LICENCE TO FISH IN UNITED KINGDOM WATERS – EU VESSEL

PART 2: CONDITIONS

Definitions and matters of general application:

In this licence:

'British fishery limits' has the same meaning as in Section 1 of the Fishery Limits Act 1976;

'Northern Ireland zone' has the same meaning as in the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (c.47) (see section 98(1) and (8) of that Act;

'Scottish zone' has the same meaning as in the Scotland Act 1998 (c.46) (see section 126(1) and (2) of that Act);

'Welsh zone' has the same meaning as in the Government of Wales Act 2006 (c.32) (see section 158(1) and (3) of that Act);

'English zone' means the sea within British fishery limits other than the Scottish zone, the Northern Ireland zone, the Welsh zone.

'Relevant United Kingdom fisheries authority' means, in the Scottish zone, the Scottish Ministers, in the Welsh zone the Welsh ministers, in the Northern Ireland zone the Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs for Northern Ireland and in the English zone, the Marine Management Organisation;

'Single Issuing Authority' means the Marine Management Organisation, operating as the UK Single Issuing Authority for sea fishing licensing;

'The UK licences and notices regulations' means the Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, the Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) (Wales) Regulations 2019, the Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and the Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) (England) Regulation 2012;

'The vessel' means the vessel in respect of which this licence is granted.

Where a condition of this licence requires the vessel to notify the United Kingdom Fisheries Monitoring Centre ('**UKFMC'**) the master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer of the vessel must do so:

- by telephone or marine radio on 0044 131 244 2286;
- by email to UKFMC@gov.scot inserting the relevant subject heading in the subject box

Unless otherwise stated, reference in this licence to EU, Council or Commission Regulations shall be read as reference to those Regulations as they form part of retained EU law which, by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, forms part of UK domestic law and as may subsequently be amended from time to time.

The vessel must comply with all the law applicable in the relevant UK zone in which the vessel is operating.

Where a condition of this licence refers to an area that is closed or in which restrictions on fishing activities apply, the condition refers only to those parts of that area which fall

within British fishery limits.

1. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN BRITISH FISHERY LIMITS

1.1. The vessel may only fish in those parts of British fishery limits which are set out in section 3 of Part 1 and subject to the conditions set out herein, together with any specific fishing authorisations and associated conditions issued to the vessel.

1.2. The vessel must be registered as a fishing vessel and hold a valid fishing licence issued by its flag state. If at any time following the issue of this licence the vessel ceases to hold a valid fishing licence issued by its flag state, this licence shall immediately cease to be valid.

1.3. This licence shall cease to be valid if any of the details for the vessel as referred to in Part 1 and to which this licence relates are incorrect.

1.4. This licence may be revoked, suspended or varied at any time, by a notice communicated in accordance with the UK licence and notices regulations.

1.5. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the UK licence and notices regulations, notices relating to the revocation, suspension or variation of this licence will be published on the www.gov.uk website at the following URL address:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/united-kingdom-single-issuing-authority-uksia

It is the responsibility of the vessel owner, and the master or, where appropriate, charterer of the vessel, to ensure that they are aware of the licence conditions and any variations to them, as made from time to time.

1.6. A copy of this licence must be carried on board the vessel and produced to a British Sea Fishery Officer or Marine Enforcement Officer on demand. This condition may be fulfilled by production of a copy in electronic format.

1.7. At all times, the vessel must comply with the law of the United Kingdom legislation relating to sea fishing, including EU law as it has been retained into UK law under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, applicable in that part of British fishery limits in which the vessel is operating, as well as any flag state or European Union legislation applicable to the vessel whilst operating in United Kingdom waters.

1.8. In the event that flag state or European Union legislation applicable to the vessel whilst it is operating in United Kingdom waters conflicts with United Kingdom laws, United Kingdom legislation shall have supremacy.

1.9. At all times when operating within British fishery limits, the vessel must comply with the following provisions in the same way as they apply to United Kingdom vessels:

1.9.1. The following provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures:

• Annex V, Part C, Point 6.2 (prohibition on directed fishing for deepwater sharks in ICES divisions 3a and 4a in charted depths of less than 600 m).

• Annex VI, Part C, Point 9.2 (prohibition on directed fishing for deepwater sharks

in ICES divisions 5b, 6a, 6b, 7b, 7c, 7h, 7j and 7k in charted depths

of less than 600 m).

• Annex VII, Part C, Point 4.2 (prohibition on directed fishing for deepwater sharks in ICES sub-areas 8, 9, 10, and 12 east of 27° W in charted depths of less than 600 m).

1.9.2. The following provisions of Council Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy:

• Article 15(1) and (2) (electronic completion and transmission of fishing logbook data.) References in those articles to a fisheries administration are to be read as references to the competent authorities of the flag state of the vessel.

