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Channel demersal non-quota species fisheries management plan

Working group presentations

31 October 2022

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The Marine Management Organisation used a series of presentations to support the Channel demersal non-quota species fisheries management plan working group meeting on 31 October 2022. These presentation slides are shown within this document as they were to the working 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.



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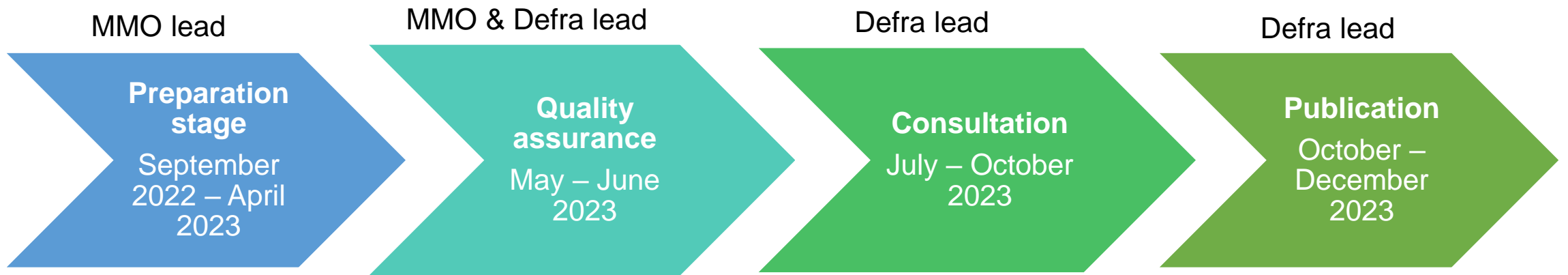
Channel demersal NQS FMP timelines

Working group agenda item
31 October 2022

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Overview of stages



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Preparation stage

Month	Wider Government input	Working Group input
October 22		Overall input and goals to be discussed at WG meeting on 31.10.22
December	Receive advice on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPA/ecosystem impacts • Commercial and recreational fisheries overview • Wider Defra policy 	To be added post discussions on 31.10.22 WG to feed into 4.4, 4.5 and 5.
December		WG to feed into evidence gathering. Finalise 1.1
January 23	Receive advice on species overview Receive advice on Harvest Standard Strategy	WG review species evidence advice. Feed into Chapter 2 and 3.
February		WG to feed into chapter 4.
March		WG feed into Chapter 6, 7 & 8.
April		WG provide feedback on full draft FMP

Beyond preparation stage

Month	Activity
May 2023	MMO and Defra go through review process
June	Draft FMP presented to Defra. Defra prepare for consultation
July – October	Formal consultation undertaken by Defra
October – December	Defra review responses from consultation, amend FMP and present to SoS for publication

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Channel demersal NQS FMP Goals

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Purpose of the goals

As per Chapter 1.1 of the FMP, the WG needs to establish a series of long term goals. Defra has provided the below description.

“This section should describe how the objectives and policies will be achieved including understanding any necessary research/resources needed to make progress towards long term goals. Note that this should explicitly cover the precautionary approach, as per the Fisheries Act.”

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Our suggestions for approach

- Introductory discussion with the WG about the goals initially, then a WG led approach to drafting. Including timeframes, mechanism for inputs, support to drafting.
- The FMP template Chapters 4.4, 4.5 and 5 explore the goals in detail, broken down into ‘Fisheries goals, Social goals, economic goals and environmental goals’. For simplification in Chapter writing, we suggest starting with the same structure for Chapter 1.1 and expanding on these from here.
- What is the long term vision – what does the WG want the FMP to be able to achieve? Start with the end in mind, and work back to short term priorities from there.
- Revisit the goals at appropriate intervals over the coming months to refine and ensure they are fit for purpose – in line with the information and evidence gathered, and direction of the FMP.

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What do the goals need to contain?

