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The following slides were presented to the Southern North Sea demersal non-quota species Fisheries Management Plan working group on the 10th October 2023.

The information on initial scoping findings within these slides is not government policy.

The proposed dates for engagement are subject to change based on further engagement planning discussions.

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# Southern North Sea non-quota species FMP: Working Group Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Rachel Thirlwall  
FMP team Principal Fisheries Managers

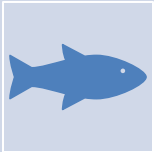
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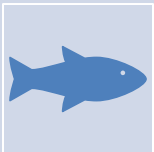
# What are FMPs?



Fisheries Management Plans are set out in the Fisheries Act 2020 and are at the centre of UK fisheries management post-Brexit.



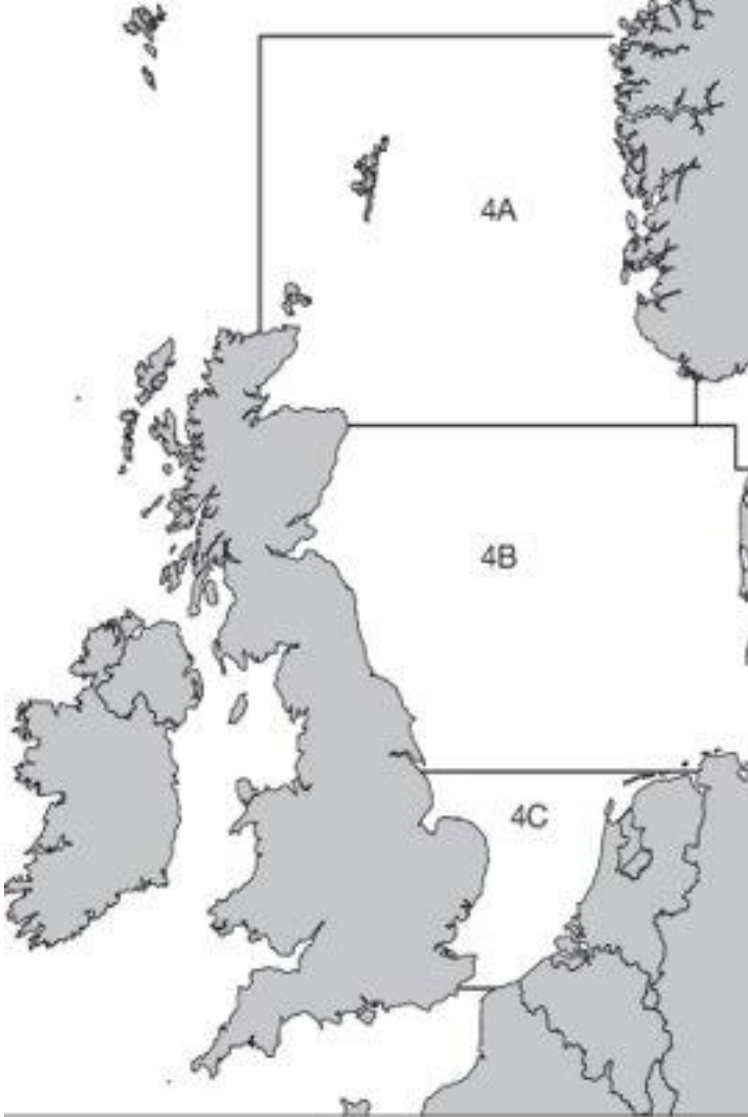
Plan led approach to fisheries management. They set out the policies needed to maintain or restore stocks to sustainable levels.



FMPs are a different way of working and they are being developed collaboratively with stakeholders.

