

# Meeting Notes 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## North East – 4b

**15:00 – 17:00 MS Teams Conference Call**

### Summary

<b>Meeting title</b>	NE RFG Meeting
<b>Attended participants</b>	25
<b>Start time</b>	15:00
<b>End time</b>	17:23
<b>Meeting duration</b>	2h23m

### Attendees

<b>Industry</b>	<b>DEFRA</b>	<b>MMO</b>
Andrew Faichney	Annabel Stockwin	Christian Proud (Chair)
Jenny Price	James Windebank	Caley McIntosh
Stan Rennie	Andrew Carroll	Jacob Bestwick
Jo Ackers	Thomas Valderrama	Jonathan Brooks
Brian		Daniel Wardle
<b>MCA</b>	<b>NIFCA</b>	Andrew Earle
David Fenner	Vicky Rae	Stephanie Ingram
Sam Palling		Phillipa Carr
<b>CEFAS</b>	<b>NEIFCA</b>	Chloe Jones
Ewen Bell	Ralf Bublitz	Sheridan Bowler
		Jodie Coutts

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Recording Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <i>Introductions, housekeeping, and general updates</i>	-	Chris Proud (MMO)
<b>Crab and Lobster FMP</b> <i>Updates on the changes to lobster MCRS</i>	0:14	Thomas Valderrama, Annabel Stockwin, Helen Hunter (Defra)
<b>Control Regulation Review</b> <i>Discussion on potential changes to Control Regulations</i>	7:18	Luke Smith & Jonas Balkus (Defra)
<b>MCA Small Fishing Vessel Code Review Updates</b> <i>Update from MCA on progress of the Small Fishing Vessel Code review and opportunity to feed in your views</i>	28:10	David Fenner (MCA)
<b>Bass Authorisation Review Updates</b> <i>Updates on the upcoming publication of the review of the bass authorisation system</i>	50:30	Chris Collins (MMO)
<b>Labelling Requirements and Changes to EU Export Rules</b> <i>Reminder of labelling requirements of fish and upcoming changes to EU export rules from January 2026</i>	1:01:35	Phillipa Carr & Jodie Coutts (MMO)
<b>Northumberland IFCA Updates</b> <i>Updates on NIFCA byelaws, projects and workstreams</i>	1:26:12	Vicky Rae (NIFCA)
<b>North Eastern IFCA Updates</b> <i>Updates on NEIFCA byelaws, projects and workstreams</i>	1:37:37	Ralf Bublitx (NEIFCA)
<b>NFFO Updates</b> <i>Updates on NFFO projects and workstreams</i>	1:46:05	Mike Roach (NFFO)
<b>Defra Negotiations</b> <i>Updates on the trilateral negotiations</i>	1:54:02	Iain Glasgow & Hannah Sterling (Defra)
<b>Quota: Catch Limits &amp; Uptake Updates</b> <i>Updates on the uptake of non-sector quota in ICES Area 4b</i>	2:00:45	Jacob Bestwick (MMO)
<b>AOB</b> <i>Opportunity to discuss any other business</i>	2:15:25	Chris Proud (MMO)

## **Contact Details**

Regional Fisheries Groups (RFG) Team –  
[regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk)

Caley McIntosh, Northeast (4b) RFG lead –  
[Caley.McIntosh@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:Caley.McIntosh@marinemanagement.org.uk)

## **Recording**

The meeting was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube by following this link:

[Northeast \(4b\) Regional Fisheries Group Meeting - 8th January 2026](#)

Please note that the below notes are a summary of the meeting and they contain paraphrased records of what was said in the meeting. Please refer to the recording for the full record of the meeting.

## **Welcome & Introduction – Christian Proud (MMO)**

The meeting was opened by Christian Proud, the Principal Marine Officer for the Northeast area. Chris carried out the chair role for the meeting.

### **1. Crab and lobster Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) updates - Thomas Valderrama, Annabel Stockwin, Helen Hunter (Defra)**

Thomas Valderrama, from Defra, provided an update on the FMP implementation. Thomas shared a presentation that can be found at the end of these meeting notes.

Please see below a summary of the key updates:

#### **Soft-Shelled Crab Ban**

Current legislation allows for soft-shelled crab to be landed for use as bait. Defra are continuing work to remove that exemption. This measure received a lot of support during the formal consultation and other engagements.

#### **Lobster Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) Increase**

The MCRS for European lobster will increase from March 2026. This will be brought in as a licence condition. For all areas other than the Southwest, this will be to 88mm, with the objective of getting to 90mm over the course of three increases of 1mm per year:

- 88mm – from 1 March 2026
- 89mm – from January 2027
- 90mm – from January 2028

The decision to phase in the increase was to balance economic considerations and stock needs.

For the Southwest (defined as west of 2°56.78'W and south of 52°0.0'N) this will increase straight to 90mm from March 2026.

#### **Effort Management**

Effort management measures from the FMP are being developed by the Crab and Lobster Implementation Group. There will be a workshop at the end of the month where the measures that have been proposed will be refined. Currently, this is with smaller groups of stakeholders, but there will be opportunities later in the process for stakeholders to feed into this process.

The measures being developed are from a national view, but there will be regional variations if that is what is necessary for different regions, according to local needs.

No questions raised during the meeting. Any questions or comments can be directed to Defra Shellfish policy team: [shellfish@defra.gov.uk](mailto:shellfish@defra.gov.uk).

## 2. Control Regulation Review - Luke Smith & Jonas Balkus (Defra)

Luke Smith, from Defra provided an update on the Control Regulation Review being carried out by Defra. Luke shared a presentation that can be found at the end of these meeting notes. A handout was shared prior to the meeting which introduced the context and potential changes from the review.

Luke shared that the Control Regulation is the main law for the monitoring of who is fishing, where they are fishing and what they are catching. The regulation was introduced in 2008 as EU legislation. The EU updated their regulations in 2023 based on work in the UK was involved in prior to 2021. The UK can now change regulations to better suit our industry and policy goals.

The table below shows the proposed changes that were discussed.

Potential Changes (All TBC)	Status Quo	EU Changes
<b>Monitoring Systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase VMS ping rate for &gt;12 m vessels</li> <li>Gear Sensors on VMS to record gear in and gear out</li> <li>Gear marking requirements inside 12 nm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VMS required for vessels over 12m in length</li> <li>Two hour minimum ping rate established in law for O 12 m</li> <li>Gear sensors not mandated in law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VMS required for all vessels including UK</li> <li>VMS ping rate is up to every half hour</li> <li>The EU has not implemented gear sensors</li> </ul>
<b>(Electronic) Logbooks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase out paper logbooks and replace them with e-logbooks. Move e-logbook submission deadline to 48h</li> <li>Mandate smaller vessels to complete logbooks</li> <li>Haul-by-haul logbook recording (over 10 m)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vessels over 12m must use e-logbooks while vessels under 12m either do not have to use logbooks or can use paper ones. Submission deadline of 24h after landing.</li> <li>Logbooks must be completed for each fishing trip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only e-logbooks allowed. Submission deadline is 48h</li> <li>Smaller vessels must fill out logbooks but they must not create "disproportionate burden" for them</li> <li>Logbooks for larger vessels must be completed for each 'fishing operation' (haul)</li> </ul>
<b>Fish product traceability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish Product Labelling. Change the exemption from labelling for private consumption from £45/30kg to 10kg limit.</li> <li>Make sales notes electronic only</li> <li>Make fish product transport documents electronic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish under £45 in value which are sold directly from vessels to consumers are exempt from labelling requirements</li> <li>Sales notes can be paper if necessary</li> <li>Transport documents do not have to be electronic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exemption from product labelling applied to 10kg of products per consumer per day for private consumption</li> <li>Sales notes must be submitted by electronic means within 48 hours</li> <li>Transport documents must be electronic</li> </ul>

The team invited any questions and comments to be directed to [MCS@defra.gov.uk](mailto:MCS@defra.gov.uk). The team shared that they are intending to carry out further engagement, likely in port locations soon.

### Questions, Comments & Answers:

Multiple industry members expressed that gear marking requirements outside of 12nm should be looked at in the review due to health and safety concerns.

It was stated that fisheries inside of 12nm have evolved to the use of buffs and drums, with most people using rollers and self-shooting, and that there is little compliance with gear marking outside of 12nm.

It was also stated that offshore gear marking is not perceived to be enforced and that IFCAs fail to keep on top of the marking of PLN on inshore gear.

It was said that industry would be up in arms if they were made to go back to marking gear using dahns, lights and other features.

An industry member objected to the suggestion of reducing the 30kg direct sale limit, stating that 30kg is reasonable, and that it doesn't take long to get £45 of cash sales. They stated that there would be wider pushback on this.

It was shared that the Shellfish Industry Advisory Group have drafted a paper from work over the last couple of years that was sent to the MMO. The work was a review of EU regs and the challenges in UK waters and made sensible proposals on changes.

It was also shared that there are current issues and challenges with the EU control regulations, which have just been announced to industry, specifically around the completion of logbook documentation by the skipper, who is not always on watch, which could cause compliance issues. It was pointed out that language in any control regulation is important, so it can be practical.

An industry member shared support for the intention for improvement in traceability but said that the process must be made simpler and reduce all the onus on the industry. They stated that currently industry must submit information to 3 separate bodies, which must be made simpler, suggesting that there should be more of government bodies talking to each other, so industry is only having to do the paperwork once.

An industry member suggested that there should be a box on the catch app where you can state if the catch has been used for personal consumption, bait, or direct sale, as this would show that there won't be a sales note for that portion of the catch.

Caley asked on behalf of industry members whether there will be any review of the locations of port boxes and designated ports. Stating that there are ports like Holy Island where industry could benefit from having a port box.

James Windebank responded by stating that continuation in paper is probably something we would prefer to move away from, and that he would speak with Chris (NE Principal Marine Officer) about what the options are and how that might work.

### **3. MCA Small Fishing Vessel Code Review Updates – David Fenner (MCA)**

David Fenner, from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) provided an update on the Small Fishing Vessel Code review. David shared a presentation that can be found at the end of these notes.

David shared that the MCA code is subject to review every five years. The code was last revised in 2021. It was developed with the NFFO, the Scottish Fisherman's Federation, the Irish and the Welsh governments. It introduced several new requirements, particularly around the construction of the vessels and maintaining them

to construction standards. Stability and freeboard requirements were some of the main elements which stemmed from various Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MEIB) recommendations.

The review was started last year and is part way through. Based on feedback, the review is looking to make changes so that:

- It is easier to identify what applies to your vessel.
- The requirements are easier to understand.
- It includes allowances for water freeing and stability that have been developed in the last few years in response to the arrangements on different types of vessels.
- Other options for demonstrating compliance to be explored, i.e. use of sea states rather than distance from shore.

The full list of changes is attached below the presentation at the end of the minutes. Not all changes were discussed during the presentation due to time.

### **Questions, Comments & Answers:**

An industry member asked if there were only going to be two categories defined in the code or whether there would be subcategories. Further stating that there is a huge difference between an 8m boat and a 15m boat.

Response by David – There could be lots of different types of categories. There are currently two, but I am open to considering more.

It was asked whether there would be more training given to inspectors.

Response by David – This is something that has been raised. MCA is looking at the training of surveyors, so I will feed that back to Jason Pateman, who oversees surveyor training. They are looking at what can be done around additional training and knowledge of fishing vessels.

It was asked whether a vessel would have to undergo reinspection for stability when there are no major structural changes. Stating that it is costly and stressful for vessel owners who have vessels that are beach-launched and cannot easily access a suitable location for the test.

Response by David – It is something I am open to look at. I would encourage that comment to be made as part of the consultation. The whole code will be up for consultation, not just the changes.

It was added by another industry member that it is expensive to pay to be hoisted out of the water and then must wait for another appointment for someone to return to see the vessel in the water. Often, inspectors can't return for weeks, which adds to our not being able to go out until they've returned. It was suggested that if nothing has changed, it should just be ok to visually look at the boat to confirm this.



An industry member shared that they've experienced different MCA inspectors measure the same thing in different ways and suggested It should be done the same if the rules don't change or alter.

Response by David – If there are issues and you think surveyors have got something wrong, then you should report it to the MCA, via their manager or a technical manager.

It was shared that NFFO raise issues and challenges to the MCA, but it requires reporting by industry members to build evidence, and so was encouraged to report incidents, challenges and issues to the MCA or NFFO.

It was also added that the NFFO has a safety and training lead that is available to help any fisherman to comply with MCA regulations, not just federation members; NFFO Safety and Training Lead - Charles Blyth / [charles@nffo.org.uk](mailto:charles@nffo.org.uk).

David invited anyone to send any questions, comments or feedback to [fishing@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:fishing@mcga.gov.uk).

#### **4. Bass Authorisation Review Updates – Chris Collins (MMO)**

Chris Collins from the MMO presented the outcomes of the Bass Authorisation Review. Chris shared a presentation, which can be found attached to the end of these minutes.

Chris reminded the group that the review was undertaken by a multi-stakeholder working group that included commercial, recreational, conservation and regulatory representatives. There was a series of wider engagement nationally, which consisted of over 20 events and was attended by nearly 300 individuals.

The review details 24 recommendations, which include:

- Create new fishing opportunities using ~190 unused historical authorisations.
- Young entrants scheme to support new fishers into bass fishing, likely delivered via associations.
- Switch from fixed gillnet to hook-and-line authorisation to support reductions in sensitive species bycatch.
- Scientific trial of inshore drift nets, proposed by east and southeast fishers.
- Working group to review demersal trawls and seines.
- Bycatch allowance trial for non-authorised gillnetters to incentivise discard reporting.
- Accredited hook-to-plate bass fishery for sustainability and traceability.
- Review of vessel size and engine power restrictions to provide flexibility across the fleet.

MMO is now leading a task and finishing stakeholder group to consider the recommendations relating to fishing opportunity, allowing the switch from fixed gillnet to hook-and-line, and the young entrant's scheme. The task is to create a scoping report to consider who, what, when, where and how these might be achieved. The aim is for the project to be completed by the end of March.

You can view the Bass Authorisation Review report here:

[Bass authorisation review report.pdf](#)

You can also view infographics and a video overview of the recommendations here:

[MMO publishes bass authorisation review report – Fisheries Management Plans](#)

If you have any Bass FMP related questions or comments, they can be directed to [bassfmp@defra.gov.uk](mailto:bassfmp@defra.gov.uk)

## **5. Labelling Requirements and Changes to EU Export Rules - Phillipa Carr & Jodie Coutts (MMO)**

Phillipa and Jodie provided a presentation that gave guidance on the existing labelling requirements and upcoming changes to EU export rules which affects the information required on catch certificates for export and consequently must be provided to the exporter by the fisher. The presentation can be found attached at the end of the meeting notes.

### **Labelling summary:**

MMO are engaging with fishers to improve compliance with existing labelling requirements.

We are also requesting additional data to be included on labels to support trade and export supply chains. This includes trip dates, gear codes, port of landing, and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) where the fish was caught.

The MMO produced a labelling template which covers the mandatory information. This template is not mandatory; the information can be provided in different formats so long as the mandatory information is provided.

### **EU export changes summary:**

#### **Catch certificates changes**

From 10th January 2026, catch certificates must include start date of fishing trips, EEZ area or High Seas area, Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (FMO) if applicable, gear type.

#### **Processing statement**

New requirement for a processing statement for domestic caught fish that was processed within the UK (previously, it was third country caught fish that had been imported, processed and exported). Fish only subject to freezing and or packing will not require a processing statement.

#### **Non-manipulation document**



Previously referred to as a 'Storage Document'. A new template was published in March 2025, which introduced additional fields. Only required where consignment has come in from a third country and is stored in the UK. Now required when a consignment has been split prior to re-export.

MMO have updated documents and templates, so they are compliant with the EU. The Fish, Trace, Ship, campaign side and .gov guidance pages will continue to be points of reference for industry and be updated where any clarification is added.