- A purpose and a direction. Providing a commitment to the future of the FMP and the Channel demersal NQS fisheries.
- They need to be clearly worded and easy to follow.
- They need to fulfil the Objectives laid out in the Fisheries Act 2020 (Precautionary and Sustainability are the priorities).
- They need to be achievable linking back to the FMP and evidence statement. Therefore:
 - They need to be measurable. Attributed to both the data and suitable indicators.
 - They need to be linked to FMP triggers. Identifying how this will make or initiate a change to the FMP itself.
- They need to have a lifespan – linked back to indicators, triggers and revisions where possible / appropriate.
- They need to identify who they apply to, and whom they will impact (beneficially and detrimentally).

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Example long term goal text from the Defra Bluefish FMP template

The long-term goal of this plan is to ensure that **stocks of Bluefish are to be fished at MSY for the next 12 years**, which will cover **two review cycles**. Not only will the plan aim to ensure stocks of Bluefish are fished sustainably management (as set out later in this document) will also be implemented to **reduce or at best remove the wider impacts the fishery has on the marine environment**. These ecosystem management measures will ensure the fishery operates harmoniously within the wider marine environment. To do this **the FMP will identify evidence gaps and put plans in place to fill them over the next 6 years**. Until evidence becomes available on the wider ecosystem impacts, **a precautionary approach to management will be adopted**.

[This plan aims to further develop its evidence base over time to address a wider range of fisheries management issues to ensure the plan contributes to more of the Fisheries Objectives]

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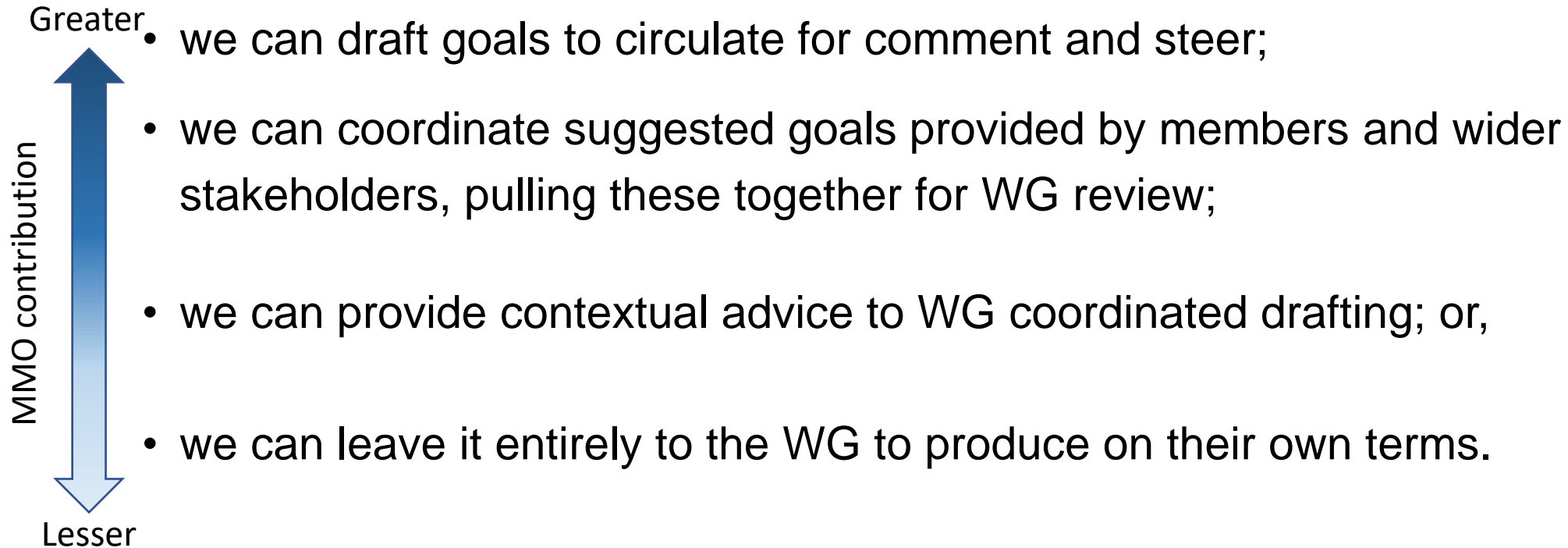
Related chapters...