• Article 17(1) (prior notification.) References in that article to a fisheries administration are to be read as references to the competent authorities of the flag state of the vessel.

• Article 20(3) (Transhipment operations).

• Article 21 (Completion and submission of the transhipment declaration).

• Article 22 (Electronic completion and transmission of transhipment declaration data).

• Article 23 (Completion and submission of the landing declaration.)

• Article 24 (Electronic completion and transmission of landing declaration data).

• Article 44 (Separate stowage of demersal catches subject to multiannual plans).

• Article 48 (Retrieval of lost gear).

• Article 49 (Catch composition).

• Article 49a (Separate stowage of catches below the minimum conservation reference sizes).

1.9.3. The following provisions of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy

• Article 6 (Marking of fishing vessels)

• Article 7 (Documents carried on board a fishing vessel) .

• Article 8 (Marking of crafts and fish aggregating devices).

• Articles 9 to 12 (General rules for passive gear and beam trawls).

• Articles 13 to 17 (Rules for buoys and cords).

• Article 20 (Responsibilities of the masters concerning the satellite-tracking devices).

• Article 29 (Rules for fishing vessels subject to the completion and submission of a fishing logbook and transhipment/ landing declaration in paper format).

• Article 49 (Conversion factors).

1.9.4. The following provision of Council Regulation (EC) No 1984/2003 of 8 April 2003 introducing a system for the statistical monitoring of trade in swordfish and bigeye tuna within the Community:

• Article 5 (Statistical document for exportation).

1.9.5. The following provision of Council Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003 of 26 June 2003 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels:

• Article 3 (Prohibitions).

1.9.6. The following provision of Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/2002 of 19 March 2002 establishing additional technical measures for the recovery of the stock of hake in ICES sub-areas 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and ICES divisions 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e:

• Article 2 (Definitions).

2. PERMITTED CATCHES

2.1. The vessel shall not retain on board, land or trans-ship any sea fish of the descriptions set out in paragraph 1 of Part 3: Annex to this licence in the sea areas listed therein. Any sea fish so caught must be returned to the sea immediately.

2.2. The vessel must not retain on board, land or trans-ship fish taken in accordance with this licence in excess of the amounts specified in relation to each such species in paragraph 2 of Part 3: Annex of this licence.

3. PAIR TRAWLING

3.1. The vessel shall not pair trawl in UK waters with a vessel of another flag state without prior approval from a relevant United Kingdom fisheries authority.

4. FISHING GEAR AND EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

Electrical Equipment

4.1. The vessel shall only carry on board electrical generating equipment required for safe navigation and safe operation of the vessel. The vessel shall not carry on board nor deploy into the sea any electrical equipment, including electrical generators, cables, probes, grids or any other equipment capable of transmitting electrical currents to the seabed.

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UK Celtic Sea Technical Measures

4.2. For the purposes of the conditions below, the Celtic Sea Protection Zone shall mean ICES divisions 7f, 7g, that part of ICES division 7h which is north of latitude 49° 30' N and that part of ICES division 7j which is north of latitude 49° 30' N and east of longitude 11° W.

4.3. Where the vessel fishes using bottom otter trawls or bottom seines (OTB, OTT, OTP, OT, PTB, PT, SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV, TBN, TBS, TB, TX) in those parts of British fishery limits which fall within the Celtic Sea Protection Zone it must use either:

(a) a codend with minimum 120 mm mesh size;

(b) a codend with minimum 110 mm mesh size and fitted with a square mesh panel with 120 mm minimum mesh size.

4.4. Where the vessel fishes using otter trawls or bottom seines in those parts of British fishery limits which fall within ICES divisions 7e-j other than those referred to in condition 4.3 above, it must use a codend with minimum 100 mm mesh size, and when fishing west of longitude 5° W it must also use a square mesh panel with minimum 100 mm mesh size.

4.5. Where the vessel fishes using otter trawls or bottom seines in ICES divisions 7e-j it must use a codend that is constructed of a single twine of a maximum of 6 mm or a double twine of a maximum of 4 mm.

4.6. Where the vessel fishes using otter trawls or bottom seine in ICES divisions 7e-j, other than when targeting nephrops, it must not use or carry on board a strengthening bag[1].

4.7. The obligation in condition 4.3 does not apply to a vessel which fishes using otter trawls or bottom seines in ICES division 7f within 12 nautical miles of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom is measured, which must instead use a codend with minimum 100 mm mesh size and square mesh panel with minimum 100 mm mesh size.