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# Southern North Sea demersal Non-Quota Species FMP



- Covers English waters of ICES areas 4b and 4c
- Focusing on demersal non-quota species (NQS);
  - **Red/Tub/Grey Gurnards**
  - **Cuttlefish**
  - **Squid**
  - **Octopus**
  - **John Dory**
  - **Red mullet**
  - **Lesser Spotted Dogfish**
- Publication at the end of 2024

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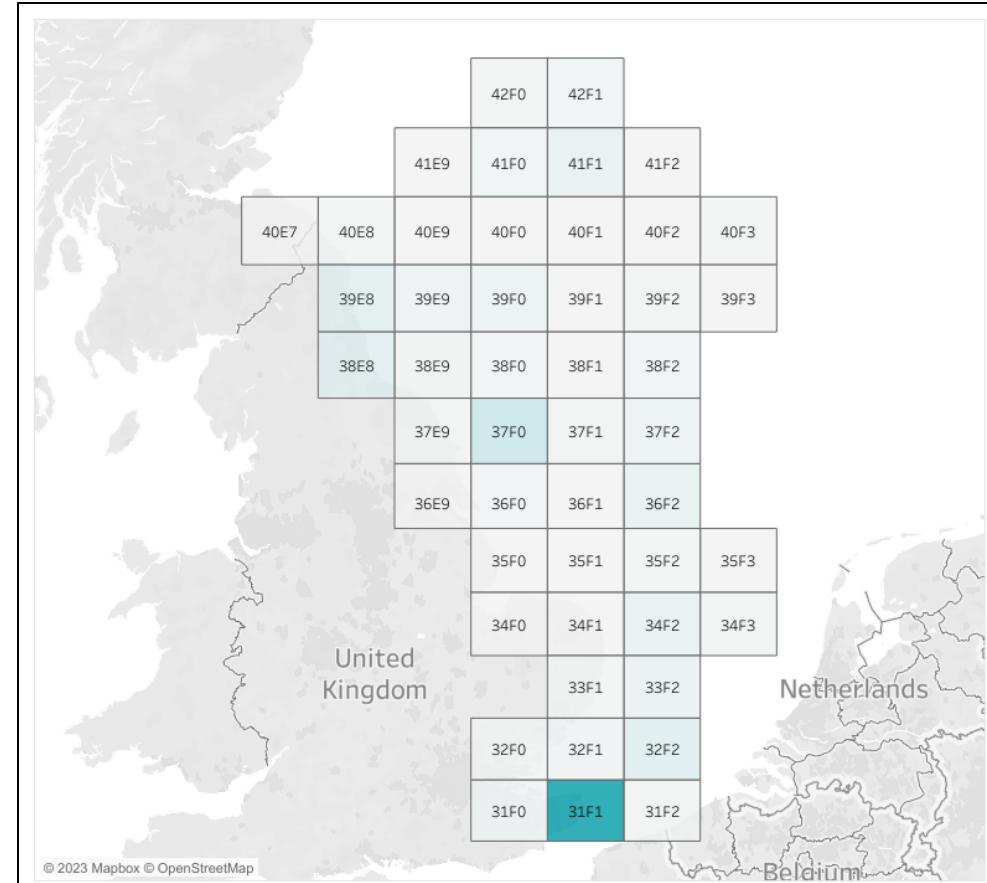
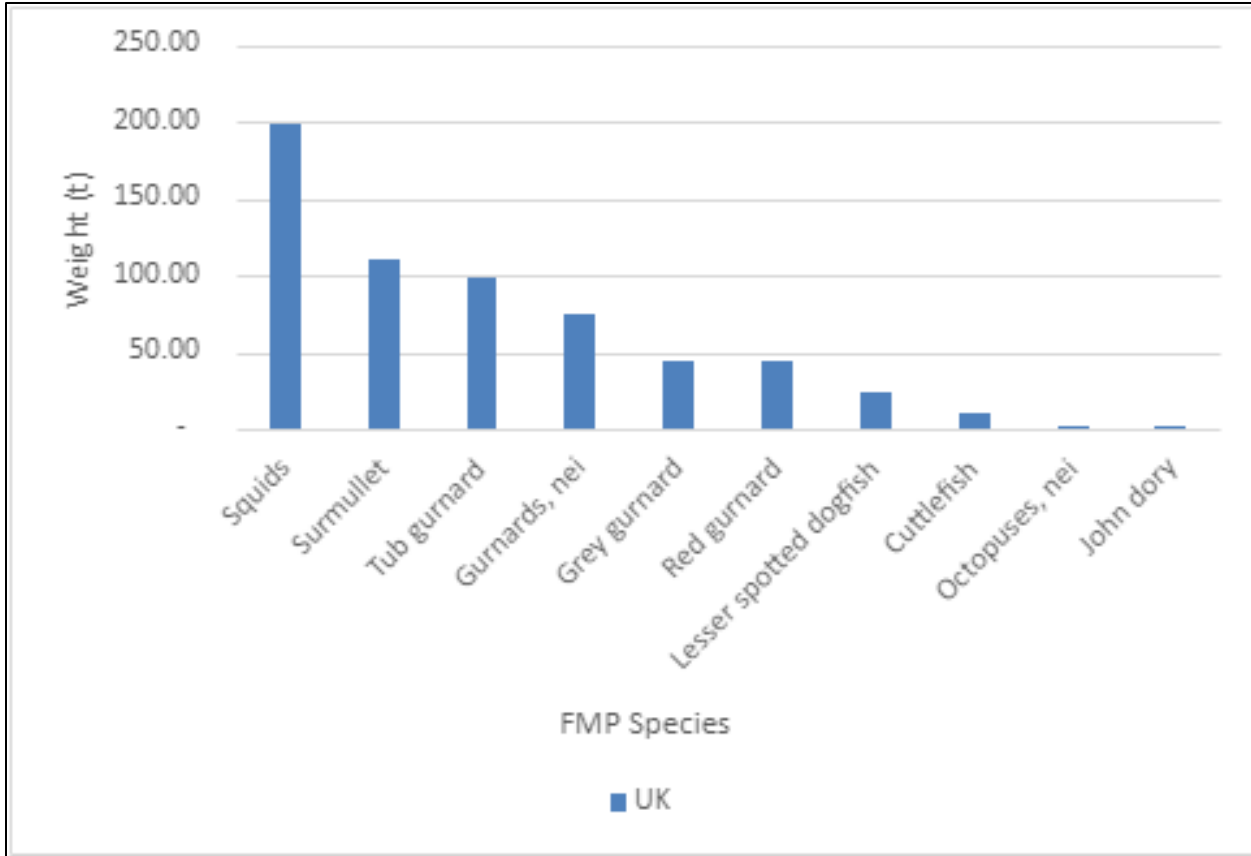
# Why an FMP for these species?



