



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# Channel demersal non-quota species fisheries management plan:

## FMP Drafting responsibilities

## Working group paper

## 31 October 2022

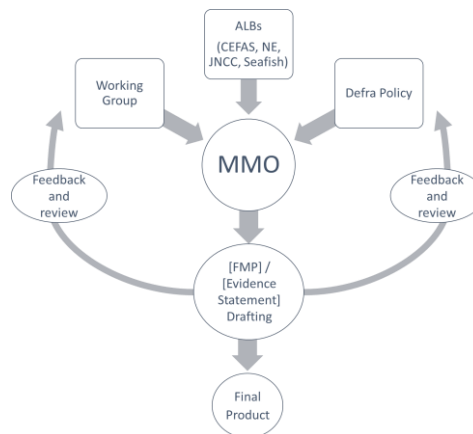


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## Working group inputs to the Channel demersal NQS FMP

MMO are proposing the following process to develop the Channel demersal non-quota species (NQS) Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). As lead delivery partner, MMO are responsible for the overall development of the first iteration of this FMP and its eventual submission to Defra in June 2023. We are keen to do this in a collaborative way, co-designing it with both the Working Group and Defra policy.

Drafting of the FMP and evidence statement will primarily fall to the MMO, however, there are sections which will require joint development with the working group and Defra. Drafting the FMP will follow the pathways shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1** FMP Drafting pathways. Abbreviations used in the figure defined as the following: ALBs - Arms length bodies, Cefas – Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture, NE – Natural England, JNCC – Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

The working group will be required to provide review and steer to the overall development of the FMP. Chapters will vary by the amount of input required, ranging from reviewing and steering drafted text, to written contribution to the FMP. Considering the current time constraints placed on delivering the first iteration of the FMP, the need to focus the working group on key elements of it, as well as the need for a consistent and coherent document, our thinking leans toward MMO being the primary drafting body. However, we will be adaptable where greater working group involvement is needed on specific chapters of the FMP. Suggested contributions identified have been provided in Table 1, subject to agreement of the working group.

### Involvement explanation

Draft (yellow) – to contribute to the content and wording of a chapter or sub-chapter, as they are being developed. This can either be through group steer or direct drafting, proposed suggestions, or edits. In practice, this may mean drafting groups sit around the table to flesh paragraphs out.

Consult (blue) – to engage in the thinking and structure of the content included in a chapter or sub-chapter during drafting. To challenge and develop sections as required. In practice, this may mean a bringing ideas and a structure to the working group before drafting a chapter or paragraph.

Review (white) – to provide steer and feedback to the content of a particular chapter or sub-chapter once it is, or sections of it, are ready for review. In practice, this may mean providing the working group with the end product for review and steer.

\* Please note = the description and guidance of each chapter provided may change

Table 1 WG contributions to FMP drafting.

Section	Chapter - <b>Involvement</b>	Description*
1	Governance and policy - <b>Review</b>	Description of the governance and policy framework surrounding the FMP.
1.1	Long-term Goals - <b>Draft</b>	Describe the long-term vision of the FMP and how these will be achieved. Explicitly cover the precautionary approach, as per the Fisheries Act.
1.2	Key Policy Linkages - <b>Review</b>	Description of the objective(s) contained in high level broader government policy and how the FMP will comply with these policies and/or contribute to them. Linkages with high-level policy and legislation at the international, regional, national, and local levels.
2	Background Information / Overview of the fishery/stock - <b>Review</b>	History and trends of the stock – describing stock status, size of fishery and chronology of management.
2.1	Species / stock - <b>Review</b>	Species in scope for this FMP.
2.2	Location - <b>Review</b>	Location of the FMP – relevant jurisdictional boundaries.
2.3	Fishery and Fishing methods - <b>Review</b>	Description of the fishery including vessels, ports, gears, fishing practices.
2.4	Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) - <b>Review</b>	Description of MPAs within the FMP location
3	Description of the available evidence - <b>Review</b>	As below:
3.1	Biology of the target species - <b>Consult</b>	Characteristics, lifecycle, essential habitats, species interdependencies, biomass, recruitment, mortality, historical trends, baselines, catch data.
3.2	Overview of stock - <b>Review</b>	Stock data collected – stock status, assessment methodologies, direction under the FMP, monitoring, gaps and requirements
3.3	Available evidence - <b>Review</b>	Summary of research, current and historical, how this is used to inform the FMP. Identify steps required to reach maximum sustainable yield (MSY).
3.3.1	Evidence on stocks and/or fisheries - <b>Review</b>	
3.3.2	Environmental evidence - <b>Review</b>	Characteristics of the marine ecosystem e.g. Physical and biological characteristics and endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species.
3.3.3	Social, economic, and cultural evidence <b>Consult</b>	Local economy, community involvement – E.g. number of fishers (recreational and commercial) and fish processors; merchants, people employed.
3.3.4	Evidence gaps and evidence requirements for future iterations - <b>Consult</b>	Identify evidence gaps, plans to address gaps, benefits in addressing gaps, timelines, and requirements.
4	Description of fishery management objectives - <b>Consult</b>	Outline approach to managing sustainable harvesting of fishery resources, and non-target elements.
4.1	Stock level management objective - <b>Consult</b>	Overarching objectives for managing the stock. Reference any specific existing long- or short-term management strategies that the FMP intends adopt, replace, or enhance.
4.2	Harvest strategy and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) - <b>Consult</b>	The harvest strategy should include strategies for (i) minimising unwanted catches of target, primary and secondary species, (ii) minimising interactions with ETP species and (iii) ensure habitat and ecosystem impacts are within acceptable levels.
4.2.1	Harvest strategy - <b>Consult</b>	
4.2.2	Input/output controls - <b>Draft</b>	These may include controls to control fishing effort such as the number/size of vessels, time restrictions, catch limits etc.
4.2.3	Technical measures - <b>Draft</b>	E.g. Restrictions on fishing areas, gears used, minimum conservation reference size (MCRS).