4.8. The obligation in conditions 4.3 and 4.4 do not apply to a vessel whose catch comprises 30% or more of nephrops, which must instead use an 80mm codend plus one of the following gear configurations (a-d):

(a) a 300 mm square mesh panel

(b) Seltra panel (consists of a top panel of 300 mm square mesh, placed in a four-panel box section, in the straight section of a codend; is at least 3 metres long; is positioned no more than 4 metres from the codline; is the full width of the top sheet of the box section of the trawl (selvedge to selvedge));

(c) Nordmøre sorting grid (selectivity device which consists of a rigid grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35 mm);

(d) Netgrid device (a selectivity device consisting of a four-panel section inserted into a two-panel trawl with an inclined sheet of diamond mesh netting with a maximum mesh size of 200 mm leading to an escape hole in the top of the trawl).

4.9. The obligation in condition 4.3 does not apply to a vessel whose catch comprises more than 55% of anglerfish, hake or megrim combined, which

must instead use a codend with minimum 100 mm mesh size and square mesh panel with minimum 100 mm mesh size.

4.10. The obligation in condition 4.3 does not apply to a vessel which fishes solely in ICES division 7f to the east of longitude 5° W and whose combined amount of cod, haddock and saithe does not exceed 10%, which may instead use a codend with minimum 80 mm mesh size and a square mesh panel with minimum 120 mm mesh size.

4.11. The obligation in condition 4.3, condition 4.4 or condition 4.7 does not apply to a vessel which fishes west of longitude 5° W in ICES division 7e, or in ICES division 7f within 12 nautical miles of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom is measured, provided that the vessel instead uses a 100 mm single twine codend with maximum 5 mm twine thickness, derogating from the twine thickness requirements in 4.5.

4.12. By way of derogation to points 4.3,4.4 and 4.7 – 4.11 above, vessels of 12 metres overall length or less and an engine power of 221 kW or less fishing within 12 nm of the United Kingdom in ICES area 7e east of 5° W, may fish in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures.

4.13. Square mesh panels as referred to in this condition shall be placed into the top panel of the codend. The rearmost edge of the square mesh panel, which is the part closest to the codline, shall be no more than 9 metres from the codline.

Channel technical measures for beam trawls

4.14. Notwithstanding the requirements in relevant fisheries legislation, within the parts of ICES divisions 7d and 7e which are within British fishery limits, the minimum codend mesh size for a vessel using beam trawls (TBB) shall be 90 mm.

4.15. The obligation in condition 4.14 does not apply to vessels, within British fishery limits, that are less than or equal to 12 metres overall length and have an engine power less than or equal to 221 kW.

Technical measures in the Irish Sea

4.16. Notwithstanding the requirements in relevant fisheries legislation, fishing vessels operating with bottom trawls or seines in ICES division 7a shall comply with the technical measures set out in conditions 4.17, 4.18 and 4.19.

4.17. Vessels operating with bottom trawls or seines with catches comprising more than 30% of Norway lobster shall use an 80 mm codend (or 70 mm for single rig vessels) plus one of the following gear configurations (a-d):

(a) a 300 mm square mesh panel (for vessels in excess of 12 metres overall length) or a 200 mm square mesh panel (for vessels of 12 metres or less overall length);

(b) Seltra panel (consists of a top panel of 300 mm square mesh, placed in a four-panel box section, in the straight section of a codend; is at least 3 metres long; is positioned no more than 4 metres from the codline; is the full width of the top sheet of the box section of the trawl (selvedge to selvedge));

(c) Nordmøre sorting grid (selectivity device which consists of a rigid grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35 mm);

(d) Netgrid device (a selectivity device consisting of a four-panel section inserted into a two-panel trawl with an inclined sheet of diamond mesh netting with a maximum mesh size of 200 mm leading to an escape hole in the top of the trawl).

4.18. Vessels equal to or greater than 12 metres overall length operating with bottom trawls or seines with catches comprising more than 10 % of haddock, cod and skates and rays combined, shall use one of the following gear options:

(a) 120 mm codend;

(b) an eliminator trawl with 600 mm large mesh panels and a 100 mm codend.

4.19. Vessels equal to or greater than 12 metres overall length operating with bottom trawls or seines with catches comprising less than 10 % of haddock, cod and skates and rays combined shall apply a codend mesh size of 100 mm with a 100 mm squared mesh panel. This provision shall not apply to vessels with catches comprising more than 30% of Norway lobster or more than 85% of queen scallops.

4.20. A selective gear or device assessed by a fisheries administration as having the same or higher selectivity characteristics for cod, haddock and whiting than the gear options set out in conditions 4.17 to 4.19 may be used as an alternative to those gear options.

Herring mesh size

4.21. It is prohibited to target herring (*Clupea harengus*) in ICES subarea 4 and division 7d with nets with a mesh size of less than 32 mm.

Eastern English Channel (7d) technical measures for otter trawls

4.22. Notwithstanding the requirements in relevant fisheries legislation, within the parts of ICES divisions 7d which are within British fishery limits, the minimum codend mesh size for a vessel using demersal otter trawls (OTB, OTT, OTP, OT, PTB, PT, TBN, TB, TX) shall be 90 mm.