- Data poor, only 4 currently have stock assessments
- Mixed and multispecies fishery with many of the species being caught as by-catch with some targeted fisheries.
- Mainly larger, towed gear vessels catching the FMP species
- Emerging fisheries in the southern north sea (cuttlefish)

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# Initial scoping findings



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# Discussion on any issues/ opportunities the working group has for the Southern North Sea non-quota species FMP

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# Approach to Engagement going forward

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**Scoping Stage**

Identify Issues

Sustainability, evidence, social and economic issues identified through initial scoping of fisheries and sustainability evidence, as well as conversations with stakeholders and WG. Will include discussions with internal MMO colleagues.

**Internal Management Development Stage**

Draft Management Option

Team develop responsive management options based on issues identified through scoping stages

MMO/Defra/ALB Internal Review

Discussions held with key contacts to understand whether proposed management is both feasible and appropriate.

**Engagement Stage**

WG Review

WG feedback on proposed management options to understand whether sector agrees with approach.

Regional Stakeholder Workshops

Stakeholder engagement roadshow (including regional workshops) undertaken to gather feedback on draft management options

Stakeholder Engagement

*Remote engagement on refinements*

*Significant feedback*

**Refinement Stage**

Additional Refinement Required

Refinement Stage

*WG/Stakeholder agreement*

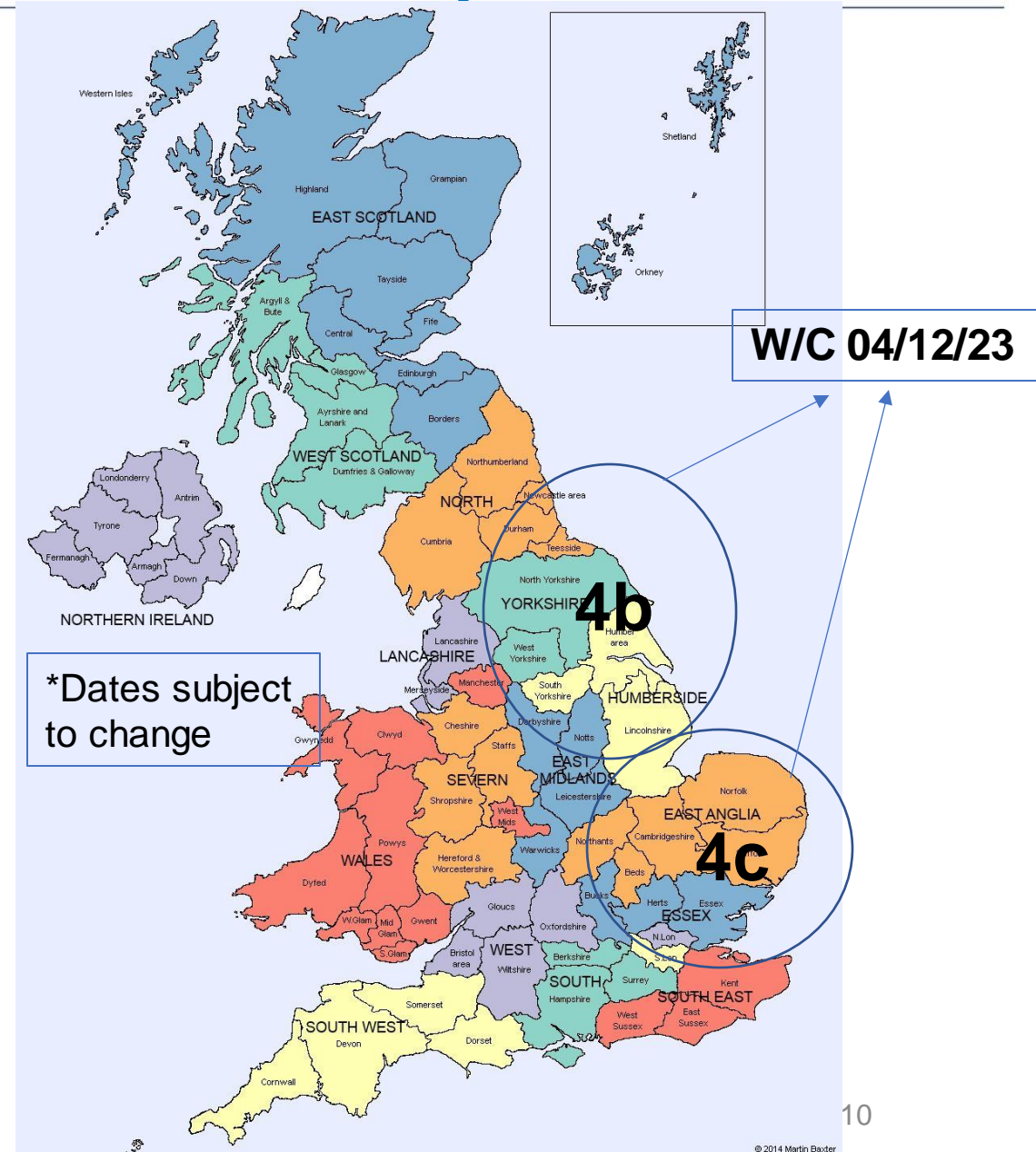
Management Option Adopted



# Approach to Engagement: Regional Workshops

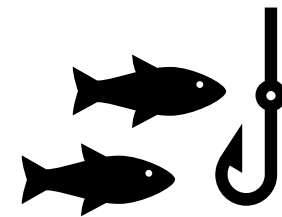
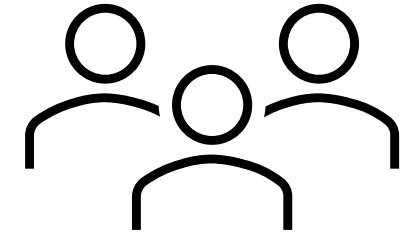
- 2 regional workshops based around each of the ICES areas
- Focus on sharing proposed management measures and goals of the FMP with stakeholders to understand trade-offs and unintended consequences pre-consultation
- Workshops will be supported by ad hoc port visits for those who cannot attend.

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## 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 port visits and workshops across 4b and 4c\*

- **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** - Harwich/ West Mersea Workshop
- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – Port Visits (Lowestoft, Kings Lynn)
- **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – Port Visits Bridlington/ Scarborough and workshop in the evening (TBD)
- **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Port Visits in North Shields and Hartlepool



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\* subject to change based on working group feedback



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# Discussion on engagement for the Southern North Sea NQS FMP



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