

Meeting Notes 18th January 2024

South – 7d

15:00 – 17:22 MS Teams Conference Call

Attendees

<p>MMO</p> <p>Paul Johnson</p> <p>Jacob Bestwick</p> <p>Katie James</p> <p>Louise Price</p> <p>Mark Qureshi</p> <p>Nicholas French</p> <p>Jonathan Brooks</p> <p>Alisha Patel</p>	<p>Southern IFCA</p> <p>Sarah Birchenough</p> <p>DEFRA</p> <p>Kate Kurton</p> <p>Fynn Fardon</p> <p>Andrew Carroll</p> <p>Lydia Osbourne</p> <p>University of Oxford</p> <p>Dr Claire Tanner</p> <p>Dr Katrinna Davis</p> <p>CEFAS</p> <p>Sophie Philips</p>	<p>Industry</p> <p>Grant Jones</p> <p>Richard Stride</p> <p>Ted Legg</p> <p>Kyle Bickerstaff</p> <p>Tom Russell</p> <p>Dan Rathbone</p> <p>Neil Whitney</p> <p>Brian</p> <p>David Curtis</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Rohan Smith</p>
<p>MCA</p> <p>Laurence Chapstick</p>		
<p>Sussex IFCA</p> <p>Robert Pearson</p>		

Contact details

Quota: inshorequotamanager@marinemanagement.org.uk

Jacob Bestwick, 07747638655

Katie James, 07469443840

Regional Fisheries Group Team: regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk / Jonathan.brooks@marinemanagement.org.uk

MMO Grants: UKFisheriesSupport@marinemanagement.org.uk or 03300 416 579

MMO Fisheries Management Plans Team: fmp@marinemanagement.org.uk

University of Oxford (seal depredation research): Claire.tanner@biology.ox.ac.uk

1. Jacob Bestwick – Quota update - MMO

Jacob provided a 2023 quota update and provided detailed plans for quota limits for 2024.

The presentation was recorded and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/uMuB45rt46s?si=1pmXxrJiqYWeNh1h>

Jacob highlighted that the 2024 figures are estimates and may vary when provisional allocations are given in March / April. *A summary of each stock has been provided below, please refer to the full presentation or video link for further details.*

Cod 7d

Under 10m 2023			Under 10	Over 10
Initial availability	42.0	2024 change	15% up	
Total availability	32.8	Est allocation	48.3t	1t
Total used	15.7	Catch limit	1t	1t
% uptake	48	Current uptake	1.37t	0.02t

Plaice 7d & 7e

Under 10m 2023		Over 10m 2023		Under 10	Over 10
Initial availability	449.8	47.2	2024 change	42% down	
Total availability	351.6	41.2	Est allocation	261.3t	25.6t
Total used	208.3	43.3	Catch limit	1t	1t
% uptake	59.2	105.1	Current uptake	4.51t	0.05t

For 2024, the allocations will be split into 7d and 7e and has been estimated to be:

Under 10m	Over 10m
7d = 76.9t	7d = 8.0t
7e = 184.5t	7e = 19.3t

Skates and Rays 7d

Under 10m 2023			Under 10	Over 10
Initial availability	188.5	2024 change	78% up	
Total availability	289.8	Est allocation	270t	35t
Total used	148.8	Catch limit	2.5t	2.5t
% uptake	97.7	Current uptake	6.2t	0.23t

Figures include flex stocks.

Jacob stated that there is a catch limit review for February and that there is a proposal to increase the catch limit from 2.5t to approx. 3.5t. This is open to suggestion and Jacob encouraged feedback on this.

Undulate Ray 7d & 7e

The UK and EU increased TAC in 7d and 7e in 2023, which increased from 75t in 2022 to 1051t in 2023 and for 2024 it is estimated to be 1358t. The current uptake is 3.66t.

However, the MMO will maintain the per-trip catch limit at 200kg at present. MMO will keep this position under review throughout 2024 and may consider an increase in future, should the evidence support this. [Decision record - RJU 7DE - Jan 2024.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Sole 7d

Under 10m 2023	
Initial availability	188.8
Total availability	220.6
Total used	139.7
% uptake	63.4

	Under 10	Over 10
2024 change	14% down	
Est allocation	162t	5.6t
Catch limit	2.5t	2t
Current uptake	4.2t	0.01t

Mackerel Western

Under 10m 2023	
Initial availability	2363.9
Total availability	131.2
Total used	90.2
% uptake	68.8

	Under 10	Over 10
2024 change	40% down	
Est allocation	763.6t	254.7t
Catch limit	10t	10t
Current uptake	2.85t	0.0t

Herring 4c / 7d

Under 10m 2023	
Initial availability	549.9
Total availability	722.6
Total used	182.5
% uptake	25.3

	Under 10	Over 10
2024 change	32% up	
Est allocation	725.8t	209.2t
Catch limit	50t	50t
Current uptake	0.18t	0.0t

Jacob provided an overview of some of the new quota stocks for 2024 which included: Brill 7d & 7e, Lemon Sole 7d, Witch 7d and Whiting 7b-k (*Please refer to the full presentation or video link for further details*). Jacob encouraged industry to provide as much feedback as possible for these stocks.

Comments, questions, and answers:

Paul stated that some fishers in Hastings were interested in an uplift next month, specifically, they have asked for 4t of plaice because there is very little else to fish.

Paul stated that others may want it cut back because it is making no money due to oversupply. Jacob encouraged industry to provide further comments and feedback on this to the inshore quota team.

Q: What are flex stocks?

A: Flex stocks are a recognition that fish stocks can for some species can move between areas. Flex stocks allow the team to move some landings between the 7d stocks, the North Sea stocks, or the Western stocks. This allows landings in one area to be covered by quota from another area and therefore offers more flexibility in managing uptake of the quota.

Follow up to the above question.

Q: In what sense is the 100t available for 7d as presumably other areas may prefer the flex stock to go their way?

A: For 7d, flex stocks come into the area. Allowing landings from the 7d quota to be held against the North Sea quota or the Western quota. It is used to support 7d.

Q: Paul asked industry members if industry is comfortable with 200kg per trip for undulate ray?

A: 2 industry members confirmed it was fine.

Q: How does licencing capping affect the uptake from last year?

A: DEFRA have looked at the consultation responses on licencing capping and are planning to publish a response in February.

Katie added that there is an additional quota scheme for those who are in the non-sector with category B,C or no quota licences and for those who are capped. There is a scheme open where you can see whether there is any additional support available whilst waiting for the outcome of the DEFRA consultation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quota-leasing-scheme>

Q: What is it looking like for over 10m non-sector for dover sole?

A: There isn't as much of an allocation, it has been estimated to be 5 tonnes, but allocation can be moved from under 10m to over 10m if required. Last year 140t was fished, this year there is an estimate of approximately 160t this year. There has also been agreement with POs to bring in extra quota.

Q: For species like brill which has become a quota species, is this no longer available to those who have capped licences or are the licences just capped based on the species that were quota species at the time of capping?

A: Once it becomes quota then it is subject to the cap.

2. Laurence Capstick – Certificate of Medical Fitness - MCA

Laurence gave an update on the MCA consultation on exempting <10m vessels from the requirement to have a Certificate of Medical Fitness. The consultation is open for 6 weeks (until 27th February 2024). Further information and access to the consultation is available on following link: [Government to support small-scale fishing industry across the UK in latest medical consultation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-small-scale-fishing-industry-across-the-uk-in-latest-medical-consultation) (www.gov.uk). Laurence encouraged industry to get involved in the consultation.

Comments, questions, and answers:

Q: Regarding the Certificate of Medical Fitness, what about vessels that are just over 10m?

A: The consultation is seeking views on a proposal that applies for under 10m vessels. It is helpful to mention that whilst the consultation is still running, the legal requirements are still in force for under 10m vessels to have the Certificate of Medical Fitness. The legislation has not changed, the topic is only out for consultation.

Q: Can you explain who the MCA consultants are? Do these consultants come to look at boats themselves or do they write an opinion based on reports? (*using scuppers as a specific issue*)

A: At present, there is Laurence and 1 other consultant. The MCA are recruiting a 3rd consultant. The consultants lead the policy, liaise with policy teams, and make decisions that are not necessarily able to be made on the ground. There is also another team within headquarters that consider more specific requests and within that team are some high-grade surveyors.

Q: There is an impression that the policy is 'one size fits all', can you explain why the MCA think this?

A: Laurence explained that the regulations do not specify that one size fits all, the regulations allow for differences, they allow for equivalences, and they allow for different vessel sizes and different vessel requirements. *[relating the topic back to scuppers]* The actual scuppers themselves are % based so it is proportional to the vessel size. This does not reflect one size fits all as there is a minimum requirement that has to be met and if a vessel can't meet that minimum requirement, then it can be considered by the headquarters team. The team would then investigate how that requirement can be met. There are various ways to consider an equivalence, these might be whether a vessel has adequate buoyance, adequate freeboard, vessel operation history and the range of operation methods of fishing involved. There is a wide consideration, and it is difficult to cover every type of vessel and every type of fishing and be very specific within the legislation, which is why exemptions and equivalences are allowed.

Q: An industry member commented that there is a lack of communication between fishers and the MCA and asked if the MCA could provide better communications rather than just on the website, for example via email? Another industry member commented that social media is only picked up when people are using it.

A: Laurence stated that previous feedback showed that industry did not want email updates. The MCA use social media, normal channels which come from the MCA public relations team and the .gov website. However, Laurence stated that he would take this to the team as feedback. Laurence further commented that any specific information regarding fishers and their vessels are communicated directly and that there was an option on the .gov website for regular emails to be sent by clicking on 'get emails about this page'.

Q: Can the MCA come to the RFG meetings on a regular basis?

A: Laurence, to his knowledge stated that an MCA member has been and intends to in the future be available for the RFG meetings.

An industry member commented that there needs to be an increase in communication between fishers and the MCA to share knowledge.

An industry member commented that the Wilson calculation does not apply to them and that there should be a separate calculation, or a more intuitive assessment done for catamarans. Laurence stated that the Wilson calculation was developed by Southampton University and is not the primary calculation. The primary stability verification for a catamaran could be MGN503.

3. Louise Price – King Scallop Closure - MMO

Louise introduced herself and stated that this section was to provide an overview of the proposed closures for king scallop in ICES area 7d and 7e.

Louise stated that the proposed closures are to protect king scallops during the main spawning season in ICES area 7d and 7e (Lyme Bay). The proposals have been considered following consultations with UK Fisheries Administrations and scientific advice from CEFAS. The evidence shows that:

- Closure during the summer months is likely to deliver the most benefit.
- Stock assessments from the 6 years indicated the stocks in 7d have been exploited close to and above sustainable rates.
- The most recent stock assessment in 7e indicated over exploitation of the stock.
- There needs to be a balanced approach between stock protection and economic impacts.

The options for proposed 7d king scallop closures are:

- 15 May to 30 September 2024 (over 10m)
- 1 July to 30 September 2024 (over 10m)

The options for proposed 7e king scallop closures are:

- A closure aligned to 7d (over 12m)
- No closure

The closure would be enacted through a vessel licence condition and apply to UK and EU vessels. Consultation is open from **7th December 2023 to 11:59 13th February 2024**. Louise encouraged industry to provide feedback through the consultation.

Louise concluded the section by outlining that following the end of the consultation, the next steps would be to review the responses, decide on an outcome, publish the outcome, and implement any determined closures. There would be monitoring of the closure once in place.

Comments, questions, and answers:

A member of industry commented that the UK should mirror the EU closure of 15/05/2024 to 30/09/2024. If EU law states that this period is closed to protect king scallop stocks during spawning season in EU waters, it should be the same for UK stocks in the same area. A question on the topic was asked by another industry member:

Q: Are we certain that we have the right period to cover the spawning season for these stocks?

A: Yes, we have scientific evidence to prove that it is the most beneficial time to put the closure in.

4. Louise Price – Tranche 1 Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) - MMO

Louise stated that this section was to provide an overview of the Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs).

The table below shows the information shared during the call. *Further details on each FMP can be found on the presentation.*

	Bass	Scallop	Crab & Lobster	Whelk	Channel non quota demersal	Southern NS and Channel mixed flat fish
Delivered by	Policy lab	Scallop industry Consultation group	Seafish	Seafish	MMO	DEFRA
Goals	Engagement, minimum discarding, and impact, increase compliance, social benefit, sustainable harvest	Improve evidence base, strengthen, and align management measures	Regional management measures, improve data and evidence, harmonising MCRS, prohibit soft shell, consider effort	Improving evidence base, adaptive management measures	Effective management, biological sustainability, social and economic benefits, evidence gaps	

Louise stated that 5 FMPs were delivered by DEFRA by different delivery partners. The Southern NS and Channel mixed flat fish is still being analysed and that the MMO are working alongside DEFRA and other parties to help implement the FMPs.

Louise provided an overview of short term and mid to long term plans for the following FMPs:

Crawfish – part of the crab and lobster FMP

Short term:

- Area based closures/area-based management.
- Scientifically based output controls.
- Scientifically based input controls.

Bass FMP

Short term:

- Set up a Bass Management Group.
- Review current management measures (including the authorisation system, closed season, netting regulation)

Mid to long term:

- Implementation to be developed as evidence base and monitoring improves.
- Additional measures proposed for review include size limits and harvest strategies.
- Participation in early-adopter REM will be encouraged (subject to REM consultation outcomes).

King Scallop FMP

Short term:

- Development of a management framework based on output and/or input controls.
- Consideration of broad alignment of measures.
- Development of area-based closures and management.
- Continued development of a partnership working approach to managing king scallop fisheries.

Mid to long term:

- The review of existing management measures.
- The development of a management framework.
- The assessment and mitigation of the effects of king scallop fishing on seafloor integrity.

Whelk

Short term:

- Support the introduction of an increased and, where possible, harmonised minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) in offshore English waters.
- Review pot limits and gear design measures.
- Area based closures/area based management.

Mid to long term:

- Establish how catch limits will be worked out and implemented.

Channel Demersal NQS FMP

Short term:

- Introduction MCRS for lemon sole, brill
- Engine restriction for fly seining vessels (7d and 7e)
- Minimum mesh size (7d and 7e)
- Introduction of voluntary measures for recreational anglers
- Establish a Channel management group.
- Develop an action plan for the cuttlefish fishery.

Mid to long term:

- Consider measures to protect cuttlefish stocks to promote recruitment.
- Monitor octopus catches and start a research plan for gathering data and managing the fishery.
- Consider further restrictions on fly seiners.

Comments, questions, and answers:

Andy commented that to manage everyone's expectations, all should be aware that with the general elections this year, some aspects of implementation could be delayed.

Q: Under the review of current management measures, does that include looking at the 5%?

A: They are looking at ways to reduce discards as part of the plan.

Q: The review of the current management measures would that be carried out by the Bass Management Group? Who has the responsibility to make the decisions?

A: It would be a mixture of all parties, DEFRA, MMO etc. Different bodies have been tasked with different ownership of each implementation. The Bass Management Group will be involved.

Q: Is this formation of the Bass Management Group something we will hear about and get a chance to be on in the future?

A: Yes. But it is unclear at this point how the group is going to be formed.

Q: Is the Regional Fisheries Group putting something together to explain these FMPs in more detail?

A: Yes, a short summary document with the main points and upcoming dates (once available) will be communicated via email and other comms.

Q: Regarding pot limits, our IFCA have had one in, and they haven't found that it's been able to be policed

A: There are internal discussions about this and will be considered in greater detail.

Q: An industry member had asked their local IFCA to have pink buffs on north end and yellow buffs on south end of their gear so that you know which way it runs. Is this something that can be thought about?

A: This has not been mentioned but can be considered.

Q: Regarding fly seining, when are these restrictions coming in?

A: These should be introduced this year.

5. Kate Kurton & Lynn Fardon – UK Seafood Fund (UKSF) Grant Update - DEFRA

Kate introduced herself and Lynn as colleagues from the Fisheries Funding Team, DEFRA. Kate led the presentation and stated that this section was to provide an update on funding, specifically the UK Seafood Fund (UKFS).

Kate provided a background on UKSF stating that it has been providing project funding since 2021 with almost 200 projects being funded. All projects are published and can be found online. Kate stated that in January 2023, a £2 million investment was announced to trial new greener engines to help create a safer, more sustainable fishing fleet. The funding has been running since January 2023 and is still open for applications. Additionally, DEFRA announced in December 2023 that round 3 was to be expanded to provide further support in improvements to boats, ports and health and safety.

