



King scallop dredge fishery closure in ICES division 7d and the Lyme Bay area of 7e 2025

Why the need for a closure?

The purpose of the closure is to protect king scallops during the main spawning season in ICES division 7d. Scientific evidence indicates a closure during the summer months is likely to deliver the most benefit. A closure in Lyme Bay will also limit depletion of the stock in area 7e due to displacement of fishing effort into this area where stock assessments indicate over exploitation.

Outcome of consultation:

Proposals were drafted following consultation with the Scallop Industry Consultation Group and UK Fisheries Administrations (UKFAs) following scientific advice. A consultation ran from 18 November 2024 to 12 January 2025 to gather views from stakeholders. Further information on the consultation is available [here](#). In exercise of its obligations under the Joint Fisheries Statement, MMO have determined the most appropriate closure decision to balance the environmental needs of the spawning stocks, with the socio-economic impacts expressed by stakeholders, is to apply a 3-month closure period.

UKFAs have agreed to introduce the following closure in English waters for the king scallop dredge fishery:

- ICES division 7d for UK and EU vessels over 10 m in length from 1 July to 30 September 2025.
- Lyme Bay area of 7e (ICES rectangles 29E6, 29E7, 30E6 and 30E7) for UK and EU vessels over 12 m in length from 1 July to 30 September 2025.

The closure will apply to both UK and EU dredge vessels.

The closure will be enacted through a licence variation. Further information on a summary of responses received and reasoning behind the decision is available [here](#).

Any questions please contact the Fisheries Management Team at sustainablefisheries@marinemanagement.org.uk.