4.23. The obligation in condition 1 does not apply to vessels, within British fishery limits, that are less than or equal 12 metres overall length and have an engine power less than or equal to 221 kW.

4.24. The obligation in condition 1 does not apply to directed fisheries for squid between 01 September and the last day of February

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1 as defined by Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3440/84 of 6 December 1984 on the attachment of devices to trawls, Danish seines and similar nets

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5. AREAS IN WHICH THE VESSEL MAY NOT FISH

5.1. Where a provision of this licence prohibits the vessel from fishing in an area, the vessel must not be present in that area other than when travelling at a speed of greater than six knots (except in the case of force majeure or adverse weather conditions).

5.2. In case of force majeure or adverse weather conditions during which the vessel is or will be present in such an area, the master of the vessel must immediately notify the UKFMC. The notification shall contain the following information:

5.2.1. the subject heading: FORCE MAJEURE OR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

5.2.2. the name, external identification and international radio call sign of the vessel;

5.2.3. the name of the master of the vessel;

5.2.4. the geographical location of the vessel to which the notification refers;

5.2.5. the area into which the fishing vessel will enter;

5.2.6. the expected date and time of exit;

5.2.7. the catch retained on board by species in kilograms live weight.

5.3. Where a provision of this licence prohibits the vessel from fishing in an area the vessel may transit any such closed area provided that all fishing gear is lashed and stowed in such a way that it may not be used deployed in the water prior to entry to the closed area(s) and remains lashed and stowed until its departure from the closed area(s).

6. CLOSURES

Farne Deeps Restrictions

6.1. Subject to the exemptions below vessels deploying demersal trawls and seines (with the exception of beam trawls) are prohibited from fishing in the Farne Deeps.

6.2. The prohibition in condition 6.1 shall not apply to vessels deploying single-rig or twin-rig demersal trawls or seines outside 12 nautical miles of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured and:

6.2.1. of which the mesh size of the cod-end and any extension piece is 90 mm or greater in respect of single rigged vessels and is constructed wholly or in part of a single twine of 5 mm or less, or

6.2.2. of which the mesh size of the cod-end and any extension piece is 100 mm or greater and is constructed wholly or in part of a multiple twine of which no twine is of a thickness greater than 5 mm and which is deployed only between 00:00 on 15 May and 23:59 on 15 September, or

6.2.3. of which the mesh size of the cod-end and any extension piece is 120 mm or greater and is constructed wholly or in part of a multiple twine of which no twine is of a thickness greater than 5 mm.

6.3. Vessels fishing in accordance with the exemptions in 6.2.2. and 6.2.3. above are not permitted to deploy demersal trawls or seines with more than one cod-end per rig.

6.4. For the purposes of the prohibitions above "Farne Deeps" shall consist of all waters within the following ICES statistical rectangles:

- 38E8
- 38E9
- 39E8
- 39E9
- 40E8
- 40E9

Queen Scallop Closure

6.5. Fishing for queen scallops (*Aequipecten opercularis*) in waters of ICES divisions 6a and 7a is prohibited from 00:01 hours on 1 April 2026 - 23:59 on 30 June 2026.

King Scallop Closure

6.6. Vessels over 10 metres in overall length; Fishing for king scallops (Pectens maximus) using dredges in UK waters of ICES division 7d is prohibited from 00:01 hours on 01 July to 23:59 on 30 September.

6.7. Vessels over 12 metres in overall length; Fishing for king scallops (Pectens maximus) using dredges in UK waters of ICES division 7e is prohibited from 00:01 hours on 01 July to 23:59 on 30 September.

Real Time Closure

6.8. The master and owner of the vessel to which this licence relates must ensure full compliance with all Real-Time Closures (RTCs) that are in force at any time during the vessel's fishing operations.

6.8.1. The master and owner of the vessel shall ensure that the vessel to which this licence relates does not fish with restricted gears in any area subject to an active RTC and must immediately cease fishing and exit the closed area, if fishing with a restricted gear, upon becoming aware that an RTC has come into effect.

6.8.2. It is the responsibility of both the master and the owner to remain informed of all current RTCs. The most up-to-date details of RTCs, including gears, maps, coordinates and duration of closures, are published on the UK Government website at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/real-time-closures

6.8.3. Any vessel transiting through a specified RTC must have all restricted fishing gear inboard, lashed and stowed

6.8.4. Failure to comply with any RTC in force shall constitute a breach of this licence.

7. MARINE MAMMAL BYCATCH REPORTING

7.1. Where the vessel undertakes fishing activities the result of which causes or contributes to the mortality of or injury to any species of marine mammal, or where such species are taken as bycatch (regardless of whether such catches are retained on board) the master, owner, charterer, as appropriate, of the vessel to which this licence relates must complete and submit to the Marine Management Organisation a marine mammal injury reporting form in accordance with the guidance provided at https://www.gov.uk/guidance/marine-mammal-reporting-requirements no later than 48 hours after the vessel returns to port.