Projects will fall into 3 categories that directly impact the catching sector:

- That improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions on vessels.
- That improve infrastructure and ports.
- That improve health, safety, and wellbeing of the workforce.

Kate stated the 3 areas above were intended to be broad to ensure that all types of projects were covered. Kate referred to slide 4 of the presentation which showed examples of projects and stated that the list is not exhaustive. *The examples can be found on the presentation.*

Kate discussed the funding rates and stated that there is a minimum and maximum funding amount from UKFS and from the applicant. Kate mentioned that recent feedback has suggested that the minimum grant values are quite high and the reason for this is because the aim of this round was to encourage collective applications from groups to apply for higher funding. Additionally, there are other forms of funding, for example, Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS), which now is closed as it reached the subscription limit in 2023 but is set to reopen in the coming weeks.

Kate concluded that there are different application forms depending on the project. The application forms and guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafood-fund-infrastructure-scheme#round-3>. Round 3 applications are open until midday on 13th December 2024 or until all the

funding has been allocated, whichever happens first. Kate recommended. for any queries about eligibility or what to include in the application, individuals should reach out the MMO Grants Team.

Comments, questions, and answers:

Q: When referring to commercial catching sector, does this include the charter boat sector? If no, what are the reasons for this?

A: No, it does not include charter boats. Separate funding has been available for recreational sea fishing.

Q: Regarding efficiency and vessels, does this mean you can apply for kort nozzle as in the past you weren't allowed?

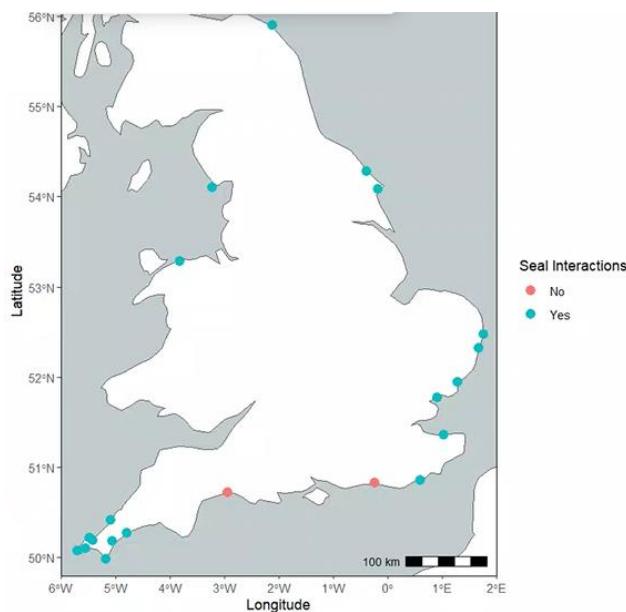
A: Yes, they are funded under FaSS.

6. Dr Claire Tanner & Dr Katrina Davis – Seal Depredation Research – University of Oxford

Claire and Katrina from the Marine Conservation Ecology & Management group at the University of Oxford have been looking at the extent and severity of partially eaten catch by seals in the UK, as well as the economic impact it is having on fisheries around the coast.

Claire began by providing a background as to why the research started. A paper in 2022 set out the potential for human and wildlife conflict in the UK between seals and fisheries. This was a worldwide study looking at the extent and severity of the interactions. The UK showed a high potential of interactions but showed no specific data points. The research is conducted to fill in the data gaps.

Claire stated through MMO newsletters, emails, and social media, 20 interaction sites were gained. Out of the 20, 2 sites on the mid-south coast were without interaction as shown on the map below. This suggested that extent included most of the UK.



Claire & Katrina have recently been granted further funding to achieve the following aims:

1. Assessing seal depredation mitigation strategies.
2. Collecting longer term data for individual fisheries
3. Assessing the frequency of depredation.

Claire stated they are planning a range of extra activities, including workshops with fishers to discuss mitigation ideas and approaches, reports of findings to date and additional data collection from one fishery with daily contact. The workshops are to gain fishers' views and concerns on potential mitigation measures and will be held in person and regionally. The exact location and dates are to be

confirmed and will be delivered in partnership with the MMO. Further information will be provided through the MMO.

Comments, questions, and answers:

Members of the industry stated that the Southeast marker on the map is incorrect and that they have evidence of seal interaction. Claire and Katrina asked those that had evidence to follow up with them.

Additional comments were made on seal sanctuaries and their part in releasing seals and the impact this has on fishers. Claire stated that the research did not investigate seal sanctuaries, however, the data collected would be given to the team at the MMO who are looking at the deprivation and the effect of seals.

7. Mark Qureshi & Nicholas French – Fisheries Management Planning Team – MMO.

Mark led the presentation and stated that this section was to provide an overview on the Skates and Rays Fisheries Management Plans (FMP).

Mark introduced the FMP and stated that it will cover the English waters of the Southern North Sea (ICES areas 4.b and 4.c) and the English Channel (ICES areas 7.d and 7.e). It will cover the following 7 species:

- Thornback ray (*Raja clavata*)
- Blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*)
- Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*)
- Small-eyed ray (*Raja Microocellata*)
- Spotted ray (*Raja montagui*)
- Cuckoo ray (*Leucoraja naevus*)
- Starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*)

Mark highlighted that the following are draft proposals that the team have been seeking thoughts and feedback from stakeholders by collaborating and engaging at FMP working group, a series of events at key coastal locations along the Channel and east coast up to North Shields in November and December, and online engagement through webinars and online surveys.

The team are proposing the following short-, mid- and long-term measures:

Short-term (2-year timeline)

National (ICES areas in this FMP):

- Harmonized Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) – *to protect juveniles.*
- Maximum landing size (MLS) – *to protect adult females.*
- Improved fish handling, ID, and regulations guidance – *handling guidance to support discard, survivability, and the ID guidelines to support any future species-specific facts.*

Address evidence gaps:

- Undulate ray abundance in 7d
- Effectiveness of existing undulate ray seasonal closures
- Effectiveness of sustainability ratings
- Market demand – *the team are having further discussions with the marine stewardship council.*

Mid/long-term (2-5+ years' timeline)

National (ICES areas in this FMP):

- Species-specific MCRS and TACS – *more focus on each sub species to recognise the difference sizes within the species family but also intended to minimise overfishing of one species.*

- ID guidelines
- Spatiotemporal management – *measure will be dependent on the studies of effectiveness of seasonal closures.*
- Commercial market-enhancing measures
- Recreational support measures

Address evidence gaps:

- Understanding climate change impacts
- Effectiveness of existing spatiotemporal management for skates and rays
- Species-specific discard survival rate
- A careful lift in the prohibition of landing small-eyed ray in 7e – *this was initially a short-term measure that is now being considered as a mid to long term measure due to further evidence being needed.*

The section was concluded with a timeline of the next steps as follows:

- March 2024 – Submission of FMP to DEFRA
- Summer 2024 – Public consultation
- December 2024 – Publication

Comments, questions, and answers:

An industry member stated that if a maximum landing size is introduced than this would result in significant losses for fishers as many have invested in larger mesh sizes for larger rays. Another industry member stated that the implementation of the measure should be moved to mid to long term, and in the short-term do the research to get the science to support what the maximum landing size should be. A question on the topic was asked by another industry member:

Q: if introduced, would fishers have to bring back whole fish? As this could cause several issues, for example with discard. Paul Johnson (MMO) added that this would be difficult to enforce and would need further thought.

A: The idea of the maximum landing size is that it will be measured before it is winged and therefore, anything over that size would need to go back into the water and anything under the size and below the MCRS can be brought in and winged as seen fit. Regarding enforcing this, a conversion factor would need to be considered so that an estimate could be made on what wing size would equate to the size of a whole ray.

Additionally, Mark and Nick stated that there is awareness of the social and economic issues that could occur if this measure is introduced. These issues would be considered, and fishers should send specific concerns outlining any details to the FMP inbox. The information will be reviewed and used to assist in building the FMP.

8. AOB

Paul apologised for the overrun of the meeting, however, stated that the first meeting of the year will be held for 2.5 hours in future. Attendees suggested that they would like the meetings to occur quarterly / every 3 months.

The meeting was concluded at 17:22.

Thank you for attending this Regional Fisheries Group meeting. If you would like comment on these or previous minutes, be added to this groups contact list or contribute in any other way please contact the MMO Regional fisheries Mailbox:

regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk. Or find out more at the Regional Fisheries Groups webpage: [Regional Fisheries Groups - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)



Marine
Management
Organisation

South 7d Quota Presentation

Jacob Bestwick

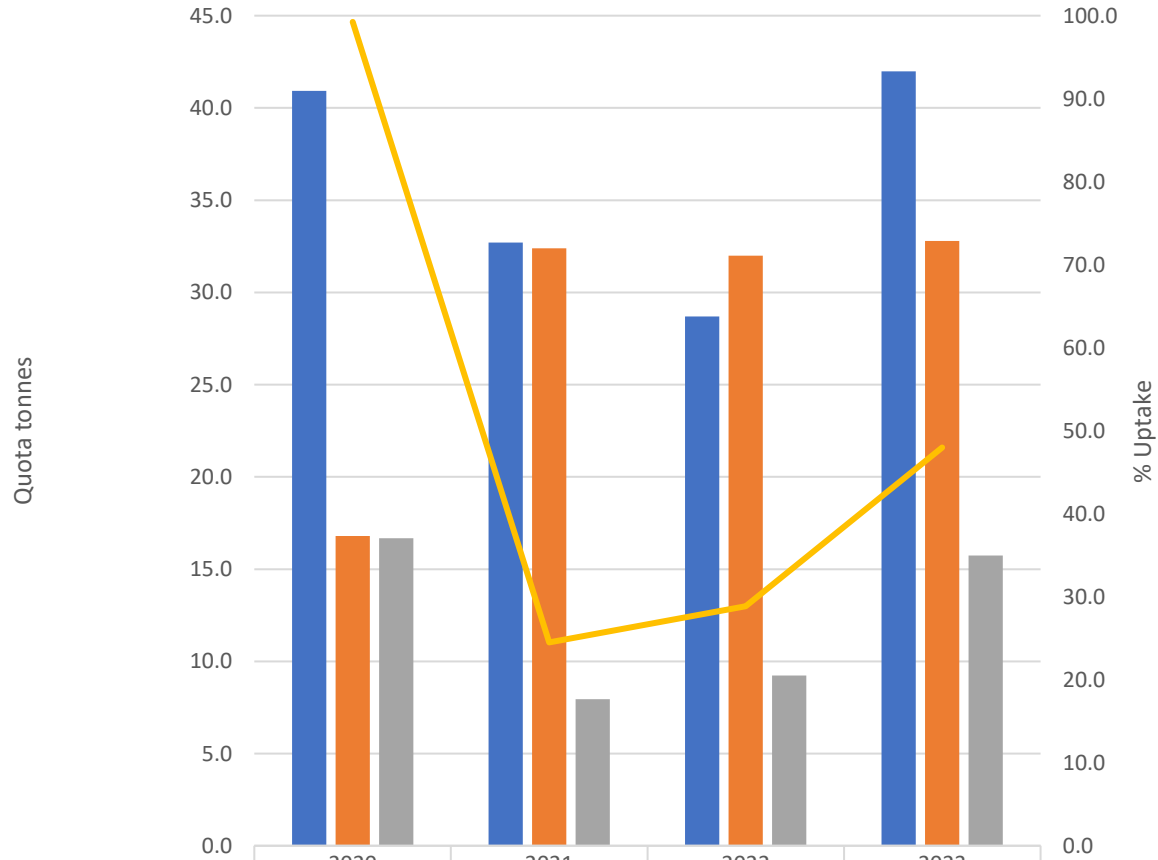
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Cod 7d

Provisional Allocations based on SoS Determination

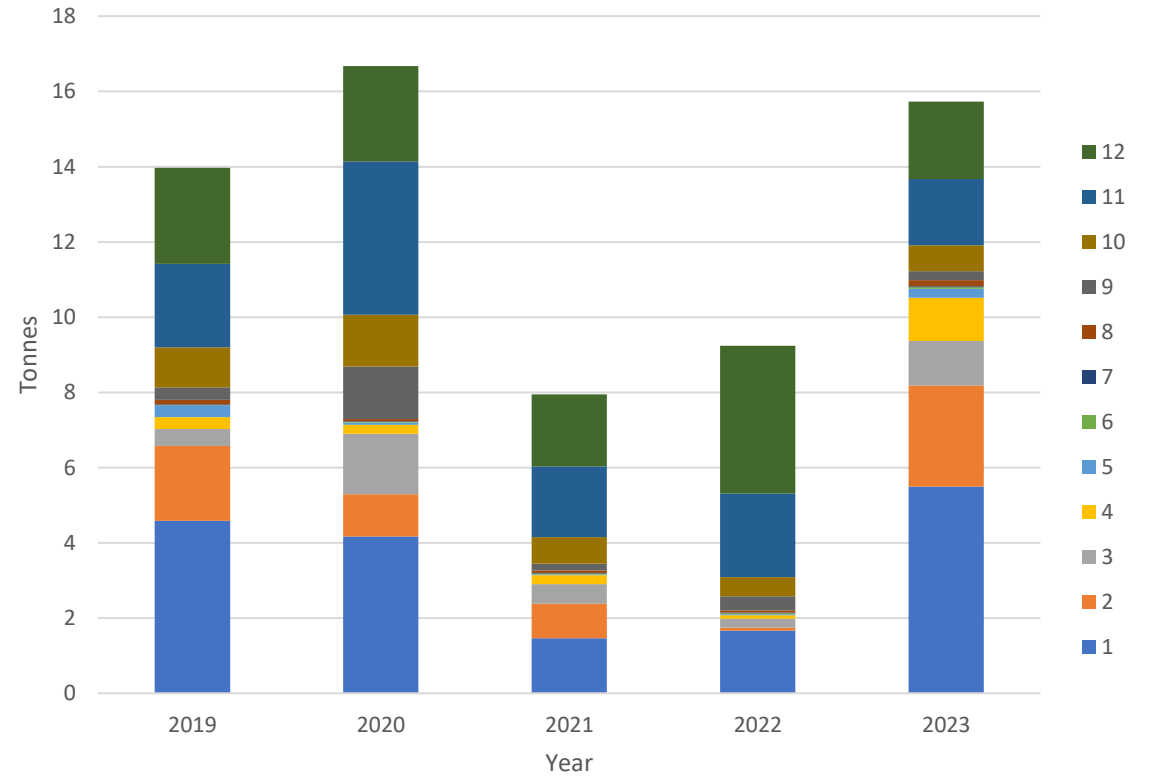
Cod - Area VIId - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Initial availability	40.9	32.7	28.7	42.0
Total Available	16.8	32.4	32.0	32.8
Total Used	16.7	7.9	9.2	15.7
% Uptake	99.3	24.5	28.9	48.0

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Monthly Uptake by Year - COD7D - U10m



U10:

2024 change = 15% up
 Est allocation = 48.3t
 Catch limit = 1t
 Current uptake = 1.37t