### **Questions, Comments & Answers:**

The communication around labelling has been terrible. It was not clear enough as to who it affected. This led to the non-exporting industry feeling that it did not affect them until very recently, or still not at all.

We were talking about reducing paperwork burden in the control regulation review and yet we are here pushing paperwork processes on people.

The administrative burden on fishers discourages the industry from utilising opportunities. Especially when access to markets in the area, particularly for fish, is limited.

The communication to and from exporters has been quite good. The labelling requirements were however not explained until 16th December when MMO officers delivered leaflets, which was ridiculously late notice.

Reply by Chloe Kingston (MMO): The example template for labelling is not a compulsory document. We were asked so that every industry member would not have to create their own. If you are landing with someone who has provided you with their own template, you can use that. We are not in a position now for everything to be digital and only having to be entered once across the supply chain.

## **6. Northumberland IFCA Updates – Vicky Rae (NIFCA)**

Vicky Rae, from the Northumberland IFCA, provided a series of updates. Vicky shared a presentation that can be found at the end of these minutes.

Overview of updates:

- Fisher Forums – Finished the recent round of Fisher Forums, which is an opportunity for fishermen to engage with the IFCA about any topic. Were joined by Sarah from Newcastle University and Caley from MMO RFGs to provide input on other topics.
- Offshore sampling surveys – Four participating vessels. Completed eight trips during the year, measuring 4100 lobsters and 2500 crabs. This sampling has been carried out since 2012 and is now at around 150 trips. This data gets shared with CEFAS for their assessments as well as Defra for FMPs, and a public report is available on our website.

- Coquet to St Mary's MCZ – The MCZ management plan is for the purpose of protecting the sites features (in red in the presentation map) from trawling activity. The management plan was in place for 2025 and was reviewed by the Technical and Scientific Committee members for this year. There was a consultation with fishermen to gather thoughts on the current management and for decisions going forward. The committee's decision is that more data is needed to decide on a permanent management measure. Management for next year:
  - A cap on the number of exemption permits issued.
  - A 1, 000hr cap on the time fished in the MCZ.
  - A requirement for a vessel tracking system.
  - The committee have asked for another survey to be completed so it can be compared to the previous grab sampling.
- Gear trials – Trials started at the end of last year on semi-pelagic otter doors that are designed to reduce the footprint of the trawling activity. This is looking at: how this operates in a nephrops fishery; if they reduce the impact to the seabed compared to traditional gears; if they are viable (catches) and whether there are changes in the catch composition; a comparison of fuel consumption to the traditional gear.
- From the trials to date, the doors are working, but other results are mixed. Modifications are being made to the doors to reduce their height.
- Lobster MCRS gauges – The IFCA will be issuing lobster gauges to permit holders once they are available. They will be time-limited until the next increase to the MCRS.

### **Questions, Comments & Answers:**

NFFO have interest in seeing the results of gear trial analysis and requested for results to be disseminated wider as it has implications to other fisheries looking at similar trials.

Appreciate the action of gauging being issued to fishers to support the MCRS changes.

## **7. Northeastern IFCA Updates – Ralf Bubiltz (NEIFCA)**

Ralf Bubiltz from Northeastern IFCA provided a verbal update.

In summary:

- Northeastern IFCA are also in the process of ordering new shellfish measures for permit holders. Similarly, these will be reissued for the following years until they reach 90mm.
- The Shellfish Bylaw is with Defra. There is not currently a date for when it will be signed off on or come into place.
- NEIFCA are planning on making a new mobile gear bylaw, partially to collate four different bylaws on different bylaws into one bylaw and make it less

complicated. We will be publishing an informal consultation soon to collect views on the bylaws and calls for any evidence.

- In March, we will have the Scientific Advisory Group Meeting, after which outcomes from our stock monitoring will be published in a report on the website.
- There are two ongoing projects:
  - Tagging of seabass to build up a baseline and database on the seabass in the district. We will be using scales to determine age and looking at gonad stages and difference between sexed.
  - Trials of the use of the envirodredge to investigate comparisons between this and the Newhaven dredges that are used in our district. We may also look at other alternatives like adding skids underneath the belly bags, to see if this can reduce the impacts.
- Our new vessel should be operational in the next few weeks.

### **Questions, Comments & Answers:**

With the MCRS changing and coming in as an MMO licence variation (licence condition), does this mean that the IFCA won't have any authority to enforce it?

Reply from Ralf: The licence condition allows the measure to be brought in quickly but does cause complications in how the measure can be enforced. There are options with the way IFCA's and MMO can work together on enforcement, and these are being discussed at length. It will only be for the period until it is signed off as a Statutory Instrument (SI).

### **8. National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations Updates – Mike Roach (NFFO)**

Mike Roach from the NFFO provided a verbal update.

In summary:

- NFFO have had extensive involvement in Crab & Lobster FMP groups. The Northeast region is high on the agenda because of the spatial squeeze from Crown Estate offshore wind proposals. NFFO have been working to build evidence for where important fisheries are. The Crown Estate will be publishing its marine route map this month, which should enable more flexibility with how shapefiles can be shared.
- Before Christmas, the Fisheries Liaison guidelines were published (The Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group). If you are working with offshore wind developers, these are the guidelines that both sides should be following.
- Active work on compensatory MPAs, a policy that the federation disagrees with. Some are proposed for the Northeast area. NFFO are pushing back on the policy and working to try and minimise this impact.
- Response submitted to stage 3 MPA bottom-towed gear consultation, highlighting the whole socioeconomic impact of the proposal.

- Reminder that Richard Brewer, based in Whitby, is the regional representative for the Northeast. NFFO is seeking another person to represent the Northeast on the board. If interested, please get in contact (mike.roach@nffo.org.uk). You also have Will Jenkinson in the Yorkshire and Humber area, and James Sandow in the Scarborough area to provide help and guidance from us.

## **9. Defra Negotiations Updates - Iain Glasgow & Hannah Sterling (Defra)**

Iain Glasgow and Hannah Sterling from the Defra negotiations team provided an update on the outcomes of the annual negotiations for stocks of interest to industry in the Northeast and to gather feedback on any concerns.

In summary:

- **North Sea Nephrops**  
Total Allowable Catch (TAC) has an increase of 40% due to stock improvement. The stock is still considered vulnerable to overexploitation.
- **Whiting**  
TAC was set in line with the advice increase, which is a 42% increase.
- **Cod**  
The outcome was generally above scientific advice, which leads to a 44% decrease in available quota. Further management measures were agreed to protect Cod over the short and long term. This includes one new and one expanded seasonal closure. A high cod aggregate of Real Time Closure (RTC) has been agreed, and existing juvenile RTC thresholds are being looked at. Guidance is being updated that will detail the new closures. The bycatch restrictions have been extended from 7d to the southern North Sea, areas 4b and 4c, with there now being a 250-tonne maximum. Further work is planned via FMP and trilateral working groups.

## **10. Quota: Catch Limits and Uptake Update – Jacob Bestwick (MMO)**

Jacob Bestwick introduced himself as an inshore quota manager alongside Katie James.

Jacob provided an update on 2025 quota uptake, 2026 allocations and January catch limits, and any new changes to how the quota is managed (such as bycatch-only stocks or quarterly catch limits). The information is best seen by reviewing the slides shared, which can be found at the bottom of the minutes or by watching the recording.

Jacob welcomed industry members to get in contact with the inshore quota team to discuss any opportunities or challenges with quota stocks as there can be opportunities for the quota team to make trades to support increases.

Quota Team – Katie James / Jacob Bestwick  
[inshorequotamanager@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:inshorequotamanager@marinemanagement.org.uk)

Katie – 07469 443 840  
Jacob – 07747 638 655

### **Questions, Comments & Answers:**

An industry member noted that the ability to request additional quota is easy and helpful but added that there is limited uptake of this because of the limited market to sell it.

It was suggested that there is a reluctance to net for fish in the area because of multiple issues (seals, weed, paperwork, marketability, ice).

Another industry member added that many people sell fish directly to the public because of issues with access to markets to sell, and that a change to the direct sales limit (discussed in the control regulation review section) would impact this.

### **11. AOB**

An industry member expressed that shellfish had not recovered a great deal since the Northeast die-off event. Concern was raised that consultation meetings did not cover locations where fishers who were most impacted, and many fishers were not aware of the meetings.

It was shared that there is an industry-backed judicial review of the issuing of a marine licence for maintenance dredging.

It was added that there are significant declines in the number of active vessels because of the die-offs and the need for vessels to transit to fishing ground.

The meeting was concluded at 17:23.

**Thank you for attending this Regional Fisheries Group meeting. If you would like to comment on these or previous minutes, be added to this group contact list or contribute in any other way, please contact the MMO Regional fisheries Mailbox: [regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto: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))**

## **Control Regulation Review: Further Information**

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### **What is the Control Regulation?**

The Control Regulation regulates who is fishing in UK waters, where they are fishing, and what they are catching. The Regulation is intended to allow fish to be exploited sustainably while not stopping fishers from being able to do their jobs.

The Regulation covers many areas. This includes monitoring devices on ships, logbooks, sales notes, fish product transport documents, engine power restrictions, and the inspection of vessels. Originally an EU law, we retained this legislation upon leaving the EU.

### **Why is it being reviewed?**

The Regulation was created in 2009 to suit the needs of twenty-seven member states with very different needs when it comes to fishing. It is now also sixteen years old. Therefore, the Regulation contains outdated provisions, and it could be changed to better suit the UK fishing industry, improve sustainable fisheries management and ensure robust fish traceability.

### **What are we thinking of changing?**

We are considering updating the Regulation to replace outdated parts and parts which are not the best suited to the UK. Some of our potential changes include:

- Fully digitising fish traceability by getting rid of paper logbooks, sales notes, and transport documents. Making it only possible to submit these electronically. submission deadlines may be extended to 48h rather than 24h. We are looking at ways we can make it easier for industry to comply with requirements without compromising traceability.
- Requiring logbooks to be filled in with each haul rather than each fishing trip for certain sizes of vessels
- Considering changes to vessels' ping rate
- Adding sensors to fishing gear to accurately monitor whether fishing is taking place
- Tightening rules on selling directly to individual consumers so that only 10kg of fish for private consumption can be sold to an individual rather than 30kg/£45 worth.
- Generally improving fish traceability and making the current system easier to navigate, reducing duplication and improving reliability.



## **How you can play a part**

We are in the very early stages of deciding what the changes should be. We want to make sure that any changes we do make are both convenient and workable for industry and regulators. We would appreciate any thoughts you have on any of the proposed changes, or suggestions for things we have not considered. We are also keen to arrange follow-up meetings so you can tell us more about your thoughts and potential concerns about any of our proposed changes, or on control and traceability in general.

## **Acronyms and jargon:**

VMS – Vessel Monitoring System. Any monitoring system on vessels.

EU – European Union

IUU Fishing – Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

Ping rate – how often Vessel Monitoring Systems report a vessel's location.

## **Contact us:**

[MCS@defra.gov.uk](mailto:MCS@defra.gov.uk)

## **Further Resources:**

Current UK Control Regulation: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eur/2009/1224/contents>

EU Amended Control Regulation (2023): [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L\\_202302842](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202302842)

EU Control Regulation Implementing Regulation (2025): [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2025/2196/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/2196/oj)



Department  
for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Control Regulation Review

Regional Fisheries Group Dec 2025

# Background

- The Control Regulation is the main law for monitoring who is in UK waters, where they are fishing, and what they are catching.
- Current Control Regulation dates from 2009. Originally EU legislation without much change to it.
- The EU also updated their own regulations in 2023, based on work we did with them prior to 2021.
- Now that we have left the EU, we can change regulations to better suit our own fishing industry and policy goals and choose where to align with the EU on.
- Defra wants to support the industry while ensuring sustainable fisheries management and fish product traceability.



# Changes

Potential Changes (All TBC)	Status Quo	EU Changes
<b>Monitoring Systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase VMS ping rate for &gt;12 m vessels</li> <li>• Gear Sensors on VMS to record gear in and gear out</li> <li>• Gear marking requirements inside 12 nm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VMS required for vessels over 12m in length</li> <li>• Two hour minimum ping rate established in law for O 12 m</li> <li>• Gear sensors not mandated in law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VMS required for all vessels including UK</li> <li>• VMS ping rate is up to every half hour</li> <li>• The EU has not implemented gear sensors</li> </ul>
<b>(Electronic) Logbooks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase out paper logbooks and replace them with e-logbooks. Move e-logbook submission deadline to 48h</li> <li>• Mandate smaller vessels to complete logbooks</li> <li>• Haul-by-haul logbook recording (over 10 m)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vessels over 12m must use e-logbooks while vessels under 12m either do not have to use logbooks or can use paper ones. Submission deadline of 24h after landing.</li> <li>• Logbooks must be completed for each fishing trip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only e-logbooks allowed. Submission deadline is 48h</li> <li>• Smaller vessels must fill out logbooks but they must not create "disproportionate burden" for them</li> <li>• Logbooks for larger vessels must be completed for each 'fishing operation' (haul)</li> </ul>
<b>Fish product traceability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish Product Labelling. Change the exemption from labelling for private consumption from £45/30kg to 10kg limit.</li> <li>• Make sales notes electronic only</li> <li>• Make fish product transport documents electronic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish under £45 in value which are sold directly from vessels to consumers are exempt from labelling requirements</li> <li>• Sales notes can be paper if necessary</li> <li>• Transport documents do not have to be electronic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemption from product labelling applied to 10kg of products per consumer per day for private consumption</li> <li>• Sales notes must be submitted by electronic means within 48 hours</li> <li>• Transport documents must be electronic</li> </ul>

# Discussion

- What issues and problems do you have with the current system of traceability (recording catch, moving, buying or selling fish and exporting) and how do you think it could be improved?
- Would generally making paperwork such as sales notes and fish product transport documents electronic be an improvement?
- Are there benefits to introducing e-logbooks, and align logbook requirements across the whole fleet? What would the problems be?
- What new technologies do you think could be introduced to better support the fishing industry and your businesses?

# Contact Us

Email: [MCS@defra.gov.uk](mailto:MCS@defra.gov.uk)

If you have any thoughts and suggestions at all, please do get in touch, more than happy to have further discussion on this subject!





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# Bass authorisation review Overview

January 2026

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- **Bass FMP Goal 2**

- Subgroup
- Scope
- Engagement
- Outcomes
- Next steps

**Goal 2: Equitable access to the bass fishery, while prioritising stock sustainability**

**How this can be achieved: short term**

The bass management group should review the current domestic authorisation system.

An alternative system should seek to:

- maintain access to the fishery
- align with other bass FMP goals

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# Bass authorisation review

- Bass FMP Goal 2
- **Subgroup**
- Scope
- Engagement
- Outcomes
- Next steps

Marine Management Organisation.  
Defra.  
South Coast Fisherman's Council.  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.  
Bass Angling Conservation.  
Cornish Fish Producers Organisation.  
Commercial Fishers.  
Plymouth Fishing and Seafood Association.  
Devon and Severn IFCA.  
Kent and Essex IFCA.  
Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society.