7.2. For the purposes of this licence condition, the term "marine mammal" means any mammal which (a) is morphologically adapted to the marine environment including sea otters and members of the orders Cetacea (whales, dolphins, and porpoises), Pinnipedia, (walrus, seals and sea lions) and Sirenia (dugongs and manatees), or (b) primarily inhabits the marine environment (such as the polar bear); and includes any part of any such marine mammal, including but not limited to its raw, dressed, or dyed fur or skin.

8. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN THE SCOTTISH ZONE

Notification of variations

8.1. The master, owner or charterer, as appropriate, of the vessel to which this licence relates shall ensure that, no later than midnight every Friday in each week, the Single Issuing Authority website page is viewed, in order to check for notices of variation, suspension or revocation affecting the licence, which appear on that page linked in 1.5.

Observers

8.2. The vessel shall, on receipt of a reasonable request, accept on board observers authorised by the Scottish Ministers to undertake activities specified by the Scottish Ministers. The master of the vessel shall provide adequate accommodation for observers, facilitate their work and avoid interference with the discharge of their duties. The master of the vessel shall also provide observers access to relevant parts of the vessel, including the catch, and to the vessel's documents including electronic files.

Use of Fishing Equipment

Requirements for Square Mesh Escapement Panel

8.3. The vessel must, when fishing with trawls or seines with cod-end mesh size of 70 mm or greater but less than 100 mm, install into their fishing gear a 200 mm square mesh escapement panel which has no more than two open diamond meshes (five in the North Sea) between the longitudinal side of the panel and the adjacent selvedge and shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of a net in front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end. The overall length of the panel will be 3 metres and will be positioned no further than 12-15 metres from the cod-line (i.e. the rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line). If the vessel has engine power of 112 kilowatts or less the overall length of the panel may be 2 metres.

8.4. The vessel must, when fishing with trawls or seines with cod-end mesh size of 100 mm or greater but less than 120 mm, install into their fishing gear a 120 mm square mesh escapement panel which has no more than two open diamond meshes (5 in the North Sea) between the longitudinal side of the panel and the adjacent selvedge and shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of a net in front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end. The overall length of the panel will be 3 metres and will be positioned no further than 12-15 metres from the cod-line (i.e. the rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line). If the vessel has engine power of 112 kilowatts (taken from the vessel's certificate of registry or this licence, including any mismatch) or less the overall length of the panel may be 2 metres.

8.5. Vessels operating with bottom trawls or seines within the Scottish Zone of ICES divisions 6a and 5b and East of 12°W (West of Scotland) shall comply with the following measures: (a) mandatory use of a square mesh panel (positioning retained) of at least 300 mm for vessels deploying a cod-end mesh size less than 100 mm; for vessels below 12 m in length over all and/or with engine power of 200 kW or less, the panel overall length may be 2 m and the panel 200 mm in Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) fisheries; (b) mandatory use of a square mesh panel (positioning retained) of at least 160 mm mesh size for vessels deploying a cod-end mesh size of 100-119 mm and if catches comprising more than 30% of Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*).

8.5.1. A selective gear or device assessed and certified by one of the relevant United Kingdom fisheries authorities as having the same or higher selectivity characteristics for cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) and whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) then the measures set out in paragraph 8.3 may be used as an alternative to those measures.

North Sea Cod Avoidance Plan

8.6. The vessel to which this licence relates, whilst using mobile gear, must use a minimum mesh size of 120 mm in all waters or sea area 4, bar activity in mud areas/nephrops areas. There are eight defined mud/nephrops areas within the 120 mm zone which are exempt on the basis that mud areas are primarily nephrops grounds. In these areas it is permitted to use gear less than 120 mm. Vessels using gear that is not designed to come into contact with the bottom, and are fishing for herring, mackerel, horse mackerel, sprats or blue whiting, or targeting sandeel, Norway pout or Northern prawn are derogated from the above compulsory measures, these areas are detailed in the attached webpage – https://www.gov.scot/publications/north-sea-cod-plan/

Rockall Haddock Box and Northwest Rockall

8.7. When the vessel to which this licence relates is present within either of the closed areas Rockall Haddock Box or North West Rockall, described in paragraph 4 of Part C of Annex VI and paragraph 1 of Part D of Annex XII of retained Regulation (EU) 2019/1241, respectively, it must

8.7.1. maintain a speed of six knots or more (except in the case of force

majeure) and,

8.7.2. prior to entry into either of those areas, ensure that all fishing gear is lashed and stowed in accordance with Article 47 of retained Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 and remains lashed and stowed until departure.

