarke MP "for God's sake".. Doesn't help getting annoyed by genuine concerns from the people you are supposed to serve..

4 d



Gary Huckins

Note, DEFRA and EA are not "Tory" and are in fact independent statutory bodies. The idea that they would cover something like this up is crazy.



Karen Olsen

This article in the Gazette says quite the opposite to the government's findings

Tim Deere-Jones, an independent marine pollution consultant, says the cause is linked to a specific chemical called pyridine - quantities of which, he says, were more than 70 times higher in some crab samples taken from Saltburn and Seaton.

<https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/.../fishermen-blast-algal...>

GAZETTELIVE.CO.UK

ERROR: The request could not be satisfied

1 w



Author

Simon Clarke MP ✓

Karen Olsen As I said:

"Following the release of Defra's findings last week, further concerns have been raised over dredging and I shall be seeking assurances when we meet the experts tomorrow."

6 d



Karen Olsen

Simon Clarke MP with all due respect, I do understand what was written above but as a local resident I am allowed to raise my concerns with you, especially when the two reports have totally different findings.

6 d



Steve Morgan

Simon many people including myself and a thousand fishermen take the DEFRA conclusion with more than a huge pinch of salt. And the truth's going to come out, so lets save the embarrassment. Crabs with 100 times the control level of the chemical toxin Pyridine. Pryridine a product of coking plant and steel production. Dredging a full 10 metres deeper than usual, and the dredging crew's concerns ignored by their bosses. I'm sorry but the whitewash is quite palpable. The algael bloom story is nonsense, I doubt even DEFRA believe it, (1) we would have seen it happen before (2) its too big an event anyway for algae, and (3) marine biologist experts say it couldnt happen at the North Sea temperatures This is an environmental catastrophe, and it's time it was treated as such. Fishermen say practically everything within 6 miles is DEAD. Stocks 95 percent down.! Its time those responsible put their hands up and took responsibility..



William Dennett

why are you not publishing the fishermen's independent report which suggests chemical pollution possibly related to steel production waste or chemical discharge into that area of the sea

1 w



Justin Thompson

Simon can kindly ask if tests holes were done and analysis of that material was completed before any large scale dredging was completed please? Also if testing wasn't completed please ask why please, thanks.

5 d



Dawn Ashley

Mr Clarke while you are raising concerns about the situation for your local constituent fishermen could you please cast your mind back to a surgery meeting 3 years ago which was in relation to Breed Specific Legislation which affected one of your constituents. Please could you use your meeting with Victoria Prentis MP in part to request an urgent meeting to discuss securing a new BSL debate as a result of your constituents petitions reaching over the required 100k signature threshold. Thank You.

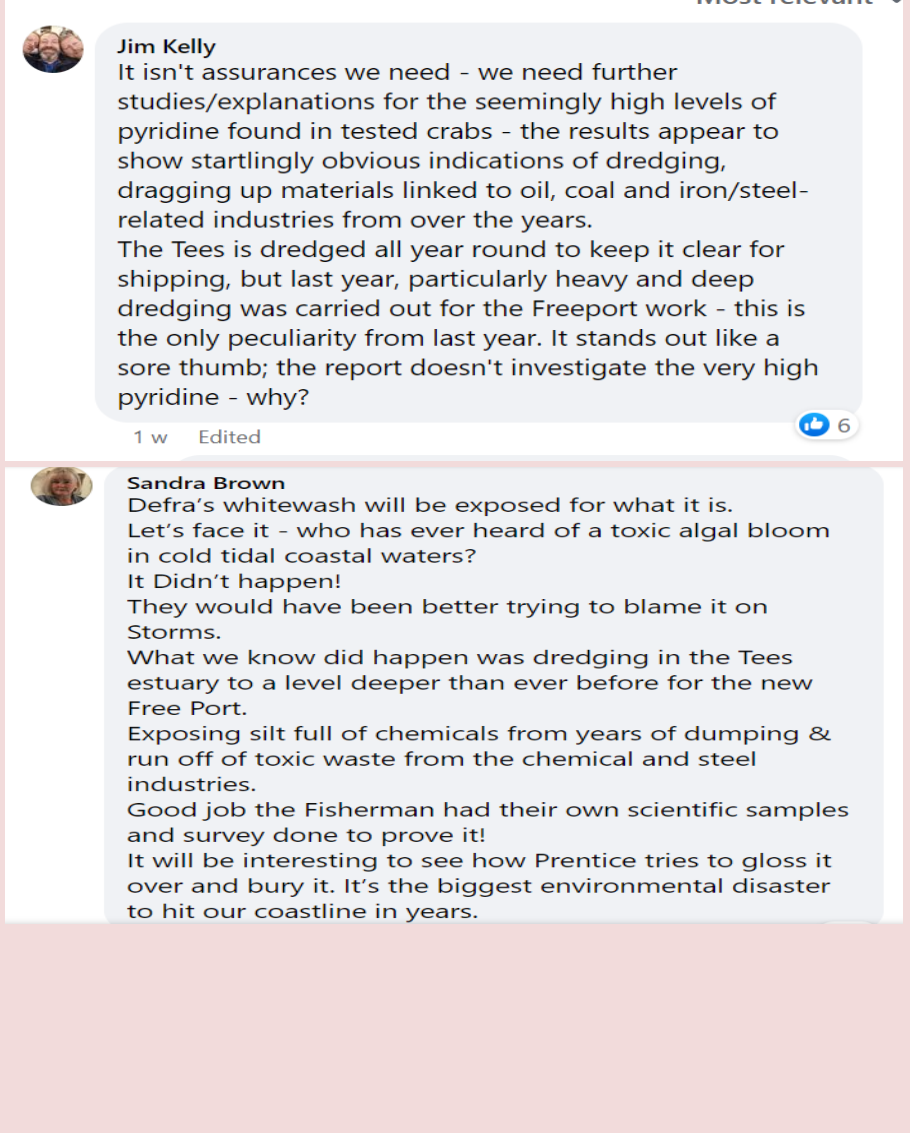
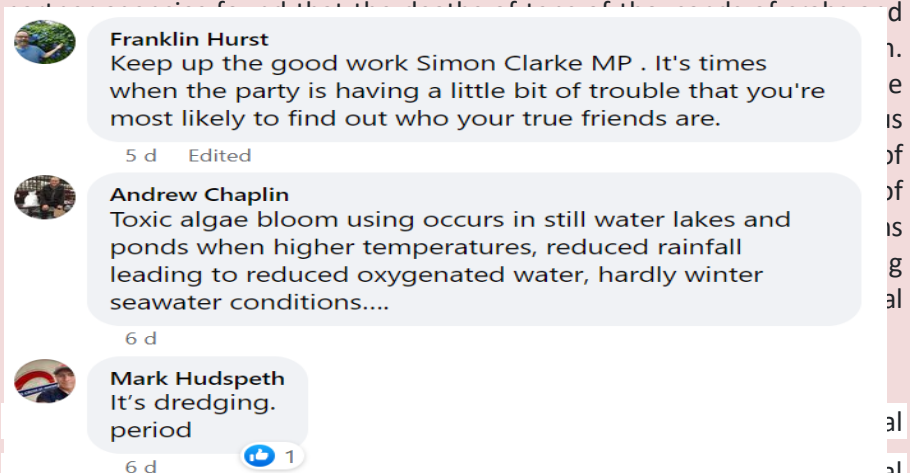
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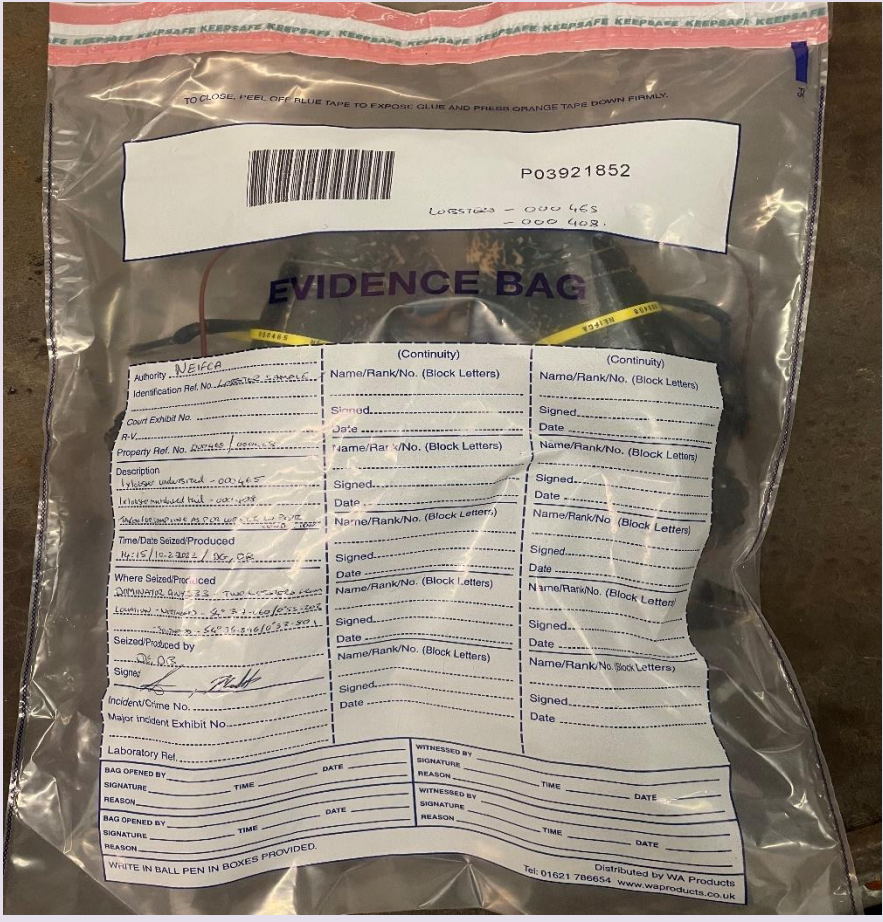


Geoff Hood

I'm not a fisherman or a scientist but the Defra report stinks worse than the dead crabs 🦀🦀