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# Bass authorisation review

## Analysis of the current system to inform areas for; improvement, amendment, revocation

- Bass FMP Goal 2

- Subgroup

- **Scope**

- Engagement

- Outcomes

- Next steps

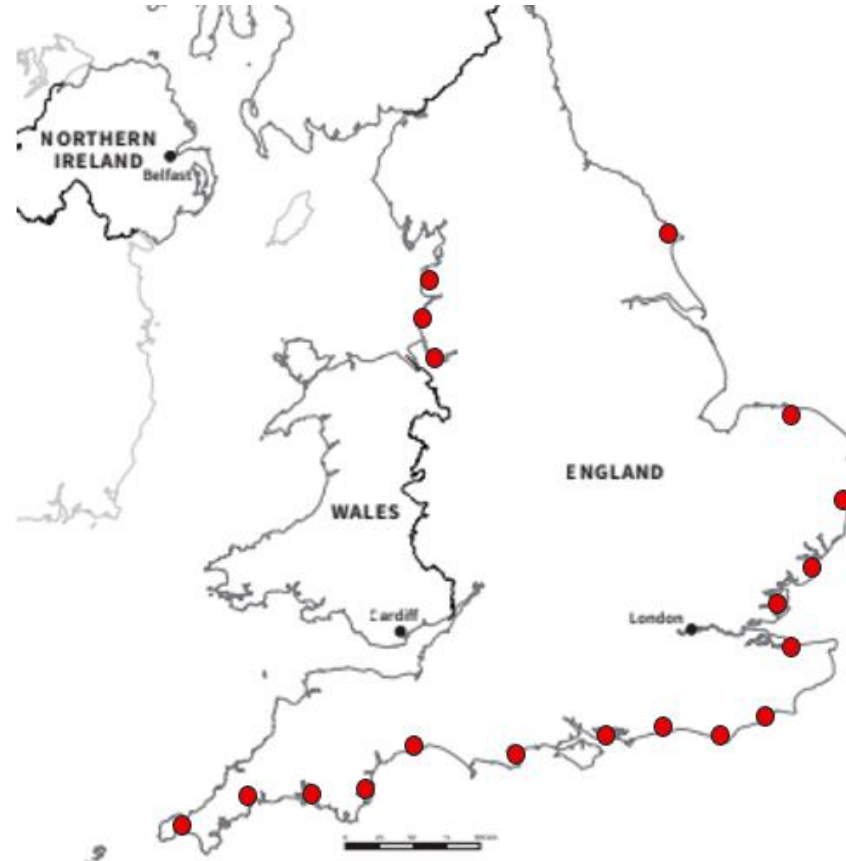
- Track records
- Authorisations
- latent capacity
- Transfers
- Discards
- Reporting
- Non-Powered vessels

- Assess suitability of current system for UK vessels
- Recommend options for future system for UK vessels

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# Bass authorisation review

- Bass FMP Goal 2
- Subgroup
- Scope
- **Engagement**
- Outcomes
- Next steps



- 20 engagement events
- 300 individuals
- Communication

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# Outcomes

- 1. Increasing the number of authorisations to land bass**
- 2. A scheme providing access for young people wishing to enter the fishery**
- 3. Allowing fishers to switch from fixed gillnet authorisation to hooks and lines**
- 4. Gear trials - including an Inshore drift netting scientific trial**
- 5. Establishing a working group to review demersal trawls and seines**
- 6. A trial bycatch allowance for non-authorised fixed gillnet fishers**
- 7. Development of an accredited hook to plate bass fishery**
- 8. Adjustments to engine power and vessel size restrictions**

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# Bass authorisation review

- Bass FMP Goal 2
- Subgroup
- Scope
- Engagement
- Outcomes
- **Next steps**

- Recommendations do not represent the official position of Defra or MMO at this stage
- Developed through stakeholder engagement
- Bass management group Prioritisation
- While not all recommendations may be adopted, this process ensures each is carefully considered.
- Implementation – Consider fishing opportunities recommendations
- Report - [MMO Fisheries Management Plan Updates - GOV.UK](#)
- Contact - [BassFMP@defra.gov.uk](mailto:BassFMP@defra.gov.uk)

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# Labelling Requirements and Changes to Export rules

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# Labelling

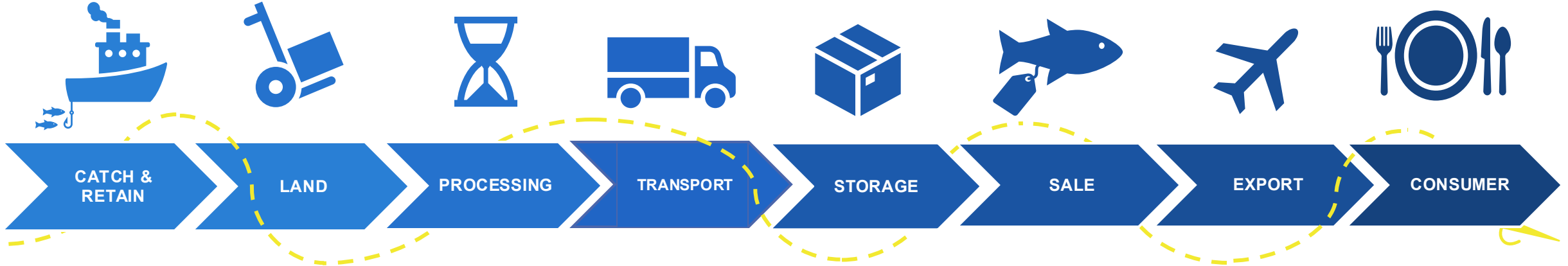
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# The traceability 'chain'...

Fisheries products may go through multiple processes before reaching the final consumer, and the traceability must be maintained throughout

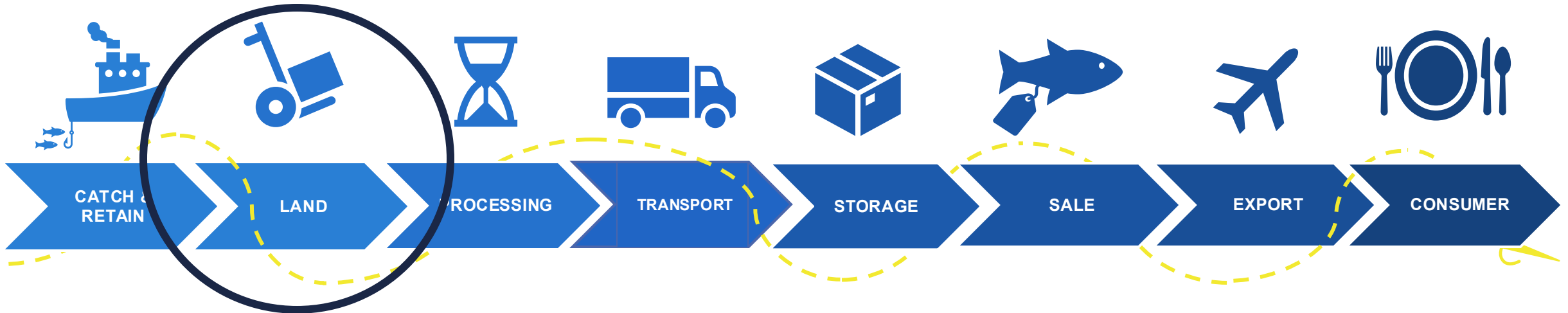
This requires the product to be labelled at every stage



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# Traceability- Landing

On Landing all “Lots” of fisheries product destined for marketing must be labelled



*‘lot’ means a quantity of fisheries and aquaculture products of a given species of the same presentation and coming from the same relevant geographical area and the same fishing vessel, or group of fishing vessels, or the same aquaculture production unit;*

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# Traceability- Landing

Most of the information needed for export is required under UK labelling legislation

Devolved governments are engaging with the catching sector to improve compliance with labelling requirements

We are requesting additional data to facilitate export

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## What is Required on a Landing Label?

- a) the identification number of each lot;
- (b) the PLN and name of the fishing vessel
- (c) the FAO alpha-3 code of each species;
- (d) the date of catch
- (e) the quantities of each species in kilograms expressed in net weight or, where appropriate, the number of individuals;
- (ea) in cases where fish below the applicable minimum conservation reference size are present in the quantities referred to in point (e), separate information on the quantities of each species in kilograms expressed in net weight, or the number of individuals;
- (f) the name/company name and address of the vessel owner
- (g) whether the fish have been previously frozen or not
- (h) sub-area or division listed in the FAO fishing areas
- (i) The category of fishing gear used

# Traceability- Landing

Most of the information needed for export is required under UK labelling legislation

Devolved governments are engaging with the catching sector to improve compliance with labelling requirements

We are requesting additional data to facilitate export

**To Facilitate Trade and Export the supply chain will also need to know**

1. Trip dates- Date the vessel left port on the trip the fish was caught- the First day of landing for that trip (these dates fulfil requirement (d) date of catch)
2. Gear Code or subcategory (e.g.OTB, Otter Bottom Trawl)
3. Port of landing
4. Exclusive Economic Zone(s) (UKEEZ), RFMO (if applicable e.g. NEAFC), High Seas (if applicable)

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# Traceability- Landing

## MMO suggested label template for landed fish

LOT ID	
VESSEL NAME AND PLN	
LANDING DATE	
Start Date of fishing trip (if different from landing date)	
PORT OF LANDING	
CATCH AREA	
GEAR USED FOR TRIP	
SPECIES (if BMS note here)	
WEIGHT (KG)	
PRODUCTION METHOD	<i>Caught</i>
NAME AND ADDRESS OF SUPPLIERS (Vessel Owner)	
Previously Frozen (tick if yes)	<input type="checkbox"/>

LOT ID	<i>Complete on landing, this must be unique</i>
VESSEL NAME AND PLN	<b>BM123</b>
LANDING DATE	<i>Complete on landing/ at sea</i>
START DATE OF FISHING TRIP (if different from landing date)	<i>Complete on landing/ at sea if required</i>
PORT OF LANDING	<b>Brixham</b>
CATCH AREA	<b>FAO27.7.e - UKEEZ</b>
GEAR USED FOR TRIP	<b>Trawl (OTB)</b>
SPECIES (if BMS note here)	<i>Complete on landing/ at sea</i>
WEIGHT (KG)	<i>Complete on landing</i>
PRODUCTION METHOD (Caught or Farmed)	<b>Caught</b>
NAME AND ADDRESS OF SUPPLIERS (Vessel Owner)	<b>Brixham Fishing Ltd</b>
Previously Frozen (tick if yes)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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# Traceability- Landing

## MMO suggested label template for landed fish

LOT ID	
VESSEL NAME AND PLN	
LANDING DATE	
Start Date of fishing trip (if different from landing date)	
PORT OF LANDING	
CATCH AREA	
GEAR USED FOR TRIP	
SPECIES (if BMS note here)	
WEIGHT (KG)	
PRODUCTION METHOD	<i>Caught</i>
NAME AND ADDRESS	

LOT ID	<i>Complete on landing, this must be unique</i>
VESSEL NAME AND PLN	<b>BM123</b>
LANDING DATE	<i>Complete on landing/ at sea</i>
START DATE OF FISHING TRIP (if different from landing date)	<i>Complete on landing/ at sea if required</i>
PORT OF LANDING	<b>Brixham</b>
CATCH AREA	<b>FAO27.7.e - UKEEZ</b>
GEAR USED FOR TRIP	<b>Trawl (OTB)</b>
SPECIES (if BMS note here)	<i>Complete on landing/ at sea</i>
WEIGHT (KG)	<i>Complete on landing</i>
PRODUCTION METHOD (Caught or Farmed)	<b>Caught</b>

A transport document may be used as a label where it covers all of the necessary fields

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# Traceability- Landing

## Additional example label template for landed fish

Lot identification number:		Individual/company name and address:		
<div></div>	PLN & Fishing vessel name:	<div></div>		
	Date vessel left port:			Date of landing:
	Gear code:			Port of landing:
Category of fishing gear used:		Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ):		
FAO alpha-3 code of each species:		Presentation:	Estimated quantities (kg)	
<div></div>		<div></div>	<div></div>	
<small>*In cases where fish below the applicable minimum conservation reference size are present in the quantities referred to in point (e), separate information on the quantities of each species in kilograms expressed in net weight, or the number of individuals</small>				
Has the fish been previously frozen?		Geographical area (FAO area)	RFMO (if applicable)	
<div>Yes</div> <div>No</div>		<div></div>	<div></div>	
Was your fish caught in fresh water?		Sub-area or division listed in the FAO fishing areas:	High Seas (if applicable)	
<div>Yes</div> <div>No</div>		<div></div>	<div></div>	

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# Traceability- Landing

## MMO Example Label- for a multi lot trip

E	VESSEL NAME & PLN:	BM123 BRIGHT HAVEN	
	DATES OF LANDING	7/9/2025	
	DATE OF DEPARTURE (if different from dates of catches)	6/9/2025	
	PORT OF LANDING:	Brixham	
	ICES CATCH AREA:	FAO27.7.e - UKEEZ	
	GEAR USED FOR TRIP:	Demersal Trawl	
	PRODUCTION METHOD (e.g. caught or farmed):	CAUGHT	
	PREVIOUSLY FROZEN (tick if yes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SUPPLIERS:	Mr A Smith 1 Front Street, Brixham TQ5 1ZZ	
	23	SPECIES NAME (if BMS note here)	URN:
Sole -SOL		BM123-01	200kg
Thornback -RJH		BM123-02	30.2kg
Dogfish - SMD		BM123-03	61kg

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# Catch Certificate

# Catch Certificate – Key Changes

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## Catch Dates

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# Catch Certificate – Key Changes

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Catch Dates



Catch Area(s)

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# Catch Certificate – Key Changes

---



Catch Dates



Catch Area(s)



Fishing Gear

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# Catch Certificate – Key Changes



Catch Dates



Catch Area(s)



Fishing Gear



Transport Details

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# Catch Certificate – Key Changes



Catch Dates



Catch Area(s)



Fishing Gear



Transport Details



Cosmetic Changes

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‘Start’ date, defined as the date the vessel left port on the trip the fish was landed.



‘End’ date, remains the same as the date currently recorded as ‘date landed’ i.e. defined as the date the catch was landed (or the first day landing begins where this is not completed within a single day).



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## Add your trip



Under new EU regulations, it will be mandatory to provide detailed catch area and gear type information for all fishing activities.

### Start date of fishing trip (optional)

For example, 31 03 1980

Day	Month	Year	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

► [Start date](#)

### Date Landed

For example, 31 03 1980

Day	Month	Year	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	



Exclusive economic zone (EEZ)/  
High Seas area the produce was  
caught from will need to be  
provided where applicable in  
addition to the FAO area.

Applicable Regional Fisheries  
Management Organisations  
(RFMOs) will need to be provided

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## Catch area

FAO27

## Fish caught in high seas area (optional)

☐ Yes

☒ No

Exclusive economic zone (required)

## Exclusive economic zone (optional)

Country name

United Kingdom

Add another

## RFMO (optional)

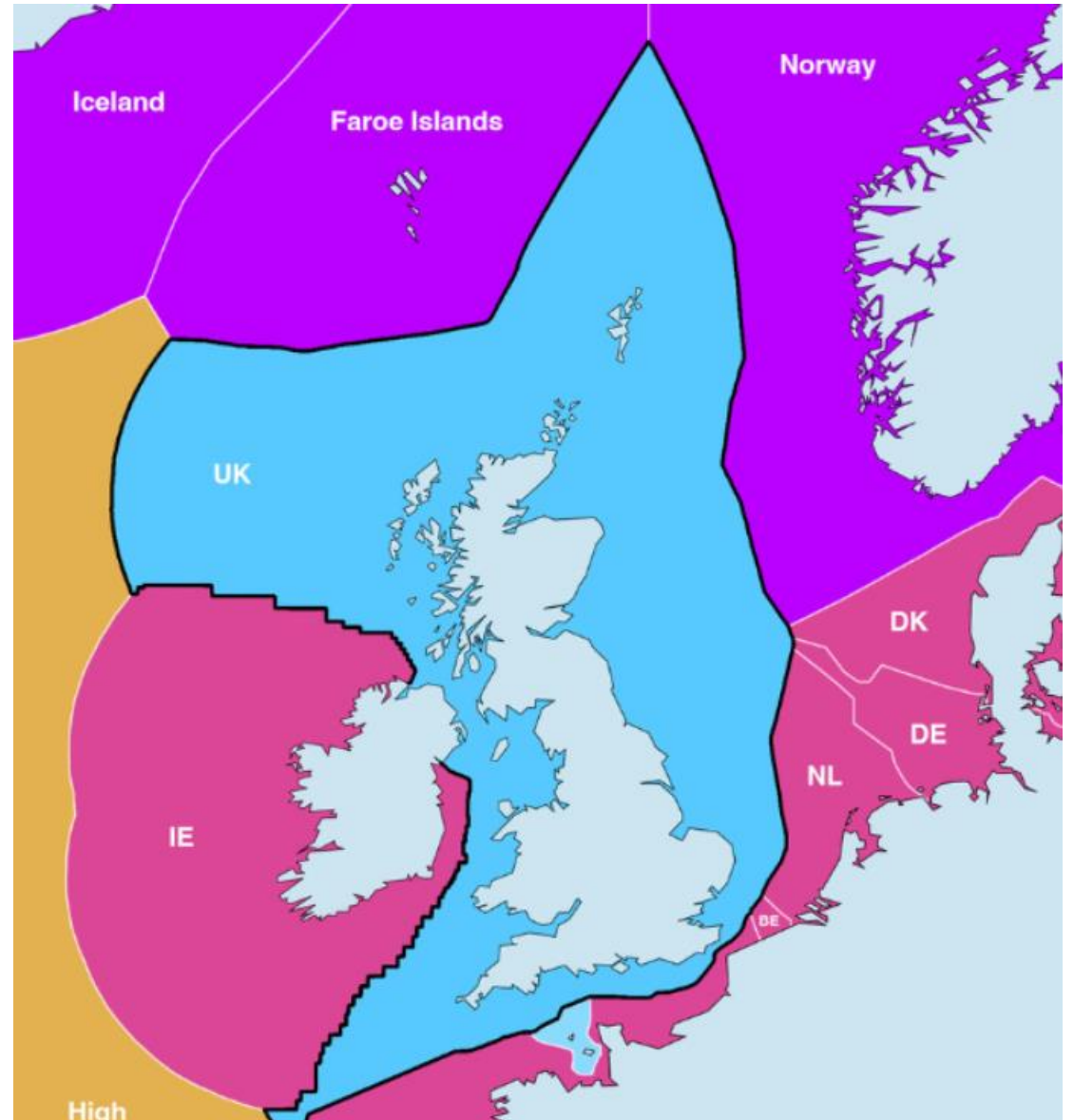
Regional Fisheries Management Organisation



Exporters will now need to provide EEZ and/or High Seas area as well as RFMO where applicable.