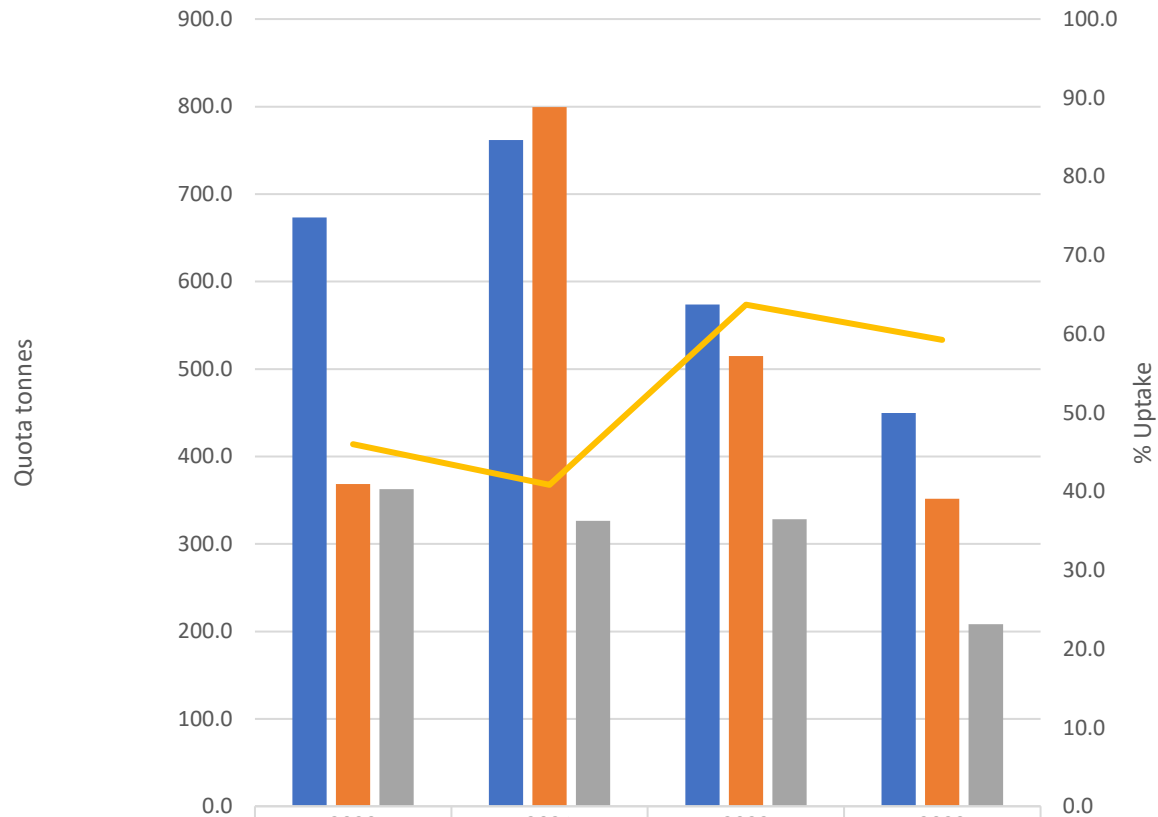
O10:

Est allocation = 1t
 Catch limit = 1t
 Current uptake = 0.02t

Plaice 7d & e – Under 10

Provisional Allocations based on SoS Determination

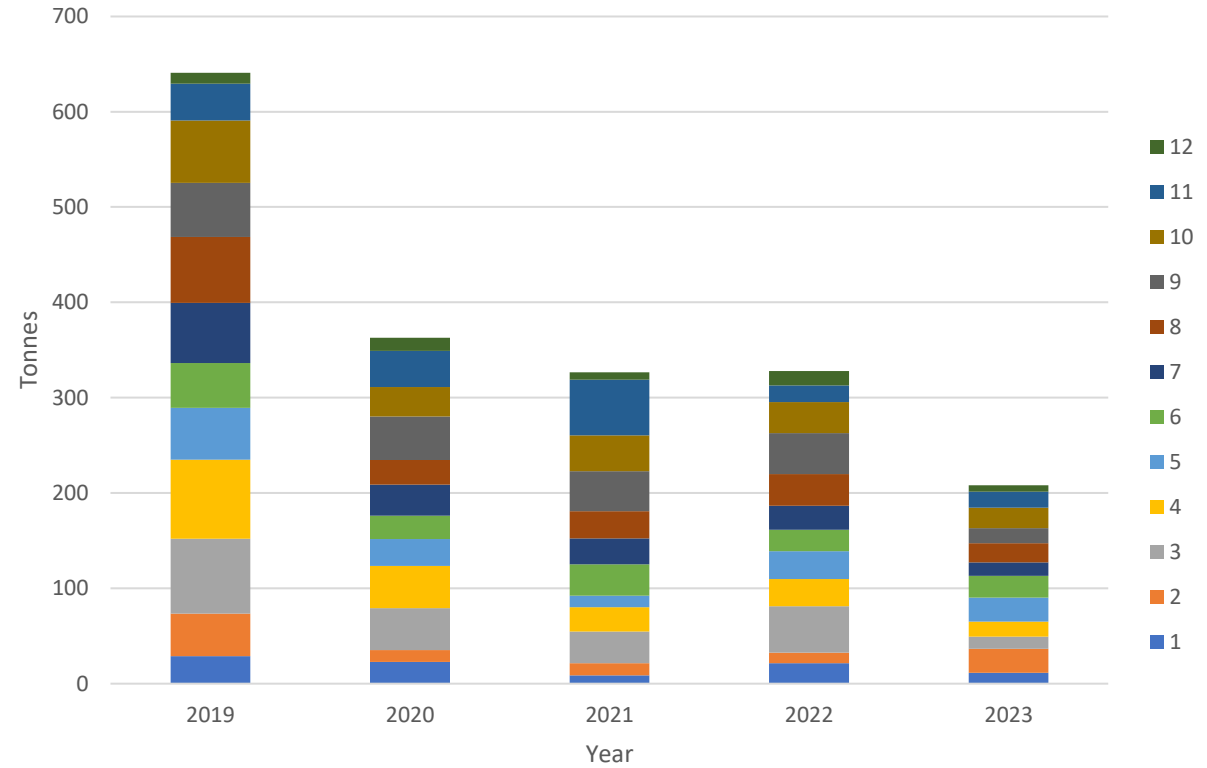
Plaice - Areas VIId and VIle - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Initial availability	673.4	761.6	573.9	449.8
Total Available	368.4	799.6	514.9	351.6
Total Used	362.8	326.5	328.1	208.3
% Uptake	46.0	40.8	63.7	59.2

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Monthly Uptake by Year - PLA7DE - U10m



U10:

2024 change = 42% down
 Est allocation = 261.3t
 Catch limit = 1t
 Current uptake = 4.51t

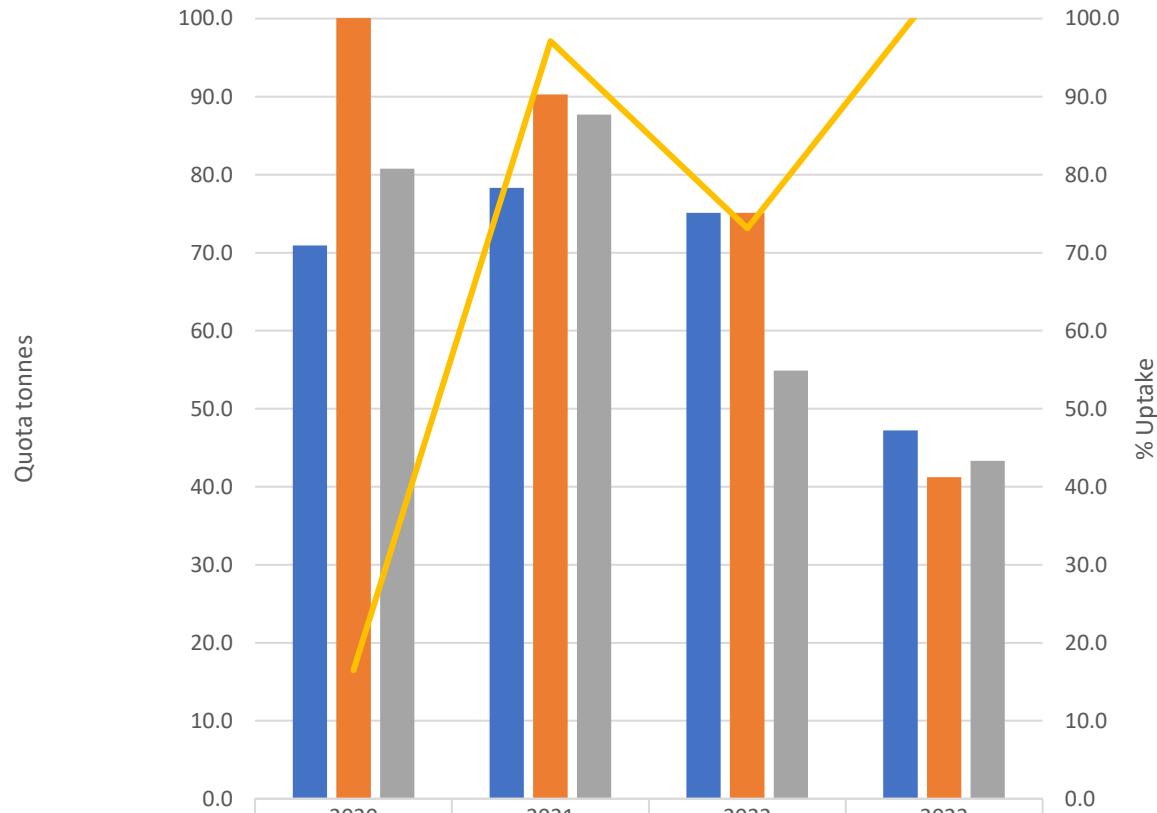
U10:

For 2024 the allocation will be split into separate d and e
 Est 7d = 76.9t
 Est 7e = 184.5t

Plaice 7d & e – Over 10

Provisional Allocations based on SoS Determination

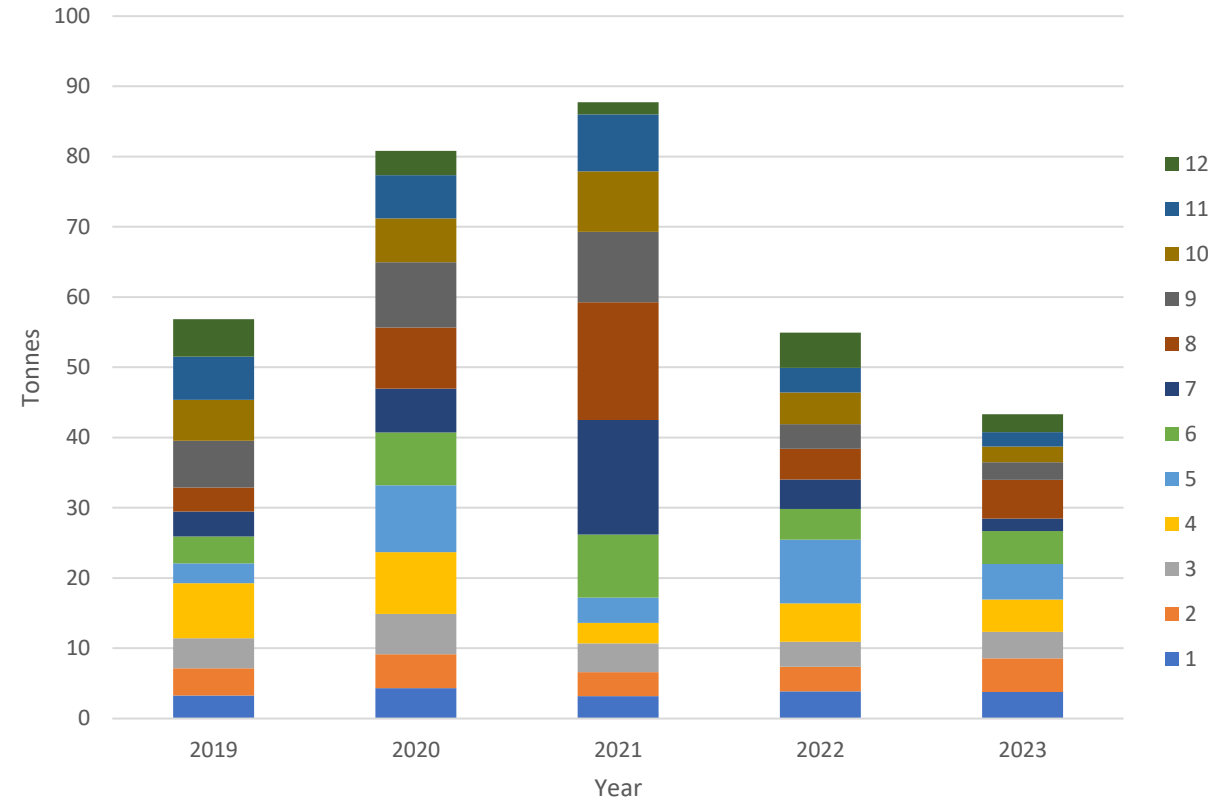
Plaice - Areas VIId and VIe - Over 10 - Available quota and total uptake



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Initial availability	70.9	78.3	75.1	47.2
Total Available	490.9	90.3	75.1	41.2
Total Used	80.8	87.7	54.9	43.3
% Uptake	16.5	97.1	73.1	105.1

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Monthly Uptake by Year - PLA7DE - Non-sector



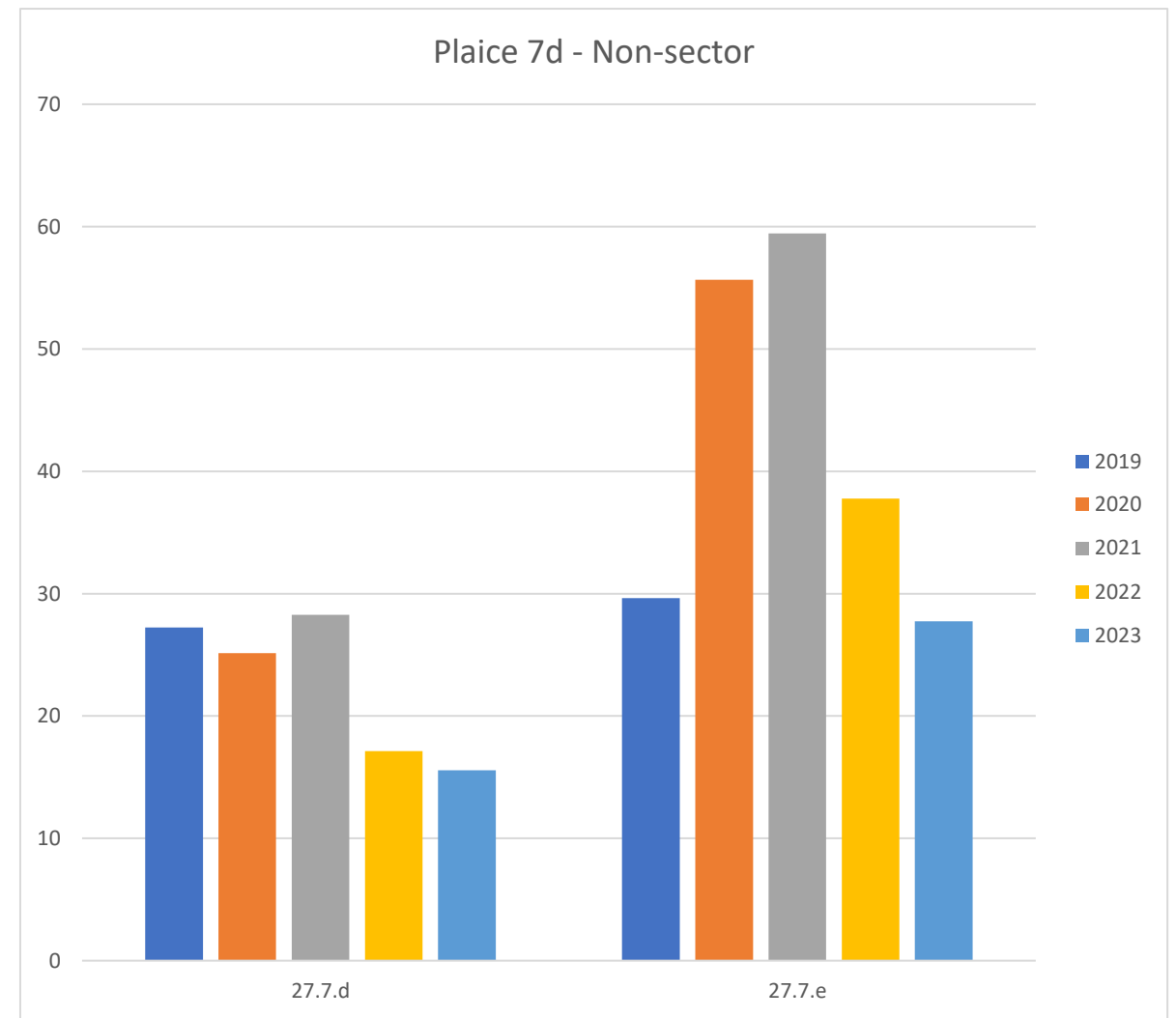
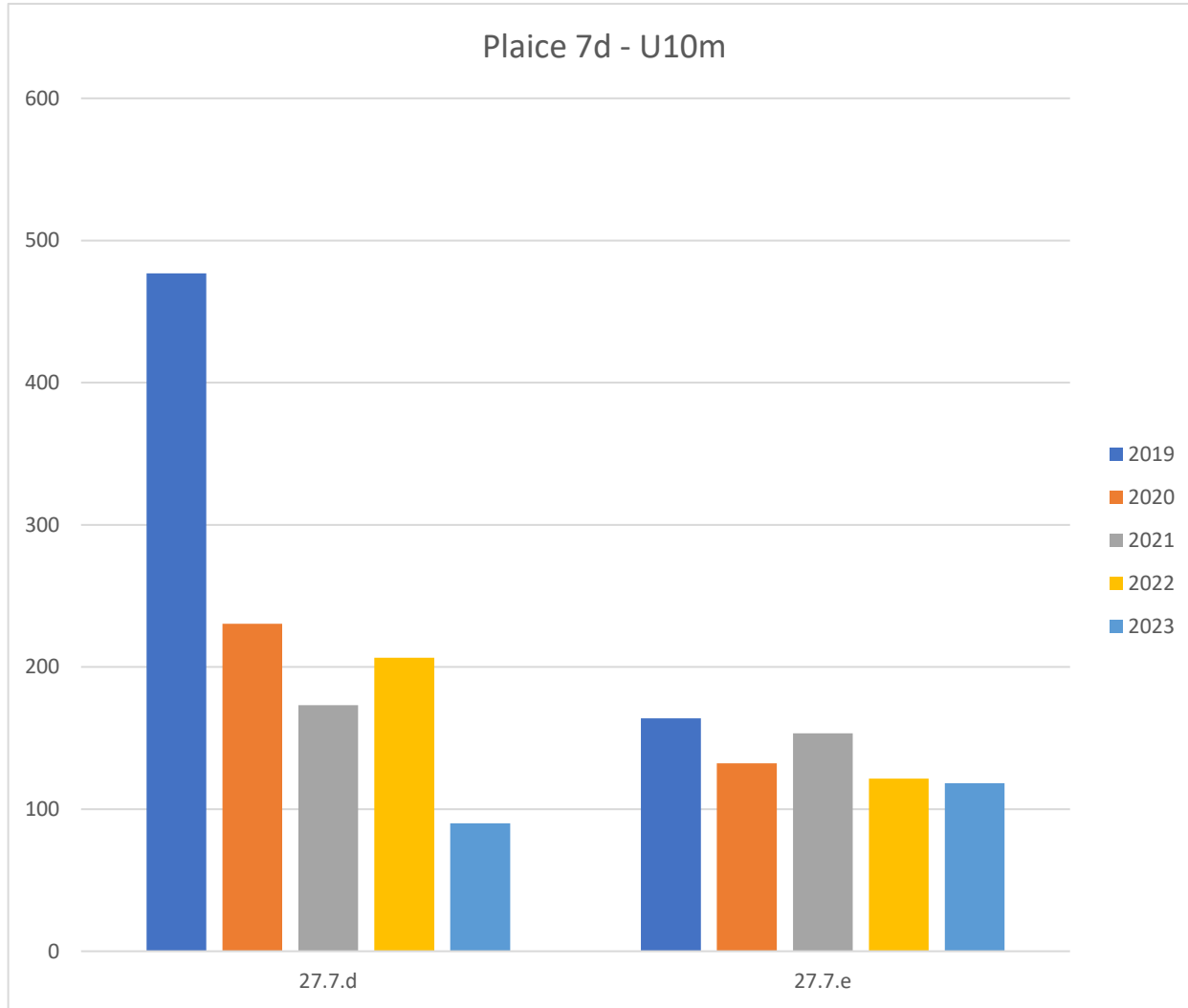
O10:

Est allocation = 25.6t
 Catch limit = 1t
 Current uptake = 0.05t

O10:

For 2024 the allocation will be split into separate d and e
 Est 7d = 8.0t
 Est 7e = 19.3t

Plaice 7d



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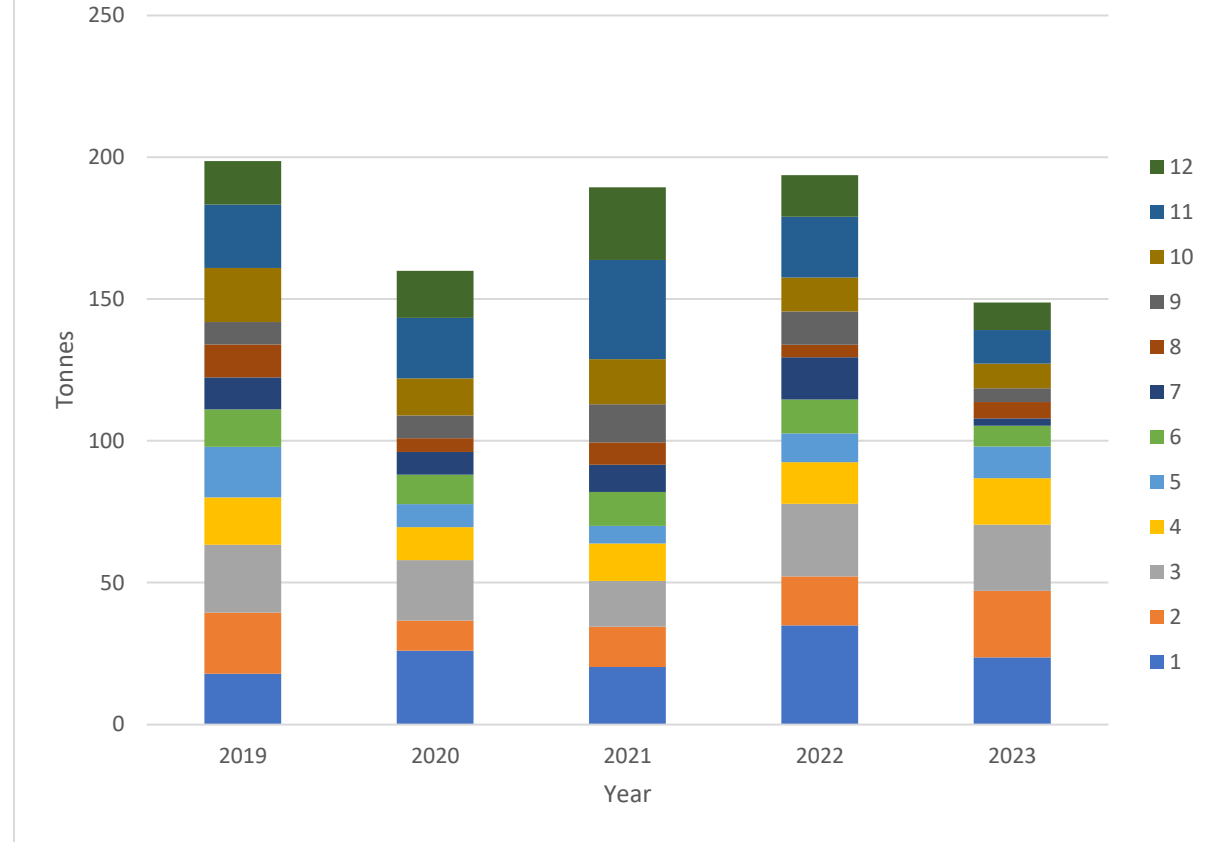
Skates and Rays 7d

Provisional Allocations based on SoS Determination

(Multiple Items) - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



Monthly Uptake by Year - SKA7D - U10m



Additional 100t available for 7d (Flex stocks)

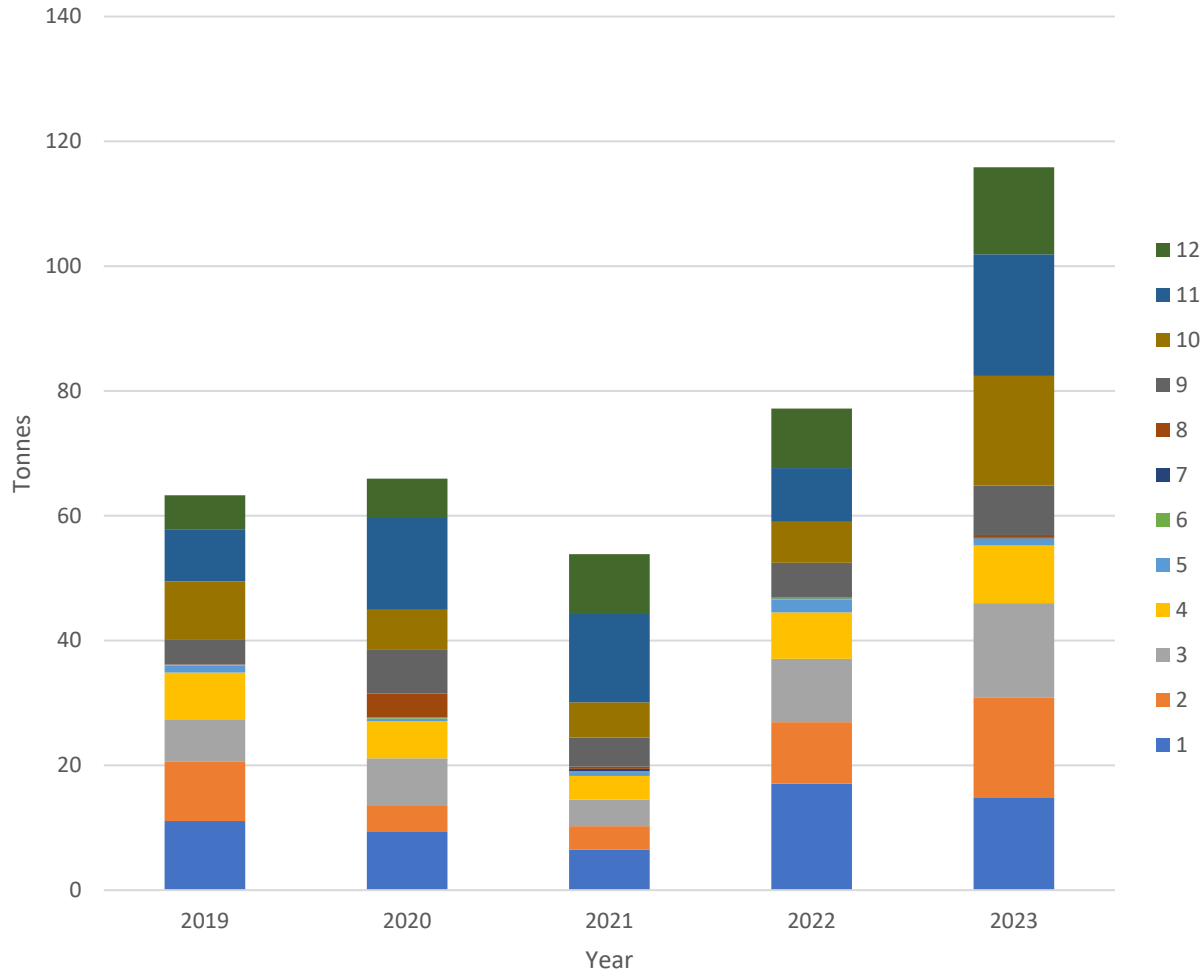
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U10:
 2024 change = 78% up
 Est allocation = 270t
 Catch limit = 2.5t
 Current uptake = 6.2t

O10:
 Est allocation = 35t
 Catch limit = 2.5t
 Current uptake = 0.23t

Undulate Ray 7d & e

Monthly Uptake by Year - RJU7DE - (All)



The UK and EU have an increased TAC for undulate ray in Area 7d/e for 2023

Increase from 75t in 2022

UK 2023 allocation = 1051t

UK 2024 allocation = 1358t

Undulate ray can now be targeted in 7d/e

Restrictions on the minimum and maximum landing sizes and the closed period (May-August) still apply.

The fishery will continue to be regulated via the UK licence schedule.

Current Catch Limit – 200kg Per trip

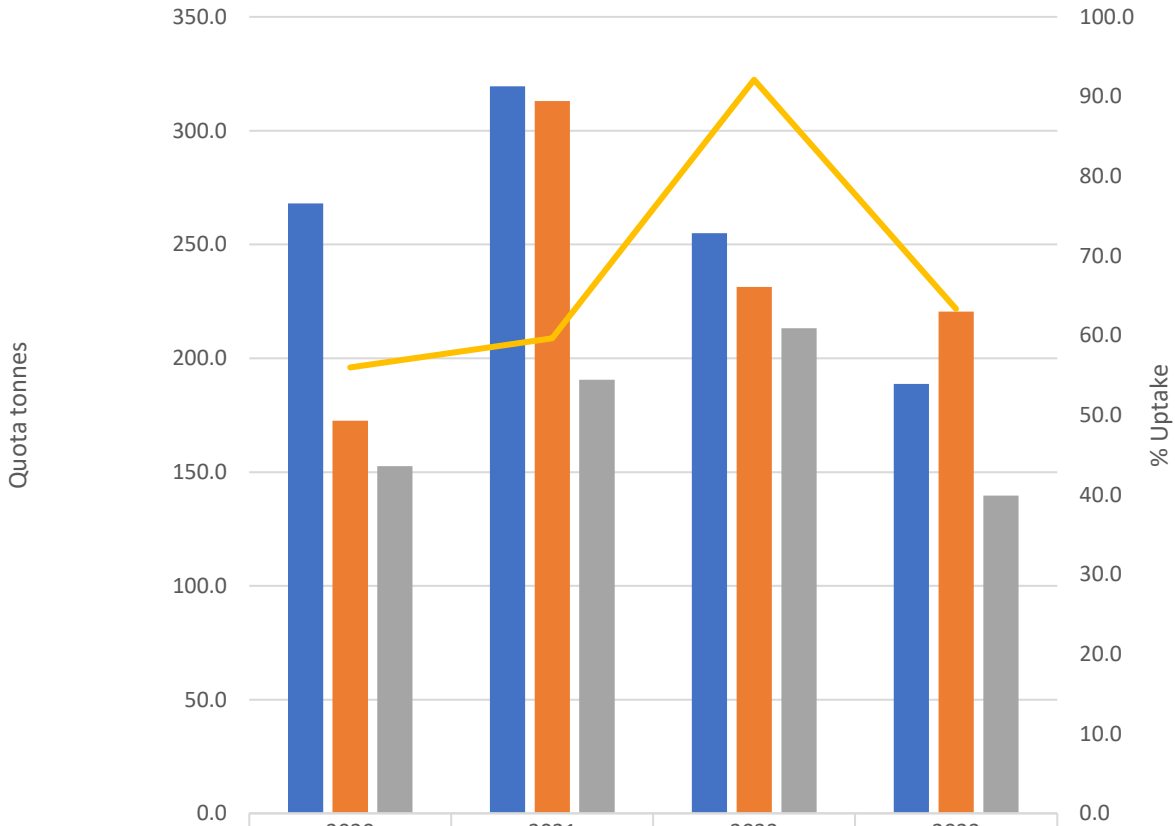
Current uptake – 3.66t

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Sole 7d

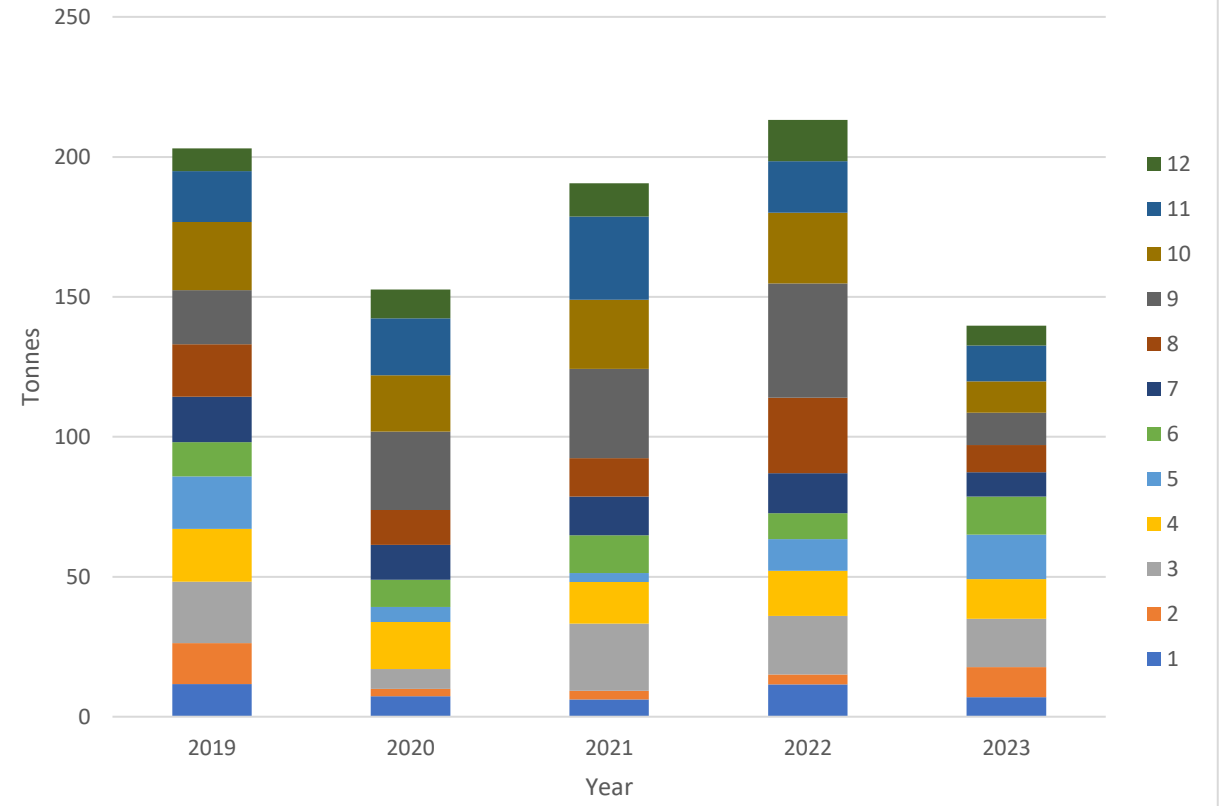
Provisional Allocations based on SoS Determination