8.8. If the fishing vessel to which this licence relates travels at a speed below six knots within Rockall Haddock Box or Northwest Rockall, including in the case of force majeure, it must comply with condition 5 and provide an explanation to UKFMC as to why the vessel was there below six knots.

8.9. Conditions 8.7 and 8.8 do not apply to longline vessels fishing in the Rockall Haddock Box.

9. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN THE WELSH ZONE

Square mesh panel installation measures

9.1. Where the vessel is required, by virtue of this licence or other legislation, to fit a square mesh panel, unless otherwise specified, it must be fitted in accordance with the following requirements:

9.1.1. It shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of the net in front of any extension piece or at any point between the front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end

9.1.2. It shall not be obstructed in any way by either internal or external attachments;

9.1.3. It shall be at least three metres in length; except when incorporated into nets towed by vessels of less than 112 kilowatts, when it must be of at least two metres in length;

9.1.4. The rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line;

9.1.5. It shall be constructed of knotless netting or of netting constructed with non-slip knots, and shall be inserted in such a way that the meshes remain fully open at all times while fishing;

9.1.6. It shall be constructed so that the number of meshes in the anterior row of meshes of the panel is equal to or greater than the number of meshes in the posterior row of meshes in the panel;

9.1.7. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted in an un-tapered portion of the net, there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between each panel side and the adjacent selvedges of the net;

9.1.8. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted, wholly or partially, into a tapered portion of the net there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between the posterior row of meshes in the square-meshed panel and the adjacent selvedges of the net;

9.1.9. Measurements of the mesh size of any square-meshed panel inserted into any part of a net shall not be taken into consideration when assessing the mesh size of a towed net;

9.1.10. Where the vessel deploys a net in which a square mesh panel is inserted other than by virtue of this licence or other legislation, the square mesh panel shall adhere to the minimum mesh size requirements for the net into which it is inserted.

10. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN THE NORTHERN IRISH ZONE

Square mesh panel installation measures

10.1. Where the vessel is required, by virtue of this licence or other legislation, to fit a square mesh panel, unless otherwise specified, it must be fitted in accordance with the following requirements:

10.1.1. It shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of the net in front of any extension piece or at any point between the front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end

10.1.2. It shall not be obstructed in any way by either internal or external attachments;

10.1.3. It shall be at least three metres in length; except when incorporated into nets towed by vessels of less than 112 kilowatts, when it must be of at least two metres in length;

10.1.4. The rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line;

10.1.5. It shall be constructed of knotless netting or of netting constructed with non-slip knots, and shall be inserted in such a way that the meshes remain fully open at all times while fishing;

10.1.6. It shall be constructed so that the number of meshes in the anterior row of meshes of the panel is equal to or greater than the number of meshes in the posterior row of meshes in the panel;

10.1.7. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted in an un-tapered portion of the net, there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between each panel side and the adjacent selvedges of the net;

10.1.8. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted, wholly or partially, into a tapered portion of the net there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between the posterior row of meshes in the square-meshed panel and the adjacent selvedges of the net;

10.1.9. Measurements of the mesh size of any square-meshed panel inserted into any part of a net shall not be taken into consideration when assessing the mesh size of a towed net;

10.1.10. Where the vessel deploys a net in which a square mesh panel is inserted other than by virtue of this licence or other legislation, the square mesh panel shall adhere to the minimum mesh size requirements for the net into which it is inserted.

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Herring measures

10.2. It is prohibited to fish for herring from 00:01 21 September 2024 to 23:59 31 December 2024, within the part of ICES Division 7a bounded by the following coordinates:

- the east coast of Northern Ireland at latitude 54°15′ N,
- latitude 54°15′ N, longitude 5°15′ W,
- latitude 53°50′ N, longitude 5° 50′ W,
- the east coast of Ireland at latitude 53°50′ N;

10.3. By way of derogation from 10.2 the vessel may deploy drift nets within the restricted area if it holds, and complies with the conditions of, a valid Mourne Shore Herring Fishery licence, as issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland).

Irish Sea Observation Programme

10.4. Vessels must carry a scientific observer on-board their vessel if requested to do so.

10.5. If a vessel has been advised that it has been selected to carry an observer on board it must not leave port without the observer.

Access to the Northern Ireland 0-6 nautical mile zone under Voisinage

10.6. If specified in Part 1 Section 3, this licence permits vessels registered in the Republic of Ireland to fish in that part of the Northern Ireland zone between the baseline from which the territorial sea adjacent to Northern Ireland is measured and 6 nautical miles seaward from that baseline.

Prohibition on the deployment of mechanical, hydraulic, suction or any other form of dredging gear in the defined area of Donaghadee Sound

10.7. The vessel to which this licence relates is prohibited at all times from deploying, mechanical, suction, hydraulic or other form of, dredging gear in the defined area of Donaghadee Sound, County Down, Northern Ireland, subject to the derogation in 10.9.