EEZ- Exclusive economic zone (EEZ) - EEZs extend out to 200 nautical miles (nm) from coastline or a median line where it meets another countries limits. Within EEZs the coastal state has sovereign rights to exploration and exploitation of the natural resources, marine research and responsibility for protection and preservation of Marine life.

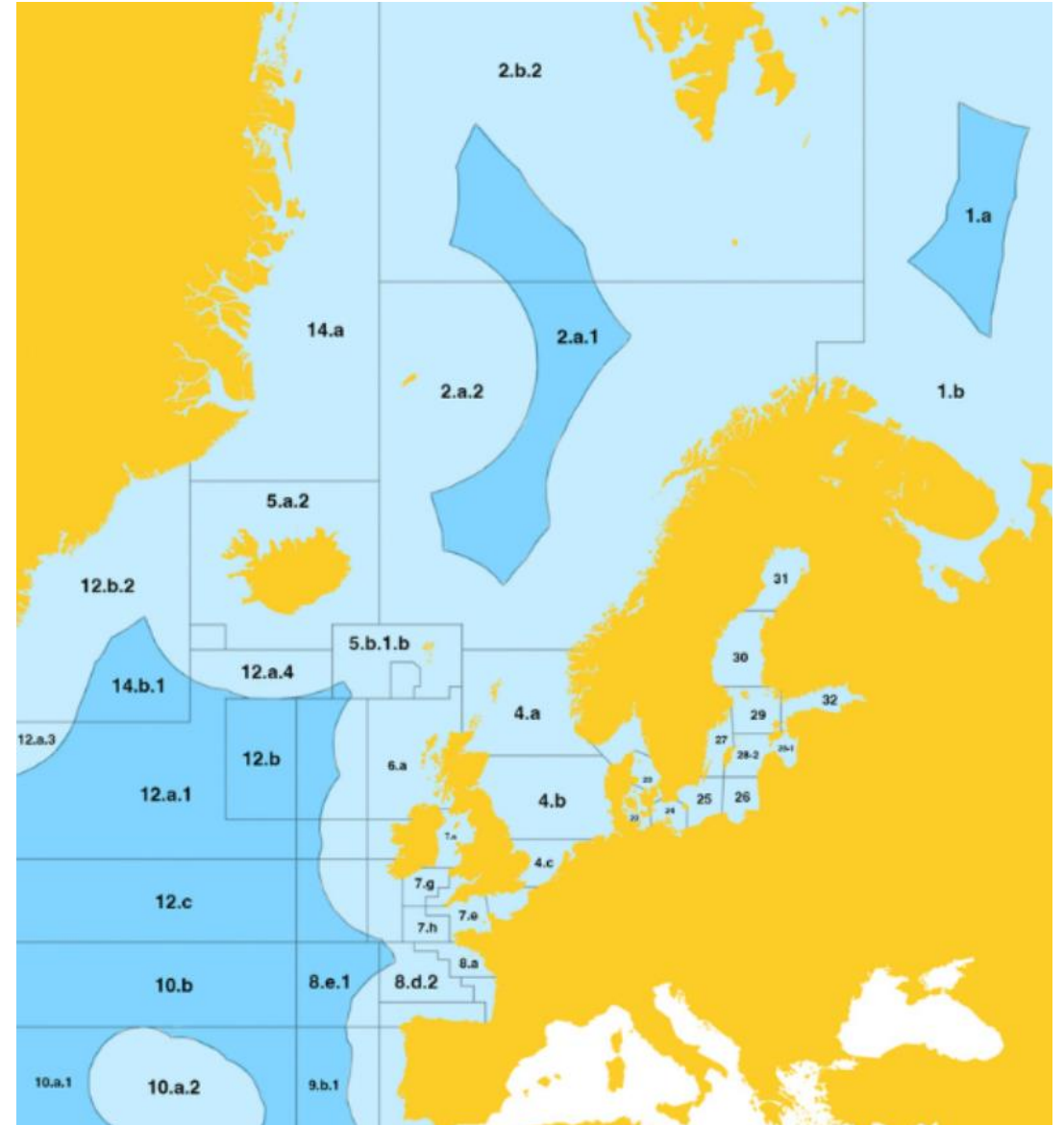
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RFMO – RFMOs are international organisations establishing binding measures for conservation and sustainable management of highly migratory or straddling fish species

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High Seas – High seas are international marine waters outside the jurisdiction of any country beyond the 200nm limit of the EEZ.

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## Catch area

FAO27

## Fish caught in high seas area (optional)



Yes



No

Exclusive economic zone (required)

## Exclusive economic zone (optional)

Country name

United Kingdom

Add another

## RFMO (optional)

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation



Requirement to provide the category of gear and the type of gear within that category used to catch each fishery product.

There is a predefined list for exporters to select the gear category and type from.

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[▶ I cannot find the vessel](#)

### **Gear details (optional)**

This will be required from January 2026 under EU regulations.

Gear category

Select gear category



Gear type

Select gear type



[▶ What are gear details?](#)

## **Product weights**



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# Processing Statement

# Processing Statement

1

Minimal changes to the  
template and the  
information that is  
contained within.

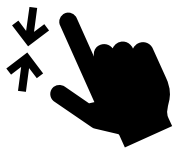


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# Processing Statement

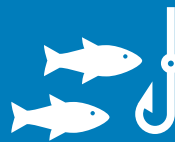
1

Minimal changes to the template and the information that is contained within.



2

Changes to requirements  
– Processing statements  
required for domestic  
caught fish processed  
within the UK.

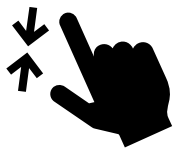


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# Processing Statement

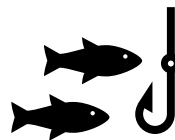
1

Minimal changes to the template and the information that is contained within.



2

Changes to requirements  
– Processing statements required for domestic caught fish processed within the UK.



3

The EU have introduced a definition for processing



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Processing operations requiring a processing statement (Annex IV) include cutting, filleting, canning, smoking, salting, cooking, pickling, drying or preparing fish for market in any other manner. Fishery products subject only to freezing and/or packing will not require a processing statement (Annex IV).

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# Non-manipulation Document



# Non-manipulation Document

Previously referred to as a 'Storage Document'.

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## ANNEX

Template for the document referred to in Article 14(1)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008

Document number					
<b>1. Declaring Authority</b>					
Name					
Address					
Email					Tel.
<b>2. Arrival to the place of storage – details</b>					
Place of departure of the product:					
Date of departure:					
Last port, airport or other point of departure before arrival to the country of storage					
Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)					
Container number(s) (where applicable)					
Date of arrival to the place of storage (unloading)					
Place of storage:					
<b>3. Consignment details (upon arrival to the place of storage)</b>					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg entering the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg entering the place of storage
...					
<b>4. Storage facility details:</b>					
Name	Address	Approval number (if applicable)	Stored as (tick as appropriate)		
			Chilled	Frozen	Other
<b>5. Consignment details (upon departure from the place of storage)</b>					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg leaving the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg leaving the place of storage
...					
<b>6. Departure from the place of storage – details</b>					
Date of departure from the place of storage (reloading)					
Port, airport or other point of departure from the country of storage					
Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)					
Container number(s) (where applicable)					
Point of destination: Port, airport or other point of destination					
<b>7. Exporter details</b>					
Company name		Address		Date of submission of this document by exporter to the competent authority	
<b>8. Declaration by the competent authority</b>					
I hereby declare that the information provided in this document is correct and that the products concerned did not undergo operations other than unloading, reloading or any operation designed to preserve them in good and genuine condition, and remained under the surveillance of the declaring authority.					
Name of the authority	Name and title of the official	Signature and seal		Date	

# Non-manipulation Document

Previously referred to as a 'Storage Document'.

Introduction of a template – Published on the 17th March 2025.

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Template for the document referred to in Article 14(1)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008

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...					
<b>6. Departure from the place of storage – details</b>					
Date of departure from the place of storage (reloading):					
Port, airport or other point of departure from the country of storage					
Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)					
Container number(s) (where applicable)					
Point of destination: Port, airport or other point of destination					
<b>7. Exporter details</b>					
Company name		Address			Date of submission of this document by exporter to the competent authority
<b>8. Declaration by the competent authority</b>					
I hereby declare that the information provided in this document is correct and that the products concerned did not undergo operations other than unloading, reloading or any operation designed to preserve them in good and genuine condition, and remained under the surveillance of the declaring authority.					
Name of the authority	Name and title of the official	Signature and seal			Date

# Non-manipulation Document

Previously referred to as a ‘Storage Document’.

Introduction of a template – Published on the 17th March 2025.

Introduction of additional fields.

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ANNEX

Template for the document referred to in Article 14(1)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008

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Address					
Email					Tel.
<b>2. Arrival to the place of storage – details</b>					
Place of departure of the product:					
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Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)					
Container number(s) (where applicable)					
Date of arrival to the place of storage (unloading)					
Place of storage:					
<b>3. Consignment details (upon arrival to the place of storage)</b>					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg entering the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg entering the place of storage
...					
<b>4. Storage facility details:</b>					
Name	Address	Approval number (if applicable)	Stored as (tick as appropriate)		
			Chilled	Frozen	Other
<b>5. Consignment details (upon departure from the place of storage)</b>					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg leaving the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg leaving the place of storage
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Point of destination: Port, airport or other point of destination					
<b>7. Exporter details</b>					
Company name		Address			Date of submission of this document by exporter to the competent authority
<b>8. Declaration by the competent authority</b>					
I hereby declare that the information provided in this document is correct and that the products concerned did not undergo operations other than unloading, reloading or any operation designed to preserve them in good and genuine condition, and remained under the surveillance of the declaring authority.					
Name of the authority	Name and title of the official	Signature and seal			Date

# Non-manipulation Document

Previously referred to as a 'Storage Document'.

Introduction of a template – Published on the 17th March 2025.

Introduction of additional fields.

Currently required when a consignment from a 3rd country is stored the UK and is not in transit.

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ANNEX

Template for the document referred to in Article 14(1)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008

Document number					
<b>1. Declaring Authority</b>					
Name					
Address					
Email					Tel.
<b>2. Arrival to the place of storage – details</b>					
Place of departure of the product:					
Date of departure:					
Last port, airport or other point of departure before arrival to the country of storage					
Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)					
Container number(s) (where applicable)					
Date of arrival to the place of storage (unloading)					
Place of storage:					
<b>3. Consignment details (upon arrival to the place of storage)</b>					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg entering the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg entering the place of storage
...					
<b>4. Storage facility details:</b>					
Name	Address	Approval number (if applicable)	Stored as (tick as appropriate)		
			Chilled	Frozen	Other
<b>5. Consignment details (upon departure from the place of storage)</b>					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg leaving the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg leaving the place of storage
...					
<b>6. Departure from the place of storage – details</b>					
Date of departure from the place of storage (reloading)					
Port, airport or other point of departure from the country of storage					
Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)					
Container number(s) (where applicable)					
Point of destination: Port, airport or other point of destination					
<b>7. Exporter details</b>					
Company name		Address			Date of submission of this document by exporter to the competent authority
<b>8. Declaration by the competent authority</b>					
I hereby declare that the information provided in this document is correct and that the products concerned did not undergo operations other than unloading, reloading or any operation designed to preserve them in good and genuine condition, and remained under the surveillance of the declaring authority.					
Name of the authority	Name and title of the official	Signature and seal			Date

# Non-manipulation Document

Previously referred to as a 'Storage Document'.

Introduction of a template – Published on the 17th March 2025.

Introduction of additional fields.

Currently required when a consignment from a 3rd country is stored the UK and is not in transit.

Requirement to provide one when a consignment has been split prior to re-export.

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ANNEX

Template for the document referred to in Article 14(1)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008

Document number					
<b>1. Declaring Authority</b>					
Name					
Address					
Email					Tel.
<b>2. Arrival to the place of storage – details</b>					
Place of departure of the product:					
Date of departure:					
Last port, airport or other point of departure before arrival to the country of storage					
Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)					
Container number(s) (where applicable)					
Date of arrival to the place of storage (unloading)					
Place of storage:					
<b>3. Consignment details (upon arrival to the place of storage)</b>					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg entering the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg entering the place of storage
...					
<b>4. Storage facility details:</b>					
Name	Address	Approval number (if applicable)	Stored as (tick as appropriate)		
			Chilled	Frozen	Other
<b>5. Consignment details (upon departure from the place of storage)</b>					
Description of the fishery products	Species	Product Code	Catch Certificate / Processing Statement/non-manipulation declaration number(s) (if applicable)	Net weight in kg leaving the place of storage	Net fishery product weight in kg leaving the place of storage
...					
<b>6. Departure from the place of storage – details</b>					
Date of departure from the place of storage (reloading)					
Port, airport or other point of departure from the country of storage					
Details of transport (Vessel name and flag / flight number – airway bill / railway bill / freight bill – truck registration number)					
Container number(s) (where applicable)					
Point of destination: Port, airport or other point of destination					
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Company name		Address		Date of submission of this document by exporter to the competent authority	
<b>8. Declaration by the competent authority</b>					
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Name of the authority	Name and title of the official	Signature and seal		Date	

# Exemptions from IUU requirements

## ANNEX I

### List of products excluded from the definition of ‘fishery products’ set out in point 8 of Article 2

- Freshwater fishery products
  - Aquaculture products obtained from fry or larvae
  - Ornamental fish
  - Oysters, live
  - Scallops including queen scallops, of the genera *Pecten*, *Chlamys* or *Placopecten*, live, fresh or chilled
  - Coquilles St Jacques (*Pecten maximus*), frozen
  - Other scallops, fresh or chilled
  - Mussels
  - Snails, others than those obtained from the sea
  - Prepared and preserved molluscs
-

# MMO Plan

1

Update the UK IUU documents to implement template changes and remain compliant with EU requirements.