Sole - Area VIId - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Initial availability	268.1	319.6	255.0	188.8
Total Available	172.6	313.1	231.4	220.6
Total Used	152.6	190.6	213.2	139.7
% Uptake	56.0	59.6	92.1	63.4

Monthly Uptake by Year - SOL7D - U10m



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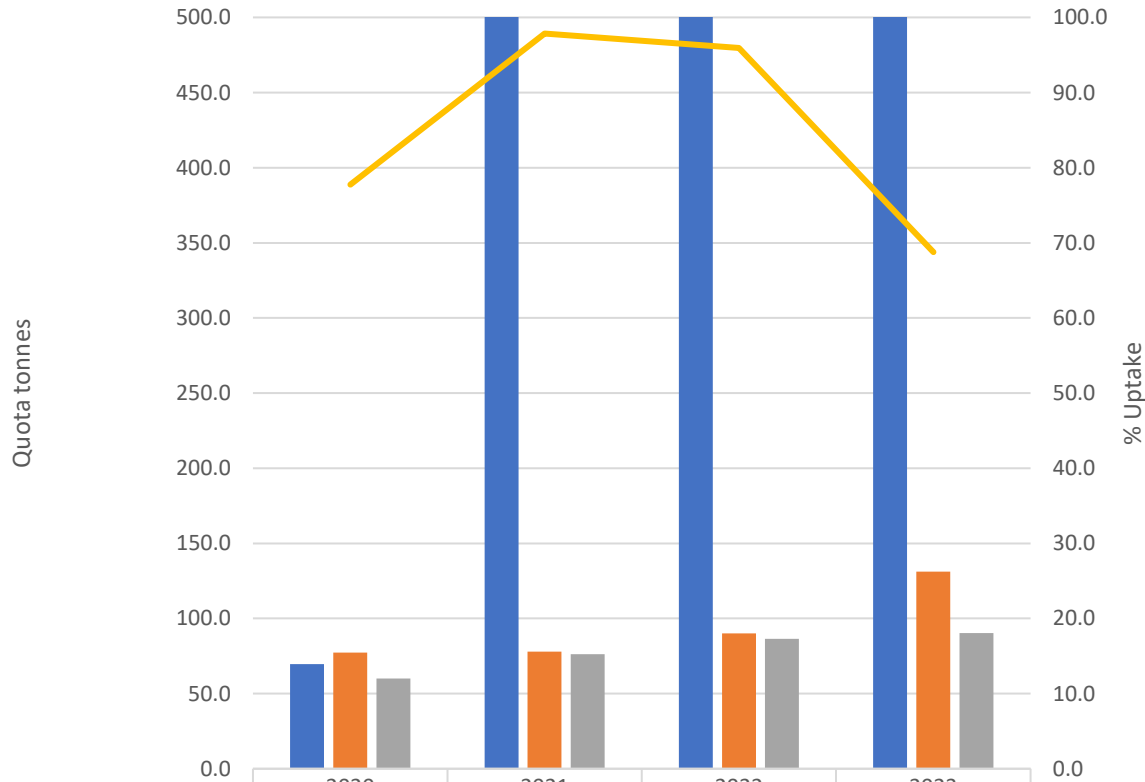
U10:
 2024 change = 14% down
 Est allocation = 162t
 Catch limit = 2.5t
 Current uptake = 4.2t

O10:
 Est allocation = 5.6t
 Catch limit = 2t
 Current uptake = 0.01t

Mackerel Western

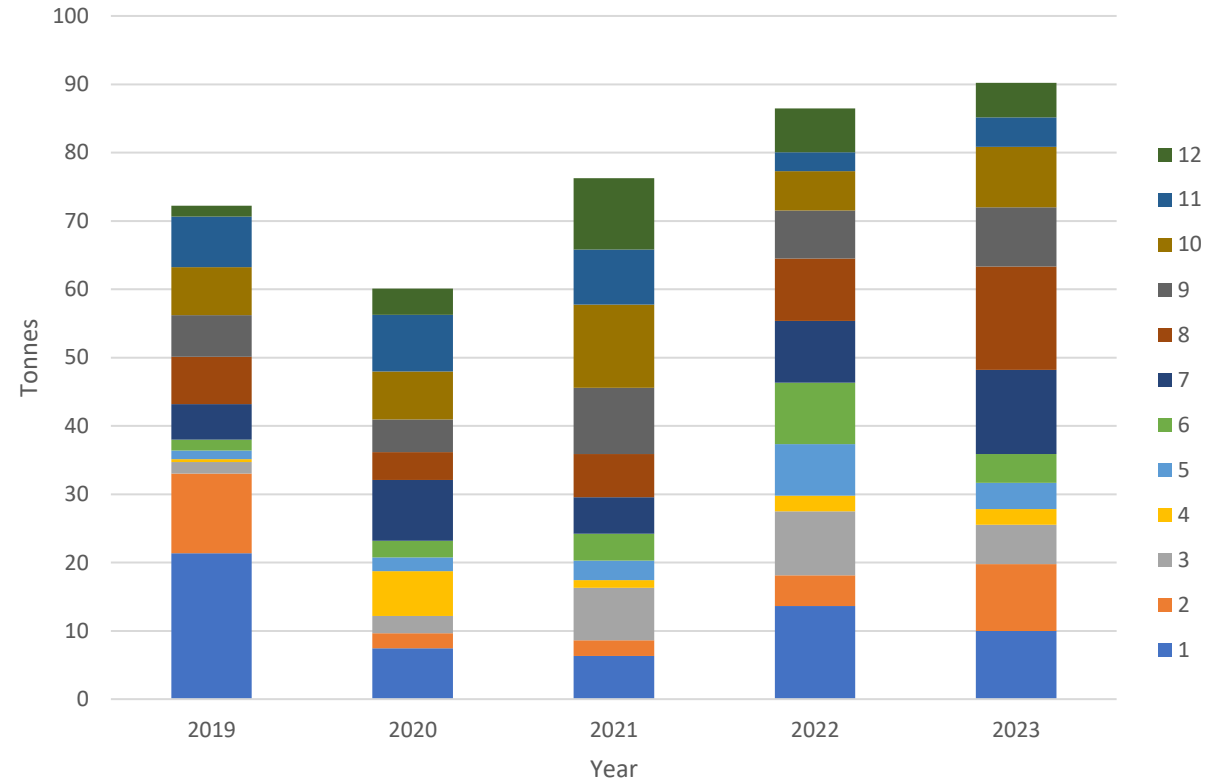
Provisional Allocations based on SoS Determination

Mackerel - Western - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Initial availability	69.6	1069.8	1152.2	2363.9
Total Available	77.3	77.9	90.1	131.2
Total Used	60.1	76.2	86.5	90.2
% Uptake	77.8	97.9	96.0	68.8

Monthly Uptake by Year - MACWS - U10m



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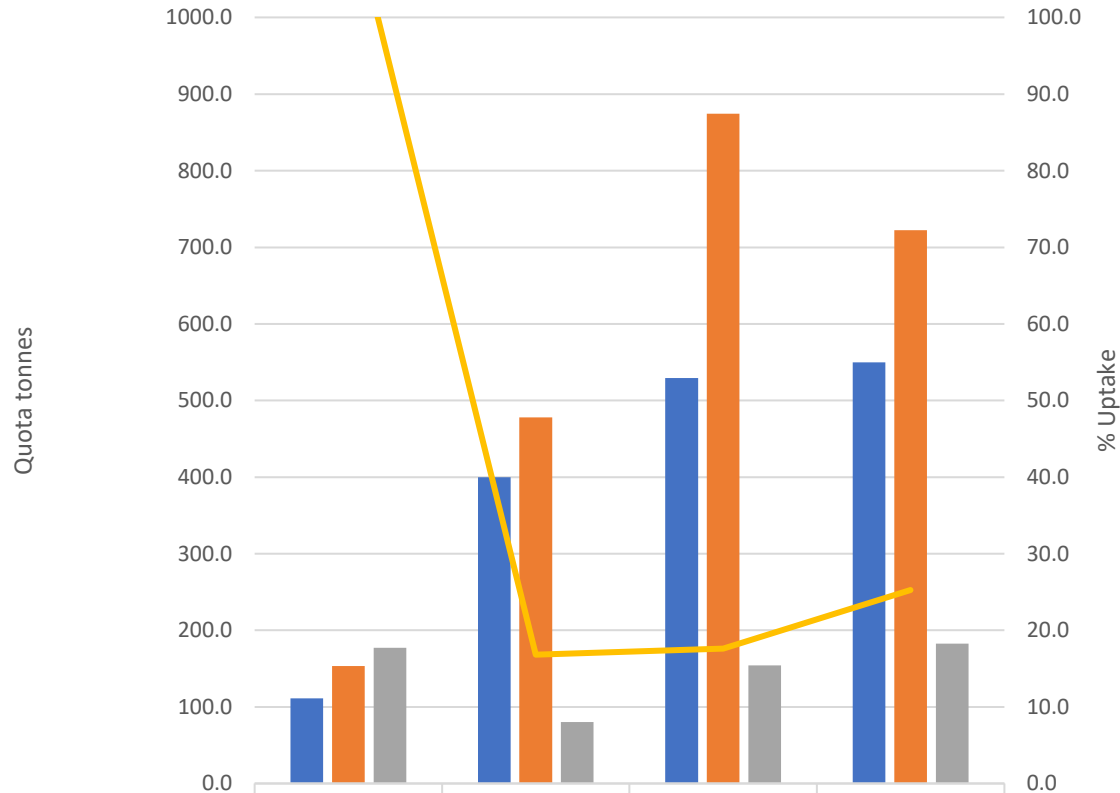
U10:

2024 change = 40% down
 Est allocation = 763.6t
 Catch limit = 10t
 Current uptake = 2.85t

O10:

Est allocation = 254.7t
 Catch limit = 10t
 Current uptake = 0.0t

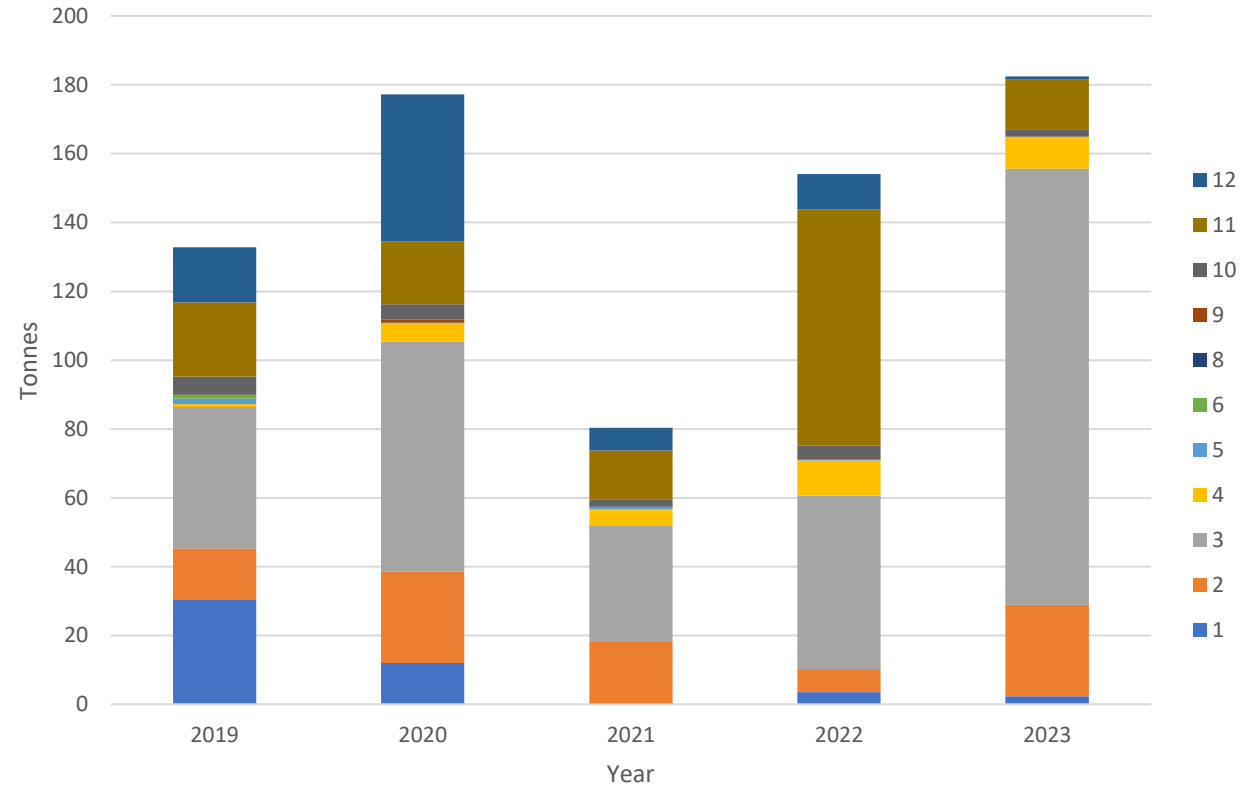
Herring - Areas IVc and VIId - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Initial availability	111.1	399.9	529.5	549.9
Total Available	153.3	478.0	874.4	722.6
Total Used	177.2	80.3	154.1	182.5
% Uptake	115.6	16.8	17.6	25.3

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Monthly Uptake by Year - HER4C7D - U10m



U10:
 2024 change = 32% up
 Est allocation = 725.8t
 Catch limit = 50t
 Current uptake = 0.18t

O10:
 Est allocation = 209.2t
 Catch limit = 50t
 Current uptake = 0.0t

2024 New quota stocks

- Brill 7de
 - UK level quota of 281t
 - Under 10m catch limit = 0.2t
 - Over 10m catch limit = 0.2t
- Lemon Sole 7d
 - UK level quota of 29t
 - We can use the NS stock to add to this = 1125t
 - Under 10m catch limit = 0.2t
 - Over 10m catch limit = 0.2t
- Witch 7d
 - UK level quota of 0t
 - We can use the NS stock to add to this = 541t
 - Under 10m catch limit = 0.05t
 - Over 10m catch limit = 0.05t

- Whiting 7b-k has been split so now:
- Whg 7d
 - UK level quota of 2123t
 - Under 10m catch limit = 2t
 - Over 10m catch limit = 2t
- Whg 7bc, e-k
 - UK level quota of 540t
 - Under 10m catch limit = 1t BYCATCH ONLY
 - Over 10m catch limit = 1t BYCATCH ONLY

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Please remember you can get in touch with us regarding catch limits – Email, Text or Call....

