

Why the need for the closure?

- MMO is seeking views on proposals to protect the king scallop (*Pectens maximus*) stocks in UK waters of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) area 7d and Lyme Bay area of ICES area 7e in summer of 2025.
- The purpose of the consultation is to consider protection for stocks during the main spawning period for king scallops within areas 7d and 7e, with peak spawning typically in summer.

Previous closures

- In recent years a closure has been implemented in ICES area 7d and Lyme Bay area of ICES area 7e which focused on providing increased protection for spawning stock, facilitating juvenile recruitment and supporting future viability and sustainability of the stock.
- The impacts of the extended 2024 closure for Area 7d and Lyme Bay area of 7e on other areas in 7e and beyond has been flagged by stakeholders as a concern, with increased effort being placed on alternative effort with poorer quality yields being landed due to effort displacement.
- **Scallop Industry Consultation Group (SICG)** members shared that the 2024 closure had a detrimental impact on the catching and processing sectors, bringing into question the economic viability of the sector as a whole, whilst introducing significant risk to jobs both at sea and in the supporting land-based infrastructure.

What is the scientific evidence?

ICES area 7d

- The most recent stock assessment published in 2024 indicates that in the Eastern Channel (27.7.d.N) the exploitation rate of king scallops has generally been at or below the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) target (2017 – 2022).

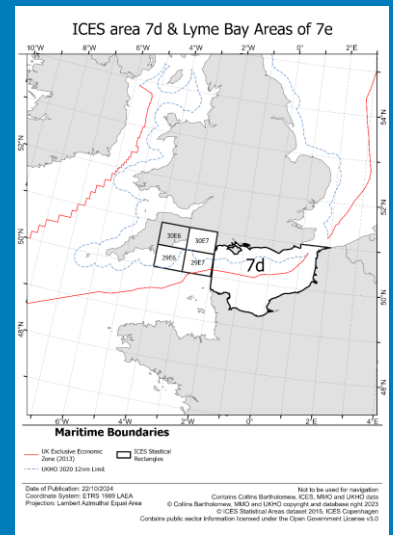
Lyme Bay, ICES area 7e

- The 2023 stock assessment published in 2024 indicates that the Lyme Bay area (27.7.e) continues to experience high levels of exploitation, consistently above the MSY target since 2017, and increasing since 2019.



Marine Management Organisation

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



Options for the proposed closures:

The options for proposed 7d king scallop closures are:

- From 15 May to 30 September 2025
- From 1 July to 30 September 2025
- No closure within 7d within any time period

The options proposed for a 7e king scallop dredge fishery closure are:

- 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.

The closure would be exacted through a vessel licence variation and apply to UK and EU vessels.

Tell us your views

The consultation is open from 18 November 2024 to 12 January 2025. To respond to this consultation and access further information, please contact us at sustainablefisheries@marinemanagement.org.uk.