2

Update application screens to allow for completion of the new sections within the Fish Export Service on.

3

Incrementally release changes to the service.

4

User research sessions.

5

Fish,Trace, Ship campaign website.

6

Extensive communications plan across the whole supply chain.

7

New guidance on gov.uk.

8

Continue to communicate with the EU.

9

Wider work on traceability.

10

The creation of UK Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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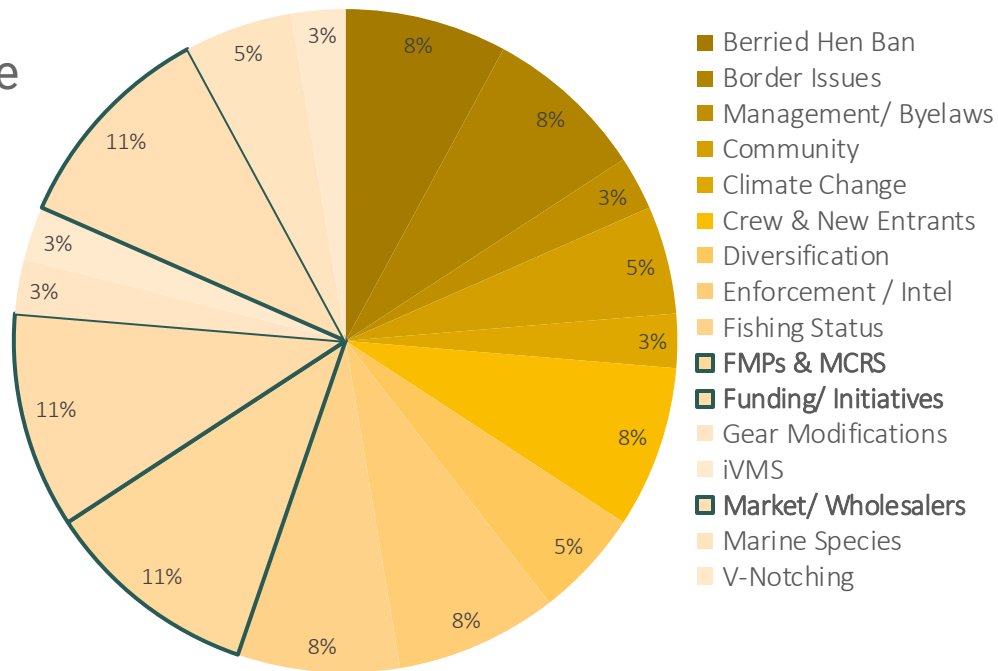
Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# Any questions?

# Fisher Forums

- Visited six ports
- Joined by MMO & Newcastle University

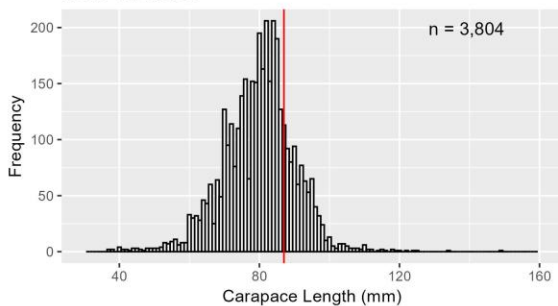
## THEMES



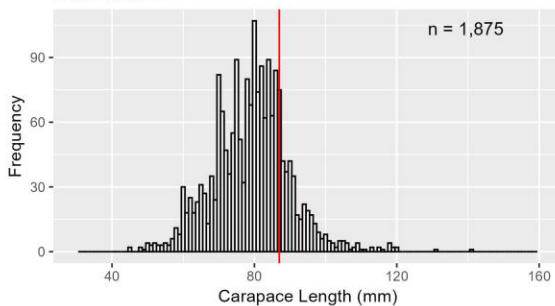
# Offshore Sampling Surveys

- 4 participating fishing vessels
- Biometric Data Collected
  - 2025 → 12 surveys
  - 2012 – 2025 → 150 trips

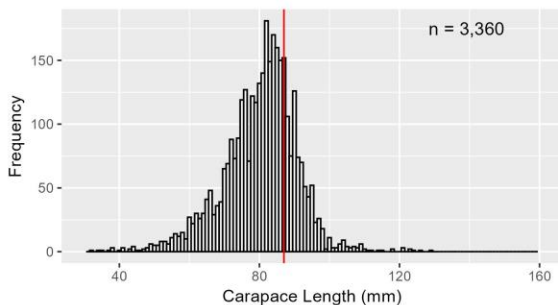
2020-24 Males



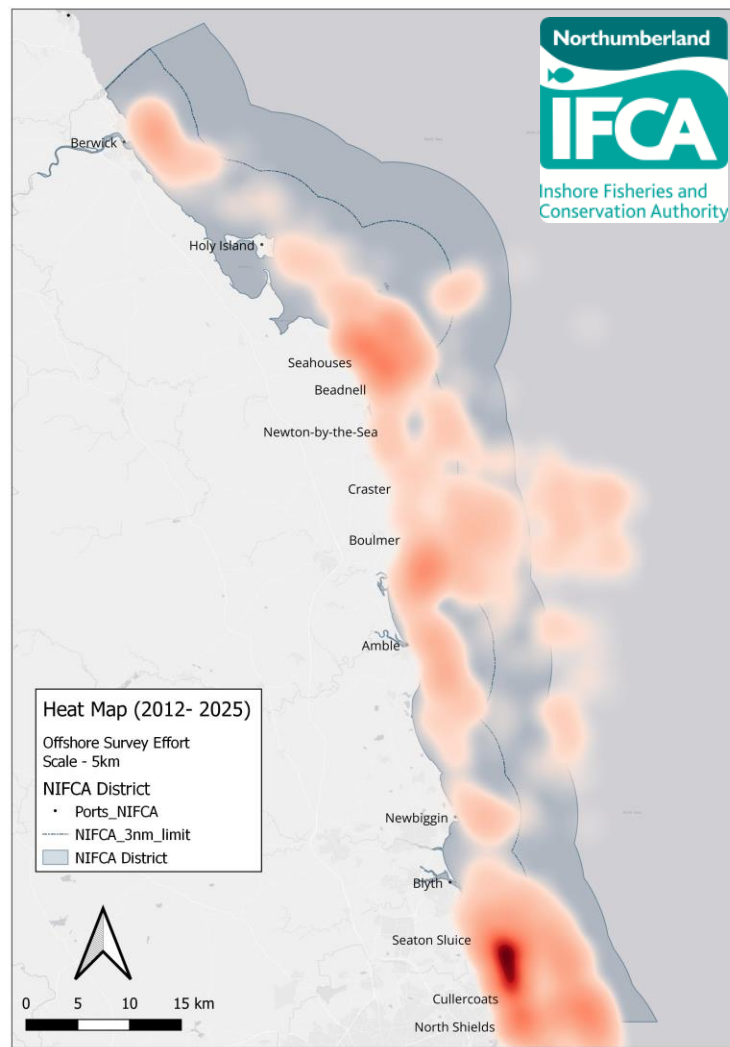
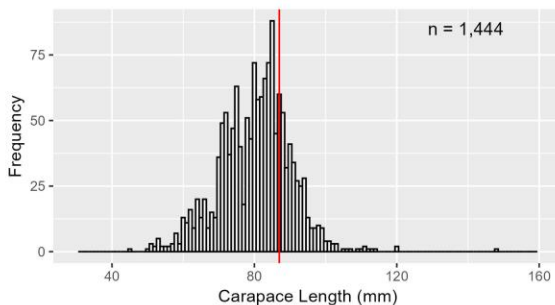
2025 Males



2020-24 Females



2025 Females



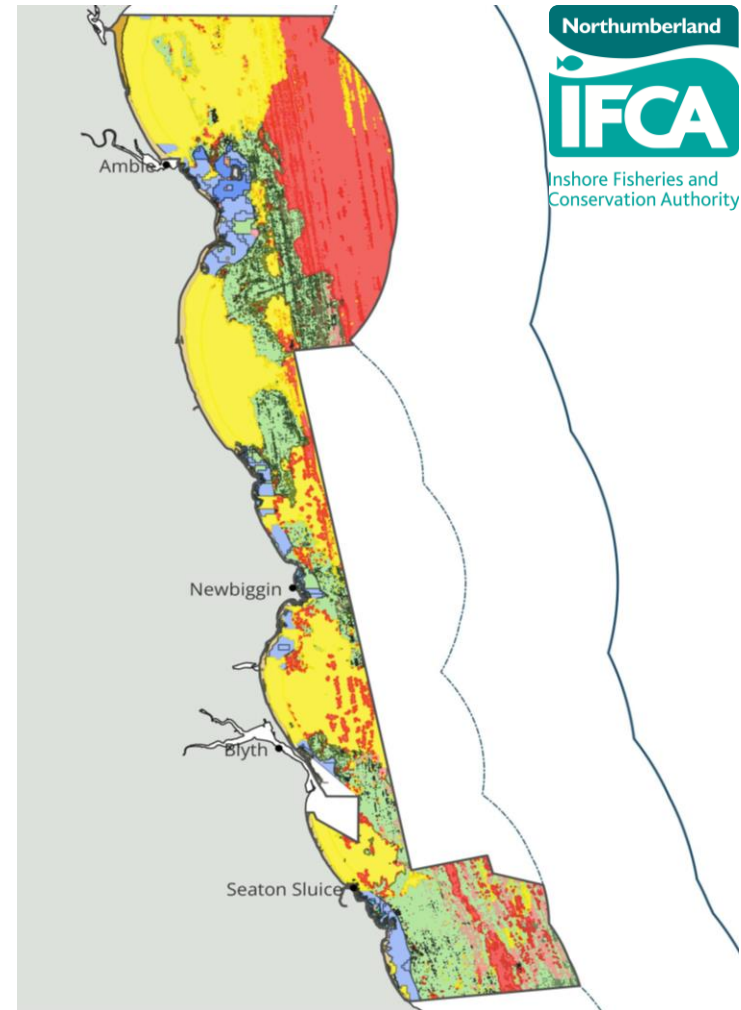
# Coquet to St Mary's MCZ 2026 Management Plan

Technical & Scientific Sub-Committee reviewed:

- Analysis of 2016 & 2021 Grab samples
- Fishermen Feedback

## 2026 Management measures:

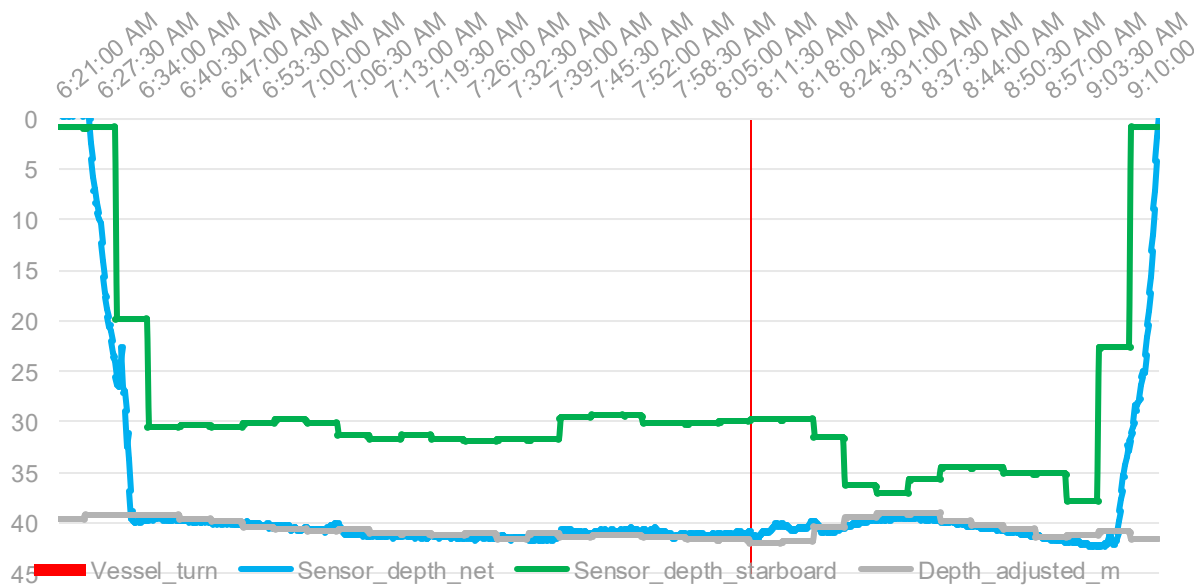
- A cap on the number of exemption permits issued
- A 1,000hr cap on the time fished in the MCZ
- A requirement for a vessels tracking system



# Gear Trials – Semi Pelagic Otter Boards

Doors designed to float above the seabed, therefore reducing impact footprint on the seabed

- Do they work?
- Are they still economically viable?
- Do they help reduce running costs?