6 d

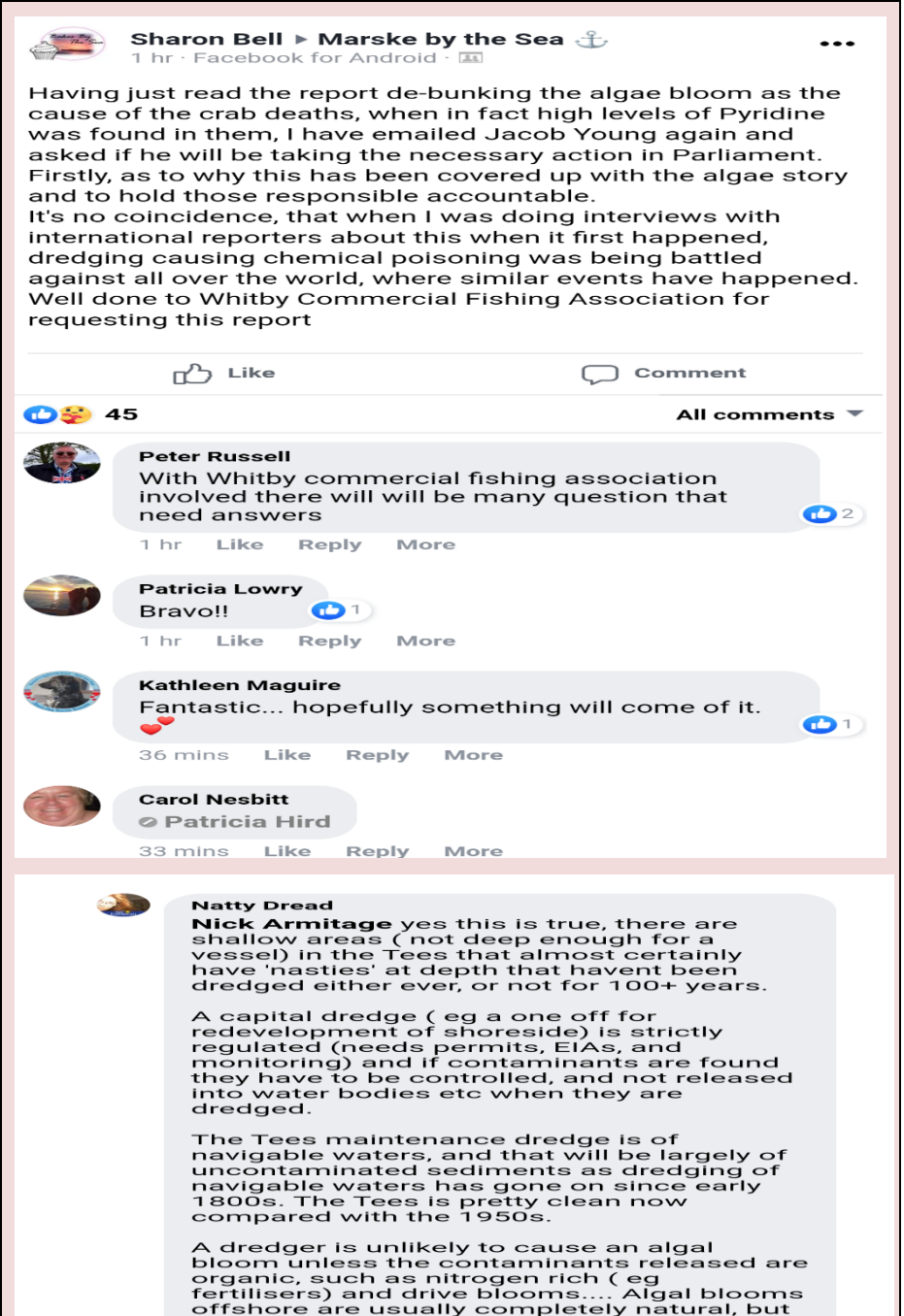











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| |  <p>Jim Kelly It isn't assurances we need - we need further studies/explanations for the seemingly high levels of pyridine found in tested crabs - the results appear to show startlingly obvious indications of dredging, dragging up materials linked to oil, coal and iron/steel-related industries from over the years. The Tees is dredged all year round to keep it clear for shipping, but last year, particularly heavy and deep dredging was carried out for the Freeport work - this is the only peculiarity from last year. It stands out like a sore thumb; the report doesn't investigate the very high pyridine - why?</p> <p>1 w Edited 6</p> <p>Sandra Brown Defra's whitewash will be exposed for what it is. Let's face it - who has ever heard of a toxic algal bloom in cold tidal coastal waters? It Didn't happen! They would have been better trying to blame it on Storms. What we know did happen was dredging in the Tees estuary to a level deeper than ever before for the new Free Port. Exposing silt full of chemicals from years of dumping & run off of toxic waste from the chemical and steel industries. Good job the Fisherman had their own scientific samples and survey done to prove it! It will be interesting to see how Prentice tries to gloss it over and bury it. It's the biggest environmental disaster to hit our coastline in years.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | Facebook posts | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 10 th February 2022 | - | Affected Areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| York Press, media | <p>Seen on media: DEFRA has uncovered the cause of dead crabs and lobsters found washed up on the North East last year. The investigation by Defra and</p>  <p>Franklin Hurst Keep up the good work Simon Clarke MP . It's times when the party is having a little bit of trouble that you're most likely to find out who your true friends are.</p> <p>5 d Edited</p> <p>Andrew Chaplin Toxic algae bloom using occurs in still water lakes and ponds when higher temperatures, reduced rainfall leading to reduced oxygenated water, hardly winter seawater conditions....</p> <p>6 d</p> <p>Mark Hudspeth It's dredging. period</p> <p>6 d 1</p> | |

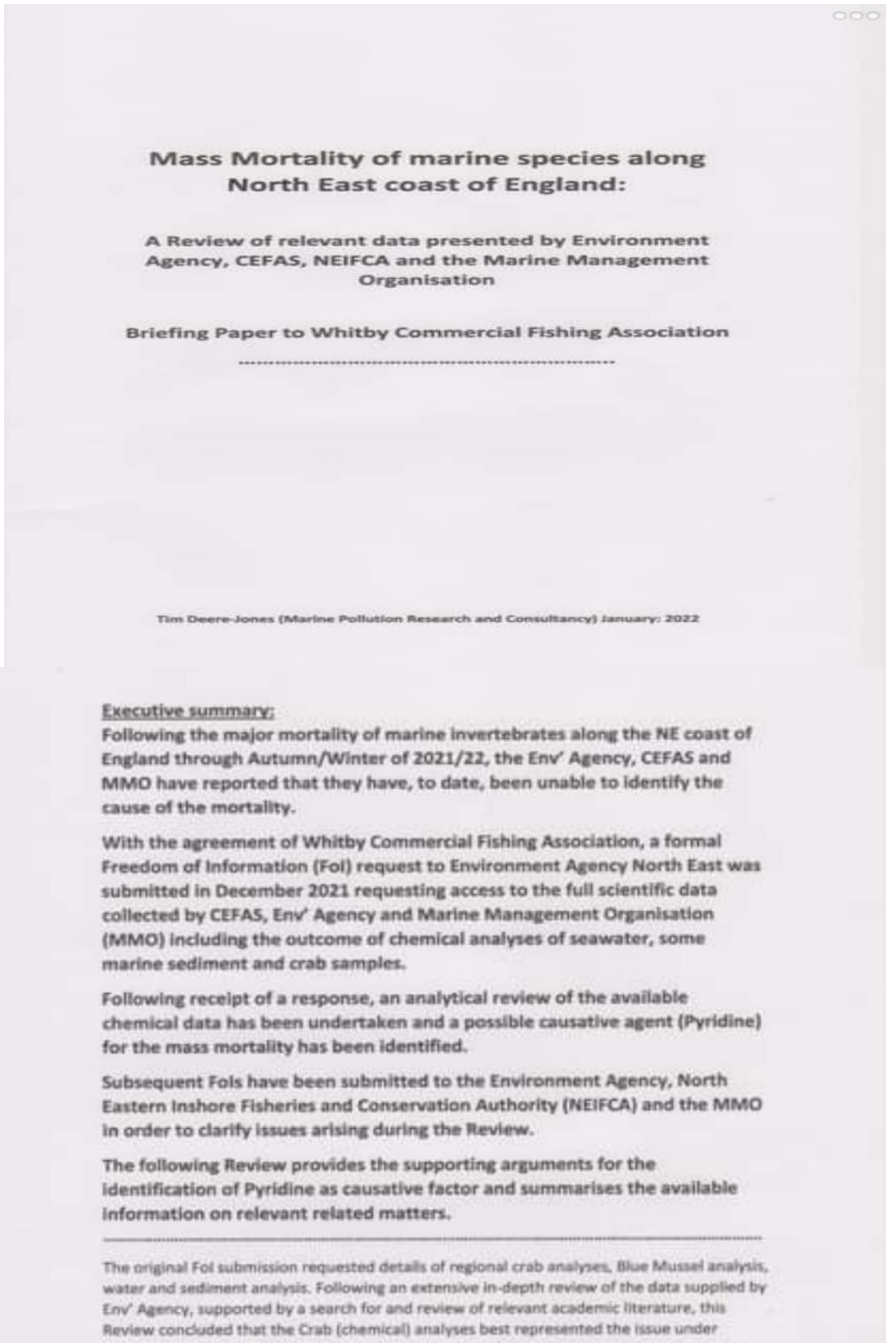
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| | determinants exceeded concentrations that would be harmful to marine life," the spokesperson added. The investigation also found no evidence of a food safety risk from healthy fish and crustacea, including crabs and lobsters caught off the North East coast. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 10 th February 2022 | 14:15 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Fishing vessel met by NEIFCA shore officers | Fishing vessel had been at sea and brought in two lobsters. One lobster was under the minimum conservation reference size. The other lobster had a mutilated tail. The lobsters were brought in as samples as they were very weak in the pots. The positions given were North end 54,37.060 / 55.202 and South End was 54,36.896 / 53.801. The lobsters were given yellow tags. The undersized lobster was given code number 000465 and the mutilated lobster was given code number 000408. These were then placed in to an evidence bag number P03921852. These were then stored in a secure lock up freezer as per TS request. | |
| Supporting Evidence |  | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 10 th February 2022 | 09:45 | Sunderland |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Merchant, Shop conversation with NEIFCA shore officers | Conversations had with merchants and shop owners in Sunderland. The owners stated that they haven't seen any issues with stocks or lobsters | |

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| | dyeing in tanks. The owners of the shop stated that they have been inundated with phone calls from various media channels to get their thoughts and understanding of the dead shellfish was ups. The owners declined all conversations and engagements. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 11 th February 2022 | - | Media UK |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NFFO media release | <p>The disturbing scenes of thousands of crabs and lobsters washed up on the beaches on the Yorkshire and Teeside beaches have caused widespread alarm and major media interest. The finger of blame has been pointed, at various times and from various quarters, with different levels of credibility, at seismic surveys, a disease that also affects dogs, pyridine from spoil dredged from the Tees and a toxic algal bloom. The shellfish industry is, understandably, desperate to get to the bottom of the issue before the main fishing seasons begin later in the year. There is also the question of consumer confidence to consider as the media coverage spirals out of control. Despite the range of viewpoints on the causal factor behind the deaths, all parties have an interest in getting closer to a definitive answer. The official report by Cefas for Defra does not offer that irrefutable explanation but suggests that the weight of evidence tends to support the algal bloom theory. Algal blooms are naturally occurring events that can temporarily reduce the oxygen levels in the water column – potentially causing deaths in crustacea on the seabed. Some parts of the industry are convinced that the evidence – in particular, the location and spread of the deaths and tidal patterns – points firmly towards dredged spoil from the Tees as the causal factor. So far, the testing that has been undertaken has not identified a smoking gun – a toxic chemical in sufficient quantities to cause the harm witnessed. The Cefas/Defra report must not be the end of the matter. It is imperative that all the authorities – Defra, Cefas, Environment Agency, IFCA – cooperate to collate, pool, and analyse the necessary evidence to arrive at a definitive conclusion. If this is a natural event, then there is a job of work to be done in providing assurance that crab and lobster are now safe to eat. Even natural events like algal blooms can have their origins in human activities. If this was an algal bloom, then there is a job of work to be done to provide the definitive proof of it and to understand what has caused it in this place and at this time. If the evidence points to pyridine or some other contaminant, there is a strong case for the application of the precautionary approach – to prohibit further dumping and any further die-offs. It is legitimate and important that independent voices and research be considered too. This is no time for creating artificial boundaries to knowledge – but the work must adhere to the most rigorous scientific standards. Cherry-picking facts to support one explanation or another is not science. The central point is that this must be an evidence-led process. Going down the wrong path has the potential to cause as much harm to fishing interests on the coast as the original event.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 11 th February 2022 | - | UK |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |

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| <p>Media, Black Rock Lave Net heritage fishery</p> | <p>Millions of dead and dying crab and lobster have been washed up on the N/E coast of Britain . Tests by the Environment agency ,CEFAS and Defra have concluded this was caused probably by an algal bloom. The fishermen instructed an independent marine biologist to research these finding. His conclusion was that the mass kill (and the fishermen say it's a dead zone up to 6 miles out) was caused by the chemical PYRIDENE . Crab analysed from Cornwall had 6mg per KG which is quite normal . Crab from Saltburn in the area affected had 400 Mg per Kg in it's body..... INCREDIBLE and you would think pretty conclusive. A smoking gun . The independent expert points the finger at the dredging of the Teeside free port disturbing the latent chemicals in the dredging's for which permission would have been granted..... A cover up by whoever gave permission to dredge perhaps ?????? Make your own mind up .</p> | |
| <p>Supporting Evidence</p> | <p>NA</p> | |
| <p>Date</p> | <p>Time</p> | <p>Area</p> |
| <p>12th February 2022</p> | <p>-</p> | <p>Media UK</p> |
| <p>Person, platform reported</p> | <p>Conversation/ report/ evidence captured</p> | |
| <p>Evening standard, full piece of media from all wash ups and affects occurred.</p> | <p>Fishing crews say the mystery of missing sea life in part of the <u>North Sea</u> is proving “catastrophic” for their livelihoods. Investigations are continuing into why large numbers of crabs and lobsters have been washed ashore on the Yorkshire and <u>North East of England</u> coasts over the last four months, amid reports from crews of sparse catches. <i>The fishermen are very anxious to find the solution and this is having a major impact on their livelihoods</i> A range of theories have been put forward, including the role of dredging and pollution, but no answer has been found. One fishing industry leader told the PA news agency he believes an algal bloom may be the most likely explanation. Barrie Deas, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations, said on Wednesday: “An algal bloom – a natural event in the water that happens from time to time – might be the most likely cause, although not definite yet.” He said: “This is very serious for the vessels that are affected. “The fishermen are very anxious to find the solution and this is having a major impact on their livelihoods. So far, we’ve been talking to the scientists and we’ve asked local MPs to ask parliamentary questions to raise the profile of the issue.” George Lamplough, a fisherman from Whitby in <u>North Yorkshire</u> said: “Our industry has collapsed in the last few months. We rely on these species for a living. “The effect this has had on us has been catastrophic. I haven’t made a wage in weeks. Things are getting desperate for us. It is impossible to go to sea, take the inherent risks and, at the end of the week, end up with less in the bank than before.” He added: “Eight years ago, I moved from the Isle of Wight to Whitby to be a fisherman. My livelihood is being stolen away and my choices are being reduced to losing the job I love or leaving the life I have built.” <i>My livelihood is being stolen away and my choices are being reduced to losing the job I love or leaving the life I have built.</i> Fresh dead seals have been discovered on Yorkshire beaches as investigations into the death of marine life in the area continue. But the <u>Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs</u> (Defra), which is leading the inquiry, said there is no evidence linking the dead seals to the crab and lobster deaths in the North East. <i>There</i></p> | |