10.8. The Defined area of Donaghadee Sound is the area:

- 54° 39.97N 005° 34.08W
- 54° 40.60N 005° 32.58W
- 54° 40.24N 005° 31.24W
- 34° 39.80N 004° 30.77W
- 54° 38.70N 005° 31.85W

10.9. By way of derogation from 10.10 the vessel to which this licence relates may deploy dredging gear for mussel seed only within the defined area of Donaghadee Sound if it holds, and complies with the conditions of, a valid licence for Collecting Mussel Seed, issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland).

Prohibition on fishing in Strangford Lough

10.10. The vessel to which this licence relates is prohibited at all times from fishing in Strangford Lough, County Down, Northern Ireland.

10.11. "Strangford Lough" means the area of sea to the northwest of an imaginary straight line drawn from Killard Point, County Down (54° 18.0'N and 5° 31.0'W) to Ballyquintin Point, County Down (54° 20.0'N and 5° 29.0'W).

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11. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN THE ENGLISH ZONE

Square mesh panel installation measures

11.1. Where the vessel is required, by virtue of this licence or other legislation, to fit a square mesh panel, unless otherwise specified, it must be fitted in accordance with the following requirements:

11.1.1. It shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of the net in front of any extension piece or at any point between the front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end

11.1.2. It shall not be obstructed in any way by either internal or external attachments;

11.1.3. It shall be at least three metres in length; except when incorporated into nets towed by vessels of less than 112 kilowatts, when it must be of at least two metres in length;

11.1.4. The rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line;

11.1.5. It shall be constructed of knotless netting or of netting constructed with non-slip knots, and shall be inserted in such a way that the meshes remain fully open at all times while fishing;

11.1.6. It shall be constructed so that the number of meshes in the anterior row of meshes of the panel is equal to or greater than the number of meshes in the posterior row of meshes in the panel;

11.1.7. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted in an un-tapered portion of the net, there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between each panel side and the adjacent selvedges of the net;

11.1.8. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted, wholly or partially, into a tapered portion of the net there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between the posterior row of meshes in the square-meshed panel and the adjacent selvedges of the net;

11.1.9. Measurements of the mesh size of any square-meshed panel inserted into any part of a net shall not be taken into consideration when assessing the mesh size of a towed net;

11.1.10. Where the vessel deploys a net in which a square mesh panel is inserted other than by virtue of this licence or other legislation, the square mesh panel shall adhere to the minimum mesh size requirements for the net into which it is inserted.

Sandeel closure

11.2. From 00:01 26 March 2024 the fishing of sandeel within English waters of ICES subarea 4 (North Sea) is prohibited by all vessels. “Sandeel” means fish species of the family *Ammodytidae*.

North Sea cod avoidance plan seasonal closures

11.3. The vessel must not be present in an area specified in the table below, other than when transiting at a speed of more than six knots (except in the case of force majeure or adverse conditions).

English Closure Number	Coordinates and Description	Closed Between
Seasonal closure 1	52’41.000’N 003’18.000’E – a circle of 10 nautical miles from this point	1 January – 30 April
Seasonal closure 2	52’10.500’N 002’50.750’E – a circle of 10 nautical miles from this point.	1 January – 30 April

11.4. The prohibition in 11.3 above shall not apply to vessels exclusively using pelagic trawls and purse seines.

Single Area Licence Conditions

11.5. Where the vessel deploys beam trawls within that part of British Fishery Limits which falls within ICES division 7e east of 5 degrees west (‘the relevant area’), it may not fish in any other ICES area within British Fishery Limits during the same voyage. For any voyage where beam trawls are deployed in the relevant area the vessel must depart from and return to (and only to) a UK port.

11.6. The vessel shall be exempt from the provisions in 11.5. provided the following requirements are met;

11.6.1. The master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer vessel contacts the UKFMC at least 4 hours and no more than 8 hours prior to entry into the area in the relevant area and, if requested, facilitates an inspection of the vessel at a position and time provided by the MMO FMC Operations team, prior to commencing fishing operations; and,

11.6.2. The master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer vessel contacts the UKFMC at least 4 hours and no more than 8 hours before leaving the relevant area and, if requested, facilitates an inspection of the vessel at a position and time provided by the MMO FMC Operations team, before leaving the relevant area.

11.7. The notification at 11.6.1. shall contain the following information:

11.7.1. subject heading: NOTIFICATION OF ENTRY INTO SOLE RECOVERY ZONE RELEVANT AREA

11.7.2. the name, external identification, and international radio call sign of the vessel;

11.7.3. the name of the master of the vessel;

11.7.4. Date/time/location of intended entry into the area and the intended commencement of fishing activity in the relevant area in the following format:

a) in respect of the position of entry, the approximate latitude and longitude of the position at which the vessel will enter the area, and
b) in respect of intended fishing grounds, the ICES statistical rectangles in which fishing operations will be commenced.

