



Marine
Management
Organisation

Channel Non-Quota Demersal FMP Evidence

1st Evidence Advisory Group meeting
18 November 2022

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The Marine Management Organisation used this presentation to support the Channel demersal non-quota species fisheries management plan Evidence Advisory Group meeting on 18 November 2022. These presentation slides are shown within this document as they were to the group on the day.

Due to the fast-paced nature of the work being carried out on the FMPs and emerging evidence, all dates and commitments within this document are subject to change.

- Introductions and purpose of the Evidence advisory group
- Introduction to evidence plan
- Draft Channel demersal NQS FMP vision
- Next steps

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Introductions and purpose of the Evidence advisory group

- Introductions
- EAG agreed by Channel demersal NQS FMP working group
- WG ToR: Sub-groups - the Working Group Chair may convene sub-groups to focus on particular areas of the programme, as and when these are needed. Any sub-group will be accountable to the Working Group Chair and will only have decision making authority if given by the Working Group Chair.
- Aim of EAG:
 - Provide technical advice and steer to WG
 - No decision making authority

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Why develop an evidence plan?

The MMO has been commissioned to produce an evidence plan for its FMP.

This must set out (as a minimum):

- Evidence requirements to assess the listed species MSY or appropriate proxy (section 6 (3) of Fisheries Act 2020)
- What we already know about the listed species and fisheries – including stock data, species biology, environmental impacts of the fisheries and social and economic evidence
- Evidence shortfalls and requirements to meet the goals of the FMP

MMO produced an evidence plan to set out how best to address this task.

This includes:

- The pertinent evidence themes and associated questions for each objective
- How they will be addressed in a phased manner

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Phased approach

There are specific mandatory requirements which must be addressed (set out in Article 6 of the Fisheries Act (2020)) to enable it to be legally compliant.

However, MMO's ambitions, go beyond this and it aims to scope in all eight objectives of the Act (2020) in a manner appropriate to the target species, fisheries and geographical reach.

However, due to limited time, and resources, these will be addressed in a phased manner over a number of iterations. These have therefore been separated out into:

- **‘Must’** – this covers the mandatory considerations required for publication and those the MMO deem critical for this initial iteration
- **‘Should’** - This also covers NE and JNCC's contributions with regards to significant environmental risks features of MPAs and Good Environmental Status (under UK Marine Strategy) as well as additional considerations which are important but not crucial
- **‘Could’** - covers the wider aspects of the wider goals

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Examples of ‘Must’ evidence themes and associated questions

Fisheries Act Objective	Associated evidence theme	Lead
Article 6 requirement (<i>Links to equal access and ecosystem objective</i>)	Relevant geographical boundaries (jurisdictional, biological and statistical)	In house & Cefas
Article 6 requirement (<i>Links to bycatch and ecosystem objectives</i>)	Scoping out commercial and recreational fisheries and their relevant methods: What caught/when/who/how/spatial distribution and associated ports	MMO Stats & Seafish
Article 6 requirement	Scoping out commercial and recreational economic dependence on FMP species: Economic importance, No. of vessels involved, economic performance, fuel price analysis, direct employment	Seafish
Article 6 requirement	Chronology of formal/informal management measures implemented elsewhere: Associated fisheries, technology measures, international	Cefas/ in house/students
Article 6 requirement (<i>Linked to sustainability, precaution, bycatch and ecosystem objective</i>)	Species biology of the priority species: life history; predator-prey interactions; important habitats e.g. spawning, nursery, feeding, overwintering grounds; ecosystem role; and size at sexual maturity	Cefas
Article 6 requirement (<i>Linked to sustainability and ecosystem objective</i>)	Species distribution of the priority species: geographical distribution; habitat associations; bathymetry	Cefas
Article 6 requirement (<i>Linked to sustainability objective</i>)	Stock identification (to include what nominal units may be considered for assessment or are known as biological stock units) and population structure	Cefas
Sustainability and Precautionary objective	Stock assessment programmes and scientific monitoring and reporting (MSY assessment or proxy arrangements): Data required to improve stock assessments; current state of the stocks collating historical trends ; suitable indicators for determining stock status given the data-limitations	Cefas
Equal access objective	Current limits to equal access (legislation, spatial restrictions)	In house & Cefas