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| | <p>was no evidence of significantly elevated contaminants in sediment at locations around and within the disposal site A spokesman said dredging of the River Tees has been ruled out as a likely cause of the crab and lobster deaths, with samples of dredge material required to meet the highest international standards protecting marine life before being disposed of at sea. He added: "If samples analysed for contaminants do not meet the standards, the disposal will not be licensed.</p> <p>"Testing of sediment at the Inner Tees disposal site has already taken place in April 2021 and there was no evidence of significantly elevated contaminants in sediment at locations around and within the disposal site."</p> <p>He also said if a member of the public observes a seal they deem in danger or distress, they should contact the RSPCA in England and Wales; the SSPCA hotline in Scotland; and USPCA in Northern Ireland.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 12 th February 2022 | - | Social Media affected areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Teeside live media | <p>James Cole Still blaming a algae bloom they didn't do much quizzing like! Pishing up each others backs its all bent and our enviroment pays the price ,cheers! Ps if any of them want to come to sea and see for themselves the lack of sea life they can come ,seasick tables optional Share 1 w 3</p> <p>Martin Cornforth James Cole if they just ignore you and ignore your evidence they will not have to pay out the massive amounts of compensation for their lies Share 5 d 2</p> <p>James Cole When do we get to put our evidence to the mps? O that it our experts and our hundreds of years living and working on this coast stand for nout! boils my piss! Share 1 w 2</p> <p>Bobby Winspear The government agencies are trying to cover up what the cause of this disaster is and you only have to go back before the dredging started in the tees and there was no dead crabs and lobsters and other sea creatures so it must be the dredging that has caused all the hardship up and down the northeast coast? Share 1 w 2</p> <p>Viv Walmsley Author I actually thought more people would support those effected by this. The Go fund me has been at a standstill since yesterday. Even if people shoved in a fiver it would show they cared !!! Share 1 w 1</p> <p>Alastair Inkster The sad bit about any industry if politicians get involved it's finished</p> | |

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| | | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 12 th February 2022 | - | Marske |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Social Media Platforms |  <p>Sharon Bell ▸ Marske by the Sea  1 hr · Facebook for Android · </p> <p>Having just read the report de-bunking the algae bloom as the cause of the crab deaths, when in fact high levels of Pyridine was found in them, I have emailed Jacob Young again and asked if he will be taking the necessary action in Parliament. Firstly, as to why this has been covered up with the algae story and to hold those responsible accountable. It's no coincidence, that when I was doing interviews with international reporters about this when it first happened, dredging causing chemical poisoning was being battled against all over the world, where similar events have happened. Well done to Whitby Commercial Fishing Association for requesting this report</p> <p> Like  Comment</p> <p>  45 All comments ▾</p> <p>Peter Russell With Whitby commercial fishing association involved there will be many question that need answers  2 1 hr Like Reply More</p> <p>Patricia Lowry Bravo!!  1 1 hr Like Reply More</p> <p>Kathleen Maguire Fantastic... hopefully something will come of it.  1 36 mins Like Reply More</p> <p>Carol Nesbitt  Patricia Hird 33 mins Like Reply More</p> <hr/> <p>Natty Dread Nick Armitage yes this is true, there are shallow areas (not deep enough for a vessel) in the Tees that almost certainly have 'nasties' at depth that havent been dredged either ever, or not for 100+ years.</p> <p>A capital dredge (eg a one off for redevelopment of shoreside) is strictly regulated (needs permits, EIAs, and monitoring) and if contaminants are found they have to be controlled, and not released into water bodies etc when they are dredged.</p> <p>The Tees maintenance dredge is of navigable waters, and that will be largely of uncontaminated sediments as dredging of navigable waters has gone on since early 1800s. The Tees is pretty clean now compared with the 1950s.</p> <p>A dredger is unlikely to cause an algal bloom unless the contaminants released are organic, such as nitrogen rich (eg fertilisers) and drive blooms.... Algal blooms offshore are usually completely natural, but warming sea surface temperatures due to climate change are going to mean more blooms in future, including noxious /harmful blooms  2 25 mins Like More</p> <p>Nick Armitage Natty Dread thank you. I hope you don't mind the questions but you are more informative that EA and local authority have been.</p> | |

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|---|--|----------------|
| | | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 12 th February 2022 | - | Affected areas |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| <p>Mass Mortality Briefing for fishermen's associations</p> <p>By Tim Deere Jones</p> |  <p>Mass Mortality of marine species along North East coast of England:</p> <p>A Review of relevant data presented by Environment Agency, CEFAS, NEIFCA and the Marine Management Organisation</p> <p>Briefing Paper to Whitby Commercial Fishing Association</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Tim Deere-Jones (Marine Pollution Research and Consultancy) January, 2022</p> <p>Executive summary: Following the major mortality of marine invertebrates along the NE coast of England through Autumn/Winter of 2021/22, the Env' Agency, CEFAS and MMO have reported that they have, to date, been unable to identify the cause of the mortality.</p> <p>With the agreement of Whitby Commercial Fishing Association, a formal Freedom of Information (Foi) request to Environment Agency North East was submitted in December 2021 requesting access to the full scientific data collected by CEFAS, Env' Agency and Marine Management Organisation (MMO) including the outcome of chemical analyses of seawater, some marine sediment and crab samples.</p> <p>Following receipt of a response, an analytical review of the available chemical data has been undertaken and a possible causative agent (Pyridine) for the mass mortality has been identified.</p> <p>Subsequent Fols have been submitted to the Environment Agency, North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) and the MMO in order to clarify issues arising during the Review.</p> <p>The following Review provides the supporting arguments for the identification of Pyridine as causative factor and summarises the available information on relevant related matters.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>The original Foi submission requested details of regional crab analyses, Blue Mussel analysis, water and sediment analysis. Following an extensive in-depth review of the data supplied by Env' Agency, supported by a search for and review of relevant academic literature, this Review concluded that the Crab (chemical) analyses best represented the issue under investigation because regional crustaceans were one of the most impacted species groups and the analyses were carried out for a very wide range and number of chemical subjects.</p> <p>The Review reports that chemical analysis of regional inshore waters Crab samples from Seaton (Tees mouth), Saltburn (approx. 20 kms south east of Tees mouth), Runswick (approx. 55 kms south east of Tees mouth), St Mary's Lighthouse (approx. 55 kms north of Tees mouth) and "Eastern IFCA" were collected and analysed for a large number of chemical determinands.</p> <p>The site of the Eastern IFCA sampling was not detailed. Control samples of Crab obtained from a Bournemouth (Cornwall) fish merchant were also analysed and the outcomes presented</p> | |

Sources to the Environment: pyridine is released into the environment as a waste product from industrial processes such as steel manufacture, processing of oil shale, coal gas production, coking plants and incinerators and from marine antifouling and anticorrosion applications.

U.S. industrial releases of Pyridine to surface water and groundwater (underground injection) reported in 1987 were estimated to be 4,630 pounds and 303,650 pounds, respectively. In addition, 209,880 pounds of pyridine were disposed of in publicly owned treatment works in 1987. Some fraction of the quantity treated at POTWs is probably released to the environment. Pyridine was detected in one of two oil shale processing effluents at a concentration of 152 µg/L (ppb), but not in coal gasification plant effluents. Pyridine was also detected in effluents from coke-oven quenching operations at 11mg/L and detected, but not quantified, in four industrial effluents. Pyridine was also found in oil-shale retort water in Australia at a concentration of about 5 mg/L.

I have not yet found relevant statistics for the UK, but it seems likely that the data will be similar.

Uses: Pyridine is a precursor/base of a number of agrichemicals (including insecticides, fungicides and herbicides used in both terrestrial and marine applications), it is highly recommended as an anticorrosion treatment for marine structures such as those in the offshore hydrocarbon industry. It is also an industrial solvent, a water proofing agent, and a constituent of many dyes and disinfectants.

Marine environmental behaviour and fate: Pyridine mixes well with water. Pyridine discharged to water rapidly sequesters into marine sediments by adsorption to the outer surfaces of sedimentary particles, especially those suspended in the marine water column. Under the influence of flocculation processes in estuarine environments, such particles agglomerate, become heavier and are deposited out into estuarine intertidal and subtidal sedimentary deposits. The process reduces water column bio-availability of Pyridine but significantly increases concentrations in the deposited sediment.

Pyridine is persistent and non-bio-degradable in anoxic (oxygen depleted and typical of industrial/urban estuaries) marine sediments over extended time scales. Marine sediments collected from estuarine environments are shown to degrade Pyridine at varying rates depending on the ambient salinity. (REFs: Kuo CE et al: *Chemosphere* 33: 771-81. 1996. & Liu SM et al: *Chemosphere* 36: 2345-57. 1998)

Concentrations of Pyridine will significantly increase in "industrial" estuaries if inputs continue over the long term at rates greater than the degradation rates. Since estuaries heavily polluted with urban/municipal and industrial wastes generally suffer from highly depleted oxygen, reduced bio-degradability of Pyridine is to be expected. Bio-degradability of Pyridine in marine intertidal and subtidal sediments is, in common with many other chemical pollutants, also reduced by non-exposure to UV (sunlight) and sea surface higher temperatures.

The majority of the available LC50/EC50 data for Pyridine products was reported in the 1980s and 1990s. Information on toxicity of the degradation products of Pyridine anti-fouling to marine organisms derived from these few earlier studies, however, are now considered insufficient to assess the hazards of Pyridine.

More recent academic research published in 2013, on the toxicity of Pyridine based anti-foulings, has reported that the degradation products of Pyridine antifoulings may have an influence on marine organisms, at concentrations lower than the previously reported toxic values.

The 2013 study reported that initiation of Pyridine product acute toxicity, measured by 24hour EC50, for the crustacean shrimp *T. japonicus* occurred at concentrations as low as 6.6 micro grams (0.006 mg per litre). REF: "Toxicity of Degradation Products of the Antifouling Biocide Pyridine Triphenylborane to Marine Organisms." Toshimitsu Onduka et al'. *Arch' Environ' Contam' Toxicol'*. (2013) 65:724-732 (table 2 p.728)

N.B. EC50 tests quantify the amount of substance needed to initiate malfunction (not mortality) of 50% of test animals

Earlier Aquatic LC50 tests: these tests identify the dose concentration of Pyridine which will kill 50% of animals tested (classified as Acute Toxicity)

LC50 test for fish and invertebrates for Pyridine = 99mg/L
REF:<https://echa.europa.eu/registration-dossier/-/registered-dossier/13681/6/2/2>

LC50 (96 hours) for fish= 1.1mg/L

LC50 (48 hrs) for crustaceans= 182mg/L

Chronic toxicity = lower environmental concentration but longer term effects, often following the Acute stage. Both acute and chronic toxicity also manifest as a group of symptoms including central nervous system damage, tremor, intoxication, weakness and fatigue similar to the reported behaviour of crustaceans. As a result of these symptoms mortality may occur.

Review of the details of these chemical analyses reveals that the very great majority of samples were shown to hold very low levels (fractions of mg/Kg). A very few determinands were shown to be present in some samples at concentrations of up to 10 mg/Kg.

However, this Review reports that the most outstanding analytical data outcomes were those detailing the generally very high concentrations of Pyridine in regional Crab samples compared to the control samples from Cornwall, as tabulated below:

Pyridine in Crab samples:

| Site | Pyridine concentrations |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Penzance (control) | 5.929 mg/Kg |
| Seaton | 203.765 mg/Kg |
| Saltburn | 439.611 mg/Kg |
| Runswick | 20.0710 mg/Kg |
| St Mary's Lighthouse | 77.917 mg/Kg |
| "Eastern" IFCA 1 | 3.083 mg/Kg |
| "Eastern" IFCA 3 | 194.600 mg/Kg |

In the context of the relatively very high concentrations in NE coast crab samples it is very unusual and surprising that no further investigation of Pyridine in the environment has been conducted.

Review of PYRIDINE marine environmental data: Pyridine is a chemical compound which is structurally related to highly toxic hydrocarbons such as Benzene. Trace levels of Pyridine can be found in some plant and animal products, but it is not naturally abundant. In the environment, concentrations of Pyridine elevated above very low "trace levels" are consensually agreed to be derived from human activity.

Pyridine and its derivatives occur in many compounds used in industry, agriculture and the maritime industries. Historically Pyridine has been intentionally produced from coal tar or as a by-product of coal gasification, but is also discharged to the environment as a waste product of a number of industrial processes. Pyridine based marine anti-foulings are widely used and present in marine environments following release of degradation products from shipping. It is expected that antifouling Pyridine and its degradation products will also be found in the vicinity of ship/oil rig breaking industries.

Pyridine is widely reported as very dangerous to humans. The fate/behaviour of Pyridine in marine environments and the toxic impacts to marine species is relatively uncommon and it is clear that, compared to many other chemicals, these parameters for Pyridine have been poorly studied.

Historical data indicates that rapid initiation of chronic (sub-mortality) toxicity for marine species of fish and crustacean starts at around **1mg/Kg**

N.B. It is clear that Crab samples from sites within the area of mass mortality along the NE coast of England show concentrations of Pyridine far in excess of those demonstrated to cause both mortality and acute and chronic Pyridine generated outcomes.

Inhalation of Pyridine vapour is a dose pathway leading to vomiting and fatigue etc: [and may be implicated in the widely reported health impacts reported for dogs on beaches]. Pyridine is reported to be carcinogenic to animals, but no dose data has been identified to date.

Postulated source of 2021 Pyridine and degradation products to the marine environment of N.E. England. It is evident that the urban, industrial and maritime industrial activities carried on around the Tees estuary, some of them longstanding over a century, may well be a major source of both Pyridine and Pyridine degradation products. This is particularly relevant in the vicinity of the Able UK Ltd ship and marine structures breakers yard beside the Seaton Channel. This site has a long history of ship etc breaking of numerous decommissioned vessels including work on a very large French aircraft carrier and, more recently, a number of projects breaking and scrapping very large redundant North Sea marine oil and gas field structures.