*And Finally, NIFCA will be  
issuing new gauges to all  
permit holders*



# Any Questions?



## Thanks for listening



Northumberland IFCA



@N\_IFCA



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# NE Quota Presentation

Katie James  
Jacob Bestwick

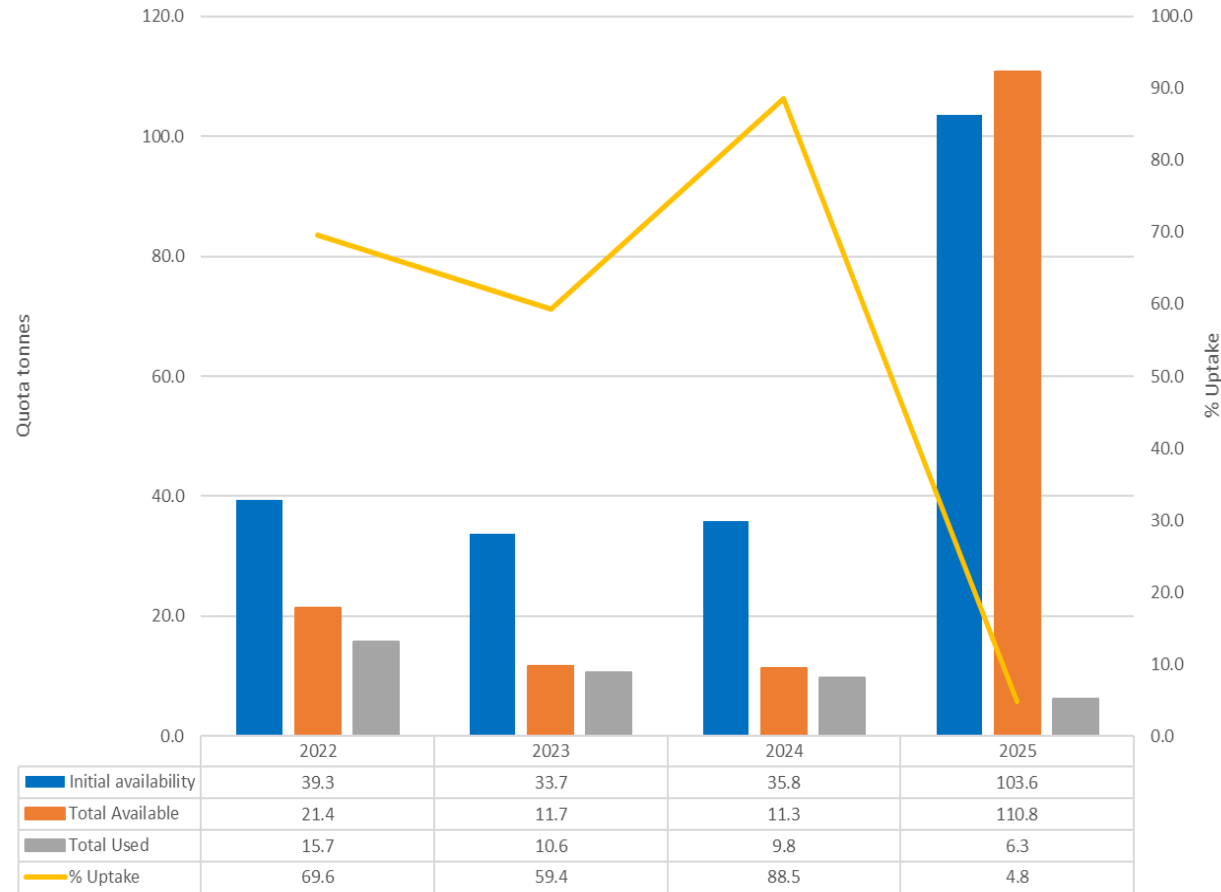
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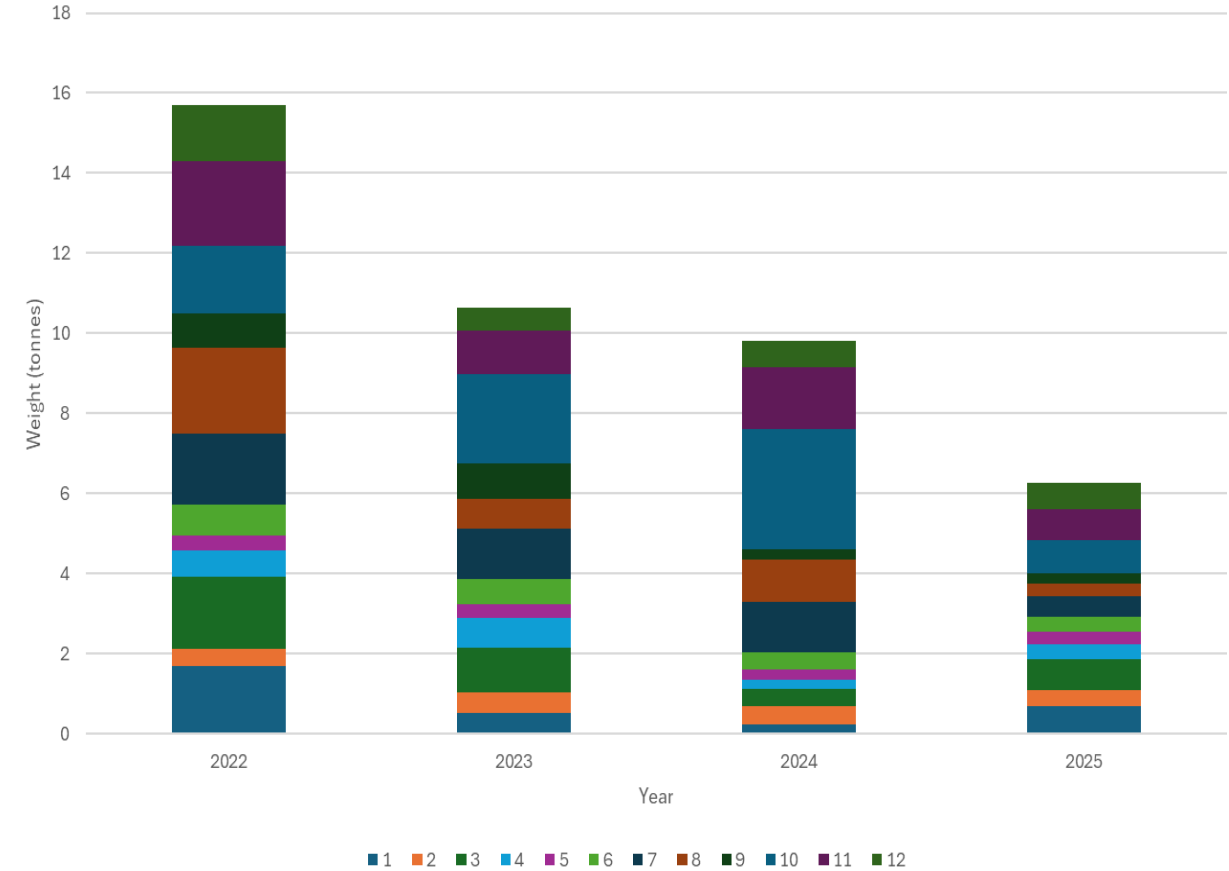


# NS Anglerfish

Angler - North Sea - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



Monthly Uptake by Year - U10m - ANGNS



TAC change 2026 = **-1%**

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## U10:

Allocation = 110.8t

Catch limit = 4t

Current uptake = 6.3t

## O10:

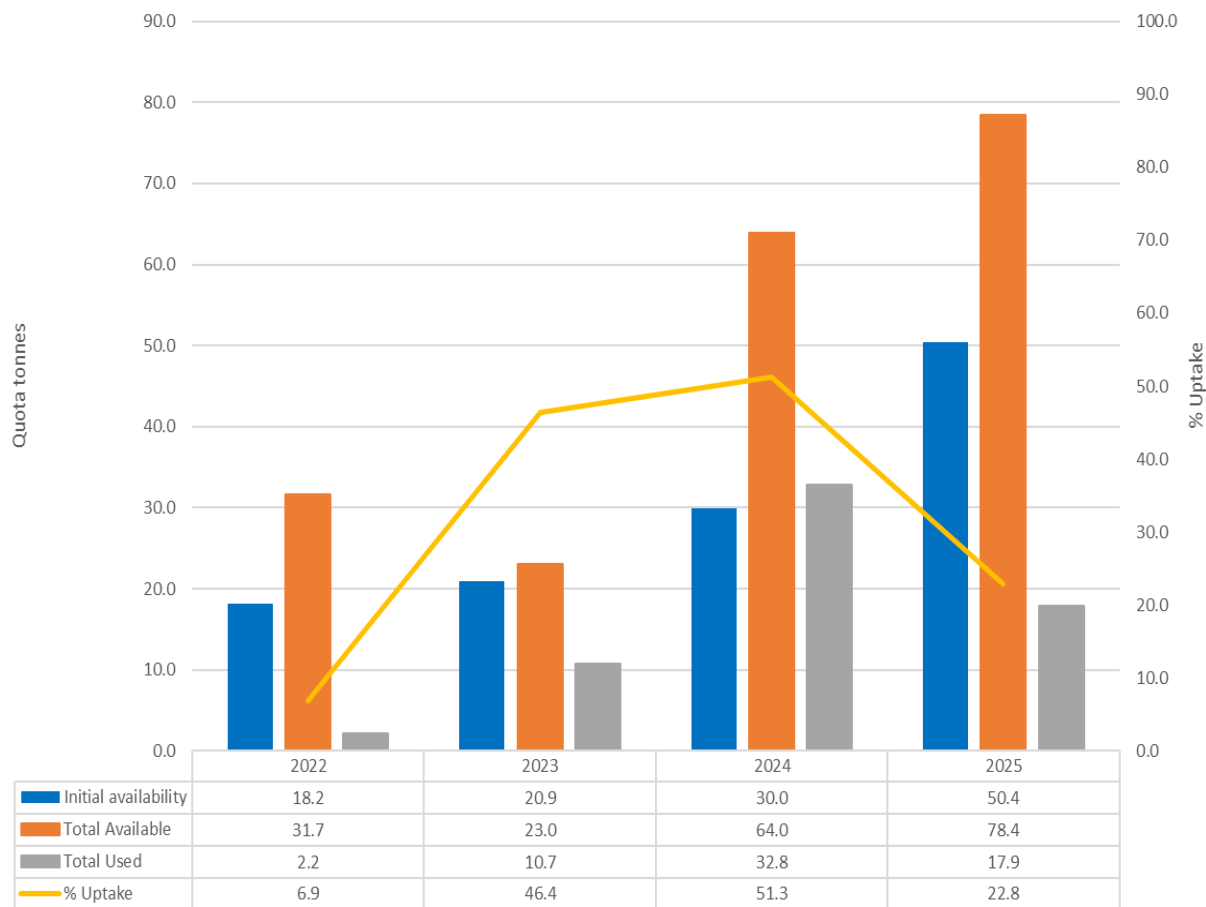
Allocation = 23.1t

Catch limit = 2t

Current uptake = 2.1t

# NS Mackerel

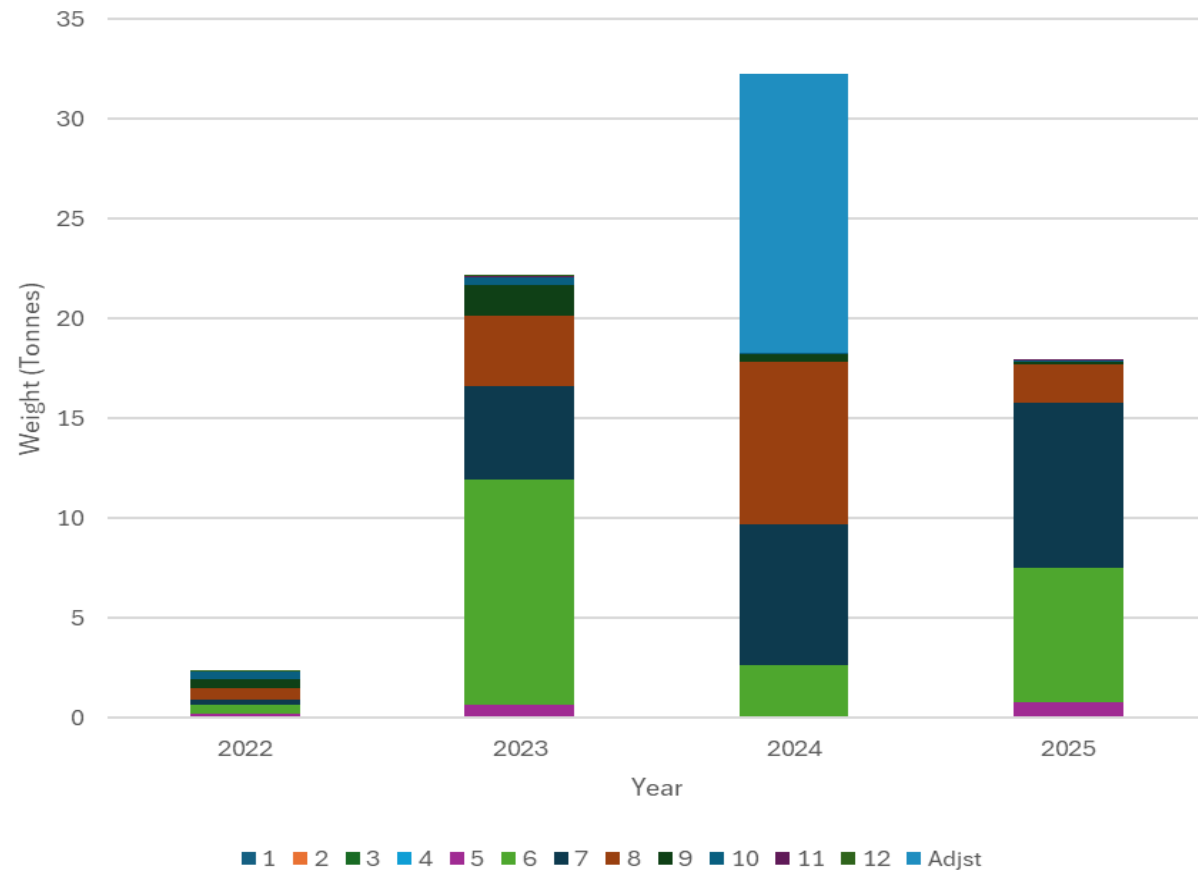
Mackerel - North Sea - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



TAC change 2026 = **-74%**

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Monthly Uptake by Year - U10m - MACNS



## U10:

Allocation = 78.4t

Catch limit = 1.5t

Current uptake = 17.9t

## O10:

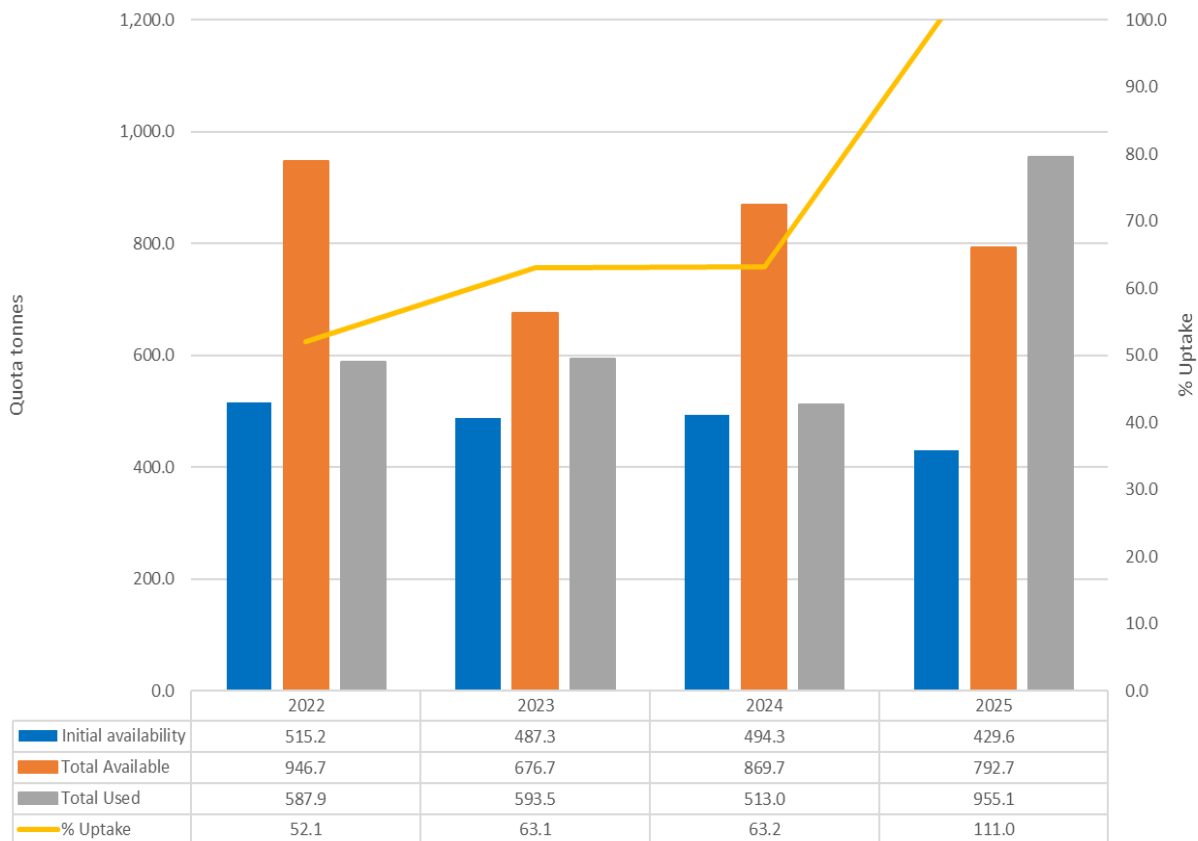
Allocation = 16t

Catch limit = 1t

Current uptake = 0.2t

# NS Nephrops

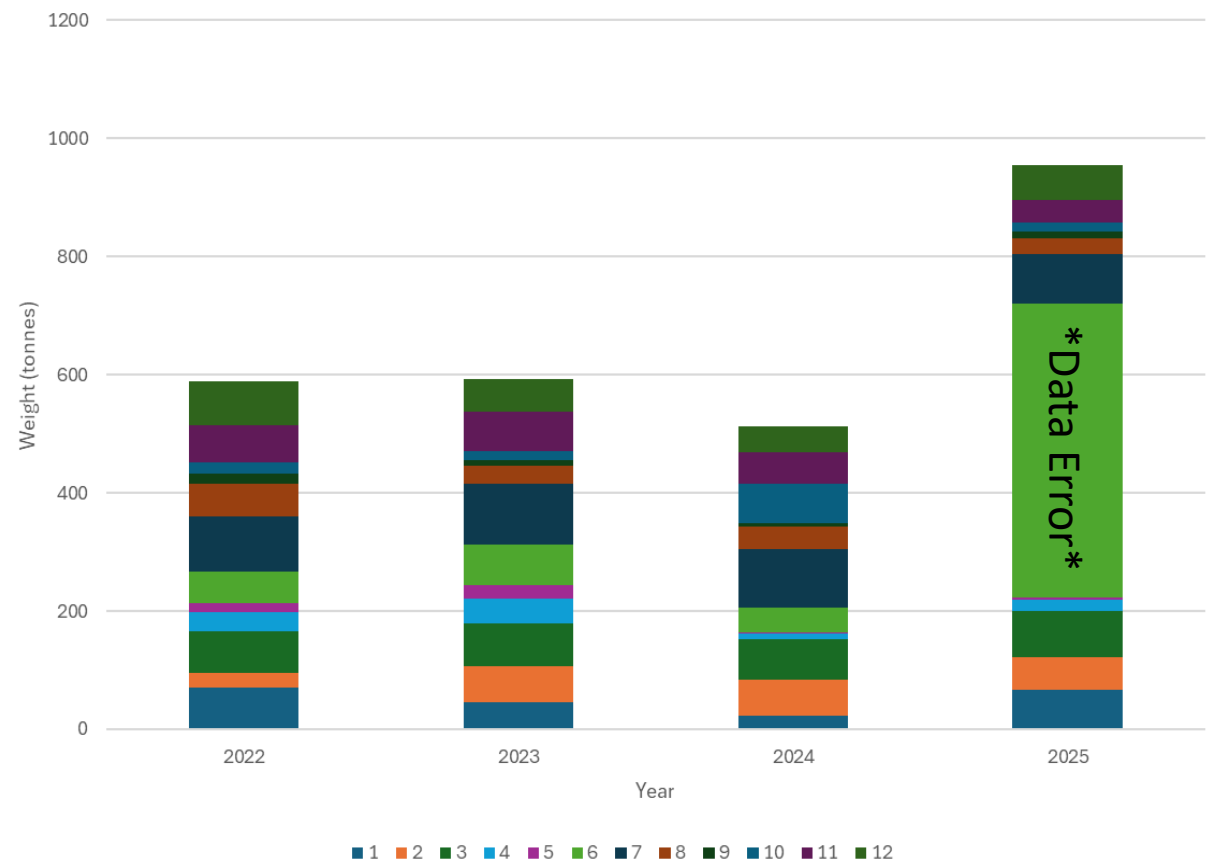
Nephrops - North Sea (quarterly catch limits) - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