Katie James: 07747638655

Jacob Bestwick: 07469443840

inshorequotamanager@marinemanagement.org.uk

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Useful Links

Uptake Statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/quota-use-statistics>

Catch limits

Under 10m <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-catch-limits-10-metres-and-under-pool>

Over 10m <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-catch-limits-over-10-metre-non-sector-pool>

Trading

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fishing-quota-trading-and-swaps>

Catch limit Review (front page of MMO website during last 7-10 days of each month) – February 2024 Live now - [February 2024 Catch Limit Review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation>

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7d and 7e king scallop 2024 closures consultation & FMP Overview. RFG 18012024



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Proposed closures for king scallop dredge fishery in ICES area 7d and Lyme Bay

To protect king scallops during the main spawning season in ICES area 7d and 7e (Lyme Bay)

Background

The king scallop dredge fishery was closed in UK waters of 7d to all UK and EU vessels except the under 10m fleet

- 16 August to 3 October in 2021
- 1 August to 30 September in 2022
- 1 July to 30 September 2023 (inc Lyme Bay)
- EU closure in EU waters of 7d/7e UK/EU vessels 15 May to 30 September 2023



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Evidence

The proposals have been considered following consultation with UK Fisheries Administrations following scientific advice (CEFAS)

- Closure during the summer months is likely to deliver the most benefit.
- Stock assessments from the last 6 years indicate stocks in 7d have been exploited close to and above sustainable rates.
- The most recent stock assessment in Lyme Bay (7e) also indicates over exploitation of the stock.
- Balanced approach between stock protection and economic impacts.



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The options for proposed 7d king scallop dredge fishery closure

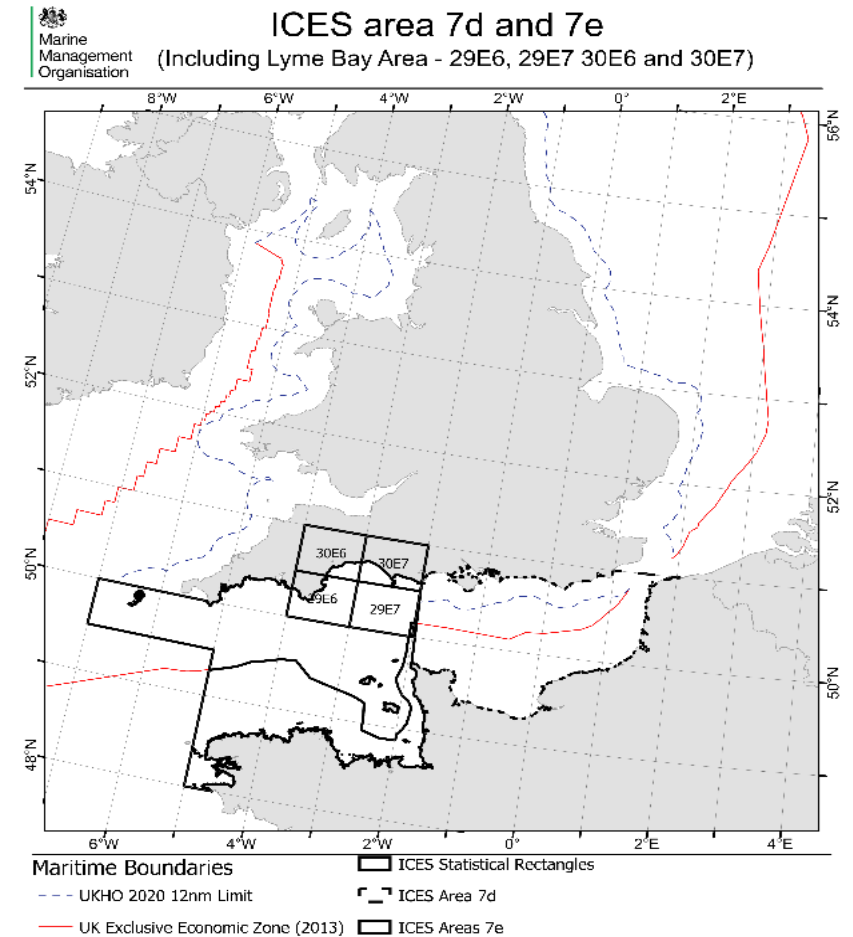
- 15 May to 30 September 2024
- 1 July and 30 September 2024

The options for proposed 7e king scallop dredge fishery closure

- A closure of Lyme Bay aligning to the agreed closure length in ICES area 7d.
- No closure.

The closure would be enacted through a vessel license condition and apply to UK and EU vessels

- over 10 m in 7d.
- over 12 m in 7e.



Date of Publication: 01/03/2023
Coordinate System: ETRS 1989 LAEA
Projection: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area
Not to be used for navigation
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Consultation & next steps

MMO have launched a consultation on proposals for a king scallop fishery closure in 7d and Lyme Bay area of 7e in 2024

Consultation - 7 December to 14 February 2024

Next Steps

- Review of consultation responses
- MMO Decision
- Publication of decision
- Implementation of decision
- Monitoring

[king scallop dredge fishery closure consultation](#)

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Marine Management Organisation

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**Consultation on
proposals for a king
scallop fishery closure in
ICES area 7d and Lyme
Bay of area 7e in 2024**

**7 December 2023 – 14
February 2024**

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Tranche 1 FMP's

***Please note these are subject to change.**



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Tranche 1 FMPs

	Bass	Scallop	Crab & Lobster	Whelk	Channel Non quota demersal	Southern NS and Channel mixed flat fish
Delivered by	<i>Policy Lab</i>	<i>Scallop industry Consultation group</i>	<i>Seafish</i>	<i>Seafish</i>	<i>MMO</i>	<i>DEFRA</i>
Associated NQS/FMPI teamwork	Reviewed bass regulation and management	Delivered Scallop closure 2022, and 2023, monitored closure for compliance and data gathering	Review of current crab regulation and management Compiled landing data	Review of current regulation and management	Review of current regulation and management for main species. Leading on OCT and CTL	Review of current regulation and management, Leading on Oct and CTL
Where to find the published FMP	Fisheries management plan for sea bass in English and Welsh waters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Fisheries management plan for king scallops in English and Welsh waters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Crab and lobster fisheries management plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Fisheries management plan for whelk in English waters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Channel demersal non-quota species fisheries management plan (FMP) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Still being analysed
Goals	Engagement, min' discarding & impact. increase compliance, social benefit, sustainable harvest	Improve evidence base, strengthen and align management measures	Regional management measures, improve data & evidence, harmonising MCRS, prohibit soft shell, consider effort.	Improving evidence base, adaptive management measures.	Effective management, biological sustainability, social & economic benefits, evidence gaps	
Implementation lead	Chris Collins	Louise Price	Louise Price & Sarah Bedingham (CRW)	Alex Murphy	Sarah Bedingham (OCT) Laura Lovett (CTL)	

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Why an FMP for king scallops:-

- stocks' vulnerability to over-exploitation
- economic value of the fishery
- lack of evidence to assess and monitor the state of the stock properly
- the potential environmental effect of the fishery

Current management measures:-

King scallops are a non-quota stock which are currently not subject to catch limits. King scallop fisheries already have a range of management measures in place to protect stocks and the environment. Current management in England and Wales is applied at national, regional, and local levels through fisheries licensing, legislation and byelaws. These measures include:

- technical gear specifications – minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS) - *previously 'minimum sizes'* are applied to certain species of fish and shellfish. *Unless a species is subject to the landing obligation (discard ban) you must return all catches below the MCRS to the sea*
- king scallop licenses or permits with conditions – *can only fish as per the license condition wording*
- seasonal closures to protect spawning stocks – *an area of the fishery is to be closed to allow the stocks to recover*
- closures to protect seabed features - *an area of the fishery is to be closed to allow the seabed to recover*
- limits on the days at sea for fishing vessels of 15 meters and over in length fishing in certain areas - referred to as the western waters effort regime – *only allowed to fish for a certain amount of days as per the license condition.*

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MMO are currently running a consultation for a proposed king scallop closure in ICES area 7d and 7e (Lyme Bay)

The options for proposed 7d king scallop closure are:

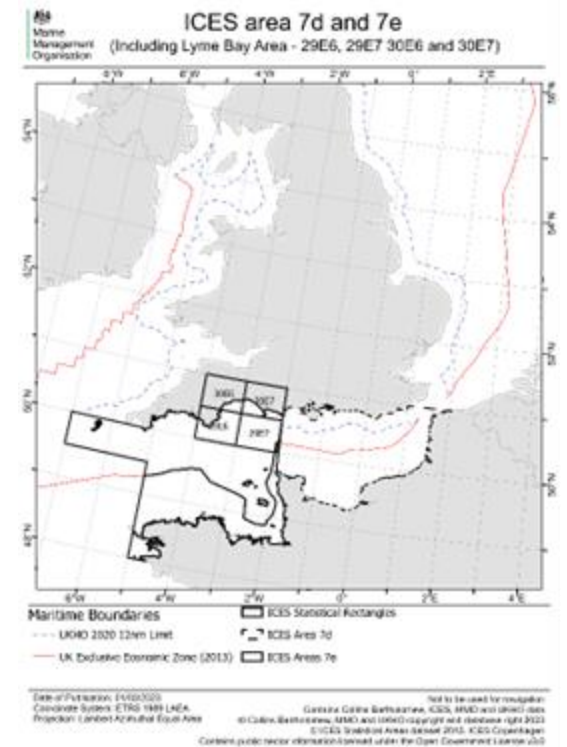
15 May to 30 September 2024 – a closure period that aligns with the EU closure of 7d to the king scallop dredge fishery.

1 July and 30 September 2024 – the same closure period as 2023.

The proposed 7e king scallop dredge fishery closure is:

A closure of Lyme Bay (ICES rectangles, 30E6, 30E7, 29E6 and 29E7) aligning to the agreed closure length in ICES area 7d.

No closure of Lyme Bay within any time period.



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Policy paper

Fisheries management plan for sea bass in English and Welsh waters

Published 14 December 2023

- Set up a Bass Management Group
- Review current management measures (including the authorisation system, closed seasons, netting regulation)

Implementation by:-

MMO, Defra & Industry groups

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Policy paper

Fisheries management plan for king scallops in English and Welsh waters

Published 14 December 2023

- Development of management framework based on output and input controls
- Consideration of broad alignment measures
- Development of area-based closures and management
- Continued development of partnership working approach to managing king scallop fishery.

**Implementation by:-
MMO, Defra & Scallop Industry groups**

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Policy paper

Fisheries management plan for whelk in English waters

Published 14 December 2023

- Area based closures/area-based management
- Review pot limits and gear design measures
- Support the introduction of an increased and where possible, harmonized minimum conservation ref size (MCRS) in offshore English waters.

Implementation by:-

MMO, Defra & Industry groups

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Policy paper

Channel demersal non-quota species fisheries management plan (FMP)

- Introduction MCRS (lemon sole, brill)
- Engine restriction for fly seining vessels (7d,7e)
- Min mesh size (7d,7e)
- Introduction of voluntary measures recreational anglers
- Establish a Channel management group
- Develop an action plan for the cuttlefish fishery

Implementation by:-

MMO, Defra & Industry groups

- Cuttlefish – engage with stakeholders to develop an action plan for cuttle.

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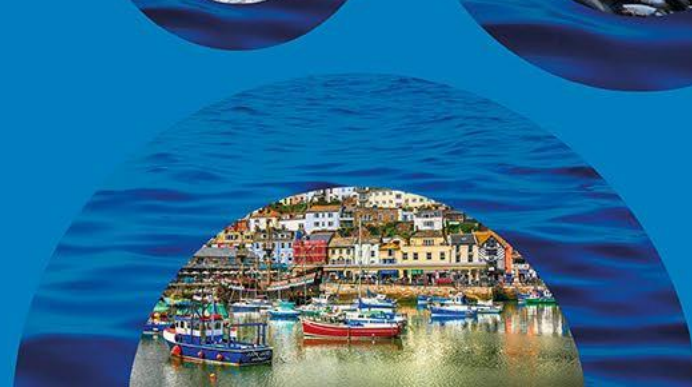


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Any questions?



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Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

UK Seafood Fund (UKSF) Webinar

Infrastructure Round 3 – support for the catching
sector

Background

- Up to £10 million has been allocated to support the catching sector.
- In January 2023, we announced an initial £2 million investment to trial new, greener engines and help create a safer, more sustainable fishing fleet. This opportunity was made available through Round 3 of the UKSF Infrastructure scheme.
- Defra announced in December that we are expanding Round 3 to provide further support for the catching sector in **improvements to boats, ports, and health and safety.**



What is being funded?



Projects that improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions on vessels.

Projects that improve infrastructure at ports.



Projects that improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of the workforce



Projects must be complete by March 2025

Project examples

We expect to fund the following types of projects – these are examples and not an exhaustive list

Vessel improvements including:

Investments that are aimed at the reduction of energy consumption and fuel use

- Investments to improve the hydrodynamics of the hulls of vessels
- Investments to improve the propulsion system of the vessel
- More sustainable gear that enables the vessel to move with greater energy efficiency

Infrastructure (ports) including:

Investments improving the infrastructure of fishing ports, auctions halls, landing sites and shelters

- Quality control equipment at ports
- Electrification including installing charging points and solar panels
- Freezing and temporary storage facilities
- Improved access for vehicles
- Improved access for boats including slipways etc.

Health and safety including:

Investments in safety equipment on board fishing vessels

- Investments that improve crew working conditions to reduce the likelihood of occupational accidents or injuries
- Improvements to increase the safety of fishing gear and associated systems
- Monitoring systems and sea navigation systems to reduce the rate of accidents
- Testing new health and safety equipment

Investments in safety equipment at ports

- Safer means of boarding fishing vessels such as new slipways, walkways, steps etc.
- Training to support health, safety and wellbeing improvements

Eligibility and funding amounts

Project type	Grant contribution
Projects that improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions on vessels.	£65,000 and £200,000.
Projects that improve infrastructure at ports	£150,000 and £500,000.
Projects that improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of the workforce	Start at £100,000 for boats or supporting the workforce, and £150,000 at ports, up to a maximum of £500,000.

The round is open to:

- Owners of vessels who are commercial fishers.
- Individuals or businesses engaged within commercial fishing, that facilitate health and safety equipment or training.
- Public bodies or local authorities in a local community that have a focus on fishing, including trust ports and local authority ports, and public bodies, using funds for health and safety improvements.
- Universities or research institutes.
- New entrants to the industry that could benefit from knowledge or skills in fishing.

Match funding rates

Applicant type	Maximum funding from UKSF	Minimum match funding from applicant
Small scale coastal fleet (SSCF) organisations (including ports predominantly used by SSCF)	80%	20%
Public bodies (including public ports), trust ports, producer organisations, fishermen's associations or organisations, and cooperatives	80%	20%
Micro-entities	80%	20%
Small or medium-sized enterprises	50%	50%
All other private applicants	30%	70%

How do I apply?

- Application forms and guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafood-fund-infrastructure-scheme#round-3>
- There are separate application forms and guidance depending on your project type.

Round 3

Round 3 is open for applications. Find out how to apply for funding to:

- [purchase new, more fuel-efficient engines for commercial fishing vessels, or to modify existing engines](#)
- [improve commercial vessels to reduce fuel use and emissions](#)
- [improve port infrastructure for the commercial catching sector](#)
- [improve the health, safety and wellbeing in the catching sector](#)

- If you have any queries about eligibility or what to include in your application, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) are administering this round of funding on behalf of Defra and their Grants Team will be able to support. The MMO Grants Team can be reached via email at UKFisheriesSupport@marinemanagement.org.uk or telephone on 03300 416 579.
- Round 3 is open for applications until midday on 13 December 2024, or until all funding has been allocated – whichever happens first.

Application process

Before you apply

- Register on the [UK Fisheries Support System \(UKSFF\)](#) to create an account.
- You will need to complete the relevant application form

Application

- Assessed against aims, impact, deliverability and value for money
- Application will need to pass general eligibility checks, financial checks, and the questions in the application form, which operate on a pass/fail basis
- Cost template

Assessment

- Applications assessed on a first come first served basis.
- Higher value projects need a business case and considered by a panel
- Use the UKFSS to notify applicants about the outcome of applications.



