



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Shore based netting review

Bass Management Group February 2025

Defra



# Why a review into shore-based netting?

## **Goal 8.1: Minimise and, where possible, eliminate bycatch of sensitive species in bass fisheries**

Review the practice of shallow inshore and shore-based netting to determine whether additional regional or national protections are needed to prevent migratory fish bycatch. Consider how this connects with special consideration of netting in nursery areas (goal 7).

# The review process

Defra NQS team have undertaken an informal consultation with the following stakeholders:

- NEIFCA – Derogation in place to allow bycatch of bass to be landed by 5 nets
- NWIFCA – Potential for 26 shore-based nets due bylaw (not currently used)
- D+SIFCA - Potential for 1 shore-based net due bylaw (not currently used)
- Shore-netters within NEIFCA Cefas
- MMO
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- RSPB
- Recreational Sector Representatives
- EU Commission

# The review process

Following the stakeholder consultation:

- Preparation of formal review document
- BMG consultation with shore-netters from NEIFCA
- Internal Defra review of document – including legal review and de minimis assessment
- Ministerial submission
- Ministerial decision

# Delivery timeline

- Stakeholder engagement - completed

To do:

- Review document – March 2025
- Internal Defra and BMG review of Review Document – Spring 2025
- Ministerial Submission – Spring/Summer 2025
- Formal consultation and EU discussion – Autumn 2025
- Consultation analysis and publication – Autumn 2025

# Devolved Administrations

The Welsh Government completed a review of shore-based netting in Wales which was published on 14 January 2025 ([Review of the practice of shore-based netting in Wales](#)).

They are currently holding a call for evidence on shore-based netting activity in Wales which closes on 28 February ([Call for evidence: shore-based netting in Wales | GOV.WALES](#))

# Questions