TAC change 2026 = **+40%**

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Monthly Uptake by Year - U10m - NEPNS



## U10:

Allocation = 467.7t

Catch limit = 50t quarterly

Current uptake = 955.1t

\*-400t approx. for data error\*

## O10:

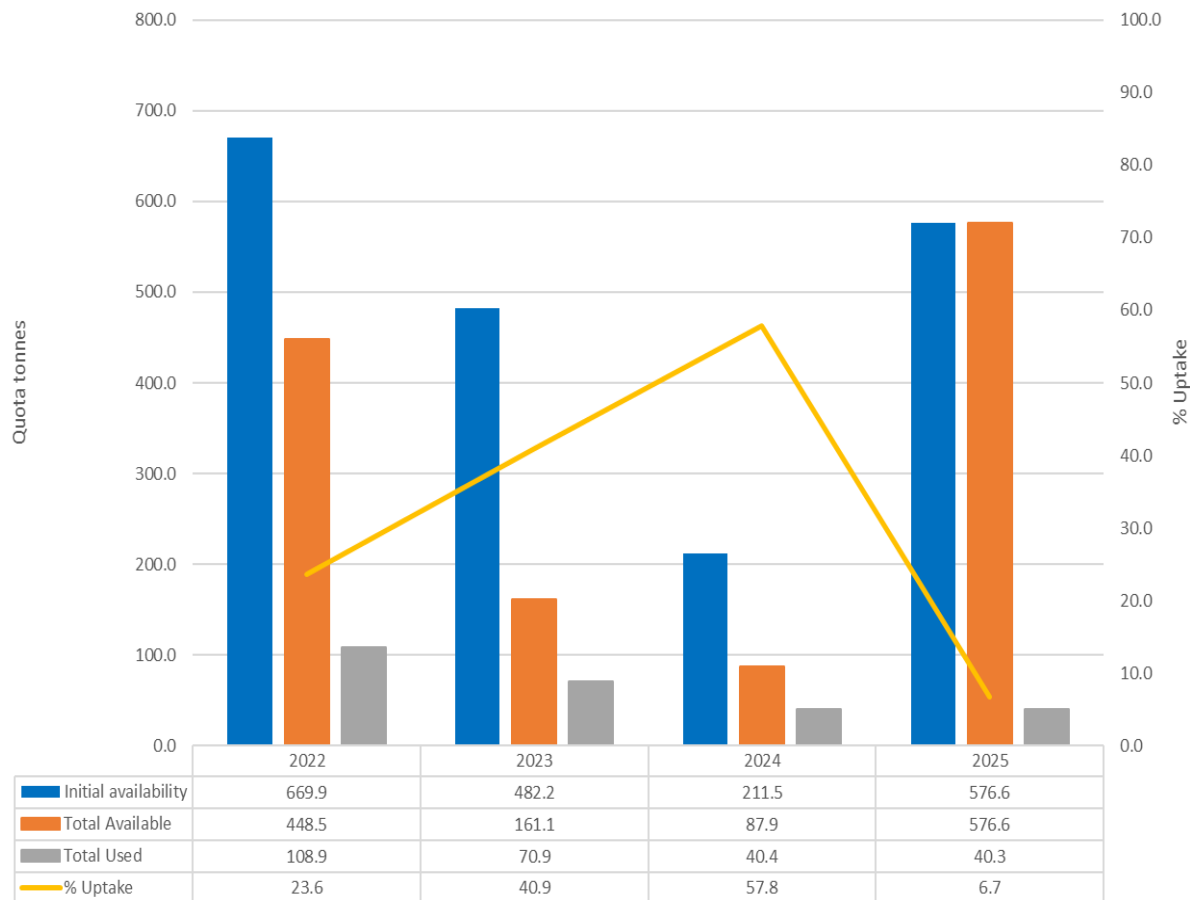
Allocation = 198.9t

Catch limit = 50t Quarterly

Current uptake = 169.9t

# NS Sole

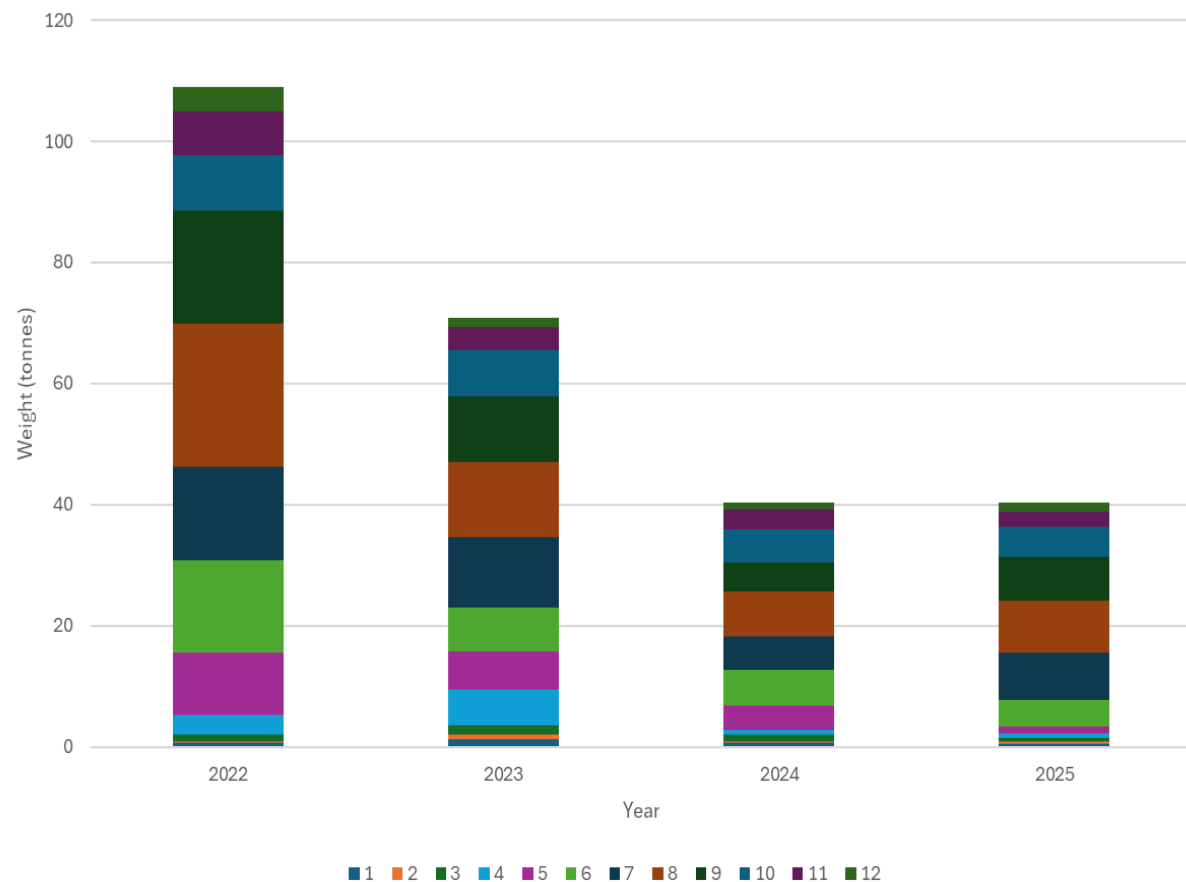
Sole - North Sea - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



TAC change 2026 = **+25%**

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Monthly Uptake by Year - U10m - SOLNS



## U10:

Allocation = 576.6t

Catch limit = 5t

Current uptake = 40.3t

## O10:

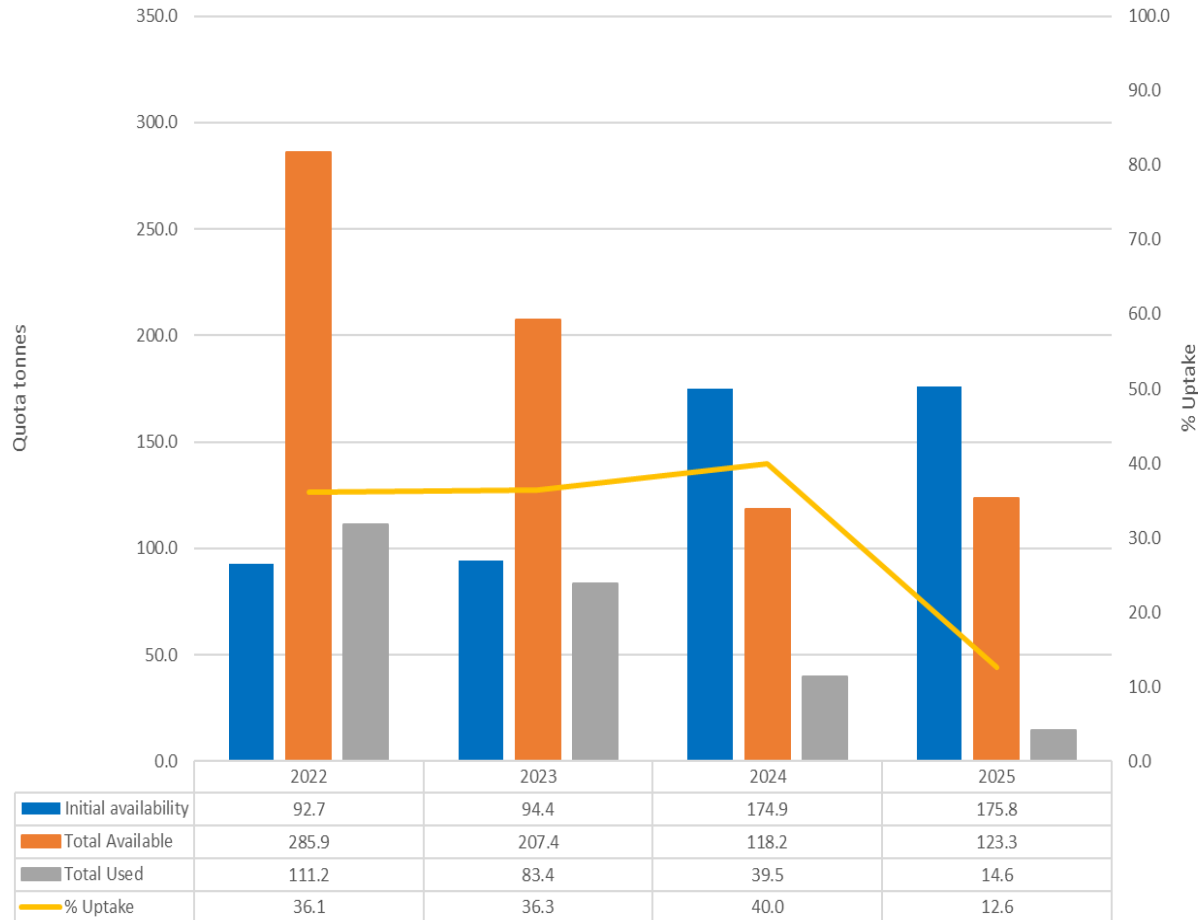
Allocation = 177.8t

Catch limit = 6t

Current uptake = 4.8t

# NS Skates & Rays

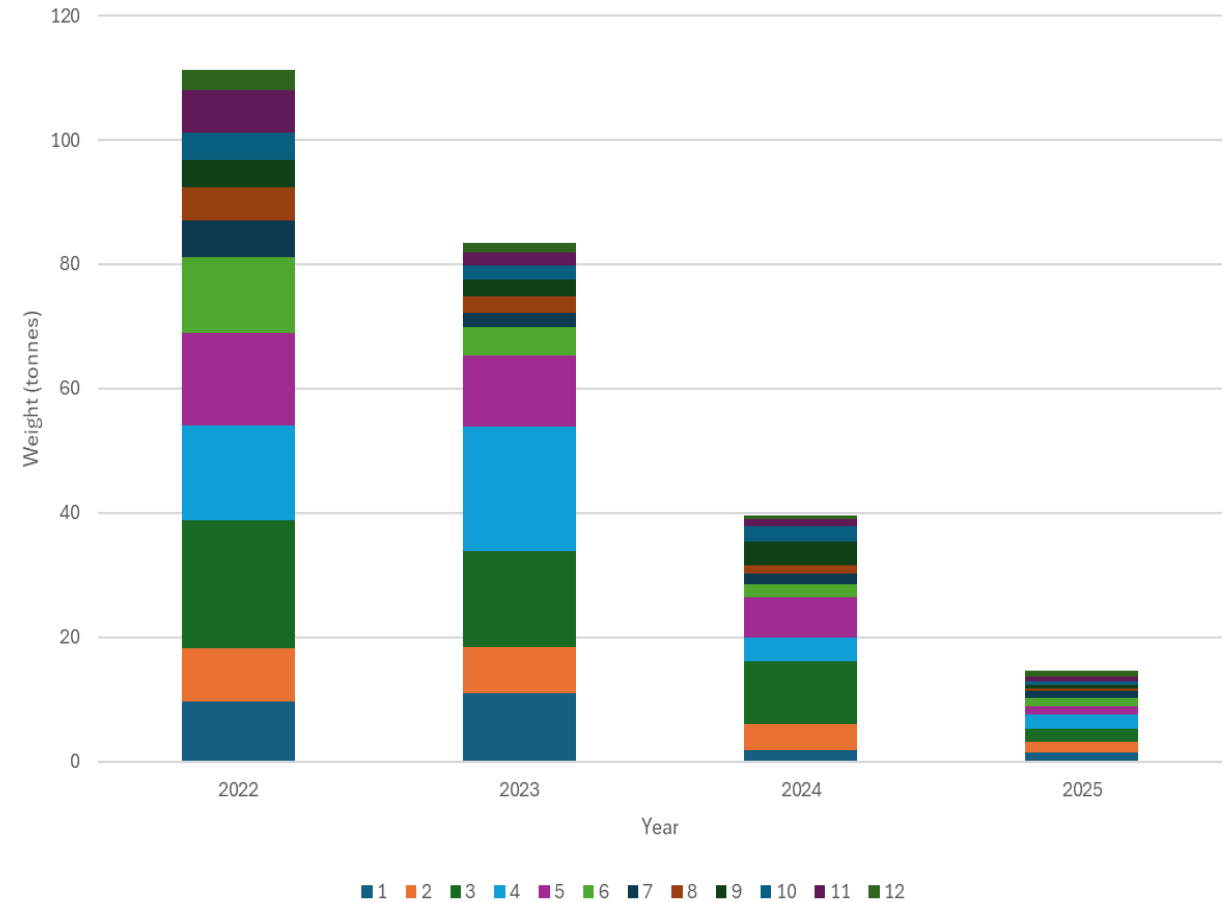
Skates and rays - North Sea - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