It is certain that, over the operating lifetime of this industry, the work will have involved the release of large quantities of marine anti-fouling substances in both particulate and dissolved form and that such material will be quickly incorporated into Seaton Channel and adjacent seabed and intertidal sediments. I have found no evidence for recent chemical analyses of Tees Estuary/Seaton Channel sediment or marine organism analysis for Pyridine, nor of any attempt to quantify Pyridine inputs to the Tees estuary.

Despite the failure to collect, quantify and publicise relevant Pyridine data it is expected that much of that material, in liquid or particulate form, has been discharged, under permit from Govt Agencies, into the estuarine waters or has entered the estuary by way of un-planned "runoff" from contaminated land surfaces.

As explained above, water soluble Pyridine products will quickly become adsorbed to estuarine sediments and, in that state, will deposit out in sub-tidal and inter-tidal sedimentary deposits and become sequestered in low/non degradation environments.

Dredging: However, it is widely understood that, if such polluted sediments are disturbed from inter or sub tidal deposits by dredging activity, a local dredge plume of re-suspended sediment will redistribute the entrained adsorbed pollutants and rapidly, and substantially,

Final Conclusions:

1: Four months after the beginning of the mass mortality of marine species the four Agencies responsible for the maintenance and regulation of marine environmental health and the scientific investigation of such issues as mass marine mortalities (Env' Agency, CEFAS, NEIFCA and the Marine Management Organisation) have failed to identify a causative factor or come to any conclusion about the cause of the current emergency.

2: An FoI request has been submitted to the marine management organisation for crucial data which may facilitate the understanding of the link between dredging and dredge waste disposal and the sudden onset of the mass marine mortality event. However, the Marine Management Organisation has not yet responded with any data.

3: In its response to the FoI request, the IFCA appears unable to identify the location of the two crab samples (EIFCA 1 and EIFCA 2) analysed for Pyridine. It is concluded that the management of the sampling regime is sub-standard and that poor record keeping has been a factor limiting the understanding of the distribution of crab sample high Pyridine concentrations.

4: During the course of the mass marine mortality event the Agencies have proposed an algal bloom of toxic *Karenia mikimotoi* as a hypothetical cause despite the absence of proof of the presence of any *Karenia* spp in the relevant waters. Despite the identification of algal enrichment in the relevant waters, the concentrations of alga per litre of water has been shown to NOT achieve widely agreed "bloom" levels. No scientific justification for this hypothesis has emerged and we are at a loss to understand why it has been advanced.

5: Having conducted an in-depth review of chemical analyses of crab samples, it is proposed that the reported high concentrations of Pyridine in crab samples (up 439 mg/Kg) are a strong candidate as the causative factor of mass mortality. This Review notes that the analytical results for NE coast crab samples show that Pyridine concentrations massively exceed those of "control sample" crabs from Penzance. This Review notes that Pyridine concentrations in NE coast crab samples

*provided by the fishermen. Without further information it may be difficult to identify what these samples relate to. I would be happy to discuss further if you would like to give me a ring. My mobile number is 07810 *** ***(protected)."*

No contact yet successful: as of yet this relevant information remains unavailable. IFCA site 1 and site 3 provided dramatically different concentrations for Pyridine (one very high and one at near "control" level). It is important to know where those sites are in order to understand the highs and lows of Pyridine distribution.

FoI submitted to Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

"DREDGING: SEATON CHANNEL:

On what days, of which months, was dredging carried out in SEATON CHANNEL?

How deep was the dredge "cut" into the seabed of Seaton Channel?

On what days, and at which disposal site, was dredge waste from Seaton Channel disposed of?

DREDGING: MAIN CHANNEL R.TEES

On what days, of which months, was dredging carried out on the main channel of the R.Tees?

How deep was the dredge "cut" into the seabed of the main channel of the R.TEES?

On what days, and at which disposal site, was dredge waste from the main channel of the R. TEES disposed of?

If this information is not available to the MMO please advise me who I should contact for a response."

Response from MMO: ----- "Thank you for your request for information about the mass marine mortality incident, which we received on 20 January 2022. We are dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and/or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

As required by the legislation, we aim to answer your request as soon as possible and in any event within 20 working days from the date we received it (i.e. by 17 February 2022). If for any reason we are unable to meet this deadline, we will keep you fully informed of the reasons for this."

It is proposed that Appendices will be constructed, published and shared with colleagues and relevant recipients of this Briefing Review, if/when detailed responses to these queries are received.

It is concluded that many mass mortalities, regardless of their source (oil spills, chemical spills, shore-based pollution, algal blooming, hypoxia), by their nature share a common list of impacted species.
 It is concluded that there is no empirical evidence to support the hypothesis that the Mass Mortality was caused by any form of algal blooming.

Freedom of Information requests submitted:

FoI to Env' Agency

"1. Please confirm whether sediment samples from all sediment sites were collected by GRAB sampling (and if so what depth of sediment did the samples represent)

2. Please confirm whether sediment samples from all sediment sites were collected by CORE sampling (and if so what depth of sediment did the samples represent)"

FoI response from Environment Agency:

- "Sediment GCMS results from Bran Sands collected 08/10/21 (Sediment GCMS reports.zip) -- these were collected as a surface sediment scrape from the intertidal.
- Further sediment samples collected by boat survey (14th - 18th Nov), which remain in freezer storage should they be required for future analysis, were collected using a Day grab. Sampling for contaminants in these sediments followed standard EA operational procedures - 1 cm surface scrape, above the anoxic layer, from the Day grab."

Such surface samples will be indicative of relatively recent sediment deposition. Such samples will not represent the long term chemical status of buried/consolidated sediments, in which many years of sequestered pollutants may be expected, at elevated concentration

FoI submitted to NEIFCA:

"1. The Env Agency has kindly provided us with a collection of relevant data which includes reportage of Crab Samples described as IFCA EAST 1 and IFCA East 3. We assume that this refers to a sampling site IFCA EAST and to samples 1 and 3.

2. However, the Env Agency data provided no locator/description of the site(s) in question. We would be very grateful if you could clarify this issue, preferably by forwarding a map or chart showing the location of this sampling site in relation to TEES MOUTH."

Response from NEIFCA "NEIFCA has provided multiple samples in support of the ongoing joint agency investigations into the shellfish mortalities. These have included shellfish obtained by Officers washed up on the shore and samples obtained from local fishermen/merchants. In the latter case we may only have an idea of the area caught

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| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15 th February 2022 | 10:15 | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground | No fishermen in the area to talk and engage with. Not fishing activity observed | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15 th February 2022 | 10:30 | South Gare |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground | No fishermen in the area to talk and engage with. Not fishing activity observed | |

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|--|---|-------------|
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15 th February 2022 | 09:30 | Staithe |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground speaking with merchant | NEIFCA shore officers spoke with Merchant who had said that more interest from restaurant's was starting to build and this would lead to a lot more custom up and coming for the year ahead. The concern was that he hoped he had good, safe shellfish to sell to the new customers. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15 th February 2022 | 15:00 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground, speaking with fishermen, shop owner | NEIFCA shore officers spoke with shop owner and fishermen. Owner wanted to know answer of what was going on and was not convinced with Algal bloom philosophy. Owner stated business was ok, but was not helped by certain fishermen spouting information on social media and to the press about affected shellfish which in return had not heled with custom in the shop. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15 th February 2022 | 12:30 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground, fishing vessel | Conversation had with fishing vessel, vessel landed 11 kg of lobsters with no edible crabs, the vessel had fished 400 pots. Discussion with skipper and crew had and skipper stated last week and initially he was happy for officers to go with the vessel and undertake a survey. The skipper had since decided and said, "FUCK EM YOU HAVE OVER 2 MILLION POUNDS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT, WHY SHOULD I BE DOING ALL YOUR WORK" The skipper said that he was contacting the head person at CEFAS next. The skipper did go on to say that he had no issues with shore officers and felt for officers on the ground as the number of problems, hassle and arguments they are going to get off fishermen won't be fair. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15 th February 2022 | 13:30 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground, fishermen | Conversation had with son of the skipper. Son was concerned as his dad was currently in hospital. Son was waiting for the leader of the North East Fishing Collective to discuss writing a letter to the MP and voicing all his problems and concerns of what was going on, not happy with the theory of algal bloom | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15 th February 2022 | 13:30 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |

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|---|--|-------------|
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground, fishermen | Conversation had with crew from fishing vessel. Crew stated that possibly in the next week or two that vessel may be going to sea and taking gear back as all gear currently on fish quay. Fishing vessel fishes inside and outside of the 6NM. Crew member not happy with the theory of algal bloom. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15 th February 2022 | 14:00 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground, lobster hatchery | Conversation had with owner, promoter of Whitby lobster hatchery and scientific advisor for fishermen's associations on the dead shellfish incidents. Male had a media journalist from world news with him and when coming on to the fish quay he was on the phone. He explained to the male that he was just on the phone to the Labour shadow minister. The male explained that he the fishing news coming to the fish quay as well. Lobster hatchery is starting to take shape more now and system had just been recently installed. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16 th February 2022 | 09:30 | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground, fishing vessel | Conversation with skipper and owner of fishing vessel. Owner stated when officers arrived "ARE YOU WITH US OR AGAINST US" officers asked why? Owner stated, " IF YOU ARE WITH US THAT'S FINE BUT IF YOUR AGAINST US AND WHATS GOING ON THEN YOU CAN FUCK OFF". Officers explained that we are here to help and support the fishery so supporting him. Owner said there was meetings coming up that he was attending. He did not believe that there was an algal bloom and that he firmly believed it was dredging and pyridine in the shellfish. He went on to say that if it didn't pick up people would have to sell up. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16 th February 2022 | 11:30 | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground | No fishing activity was observed, officers walked around both fish quays and there was no sign of any fishermen or merchants to talk to. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16 th February 2022 | 12:45 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground, conversation with fishing vessel | Conversation had with owner and crew of fishing vessel , briefing sheet was issued. Owner was concerned if nothing shows when they go fishing. Owner and crew did not believe the algal bloom theory and stated that algal blooms happen in May not October. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16 th February 2022 | 13:00 | Whitby |


| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
|---|--|-------------|
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground, conversation with crew | Conversation had with crew of fishing vessel. Briefing sheet was issued to the crew member. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16 th February 2022 | 14:15 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground | No fishing activity or fishermen around the Whitby area to engage and communicate with. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16 th February 2022 | - | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Enviro officers on the ground | No fishing activity or fishermen around the Redcar area to engage and communicate with. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 17 th February 2022 | - | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore & enviro officers on the ground | Spoke with 3 fishermen. Collated information from fishermen on their experience of the impact of the shellfish mortalities. Information recorded on Incident Questionnaire and added to Engagement log and Industry catch recording forms were given out to every fisherman to complete when they do go out fishing and post back in. All three fishers advised they would take IFCO's on observer trips. | |
| Supporting Evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 17 th February 2022 | - | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore & enviro officers on the ground | In Whitby area to engage with industry members. Spoke with Lobster Hatchery who advised he did not want to get involved in the discussion around the impact or handling of the shellfish mortality incident. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 17 th February 2022 | All day | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore & enviro officers on the ground | Travelled to Hartlepool area to engage with members of industry. Spoke with 2 fishermen. Both advised they hadn't been fishing in the affected area for the last few months as they were catching nothing. Both fishermen were given comms briefing and catch recording sheets to post back and both advised they would take IFCO's for observer trips when they go out fishing again. Information recorded on Incident Questionnaire and added to Engagement log. | |
| Supporting Evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |


| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 18 th February 2022 | - | Filey, Cornelian Bay and Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers & enviro officers on the ground | Officers travelled to Filey, Cornelian Bay and Scarborough to engage with industry but there were no fishers in the area to engage with. | |
| Supporting Evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 18 th February 2022 | - | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground | Officers travelled to Redcar to engage with industry but there were no fishers in the area to engage with. | |
| Supporting Evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 21 st February 2022 | 9:30-10:00 | Redcar |
| Person, platform | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA enviro officer | Officer went to Redcar area to engage with industry but there were no fishers present. | |
| Supporting Evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 23 rd February 2022 | am | Between Sandsend and Kettlethness |
| Person, platform | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III | IFCOs onboard NEG III set pots (3 fleets of 3 pots) at the below locations: 54°32.47N 000°42.45W 54°33.10N 000°44.63W 54°33.17N 000°44.86W Pots were baited and had escape gaps closed to ensure captured of all size classes of shellfish. | |
| Supporting Evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 24 th February 2022 | am | Between Sandsend and Kettlethness |
| Person, platform | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III | IFCOs onboard NEG III hauled pots (3 fleets of 3 pots) as part of NEIFCA's monitoring programme at the below locations: 54°32.47N 000°42.45W (3 swimming crab) 54°33.10N 000°44.63W (4 lobster, 2 were berried hens and all in good condition) 54°33.17N 000°44.86W (4 lobster all in good condition) A total of 8 lobster and 3 swimming crab were recorded. All lobster were alive and displayed no symptoms. | |