Evaluation

- Involvement in surveys – want to hear directly from the applicant
- RPA – evaluation of the whole scheme – learning to inform future support



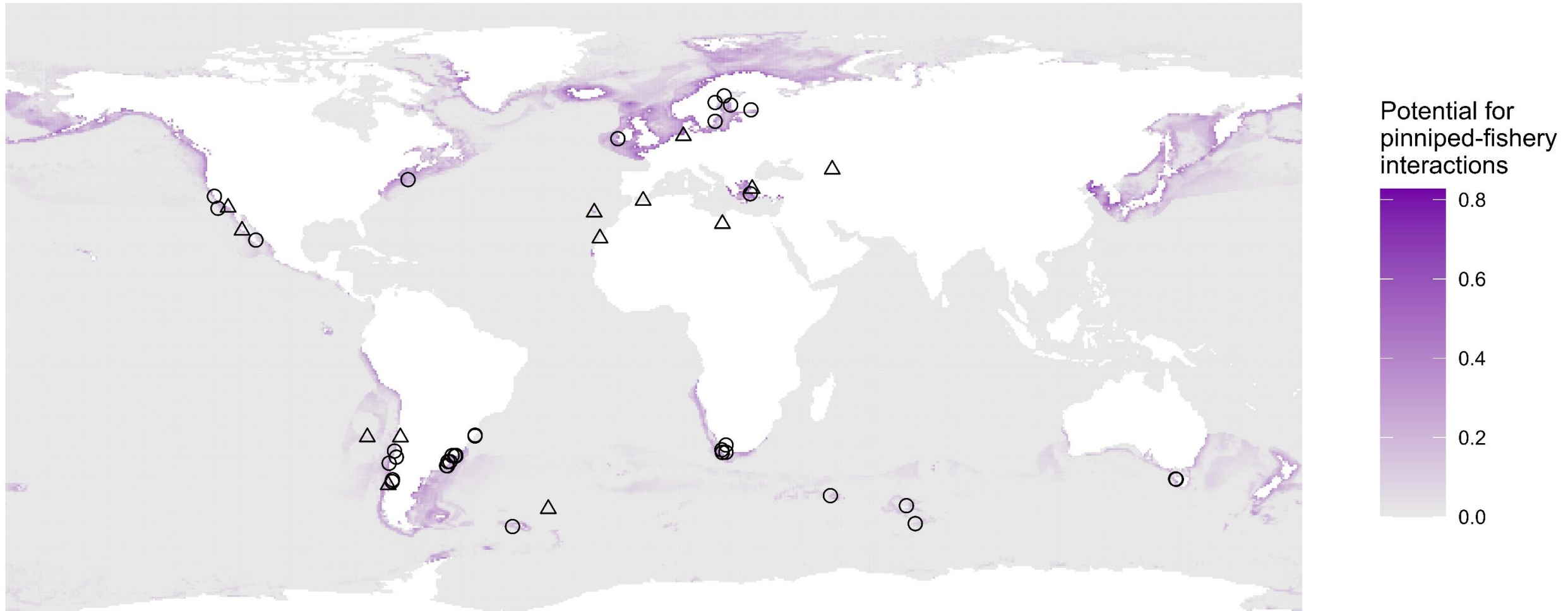
Extent and severity of partially eaten catch within the UK.

Dr. Claire Tanner
Dept of Biology

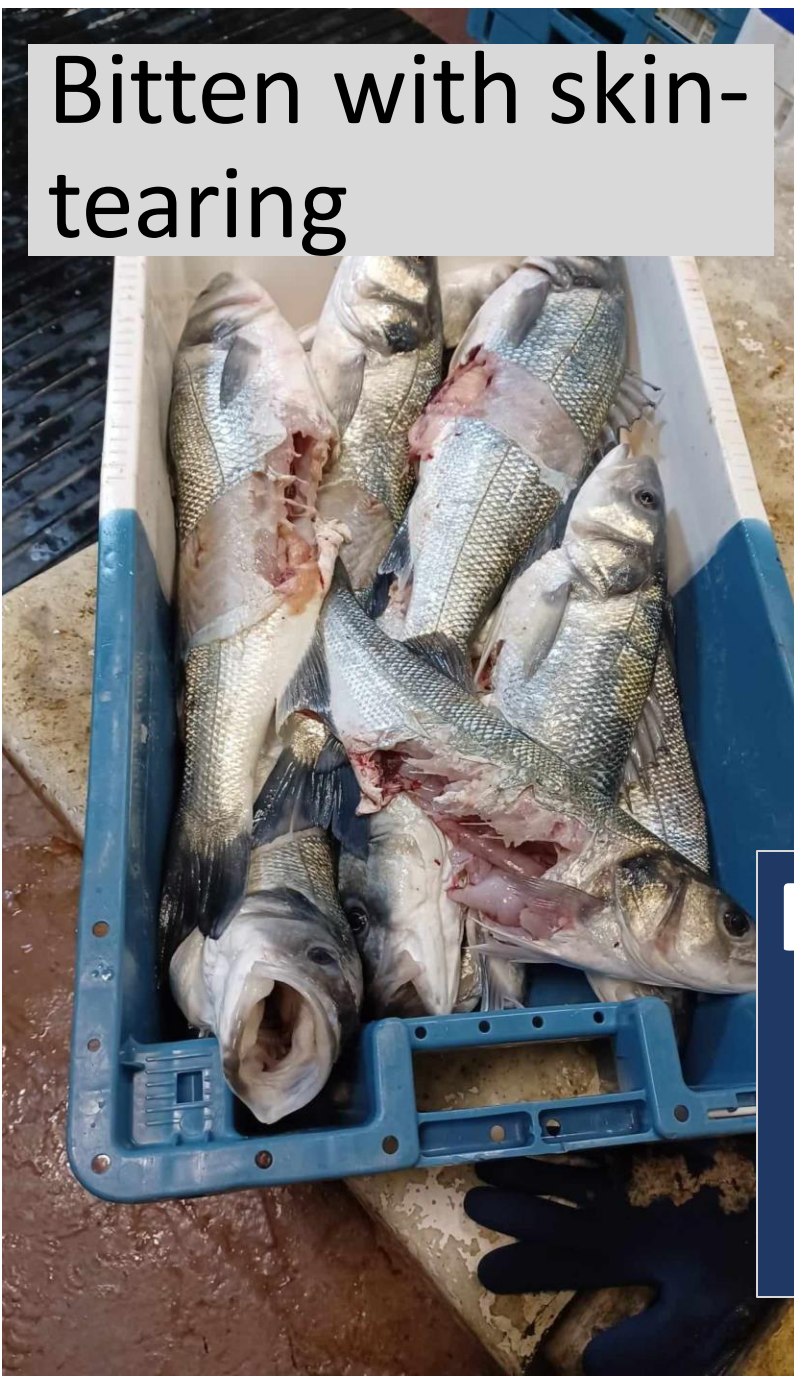
 claire.tanner@biology.ox.ac.uk
 [@MCEM_Oxford](https://twitter.com/MCEM_Oxford)

Research from around the world...

- Potential for human-wildlife-conflict in UK
- No current datapoints for interactions



Bitten with skin-tearing



Half-eaten



One-bite



Partially eaten catch

=

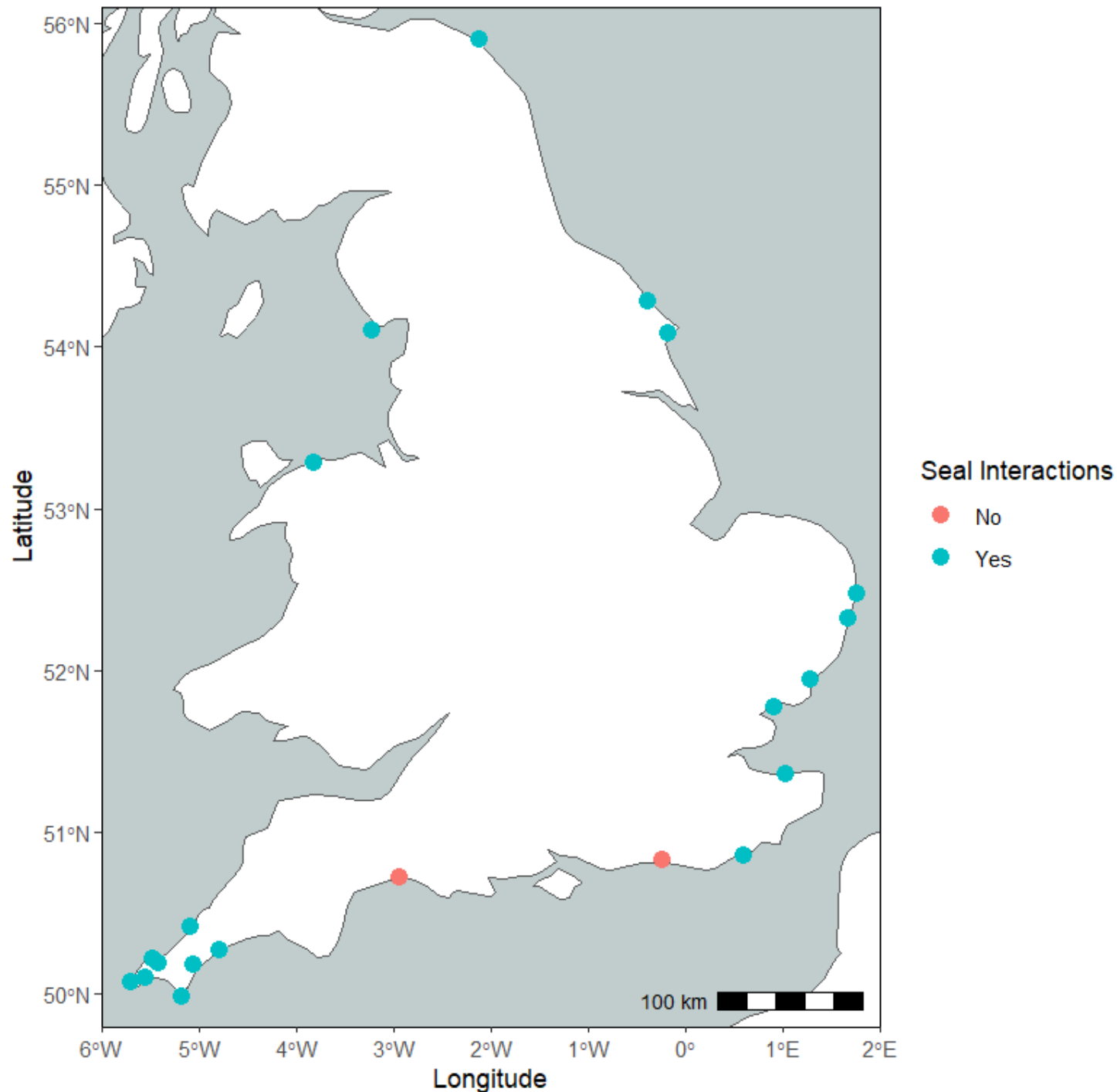
Any catch damaged by marine predators.



What is the extent and severity of partially eaten catch for fishers?

Extent: UK-wide

- 20 sites – 2 locations without interactions
- Extent includes most of UK
 - Gap in mid-south coast





What is the extent and severity of partially eaten catch for fishers?

Amount of partially eaten catch is affected by....

Target species of fish *

Gear type

Number of seals seen around the boat during the fishing trip

Number of seals at haul-outs within the fishing area

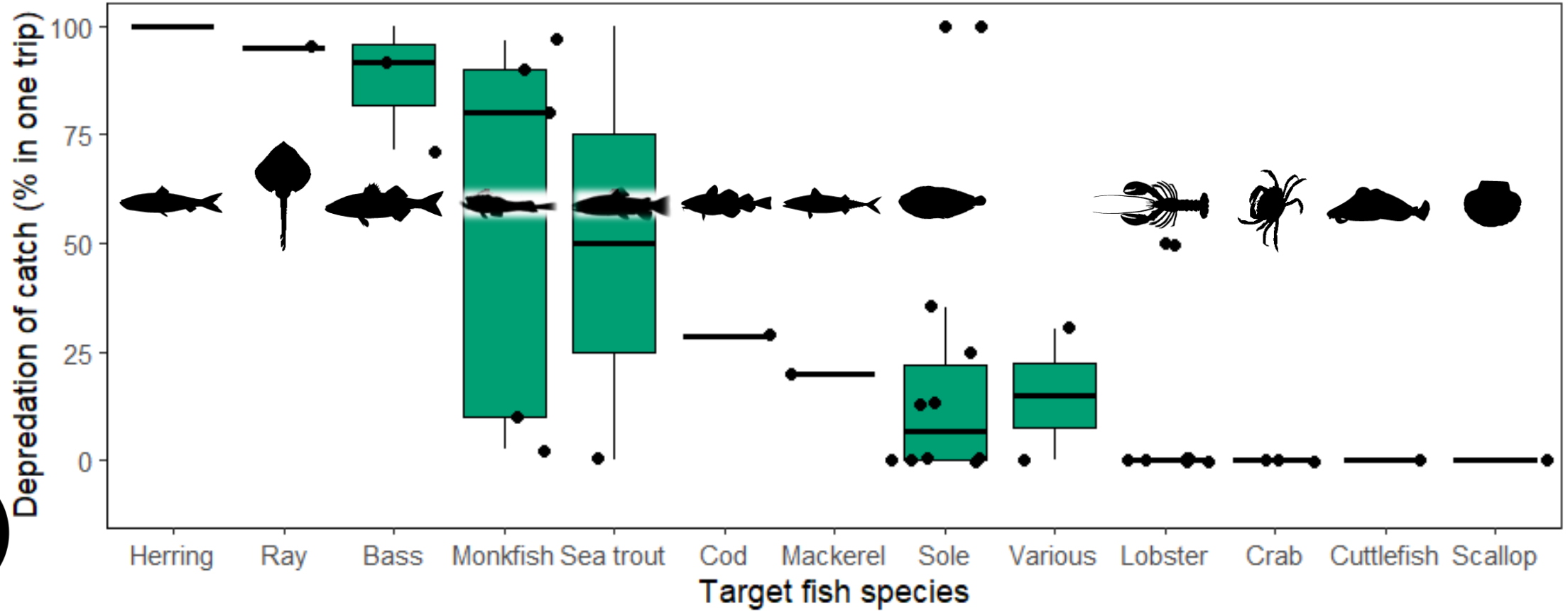
* = $P < 0.05$ (Significant effect)





What is the extent and severity of partially eaten catch for fishers?

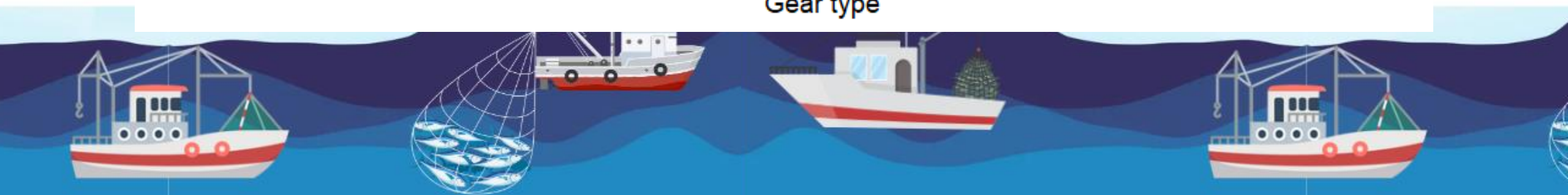
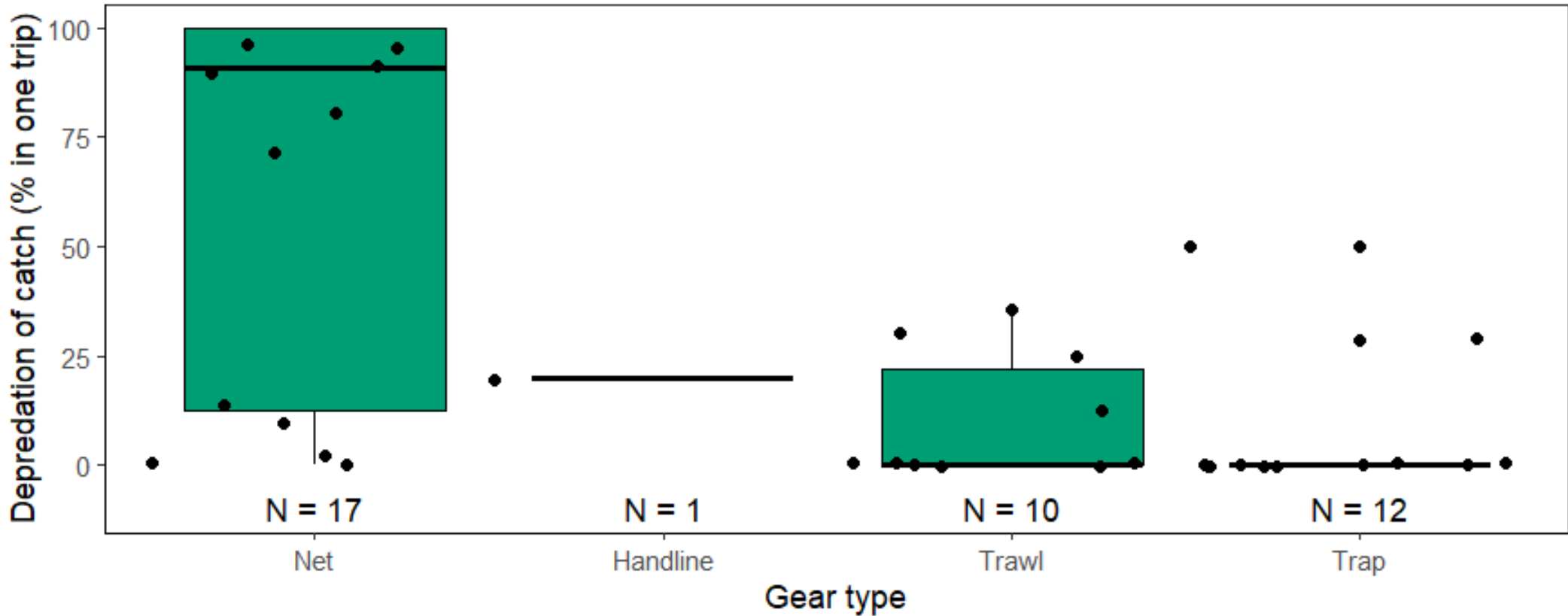
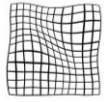
Severity varies between different target fish species.