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Examples of 'Should' evidence themes and associated questions

Fisheries Act Objective	Associated evidence theme	Lead	Timeline
Ecosystem objective	Sensitivity to the UKMS descriptors from gear types with MPAs	SNCBs (inside MPAs)	December 2022
Ecosystem and bycatch objective	Sensitive species bycatch	SNCBs (inside MPAs/screening of GES)	Inside MPAs by December 2022 Outside of MPAs (GES) to be picked up in future iterations
Ecosystem objective	Predator/prey links	SNCBs (inside MPAs)	Related to MPAs by November 2022 Outside of MPAs (GES) to be picked up in future iterations
Bycatch objective	Other species captured when caught as part of a mixed fishery	In house	Future iteration
Bycatch objective	Bycatch impact on other species	In house	Future iteration
National benefit objective <i>(Linked to Sustainability, equal access and bycatch objectives)</i>	Map out social and economic value and benefits	To be confirmed	Next iteration
Climate change objective <i>(Link to ecosystem approach)</i>	Species environmental thresholds and sighted changes to species distribution and seasonal availability	To be confirmed	Next iteration
Equal access objective	Associated key ports	In house	Next iteration

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Evidence plan questions

- Is the current Evidence Plan sufficient and have we got the prioritisation right (outside of mandatory aspects)?
- What data are you aware of that could support this work?
- What are the potential opportunities for addressing evidence gaps?

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Draft Channel demersal NQS FMP vision

Scope of the vision

- The vision should be shared for all non-quota species within scope of the Channel NQS FMP vision and will not be species specific.
- The vision should be high-level and set the direction of travel for the fisheries into the future.
- The vision should contain a reference to the collaborative approach of plan development and its iterative approach to fisheries management.
- The vision should contain reference of the FMP's contribution towards the Fisheries Objectives (precautionary and sustainability in particular).
- The long-term and short-term goals of the Channel NQS FMP will help to deliver the vision.
- The vision does not need to be measurable itself but the goals to deliver it will be.

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Draft Channel demersal NQS FMP vision

The long-term vision for this FMP is that demersal non-quota species stocks in the English Channel will be managed sustainably. To deliver this, an evidence-based approach will be adopted, and management measures will be implemented using the best available evidence. Where there is not sufficient evidence available, the precautionary approach will be applied. The plan will also identify evidence gaps and detail how these will be addressed, and where appropriate, reviewed and revised. Management, as laid out within this FMP, will aim to be holistic in its approach, considering unintended consequences and work toward adopting a natural capital approach. The impact of fishing on the wider environment and its contribution to climate change will also be better understood and mitigated. Achievement of this vision will be delivered collaboratively, transparently and objectively and in an iterative approach over time.

Questions:

- Do you think this covers all relevant areas for the FMP? Is there something missing?
- Additional sentences we could include/exclude:
 - The impact of fishing on the wider environment and its contribution to climate change will also be better understood and mitigated – already part of natural capital approach?
 - In managing these fisheries sustainably this will contribute to socio-economic and cultural values – already part of definition of sustainability?
 - This FMP will be a tool for marine users in their decision-making processes, reducing conflict between sectors and ensuring access to fishing in the English Channel is not heavily impacted. - A goal rather than part of the vision?
 - Aim to have a deadline of when to achieve e.g. of X iterations ?

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Next steps

- Share outcomes of this meeting with WG on 25/11 – volunteer needed?
- Timelines:



- Tranche 1 evidence due end November
- Tranche 2 evidence due (Defra policy, SNCB and students) December 22 and (Cefas and MMO Stats) mid – Jan 23

Month	Topic
Mid Dec	Initial understanding of evidence gathered (Students/Tranche 1/SNCB/Defra policy) and draft goals
Late Jan	Initial understanding of remaining evidence outputs (Cefas & MMO Stats)
February	Progress update and steer on drafting evidence statement & relevant FMP sections
Late March	Review of draft evidence statement and relevant FMP sections

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