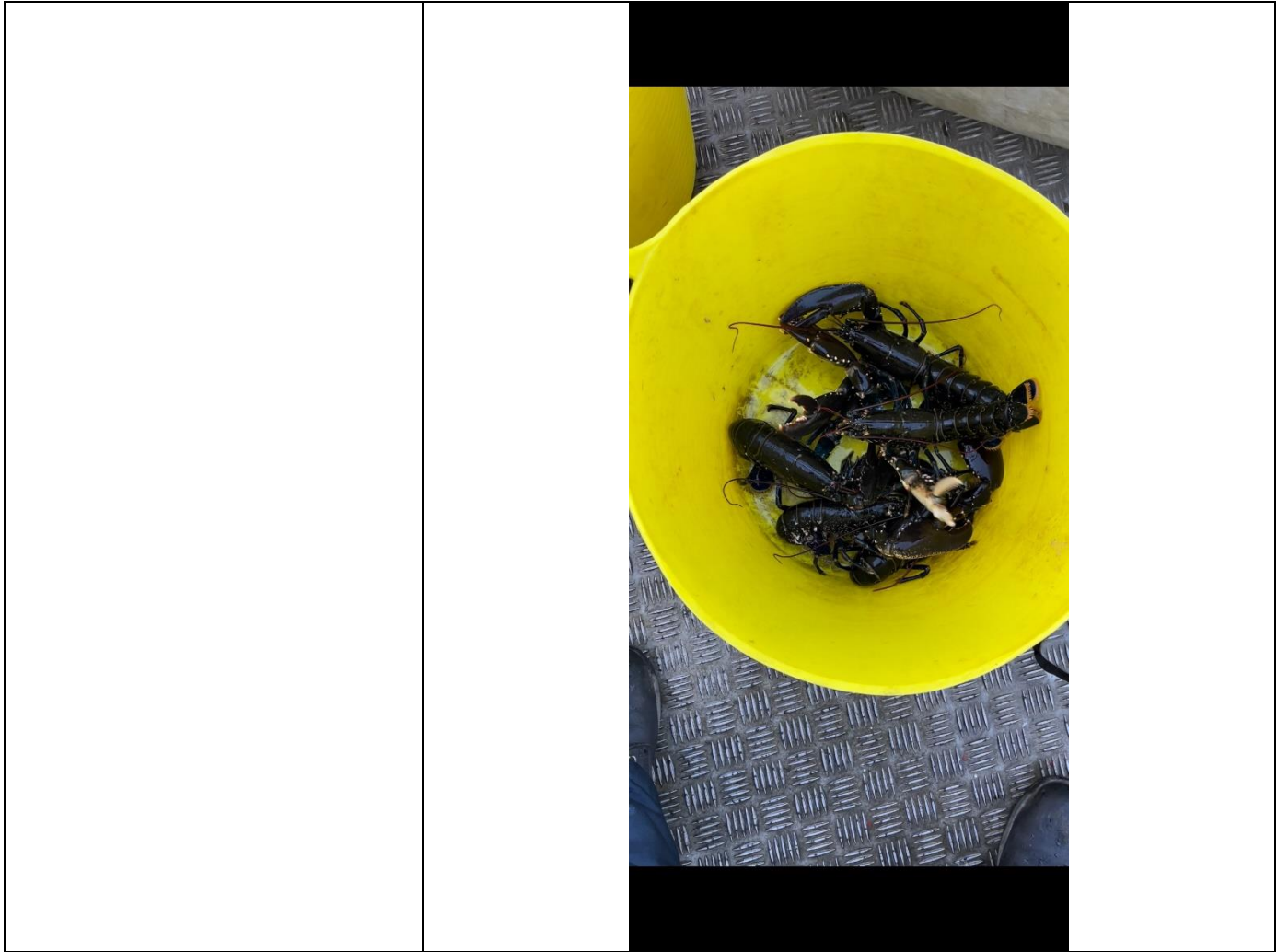
Supporting Evidence





| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| |  | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 26 th February 2022 | 13:39 | Block sands on Hartlepool Headland |
| Person, platform | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Commercial Fisherman | Email received from commercial fisherman from Hartlepool reporting an incident of a dead porpoise washed up on the block sands at Hartlepool Headland on the landward side of the heugh pier. | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Supporting evidence |  | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 28 th February 2022 | 10:00 – 10:25 | Between Runswick Bay and Skinnygrove Wyke |
| Person, platform | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III | <p>IFCOs onboard NEG III set pots (3 fleets of 3 pots) at the below locations:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">54°34.52N 000°50.24W 54°35.64N 000°55.04.W 54°35.06N 000°55.20W</p> <p>Pots were baited and had escape gaps closed to ensure captured of all size classes of shellfish.</p> | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 1 st March 2022 | 08:50 | Between Runswick Bay and Skinnygrove Wyke |
| Person, platform | Conversation/report/evidence captured | |
| IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III | <p>IFCOs onboard NEG III hauled pots (3 fleets of 3 pots) as part of NEIFCA's monitoring programme at the below locations:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">54°34.52N 000°50.24W (5 male and 2 hen lobsters) 54°35.64N 000°55.04.W (3 male and 1 hen lobsters, 1 whelk) 54°35.06N 000°55.20W (3 male, 1 new shelled and 2 female, 1 V notched lobsters)</p> <p>A total of 16 lobster and 1 Whelk recorded. All lobster were alive and displayed no symptoms.</p> | |





| Date | Time | Area |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|
| 1 st March 2022 | 9:30 | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs on the ground | Visited Scarborough Fish Quay to engage with industry. Spoke with one fisherman regarding the impact of the shellfish mortalities. He advised he has not been out fishing since November and lost 40 pots in the storms, but it is hoping to get out by the end of the month. Fisher answered questions from engagement questionnaire, and he was given fisher recording forms to fill out and post back once he does go out fishing. He advised that his vessel is too small to take an IFCO out with him for observer trips. | |
| Supporting evidence | Recorded answers to questionnaire in engagement log. | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 1 st March 2022 | 11:45 | Staithe |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs on the ground | Visited Staithe to engage with industry. Spoke with fisherman. Vessel was out fishing at the time but skipper advised that recently they haven't been landing many lobster only crab. Vessel usually fishes about 4-6 nm out, and he advised they would be happy for IFCOs to do observer trips. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 1 st March 2022 | 12:35 | Redcar |

| Person, platform reported | Conversation/report/evidence captured | |
|--|--|-------------|
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground | Officers spoke with the owner of fishing vessel. Owner had emptied his keep pot and for two days and he had 8 edible crabs, 5 codlings and 50 kilograms of lobsters for 600 pots. The owner told officers that the last couple of landings haven't come back from the merchant as dead. The survival of the lobsters has increased from the areas fished by vessel, the areas fished are those that were affected from the back end of last year. | |
| Supporting evidence | Submitted intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 1 st March 2022 | 10:00 | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground | Officers spoke with merchant, the owner stated that he had not been receiving any correspondence from any organisation(s) since the first days of incidents of wash up. Owner stated he had a few dead ones at the start of the first part of the wash ups. Owner told the officers he had press ringing him regarding an opinion on the matter(s). Owner is concerned that DEFRA or FSA,EH have told him not to sell to public or any guidance has been issued on the selling of any produce to the public. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 1 st March 2022 | 10:40 | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/report/evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground | Two fishing vessels out at sea fishing. Fishing vessels didn't land at the time officers were on the ground. One fishing vessel was going to see what was at sea and had moved pots off to deeper water away from the affected areas. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 1 st March 2022 | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/report/evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers and NEIFCA enviro officers | 3 fishing vessels were at sea. Fishing vessel one landed at the time officers were on the ground on the fish quay. The fishing vessel landed 1 box of crabs and approximately 17 kilograms of lobster. The owner of the fishing vessel was still reporting not seeing any signs of velvet swimming crabs. Conversation had with a male from another fishing vessel. Male reported that when they were fishing recently in the affected areas, they had been landing a box to two boxes of crabs and a few slack boxes of lobsters. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement Log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 2 nd March 2022 | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report evidence captured | |
| IFCOs on the ground | Travelled to Whitby to engage with industry about the impact of the shellfish mortalities but there were no industry members present. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement Log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 2nd March 2022 | AM | Scarborough |

| Person, platform reported | Conversation/report/evidence captured | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| IFCOs on the ground | Officers travelled to Scarborough to engage with industry about the impact of shellfish mortalities but there were no industry members present. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement Log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 2nd March 2022 | 12:45 | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/report/evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | NEIFCA shore officers received a phone call from an owner of a fishing vessel in Hartlepool. He had been fishing in the affected areas but had to move off due to nothing being caught in the pots. The owner told officers that he had worked 700 pots and landed approximately 50 kilograms of edible crabs, 11 kilograms of lobsters and 30 kg of codlings | |
| Supporting evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 3 rd March 2022 | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs on the ground | Spoke with fishermen in Hartlepool fish quay. They advised their usual fishing grounds are within 6nm and frequently set pots out near Longscarr buoy but they had not been fishing within 6nm recently. They have now moved out to grounds 6-12 nm from shore. Advised below 25 fathoms they were catching nothing but above 25 fathom caught 19 lobster and 170 crab. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 4 th March | 10:30 | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Whilst at Scarborough there were no fishing vessels at sea, Officers spoke with skipper from fishing vessel. Officers asked the skipper what fishing was like now. The Male replied if you're asking about compensation then it's terrible haven't seen anything. There is nothing alive. If you're asking about fishing normally then fishing is what it is at this time of year. | |
| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | area |
| 4 th March | 13:30 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | One fishing vessel landed 8 boxes of crabs and approximately 18 kilograms of lobsters. The skipper told officers that he had worked a fleet off Kettleiness and this had 25 pots on it. The skipper took 6 sized lobsters from the area. Skipper reported plenty of life in the area and saw undersized and berried lobsters. | |
| Supporting evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7th March 2022 | AM | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs on the ground | Spoke with five fishers in Scarborough as they were landing. All said they were happy to take an IFCO out on observer trips with them, except for | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| | one vessel owner as his vessel is too small. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th March 2022 | AM | Marske |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III | <p>IFCOs onboard NEG III shot 2 baited camera pots in positions:</p> <p>54°35.852N 000°58.900W 54°36.715N 000°59.633W</p> <p>Cameras were left to soak for 3.5 hours. Visibility was not optimal however several crabs can be seen passing in and out of shot over the duration of the footage. No animals in the footage appear to exhibit any unusual symptoms.</p> | |
| Supporting evidence | Video footage | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th March 2022 | 10:00 | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Potting fishing vessels were at sea fishing. Other vessels were at sea trawling. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th March 2022 | 12:30 | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Fishing vessel at sea fishing pots for shellfish. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement Log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th March 2022 | 14:15 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Small catch of lobsters and edible crabs in the fish market, these had been landed earlier in the day by one fishing vessel. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement Log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th March 2022 | 14:30 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Fishing vessel landed 7.2 kilograms of lobsters and approximately 8 boxes of edible crabs. Skipper told officers that he had been fishing 6 –8 NM off land. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th March 2022 | 14:50 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Fishing vessel landed 35Kg of edible crabs and 25 Kg of lobsters for 350 pots. Fleets fished were in 15 Fathom of water. Skipper and crew still concerned on the lack of sightings of velvet swimming crabs. | |

| Supporting evidence | Engagement log | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th March 2022 | 15:10 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Fishing vessel landed 450 kg of edible crabs and approximately 7 kg of lobsters. | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement Log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th March 2022 | 15:25 | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Fishing vessel landed 495 kg of edible crabs and 10 kg of lobsters for 400 pots working 9NM offshore | |
| Supporting evidence | Engagement Log | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 8 th March 2022 | 13:00 | - |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Greatest Hits Radio station heard via NEIFCA shore officers | Shore officers hear 13:00 News broadcast on Yorkshire Coast Radio/Greatest Hits station which included Councilor Janet Jefferson of Scarborough Council stating that Scarborough Harbour Master was monitoring the situation (shellfish mortalities incident) closely and is committed to helping the industry in any way they can. | |
| Supporting evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 8 th March 2022 | 15:44 | South Gare Pier |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers | 3 Whitings caught from the end of South Gare Pier (sourced from a local angler) on 07/03/2022. Whitings were dissected and examined by NEIFCA officers and no scarring was observed on the livers. 2 whitings had parasites in the livers and 1 had parasites in it's gills. | |