What is the extent and severity of partially eaten catch for fishers?

Severity varies between different gear types.



SUMMARY

- **What is the extent and severity of partially eaten catch for fishers?**
 - Extent includes most of the UK
 - Severity is determined by:
 - Target fish species (“high value” species = more damage)
 - Gear type (netting = most damage, potting = least damage)
 - Amount of seals in haul outs within the fishing area



WORKSHOPS

- 2024: Workshops to gain fishers' views and concerns on potential mitigation measures
 - Marine Management Organisation
 - Any fishers interested in participating
- In person
- Regional (exact locations and dates TBC)



For Funding and Research....

For Participation...

Thank you to....

Fishing communities in:
Cornwall
Yorkshire
Suffolk
Essex
Kent
W. Sussex
E. Sussex
Devon
Cumbria
Gwynedd
Scottish Borders




UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
John Fell Fund



Marine Conservation Ecology & Management

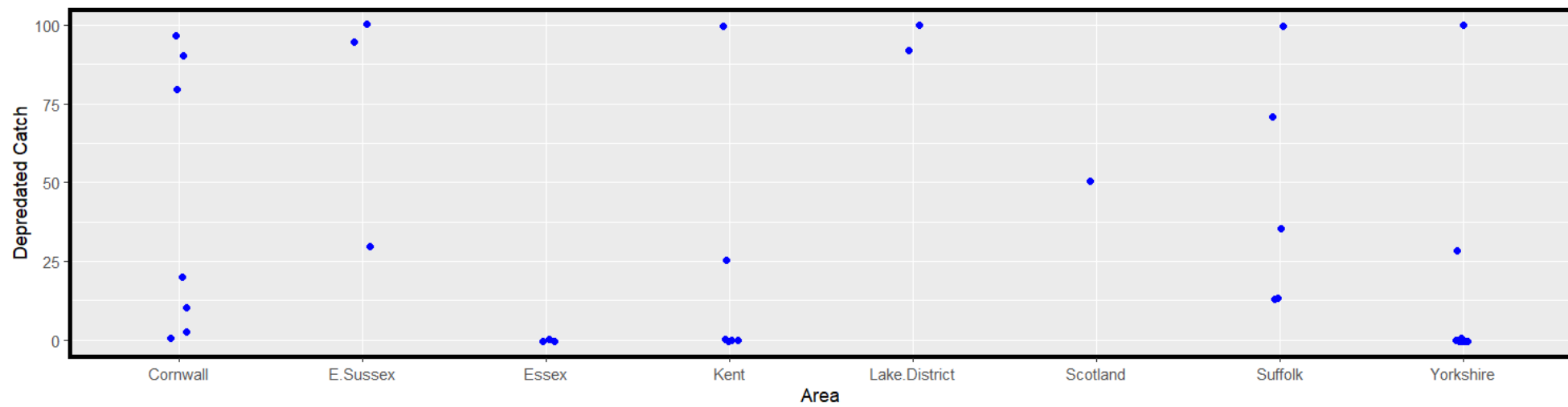
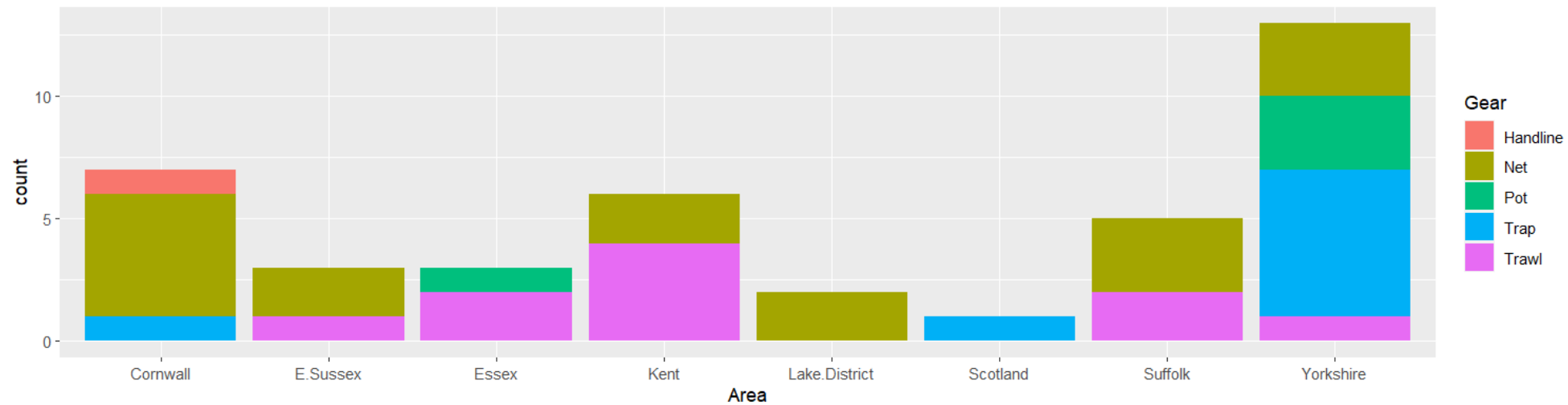
Dr Katrina Davis
& Fieldwork assistants



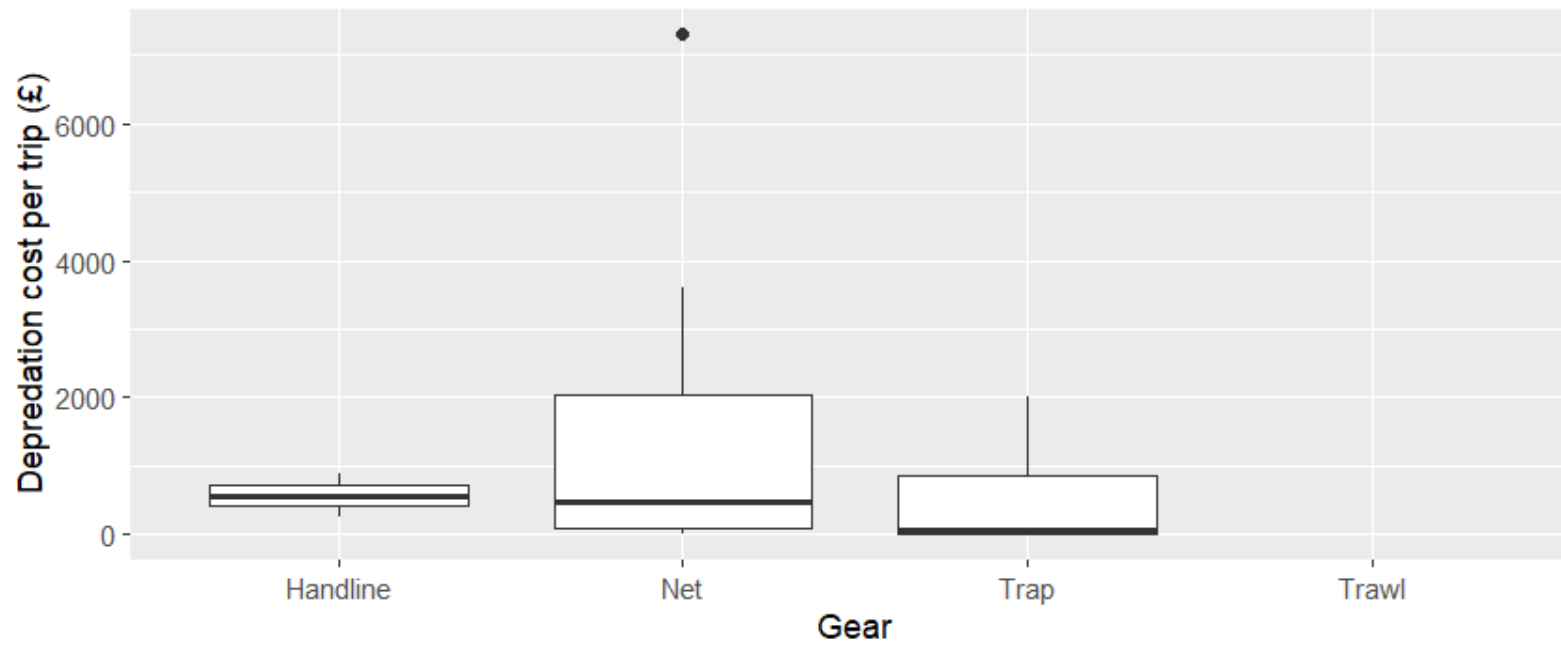
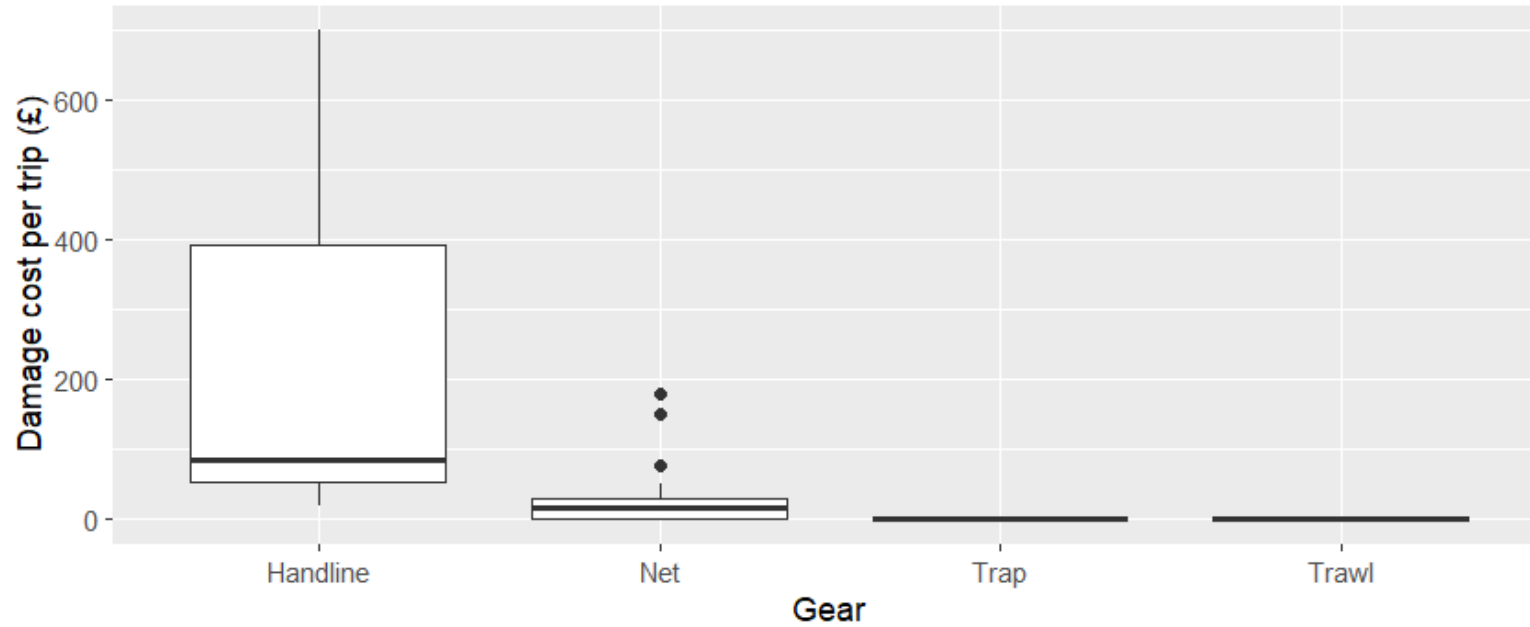





Location data



Economics of loss





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South RFG: MMO Skate and Ray FMP Update

Mark Qureshi

Nick French

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Skates and Rays FMP: Overview

- The FMP covers the English waters of the Southern North Sea (ICES areas 4.b and 4.c), and the English Channel (ICES areas 7.d and 7.e). It covers 7 species:
 - Thornback ray (*Raja clavata*)
 - Blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*)
 - Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*)
 - Small-eyed ray (*Raja microocellata*)
 - Spotted ray (*Raja montagui*)
 - Cuckoo ray (*Leucoraja naevus*)
 - Starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*)



Vision: Develop and deliver sustainable management of skate and ray fisheries in the English Channel and Southern North Sea.

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Skates and Rays FMP: Initial Issues

Wider Issues

- Slow growing, low fecundity species with varying characteristics and life histories.
- Patchy domestic management, joint-TACs, and unclear regulations.
- High recreational value and interest.
- Targeted by some inshore vessels, supplementary income for other fleets. Generally low commercial prices.

7e (W. Channel)

- Mixed ray fishery, blonde prominent species
- Prohibition of small-eyed ray
- Blue skate abundance increasing

7d (E. Channel)

- Mixed ray fishery, with thornback prominent species
- Undulate ray exhibit localised abundance but some recent concerns about numbers

4b and 4c (SNS)

- Prominent thornback fisheries, but reports of recent decline
- Potential impacts from predation, wind farming and pollution to be explored

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Skates & Rays FMP: draft measures

Short term

- National: harmonized MCRS, maximum landing size, fish handling and regulations guidance.
- Address evidence gaps: undulate ray abundance in 7d, effectiveness of existing undulate ray seasonal closures, effectiveness of sustainability ratings and market demand.

Mid/long term

- National: species-specific MCRS and TACs, ID guidelines, spatiotemporal management, commercial market-enhancing measures, recreational support measures.
- Address evidence gaps: understanding climate change impacts, effectiveness of existing spatiotemporal management for skates and rays, species-specific discard survival rate.
- Location-specific: A careful lift in the prohibition of landing small-eyed ray in 7e.

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Skates & Rays FMP: Collaboration and Engagement

Collaboration

- FMP Working Group, comprising key stakeholders across the industry.

Engagement:

- Nov/Dec - series of events at key coastal locations along the Channel and east coast up to North Shields.
- Online engagement through webinars and online survey.

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Stakes and Rays FMP: Feedback

- Generally positive feedback for most measures.
 - Regional bias for some measures, e.g. a national harmonised MCRS was popular in the eastern Channel.
 - Largely positive feedback on species-specific MCRS, need however to avoid complicated regulations.
 - Calls for more dynamic/seasonal-based TACs – to reflect fisheries seasonality. Desire to move away from combined TAC for skates and rays.
 - Support for commercial and recreational fishers – ID guides, handling practices, compliance education
 - other themes included: Seal predation; Concerns over ability for market recovery following any seasonal/longer term closures
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Skate and Ray FMP process so far

1) Scoping:

- Identified key data, evidence and stakeholders to develop understanding of fishery
- Identified key issues faced by fishery
- Developed draft management ideas and evidence gaps

2) Engagement:

- *AIM: Ground truth thinking and get your input into ideas.*
- Brought together working group
- Two weeks of face-to-face engagement across Channel and SNS
- Additional meetings with key stakeholder groups to supplement above.
- Online sessions and online surveys developed for those that can't attend in-person

3) Drafting:

- Compile feedback from all stakeholders and use to draft the FMP alongside scientific evidence/data
- Draft FMP and submit to Defra (February 2024)

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MMO-led FMPs: Next Steps

**Draft submissions
to Defra by 9th
February 2024**



**Final submission
after Defra Review
March 2024**



**Public consultation
summer 2024**



**Publication
December 2024**

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Any Questions?

Any follow up questions: fmp@marinemanagement.org.uk

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