



# Consultation decision: 2026/2027 seasonal closure of the crawfish fishery in ICES area 7 (English waters)

## Background

Following previous seasonal closures introduced for the crawfish fishery, MMO has consulted on a closure proposal for 2026/2027. The closure's purpose is to enhance the protection of spawning crawfish by reducing fishing-related removals and interactions, thereby supporting the settlement of juvenile stocks and mitigating the risk of nets being left to soak for extended periods or lost during unpredictable winter weather.

## Consultation

The consultation this year was made up of in person events and an online survey. **16 responses** were collected during meetings in Newlyn (February) and Hayle (March). **32 responses** were submitted during the online survey. The online survey ran from 30 April to 12 May 2026.

## Consultation outputs

MMO will implement a closure of the crawfish fishery from **22 November 2026 to 31 May 2027** inclusive, in English waters of ICES area 7 (map provided).

The decision has been made with consideration of the consultation responses, scientific evidence, social and economic impact of the closure and relevant legislation and policy.

This is a similar closure to the 2025/2026 closure and balances the social, economic and sustainable aspects of the closure objectives. The closure will offer protection for berried and juvenile crawfish whilst also taking account of socio-economic considerations. by giving access to the last Neap tide in November.

Please refer to the [decision document](#) for further information, including a summary of responses received and further reasoning behind this decision.

MMO values the continued participation of all stakeholders in the crawfish fishery management and will be furthering work on longer-term management in 2026.

## Contact us

If you have any queries, then please contact MMO's Fisheries Management Team using the email address provided here: [FMP@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:FMP@marinemanagement.org.uk).