4.2.4	Harvest Control Rule (HCR) - <b>Consult</b>	Outline HCRs for the FMP, detailing their purpose, mechanism, trigger points and performance indicators.
4.2.5	Secondary and dependent species (including bycatch) - <b>Review</b>	Assessment of species not in the FMP but impacted by fishing. Link to ecosystem objective and how can achieve Good Environmental Status (GES).
4.2.6	Ecosystem and habitat - <b>Review</b>	
4.3	Precautionary approach - <b>Consult</b>	Outline how the precautionary approach is achieved in this FMP
4.4	Fisheries Level Objectives - <b>Draft</b>	Focus on wider fisheries not specific to stock management such as bycatch and ecosystem.
4.5	Social and Economic Objectives - <b>Draft</b>	FMP goals linked to social and economic objectives
4.6	Allocation of fishing opportunities, access to resource and licensing - <b>Draft</b>	Distribution of opportunity to access fisheries resources
5	Wider environmental and socio-economic objectives - <b>Consult</b>	Link FMP goals to wider policy goals such as the 25 year environmental plan.
5.1	Climate change mitigation/adaptation - <b>Consult</b>	FMP goals linked to climate objective e.g. measures for climate adaptation / mitigation
5.2	Good Environmental Status (GES) - <b>Consult</b>	FMP goals linked to ecosystem objective and GES – setting out measures to reduce environmental impact.
5.3	MPAs - <b>Review</b>	How the FMP will help achieve conservation objectives of MPAs.
6	Fishery management strategy - <b>Consult</b>	Stock measures used in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) e.g. technical measures, monitoring tools, innovative technologies.
6.1	Stock level measures - <b>Consult</b>	
6.2	Monitoring, control, and enforcement measures - <b>Consult</b>	FMP goals on fisheries control - existing and proposed MCS measures.
6.3	Codes of practice, regulations & rules enforced - <b>Consult</b>	Existing rules in the fishery that will be followed.
6.4	Roles and responsibilities in compliance - <b>Review</b>	Role of regulators in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS). Organisations and responsibilities for FMP implantation e.g. jurisdiction and accountabilities.
6.5	Additional considerations for management - <b>Review</b>	Management considerations not covered above e.g. international obligations, third country agreements, EU – UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.
6.6	Ecosystem management strategy - <b>Consult</b>	Measures for ecosystem impacts, climate resilience, bycatch mitigation.
6.7	Research and Development on new technology - <b>Draft</b>	Commitment to develop/modernise the fishery – gear, MCS, data collection, evidence.
7	Performance indicators and monitoring - <b>Draft</b>	Performance assessment of the FMP – indicators to assess against, period and process for review. Management standards and references points for each objective.
7.1	Indicators for monitoring effectiveness of plan - <b>Draft</b>	
7.2	Evaluation and review process for indicators - <b>Draft</b>	
8	Relevant stakeholders and processes followed - <b>Draft</b>	Description of how the FMP was developed. Stakeholder engagement up to delivery. Stakeholder engagement during implementation. Co-development and delivery. Information sharing.
8.1	Roles & responsibilities of interested parties - <b>Draft</b>	
8.2	Processes followed to develop & implement plan - <b>Draft</b>	
8.3	Participation, collaboration, and consultation processes - <b>Draft</b>	
8.4	Provision & sharing of information - <b>Draft</b>	
9	Resources required to implement the plan - <b>Review</b>	E.g. resource requirements and how will fulfil
10	Review & revision of plan - <b>Draft</b>	Lifespan on the plan, revisions, and triggers.