Supporting evidence

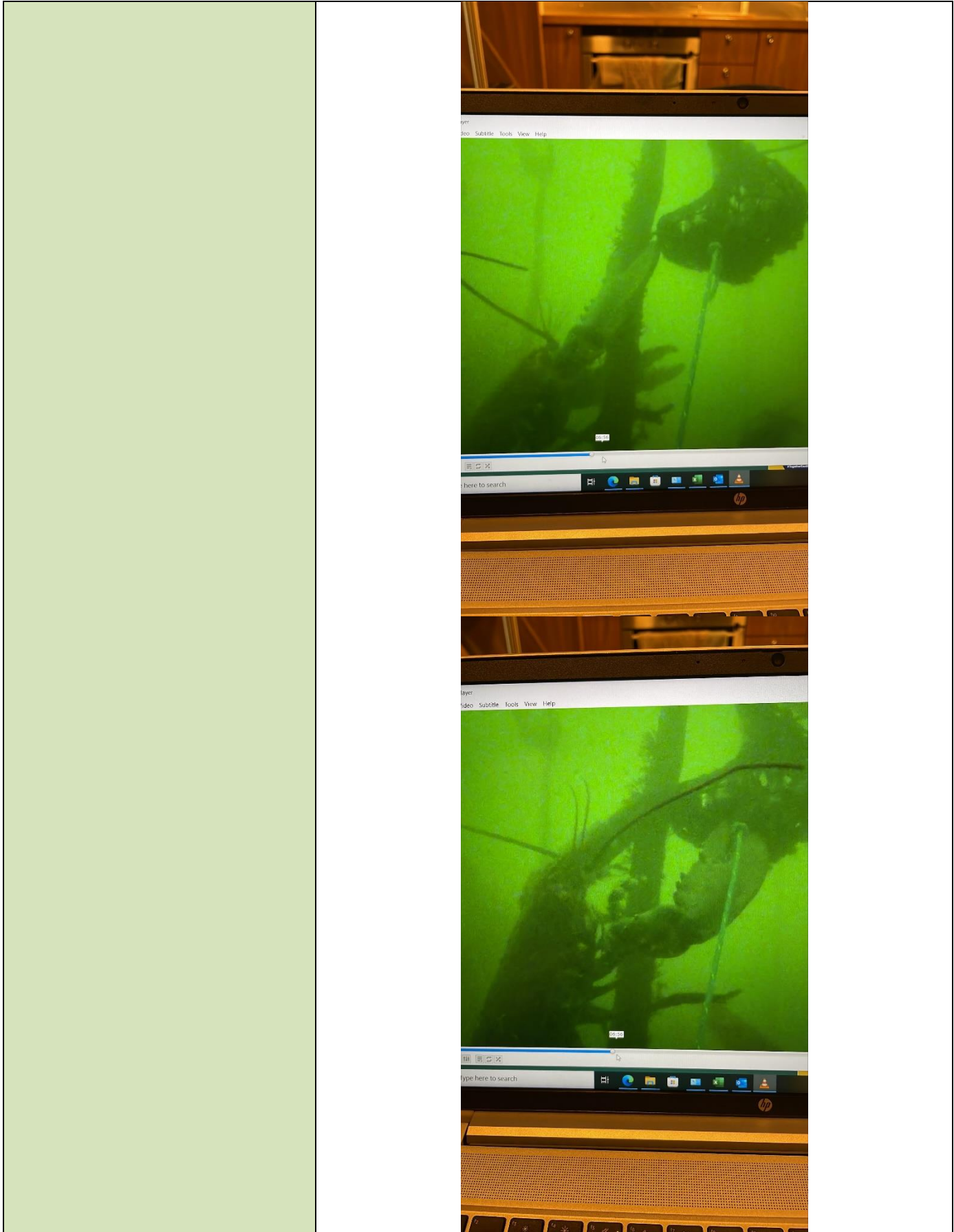


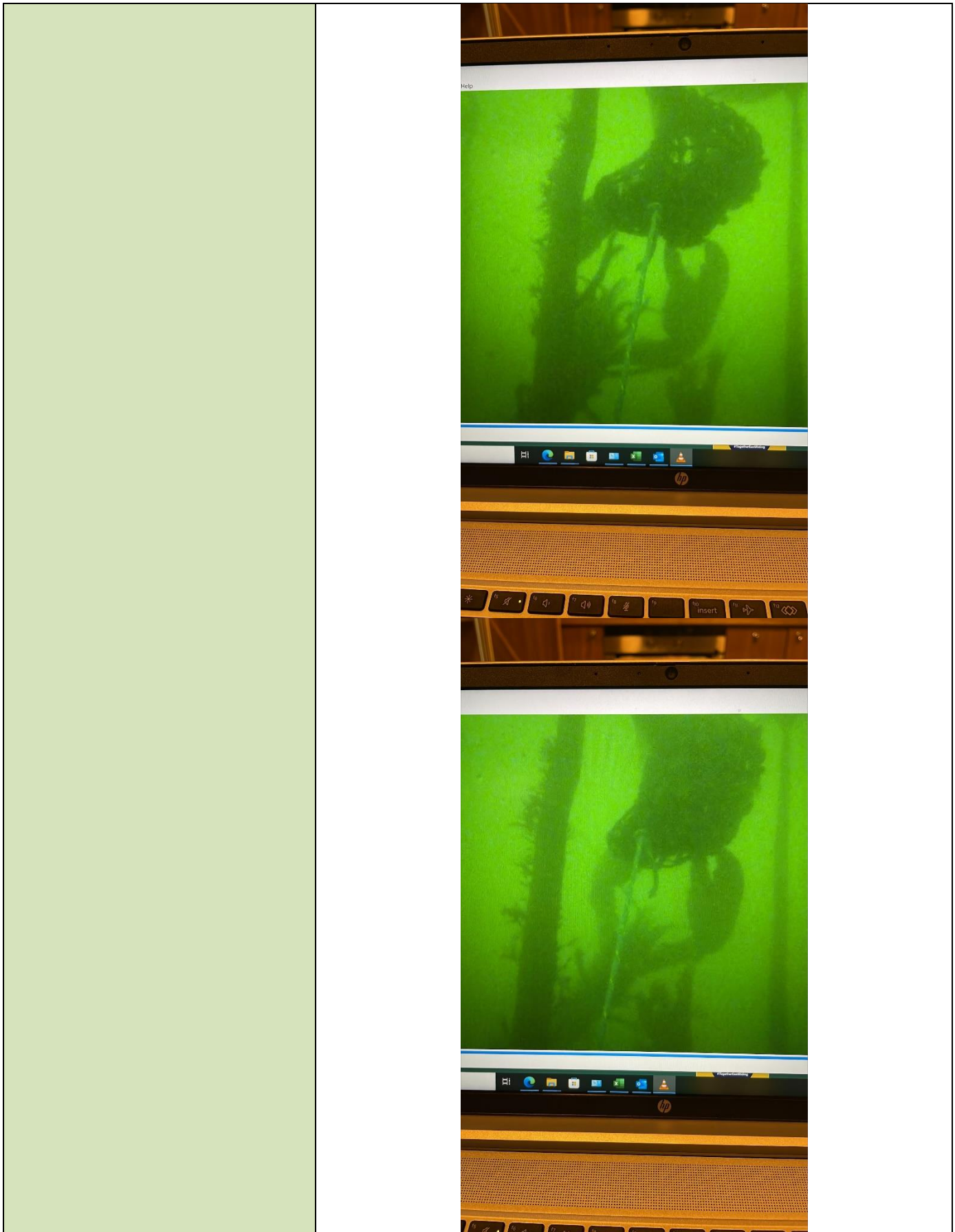






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| |  | |
| DATE | TIME | AREA |
| 14-03-2022 | 09:15 | Runswick Bay |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III | <p>IFCOs onboard NEG III shot 2 baited camera frames in positions:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">54°32.168N 000°43.462W 54°365.160N 000°45.040W</p> <p>Cameras were left to soak for approximately 3 hours. Camera 2 footage showed lobsters attempting to take the bait bag. They showed no ill symptoms and appeared to be lively.</p> | |
| Supporting Evidence | Video Footage/Stills from video | |





| DATE | TIME | AREA |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| 14-03-2022 | 10:00 | Marske |
| Person, platform reported | | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| | IFCOs onboard NEG III set pots (3 fleets of 3 pots) at the below locations: 54°36.681N 000°59.881W 54°37.217N 001°01.331W 54°37.796N 001°02.025W Pots were baited and had escape gaps closed to ensure captured of all size classes of shellfish. | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 14.03.2022 | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Officers spoke with skipper one fishing vessel. Skipper had 8 lobsters in a basket which he had just taken out of a fleet from the Heugh. The fleet had been laid inside the Heugh since November. The skipper told officers that in the next few days he aims to take a fleet or two over to the Longscarr bouy area. | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 14.03.2022 | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Officers spoke with the fishermen of one fishing vessel. Fishing vessel had been fishing up to 2 NM off the Hartlepool Tees area. The fishermen landed approximately 6 codlings, 5 kilograms of Whelks, 20 kilograms of edible crabs and 20 kilograms of lobsters. Skipper told officers that he has fleets laid of Marske area since December and is aiming of the next few days to go out and retrieve them. Skipper reported seeing no signs of velvet swimming crabs. | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 14.03.2022 | AM | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Officers observed one fishing vessel fishing from the Redcar area. | |
| Supporting evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 14.03.2022 | Afternoon | Staithe |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | One fishing vessel landed. The fishing vessel hadn't fished inside the affected area and had fished offside. The fishing vessel landed approximately 8 boxes of edible crabs and one box of lobsters. | |
| Supporting evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 14-03-2022 | Afternoon | Staithe |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | One fishing vessel landed 20 kilograms of lobsters from 150 pots from fishing close in, under the cliffs. | |
| Supporting evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15-03-2022 | AM | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |


| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | One fishing vessel observed fishing at sea. Vessel was going to be landing catch to his keep pot. | |
| Supporting evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15-03-2022 | AM | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Recreational fishermen from a fishing vessel was seen by officers putting 5 pots in approximately 0.5 - 1NM away from the shoreline. | |
| Supporting evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15-03-2022 | AM | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Officers got told by fishermen that divers went off the South gare pier the other day, looking for lead weights. On doing so they witnessed under the water dead and dying crabs. Officers asked fishermen that next time they go could officers get some of the footage. | |
| Supporting evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15-03-2022 | AM | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Fishermen told officers that until they go fishing they wont know but with the uncertainty and the rising costs of fuel and IVMS that they would be going single handed on days fishing. | |
| Supporting evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15-03-2022 | AM | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers on the ground. | Officers spoke with merchant. Merchant told officers that in the last week one of the fishing vessels fishing that 8 of the lobsters had died in 24 hours. The lobsters were showing signs of weakness and going on their backs. Merchant has since the mortalities in October, being putting blue bands on all south gare and Redcar lobsters to compare against his Staithes and Whitby boats landing. Merchant was asked by officers that if anymore shellfish came in and did the previous and or died to keep to one side and arrange with officers to come and collect. | |
| Supporting evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15-3-2022 | AM | Marske |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III | IFCOs onboard NEG III hauled pots (3 fleets of 3 pots) as part of NEIFCA's monitoring programme at the below locations: 54°36.681N 000°59.881W (2 male lobsters) 54°37.217N 001°01.331W (no lobsters but whelk seed) 54°37.796N 001°02.025W (3 males and 5 females – one berried, more whelk seed) In total 10 lobsters were caught. All were heathy and lively displaying no symptoms. Along with the lobsters a bycatch of starfish and whelk seed was landed in abundance. | |

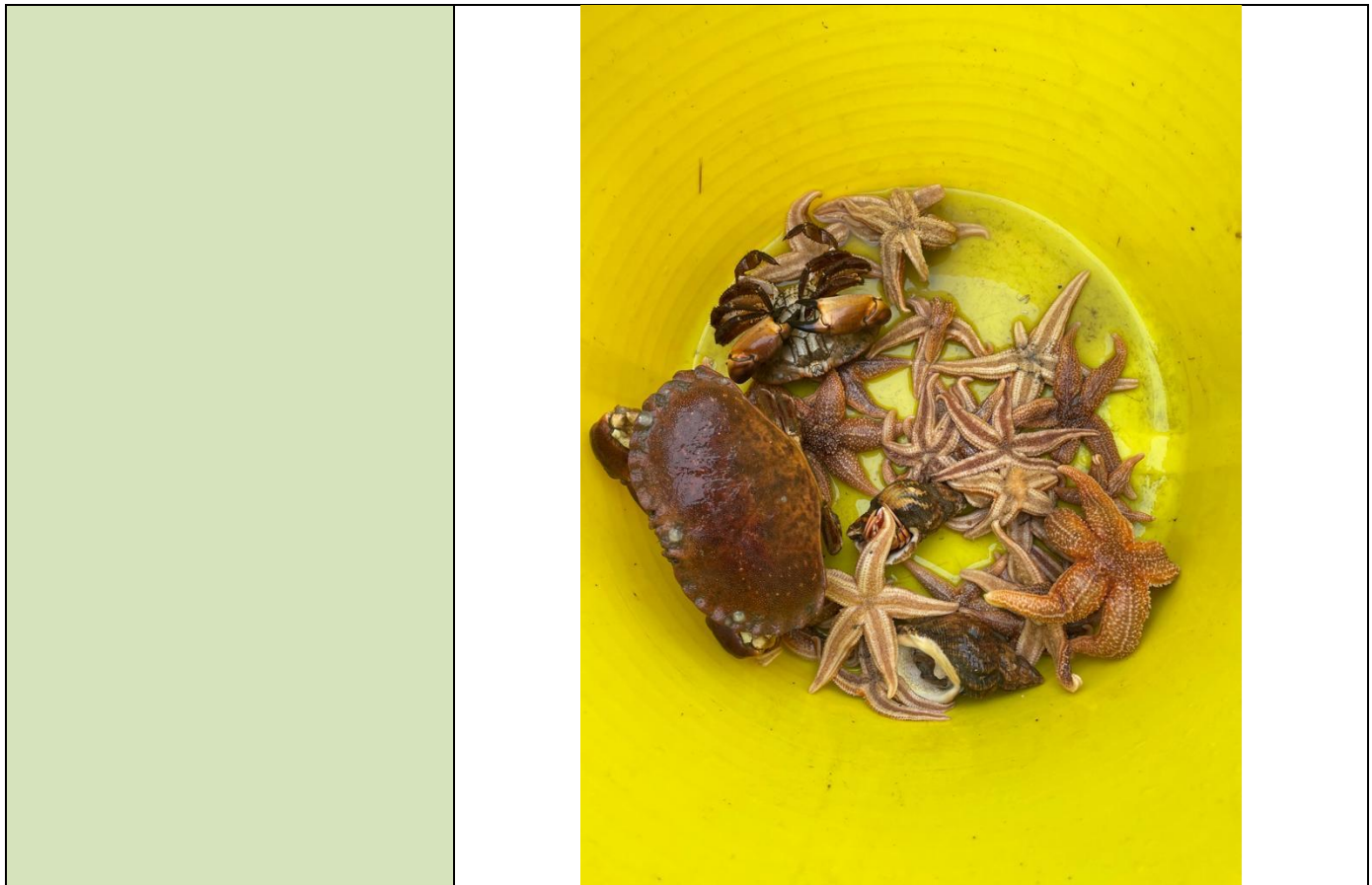





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|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| Supporting evidence | Photographs and survey stock sheet assessment | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15-3-2022 | AM | Saltburn |


| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------|
| IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III | IFCOs onboard NEG III shot 2 baited camera frames in positions: 54°35.849N 000°59.009W 54°36.061N 000°58.044W Cameras were left to soak for approximately 3 hours. Cameras were shot on soft ground. Dab were observed but no shellfish. | |
| Supporting evidence | Video footage | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15-3-2022 | Afternoon | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | One fishing vessel had been netting in the areas of Kettleness to Runswick Bay. The fishing vessel landed 7 codlings, 4 pollacks the size of fish boxes and 2 Turbots. | |
| Supporting evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16.3.2022 | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | Conversation had with skipper of a fishing vessel. Officers asked the skipper if he had pots in to which the skipper stated to officers that he hadn't. The skipper was then also asked if when pots are in and fishing if he was happy for officers to go with him and the skipper wasn't very keen on officers going with him. | |
| Supporting evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16.3.2022 | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | Officers had a conversation with the skipper of a fishing vessel. The day before the skipper had told officers that he was more than happy for officers to go with him to fish. Skipper had gone to sea without officers after saying he would take them. Skipper was quite reluctant when officers met with him to see what he had landed from 1 – 2 NM off Whitby. The vessel landed approximately 14 lobsters and 20 edible crabs. | |
| Supporting evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16.3.2022 | Afternoon | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | Fishing vessel landed 2 boxes of edible crabs and one box of lobsters and stated that they had fished inside and offside today. Not much life inside still seeing. No signs of velvet swimming crabs. | |
| Supporting evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16.3.2022 | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | Fishing vessel landed approximately 35 kilograms of lobsters and 4 edible crabs from three-day soaks. Skipper and crew still reporting no signs of velvet swimming crabs being seen in the pots. | |

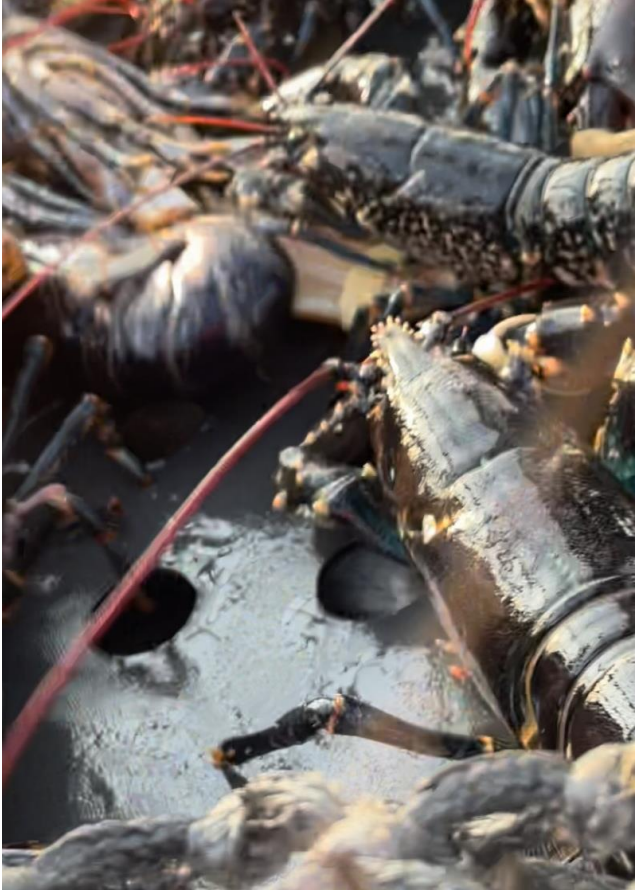
| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Supporting evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16.3.2022 | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | Fishing vessel landed approximately 7 boxes of lobsters and a box of lobsters. Skipper told officers that it was the first time he had seen three velvet swimming crabs inside. Skipper told officers that signs of life in the pots were starting to show from undersized to berried. | |
| Supporting evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16.3.2022 | AM | Skinnygrove/Marske/Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | <p>IFCOs onboard NEG III hauled pots (3 fleets of 3 pots) as part of NEIFCA's monitoring programme at the below locations:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">54°38.65N 001°07.32W 54°39.67N 001°05.48W 54°40.89N 001°00.50W</p> <p>Three lobsters were caught; 3 males, 79mm, 80mm and 77mm. 2 edible crabs were caught; 2 males, 98mm and 142mm. Bycatch consisted of Whelk and starfish. All lobsters and crabs appeared healthy and lively. No animals exhibited any ill symptoms.</p> | |
| Supporting evidence |  | |

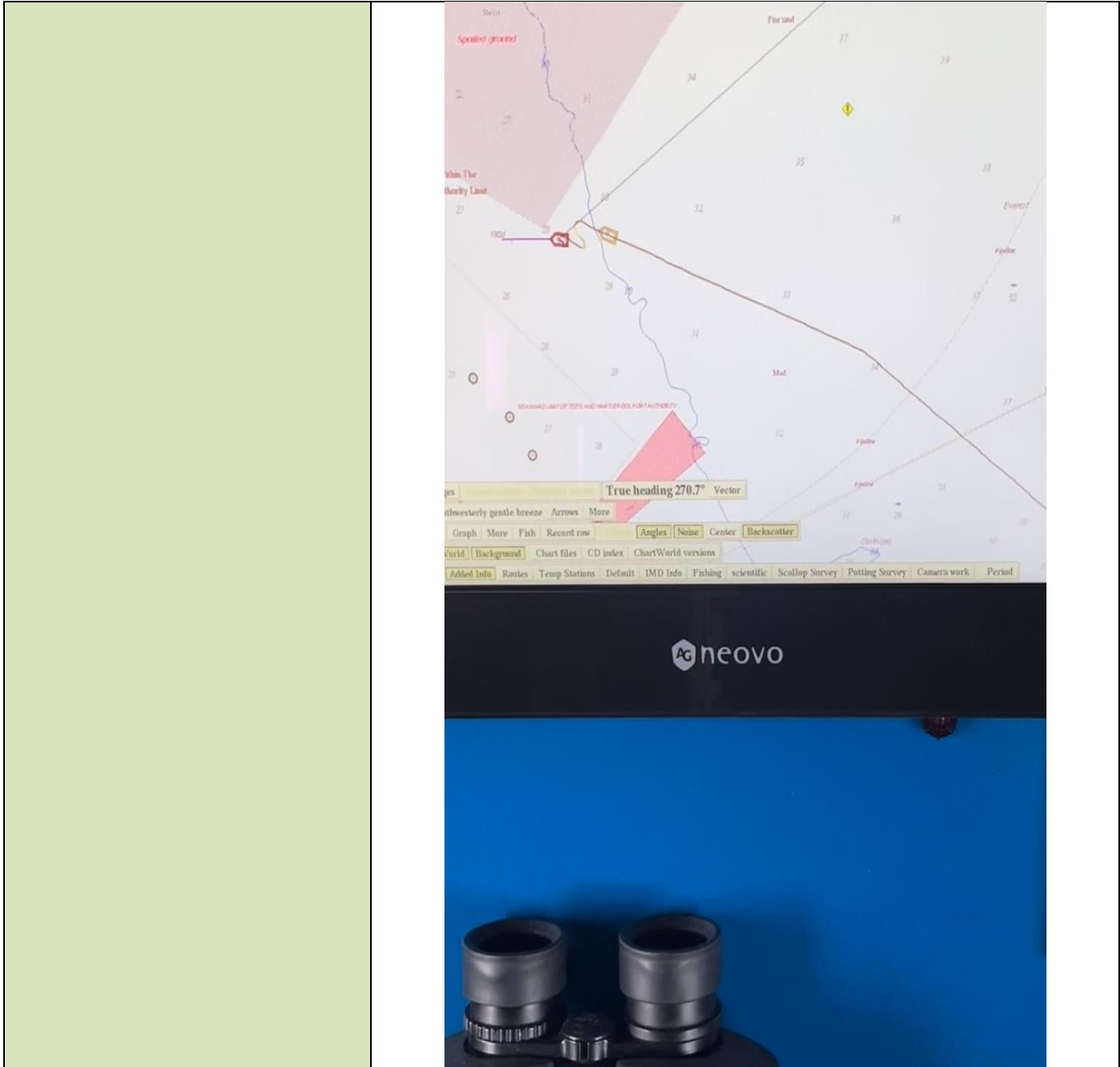


| Date | Time | Area |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 17.3.2022 | AM | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | No signs of any fishermen doing fishing activity at sea. No fishermen around on the quay to engage with. Vessels not going to sea due to weather. | |
| Supporting evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16.3.2022 | AM | Scarborough Cornelian Bay |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | Officers spoke with two shore gatherers. Shore gathers reported very little showings of shellfish in the pots this year. Shore gatherers had reported seeing very small amount of shore crabs and these were the only things been seen in the pots currently. | |
| Supporting evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 16.3.2022 | Afternoon | Scarborough Cornelian Bay |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers on the ground. | Shore gatherer spoke with officers and male stated that he had to move areas from Burniston due to not catching anything in the area. Male is now fishing in the cornelian area and under the Scarborough Spa. Male stated still seeing very poor landings of shellfish if at all any. | |
| Supporting evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 18.3.2022 | AM | Saltburn/Redcar/Marske |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------|
| <p>IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III</p> | <p>IFCOs onboard NEG III hauled pots (3 fleets of 3 pots) as part of NEIFCA's monitoring programme at the below locations:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">54°38.33N 001°01.35W 54°38.32N 000°59.75W 54°37.40N 000°57.30W</p> <p>9 lobsters were caught, 4 males and 5 females. Males measured 77mm, 98mm, 79mm, 78mm. Females measured 120mm, 87mm (berried), 77mm (berried), 91mm (berried), 100mm (berried). No ill symptoms were exhibited – all animals were healthy and lively. Bycatch consisted of starfish and 5 Whelks.</p> | |
| <p>Supporting evidence</p> |  | |
| <p>Date</p> | <p>Time</p> | <p>Area</p> |
| <p>21st March 2022</p> | <p>16:19</p> | <p>Scarborough</p> |
| <p>Person, platform reported</p> | <p>Conversation/ report/ evidence captured</p> | |
| <p>EA</p> | <p>Email received from Environmental Agency reporting that a contact of them had been in Scarborough at the weekend (19th & 20th March) and had seen a small amount of dead edible crabs washed up on the beach.</p> | |

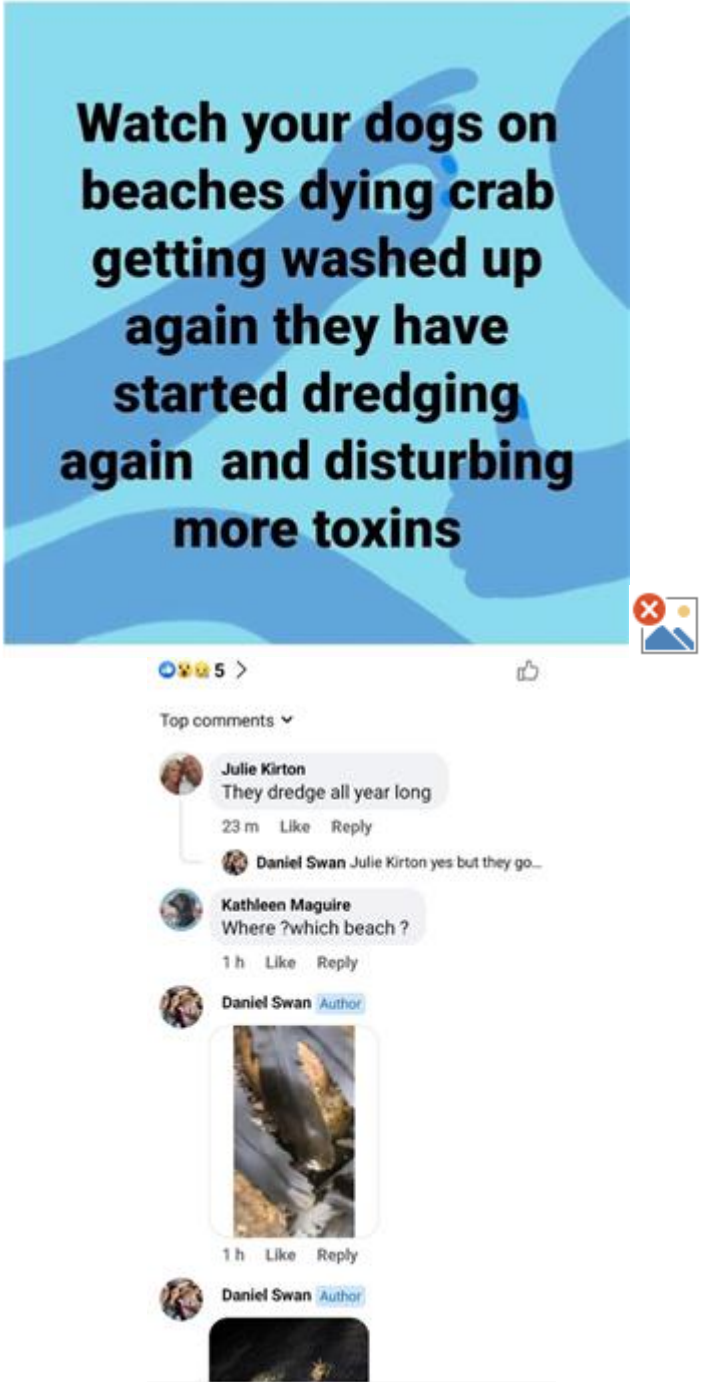
| | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| Supporting evidence |  | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 22.03.2022 | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting evidence | N/A | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 23/03/2022 | AM | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 24/03/2022 | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting evidence | | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 24 th March | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |

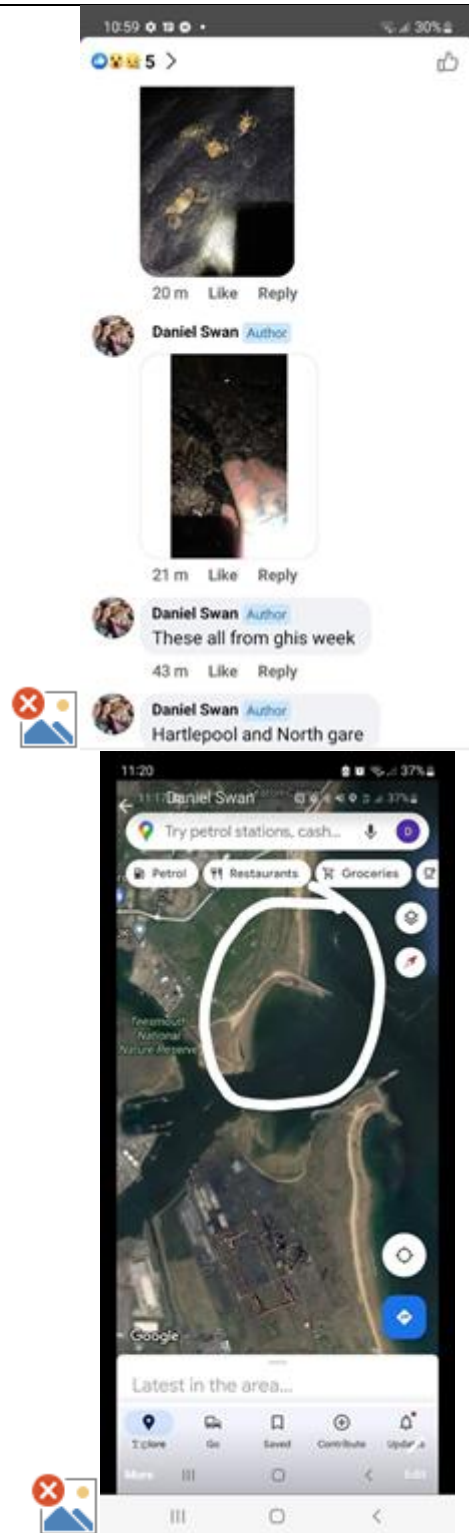
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|--|---|-------------|
| NEIFCA shore officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 24.3.2022 | AM | Redar/Tees |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| IFCOs onboard North East Guardian III | IFCO officers shot a keep pot in position 54°40.181N 001°01.478W on Tuesday 15 th March, the pot was hauled, additional caught lobsters added and shot again in the same location on Thursday 17 th . The pot contained lobsters caught in the potting survey. The pot location is on the southern corner of the spoiled ground, the area in which the Tees dredger offloads its spoil. The pot was left in position for 7/9 days and hauled on Thursday 24 th March. No lobsters exhibited ill symptoms, and all appeared healthy and lively. | |
| Supporting evidence | Video footage and photographs (photos are stills taken from video) | |
| |  | |




| Date | Time | Area |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| 28.3.2022 | - | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officer on the ground. | NEIFCA officer spoke to the skipper of a prawn trawler in Hartlepool. The skipper reported that they have seen a reduction in catch, he only landed three quarters of a basket of prawns and 1 basket of whiting when fishing for the day 2nm off Saltburn. He advised they in comparison to previous years, they would expect to be catching about 8 baskets of prawns per tow this time of year. | |
| Supporting evidence | Reported as intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 28 th March | AM / PM | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| NEIFCA Shore officers engaging with industry at Scarborough | Conversations had with fishermen on catch rates and improvements are starting to show signs of life | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 04.04.2022 | - | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officer on the ground. | NEIFCA officer spoke to fisherman of a prawn trawler in Hartlepool. The fisherman reported that they have been catching no prawns in the area (usually fish 2.5 miles out of Tees Bay) near to the dumping ground. He said from a whole days fishing he only caught 3 brill, usually he would be catching lots of prawns, dover sole etc. He said he hadn't trawled up any dead organisms or seen any signs of pollution (e.g. anything on the surface of the water). He said there is nothing within 6nm and so he has had to move out to 7nm to fish. Fisherman said he trawls with a 90mm mesh so should be getting lots of small organisms but has caught hardly anything. | |
| Supporting evidence | Reported as intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 13 th April | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA environment officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 15 th April | PM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 19 th April 2022 | AM | Hartlepool/ Seaton Carew |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA shore officers observed on social media reports of wash ups | Seen on social media reports of dead and dying lobsters and shore crabs being washed up in the Hartlepool and Seaton carew area. | |
| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 19 th April 2022 | PM | Hartlepool / seaton carew |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA team attended areas of reported wash ups | On attendance of Hartlepool headland, Middleton basin and Seaton Carew no signs observed by officers of any signs of washed up shellfish. | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 19.04.2022 | - | North Gare, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool |

| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured |
|---------------------------|---|
| Social media (facebook) | <p>Reports of dying crab and lobster found washed up on the beach in North Gare and Hartlepool. Videos shared in the comments section of the facebook post show shore crab on their backs (footage taken during the day) and footage (from the night before) of a moribund lobster on the rocks. Comments under the facebook post assume that dredging within the Tees is the cause of these dead shellfish.</p> |
| Supporting evidence |  <p>The screenshot shows a Facebook post with a blue background and white text that reads: "Watch your dogs on beaches dying crab getting washed up again they have started dredging again and disturbing more toxins". Below the text are 5 reactions (sad face, angry face, and others) and a thumbs-up icon. The post has several comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Kirton: "They dredge all year long" (23 m, Like, Reply) Daniel Swan: "Julie Kirton yes but they go..." Kathleen Maguire: "Where ?which beach ?" (1 h, Like, Reply) Daniel Swan (Author): A video comment showing a crab on its back (1 h, Like, Reply). Daniel Swan (Author): A video comment showing a moribund lobster on rocks. |



| Date | Time | Area |
|--|--------------|--|
| 19.04.2022 | 13:45 –15:15 | Seaton Carew, North Gare, Middleton Basin, Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured |
| NEIFCA shore officer & Enviro Officer on the ground. | | NEIFCA officers patrolled the areas mentioned in the social media post reporting shellfish washed up, no signs were found of dead shellfish washed up. But low tide was around 12:30, so officers may have missed any dead/dying shellfish due to the incoming tide. |

| Supporting evidence | N/A | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Date | Time | Area |
| 26.4.2022 | 08.00 - 14.00 | Hartlepool, South Gare, Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | | |
| NEIFCA shore officer & Enviro Officer on the ground. | <p>NEIFCA officers patrolled the areas mentioned in the social media post reporting shellfish washed up. This was a repeat of the patrol on 25.4.2022 with more favorable tides. No signs of any shellfish wash-up. A dead seal and sea bird were sighted on Hartlepool beach.</p>  | |



| Date | Time | Area |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 25 th April 2022 | PM | Redcar / South Gare area |

| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured |
|---------------------------|---|
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NEIFCA team attended areas of reported wash ups


Officers attended seaton carew, south and north gare areas. Wash ups seen at South Gare area.





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|---|--|-------------|
| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 28 th April 2022 | PM | South Gare |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA officers observed on social media, reports of lobsters being washed up at south gare | | |

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| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 28 th April | AM | South Gare |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers attending the reported affected wash up areas. | NEIFCA shore officers attended and witnessed quantities of lobsters, swimming crabs, razor clams and squat lobsters | |
| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 28 th April | AM | South Gare |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers attending the reported affected wash up areas. | NEIFCA shore officers attended and witnessed quantities of lobsters, swimming crabs, razor clams and squat lobsters. Samples taken (P03921882) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Samples taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 29 th April | AM | South Gare |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers attending the reported affected wash up areas. | NEIFCA shore officers attended and witnessed quantities of lobsters, swimming crabs, razor clams and squat lobsters. Samples taken (P03921937 , P03921935, P03921936) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Samples taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 29 th April | PM | South Gare |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers attending the reported affected wash up areas. | NEIFCA shore officers attended and witnessed quantities of lobsters, swimming crabs, razor clams and squat lobsters. Samples taken (P03921835 , P03921834) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Samples taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 4 th May | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers attending reports of wash up | Shore officers received a dead lobster from a fishermen, he had 15 lobster dead in the pots the last time he went fishing. Lobster sample taken as sample (P03921829) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel and samples taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 4 th May | AM | Saltburn |

| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
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| NEIFCA Shore officers attending reports of wash up | Shore officers attended Saltburn to find wash up of shore crabs, Lobsters, flat fish, codlings, squat lobsters and swimming crabs. Evidence bag (P03921830) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel Samples Taken | |
| 4 th May | AM | Scarborough |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA environment officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of fishing vessel Optimstic SH50 | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 4 ^h May | PM | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers engaging with industry | Photo disclosed from protected source of white, grey cream that strongly smells toxic and sewage like covering the river tees at the moment in time. | |
|  | | |
| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 4 th May | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers engaging with industry | Reports from various fishermen that the industry are planning industrial action and are going to blockade the entrance of the river tees. | |
| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 6 th May | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers engaging with industry | 5 Dead edible crabs from a fishing vessel. Samples taken (P03921832) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Samples Taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 6 th May | AM | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers engaging with industry | 1 dead lobster and 3 edible crabs dead from a fishing vessel (P03921833) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Samples Taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 6 th May | AM | Redcar |

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| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 7 th 8 th May | Weekend | Tees |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Conversations heard from industry of samples taken up the tees | Conversations with industry, 2 fishing vessels from Hartlepool taking scientists from Durham, York, Newcastle up the river and to the spoil grounds to get samples of sediment | |
| Supporting Evidence | Reported as Intel | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 9 th May | AM | Whitby |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 9 th May | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 9 th May | PM | Staithe |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers engaging with industry | Conversation with merchant who had collected lobsters that had been dying in the tanks from the last 3 weeks from one fishing vessel. 15 lobsters in total. Samples taken (P03921823, P03921818, P03921823) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Samples taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 9 th May 2022 | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers engaging with industry | One Fishing vessel had caught a dead lobster from the fishing position 54,40.736N /001,10.066 W. Sample taken (P03921817) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Samples Taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 9 th May 2022 | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers from observation trip | One Fishing vessel had caught a dead lobster from the fishing position 54,41.42N /001,10.54 W. Sample taken (P03921827) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Samples Taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |

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| 9 th May 2022 | AM | Hartlepool |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers engaging with industry | One Fishing vessel had caught a dead lobster from the fishing position 54,40.48N /001,19.05 W. Sample taken (P03921823) | |
| Supporting Evidence | Samples Taken | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 10 th May 2022 | News | National |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Observed on media | https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/environment/fresh-investigation-in-crab-and-lobster-deaths-off-yorkshire-coast-completed-3679048 Yorkshire post | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 13 th May 2022 | AM | Redcar |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| NEIFCA Shore officers undertaking industry observer trip | Observing fleets of a fishing vessel | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 13 th May 2022 | NEWS | National |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Observed on Media | https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/yorkshire-lobsters-mass-deaths-europe-b2076537.html Independent News | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 13 th May 2022 | NEWS | Local/ National |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Observed on Media | https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/20138905.north-sea-crisis-time-someone-take-responsibility/ Northern echo | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 14 th May 2022 | NEWS | Local/ National |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Observed on Media | https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/20138632.no-plans-new-investigation-north-east-sea-life-deaths/ Northern echo | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |

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| 14 th May 2022 | NEWS | Local/ National |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Observed on Media | https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/20139521.watch-hartlepool-fishermens-empty-lobster-pots-north-sea/ Northern echo | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| 14 th May 2022 | NEWS | Local/ National |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
| Observed on Media | https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/20137883.concern-devastating-death-crustaceans-north-east/ Northern echo | |
| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
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| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
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| Supporting Evidence | NA | |
| Date | Time | Area |
| | | |
| Person, platform reported | Conversation/ report/ evidence captured | |
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| Supporting Evidence | NA | |