TAC change 2026 = **+25%**

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Monthly Uptake by Year - U10m - SKANS



## U10:

Allocation = 123.3t

Catch limit = 4t

Current uptake = 14.6t

## O10:

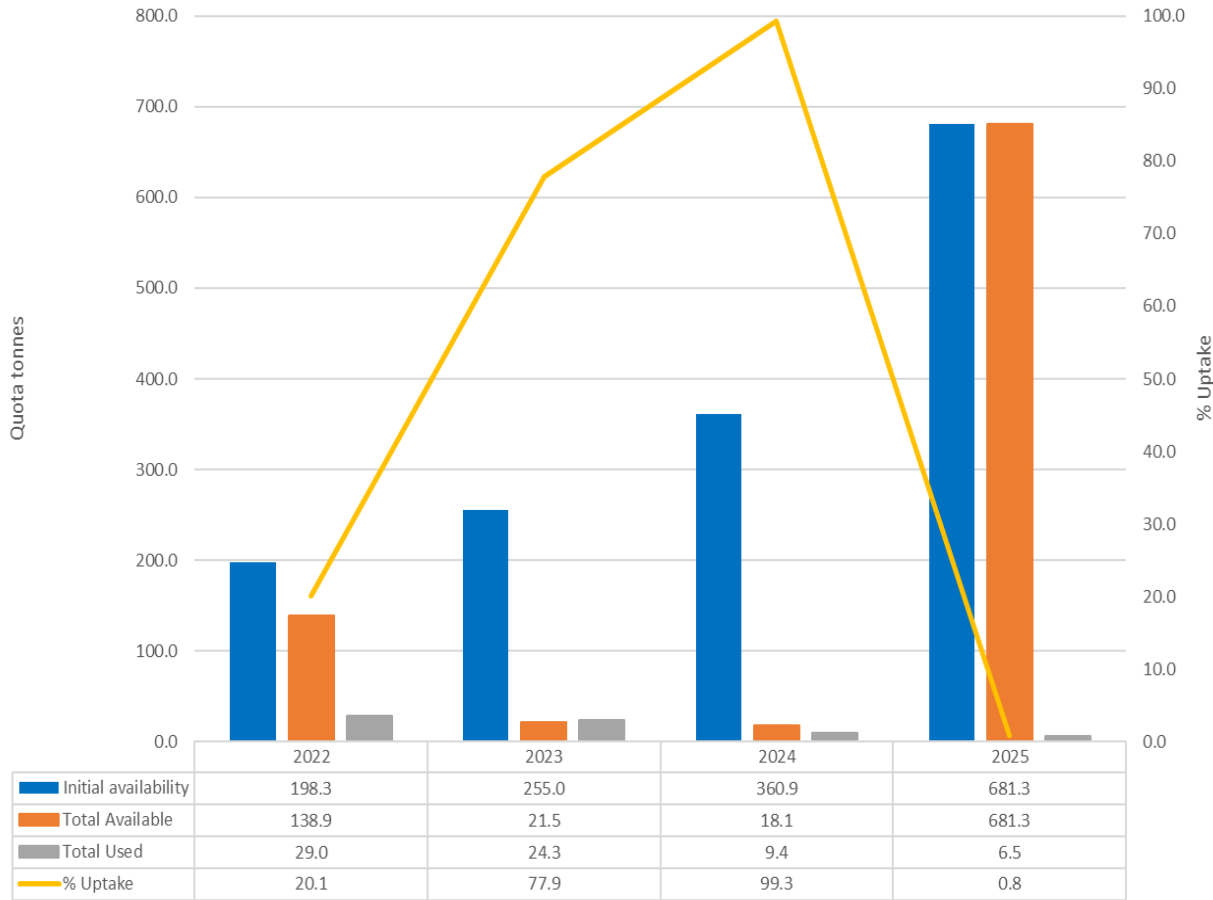
Allocation = 22.1t

Catch limit = 3t

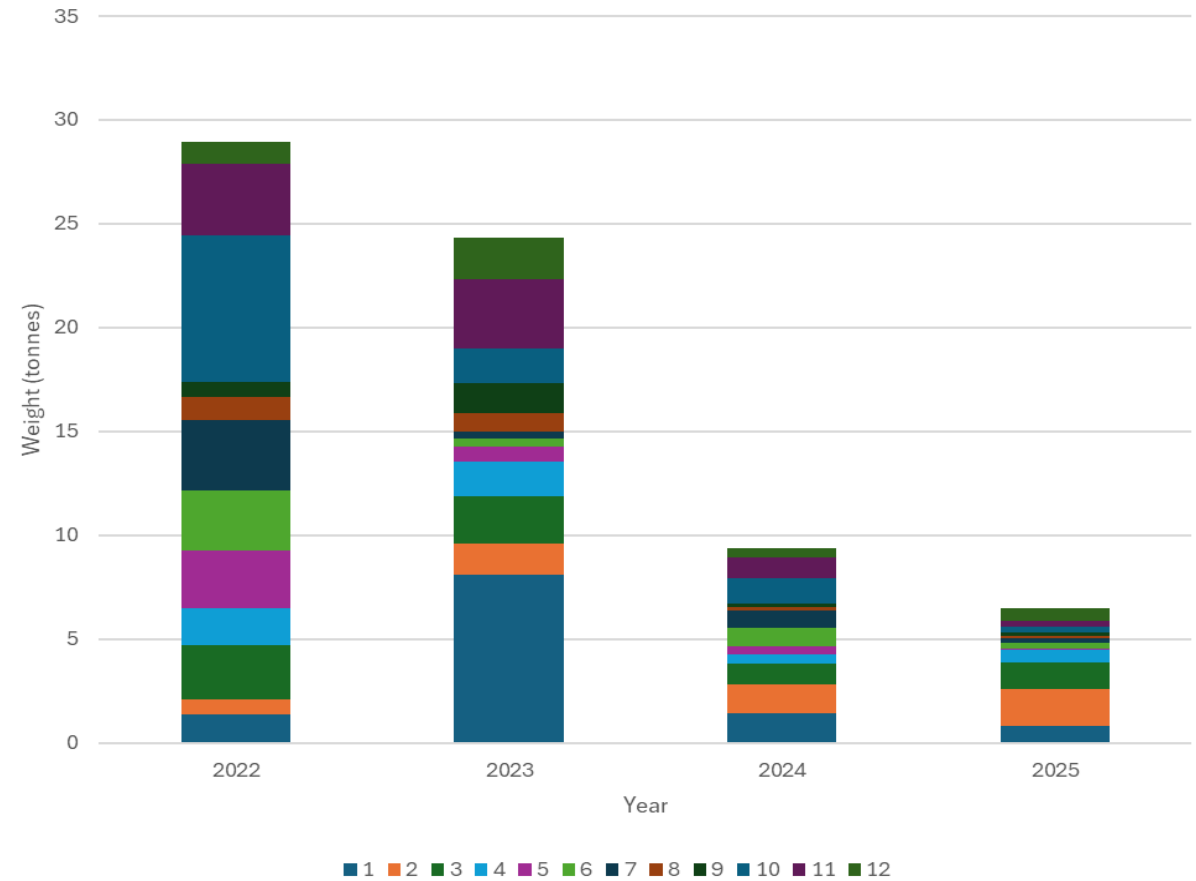
Current uptake = 3.8t

# NS Whiting

Whiting - North Sea - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



Monthly Uptake by Year - U10m - WHINS



TAC change 2026 = **+42%**

...ambitious for our seas and coasts

## U10:

Allocation = 681.3t

Catch limit = 4t

Current uptake = 6.5t

## O10:

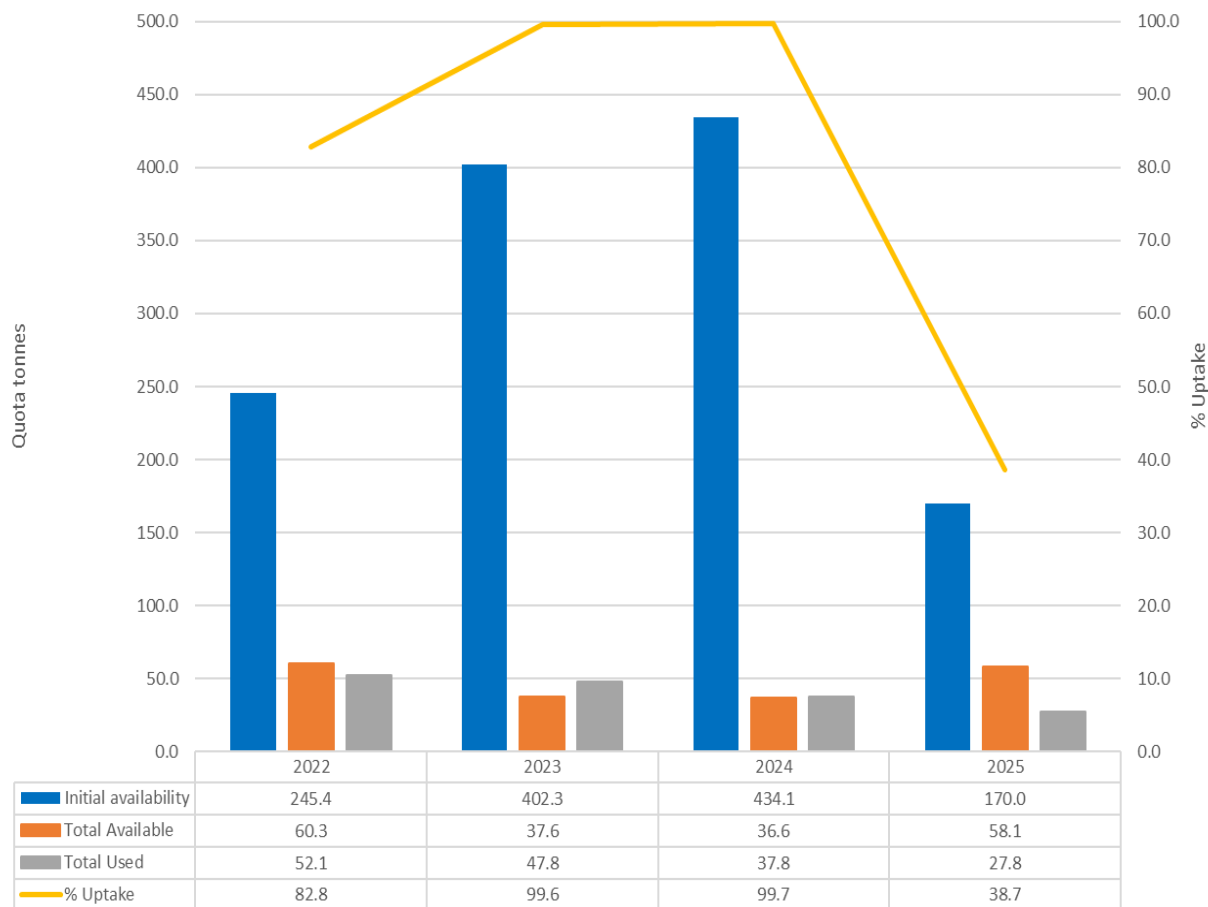
Allocation = 645t

Catch limit = 1.5t

Current uptake = 4.5t

## NS Cod

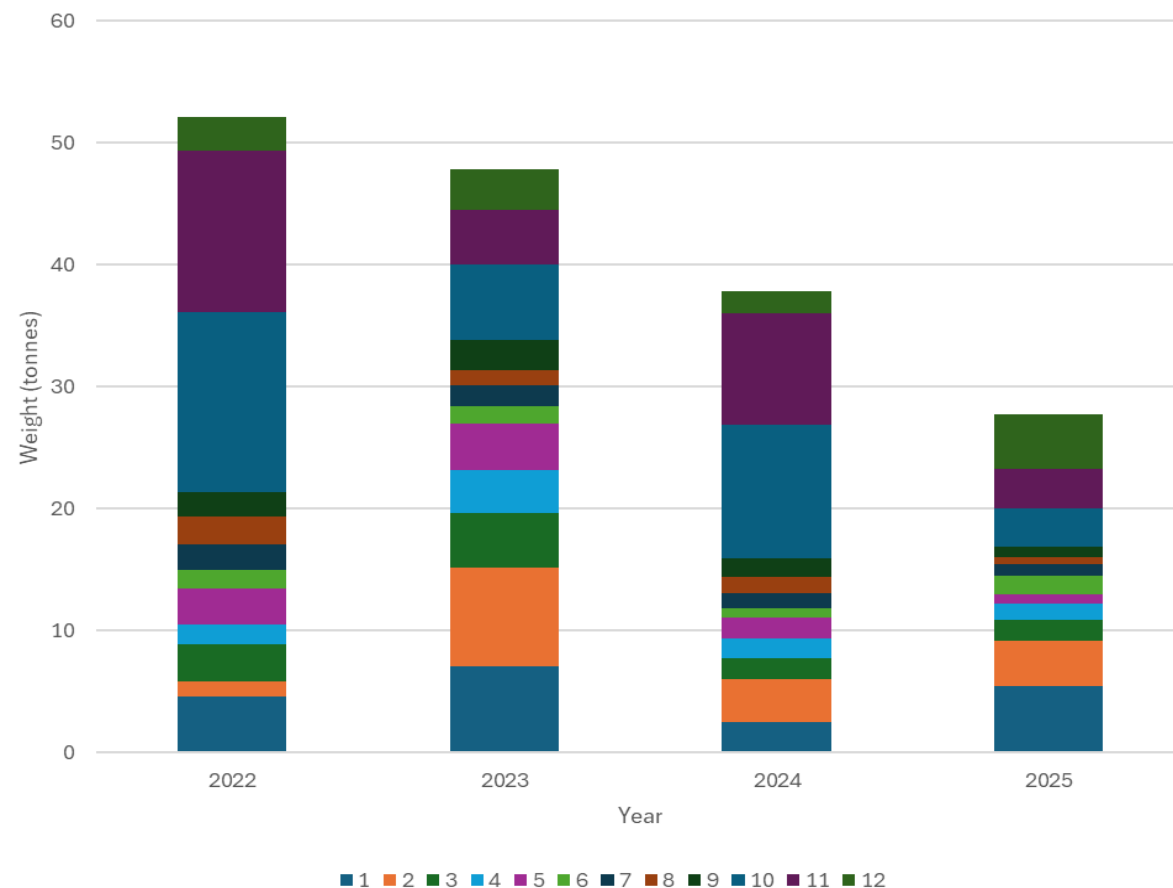
Cod - North Sea - Under 10 - Available quota and total uptake



TAC change 2026 = **-44%**

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Monthly Uptake by Year - U10m - CODNS



### U10:

Allocation = 58.1t  
Catch limit = 2t (1t 4bc)  
Current uptake = 27.8t

### O10:

Allocation = 25.5t  
Catch limit = 3t (1t 4bc)  
Current uptake = 39.5t



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

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](mailto:inshorequotamanager@marinemanagement.org.uk)**

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Marine  
Management  
Organisation

## 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)

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

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