- 4.1 Stock level management objective
 - No long-term management strategy for Bluefish has been agreed by all parties involved in the fishery, and therefore **scientific advice has followed the ICES MSY approach.**
- 5.3 Good Environmental Status
 - Through reducing bycatch associated with this fishery to de minimis levels, this FMP will contribute to achieving Good Environmental Status in the waters of the south west UK by **avoiding impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity.** In addition, **the fishery will develop best practice to reduce or eliminate all other impacts on the wider marine environment, including waste disposal, gear loss, and noise pollution.**
- 3.3.4 Evidence gaps
 - Current evidence highlights where gaps in the information base exist. Further evidence is needed before detailed management beyond what is include this FMP can be applied. **Future evidence needs for this FMP will be developed over time and will be set out in future iterations of this plan.**
- 4.3 Precautionary approach
 - Given the risk associated with the **current level of overfishing beyond the ICES advice, a more cautious approach to long-term management strategy (LTMS) is preferable.** If the current levels of overfishing continue the UK will advocate a much **more precautionary approach in terms of F(target) and B(trigger) points** than if the share claims/catches were in line with or closer to the ICES advice. We will also have to **carefully consider the appropriateness of any additional management** elements to the LTMS.

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MMO inputs

There are a number of ways the MMO can support the establishment of the goals. It is for the WG to decide how this takes shape. As some suggestions:



Most importantly, we can change our approach if we find it isn't working for the group - we're flexible.

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Channel Non-Quota Demersal FMP Evidence Plan

Second FMP Working Group Session
31st October 2022

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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

The MMO have produced an evidence plan and a complementary ‘Plan on A Page’ 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, the 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
Article 6 requirement <i>(Links to bycatch and ecosystem objectives)</i>	Scoping out commercial and recreational fisheries and their relevant methods	In house
Article 6 requirement	Scoping out commercial and recreational economic dependence on FMP species	In house
Article 6 requirement	Chronology of formal/informal management measures implemented elsewhere	Cefas
Article 6 requirement <i>(Linked to sustainability, national benefit, equal access and bycatch objective)</i>	Economic importance of species to recreational fishers and charter vessels	In house
Article 6 requirement <i>(Linked to sustainability, precaution, bycatch and ecosystem objective)</i>	Species biology of the priority species (including basic biology of the species, life history, size at sexual maturity/resilience of species to change)	Cefas
Article 6 requirement <i>(Linked to sustainability and ecosystem objective)</i>	Species distribution of the priority species (i.e., geographical distribution; habitat associations – spawning, nursery, feeding, overwintering grounds; seasonal variations; bathymetry)	Cefas
Article 6 requirement <i>(Linked to ecosystem, bycatch and sustainability objective)</i>	Predator prey and ecosystem role (Food webs and forage fish)	Cefas
Sustainability and Precautionary objective	Stock assessment programmes and scientific monitoring and reporting (MSY assessment or proxy arrangements)	Cefas
Equal access objective	Current limits to equal access (legislation, policy and management restrictions)	In house
Bycatch	Other species captured when caught as part of a mixed fishery	In house

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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	NE	January 2023
Ecosystem and bycatch objective	Sensitive species bycatch	NE	Inside MPAs by November 2022 Outside of MPAs (GES) to be picked up in future iterations
Ecosystem objective	Predator/prey links	NE	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	January 2023
Bycatch objective	Bycatch impact on other species	In house	January 2023
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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Developing inclusive ways of working

Based on feedback, we are reviewing the criteria to be used to evaluate evidence to see how the process can be more inclusive without losing scientific rigour. The following criteria will be trialled:

- **Geographical reach** – i.e. in channel (high confidence), Atlantic waters (medium) or further afar (low)
- **Species specific and closeness of species** – Study undertaken on the actual species/same genus (high confidence), within the class (medium) and on a different class (low)
- **Species specific techniques** – Species specific (High confidence), non-specific (medium/low).
- **Appropriate timeframe** - dependent on the ask i.e., highly variable data sets may be assigned a high confidence if collected within last six years, medium if collected within last 12 years or low if collected after 12 years.
- **Confirmability** - Is the study repeatable (high confidence), a single report, or unverified evidence (low)
- **Credibility/trustworthiness** - Source a known expert or informed on the topic (e.g., fisher talking about their area of expertise or academic) (high confidence), non-expert with supervision or support (moderate), data collection undertaken by non-expert without sufficient supervision (low)
- **Validity** - Has the study been taken through an appropriate quality assurance process or cross validated (higher confidence), if not would be marked down to low until verified elsewhere.

We welcome 'low confidence' data (e.g. unverified anecdotal evidence). We might be able to increase confidence by reviewing as a collective dataset with other anecdotes, not as individual narratives/anecdotes. If not possible, they can still help direct verification work or support hypothesis development.

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Channel Non-Quota Demersal FMP Engagement and communications Plan

Second FMP Working Group Session
31st October 2022

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Why develop an engagement and communications plan?

The MMO has been commissioned by Defra to produce an engagement and communications plan for this FMP. This must include:

- A list of other stakeholders who will be engaged, how they were identified and how they will contribute to the project
- The purpose the working group will fulfil, its membership list, who they represent, and the selection process.
- Proposed plan and timelines for engagement together with how stakeholders' input will be considered in the plans developments

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Underpinning principles

The MMO have absorbed five universal principles into our ways of working:

Inclusive and equitable practice – Taking different levels of social capital into account

Involvement – Ensuring those with an interest are provided with the opportunity to be heard from the start of the project

Transparency - Acknowledging the importance of open and comprehensive engagement with stakeholders

Effectiveness – All engagement and communication methods is monitored and that adaptive arrangements are maintained to be able to react accordingly

Legitimacy – Working in a manner which is deemed by all involved to be fair and in a way that generates respect and trust in the process and those charged with overseeing it even if they don't agree with the outcomes.

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How were stakeholders identified

An initial list of all possible stakeholders who should be engaged was scoped out during a ‘brainstorming’ exercise with the MMO FMP team and wider colleagues.

The MMO made a point of going beyond the obvious. Fisheries are public resources, and we were acutely aware that multiple stakeholder interests were likely to be included.

This list was refined during a roadshow, which included drop ins and port visits along the English Channel. This process also enabled the MMO to note how stakeholders would like to be contacted and if/how they would like to be involved.

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How were stakeholders categorized

Stakeholder analysis enabled us to better understand the role stakeholders may play, their appropriate level (Collaborate, Consult or Inform) and method of engagement

1. We used our expert knowledge to describe the nature of stakeholder's known or stated **interest**
2. We considered groups or individuals ability to **influence** the projects ability to successfully deliver its goals
3. We considered who may be **impacted** or affected by (both negatively and positively) the FMPs outputs
4. We considered who may hold academic and practice-based **expertise** relevant to the projects design, development, and process.
5. We set out stakeholders expected level of **social capital** to scope out where additional support or effort from our end might be required.

The list and associated levels of engagement will remain fluid and may change as the programme develops.

The MMO draw on this list to set up this working group. Considerable effort went into attempting to ensure that membership was reflective of the broad range of interests to secure a rounded perspective and that trusted representatives were invited based on recommendations made by their wider communities.

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Engagement and communications timeline and methods

Stakeholder engagement will take place throughout the development of the FMP to both disseminate information and collect feedback.

Given the diversity of stakeholders, we will embrace a mixed method approach based on the needs of those we wish to engage with (e.g. press notices and social media, industry publications, quayside visits, joining pre-existing networks such as Regional Fisheries Groups) but with an emphasises on stepping out of the office and getting out to the quayside

We want to get it right so welcome feedback and will amend processes based on stakeholders suggestions.

This will be supported by core material pertinent to this FMP and the wider programme, including lines to take and frequently asked questions. These will evolve as the project progresses and will be maintained by the team.

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