11.7.5. the total quantity of sole retained on board in kilograms live weight.

11.8. The notification at 11.6.2. shall contain the following information:

11.8.1. subject heading: NOTIFICATION OF EXIT FROM SOLE RECOVERY ZONE RELEVANT AREA

11.8.2. the name, external identification, and international radio call sign of the vessel;

11.8.3. the expected date/time/location of exiting the relevant area.

11.8.4. the total quantity of sole retained on board in kilograms live weight.

11.9. If, at the point the vessel enters the area the quantity of sole retained on board is different to the quantity reported in accordance with condition 11.7.5. above then the master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer of the vessel must immediately, and before commencing fishing operations, notify the UKFMC of the quantity of sole retained on board.

11.10. The vessel may not be present in the relevant area whilst carrying beam trawls on board other than in accordance with 11.5 and 11.6. or when transiting at a speed of greater than six knots (except in the case of force majeure or adverse conditions) in accordance with condition 5.1 or when in port. Beam trawls must be lashed and stowed in accordance with condition 5.3.

The South Devon Inshore Fishing Grounds

11.11. Vessels are prohibited from trawling or dredging in the areas outlined below:

11.11.1. "Area 2"

An area enclosed by the following coordinates:

- (11) 50°06.15N 003° 41.75W
- (O) 50°05.60N 003° 39.75W
- (P) 50°06.90N 003° 37.85W
- And then along the 6 nautical mile limit to point (11)

11.11.2. "Zone 3"

An area enclosed by the following coordinates:

- (O) 50° 05.60N 003° 39.75W
- (P) 50° 06.90N 003° 37.85W

Then along the 6 nautical mile limit to:

- (13) 50°07.25N 003° 35.50W
- (12) 50°05.20N 003° 38.30W

11.12. Condition 11.11 shall not apply to vessels fishing with pelagic trawls.

11.13. No fishing boat shall carry a scallop dredge or beam trawl in any part of the areas specified in condition 11.11 unless every part of any dredge or beam trawl is totally inboard the boat.

11.14. By way of derogation to condition 11.11.2 vessels may trawl using demersal towed gear from 01 January to 31 March (inclusive).

Crawfish Measures

Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS)

11.15. In English waters of ICES sea subarea 7, the minimum conservation reference size for crawfish (*Palinurus spp.)* shall be 110 mm and shall be measured, as the length of the carapace, parallel to the midline, from the tip of the rostrum to the midpoint of the distal dorsal edge of the carapace effective 00:01 1 January 2024.

Closed Area

11.16. This licence does not authorise fishing for; retaining on board; storing; or landing crawfish (*Palinurus spp.*) caught in English waters of ICES subarea 7 between 00:01 hours on 22 November 2026 to 23:59 hours on 31 May 2027.

European lobster measures

11.17. In English waters west of 2° 56.78′ W and south of 52° 0 N, the minimum conservation reference size for European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) shall be 90 mm.

In the rest of English waters, west of 2° 56.78′ W and north of 52° 0 N, as well as east of 2° 56.78′ W, the minimum conservation reference size for European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) shall be 88 mm.

All European lobsters shall be measured as the length of the carapace, parallel to the midline, from the back of either eye socket to the distal edge of the carapace (as per Regulation (EU) 2019/1214, Annex IV).

This licence condition will commence at 00.01 on 01 March 2026

Undulate ray measures

11.18. Adhering to provisions in paragraph 1 of Part 3: Annex to this licence, each calendar year a fishing vessel may retain on board and land any undulate ray caught in ICES divisions 7d and 7e provided that the following conditions are met:

a. In cases where it is not subject to the Landing Obligation set out in Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 1380/2013, no undulate ray which measures less than 78 cm when measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail shall be retained on board or landed,

b. In cases where it is not subject to the Landing Obligation set out in Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 1380/2013, no undulate ray which measures more than 97 cm when measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail shall be retained on board or landed.

c. No undulate ray may be transhipped.

d. Undulate ray may only be retained on board or landed whole or gutted.

Edible crab measures

11.19. In all English waters south of 52˚ 0’ 0” N and west of 2˚56’78” W, the minimum conservation reference size for Edible crab (Cancer Pagurus) shall be 150 mm for female crabs and 160 mm for male crabs.

11.19.1. All Edible crabs shall be measured, as the maximum width of the carapace, perpendicular to the antero-posterior midline of the carapace (as per Regulation (EU) 2019/1241, Annex 4).

11.19.2. This licence condition will commence at 00.01 on 01 February 2026.

12. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY TO UK PORTS

12.1. If landing into a UK port, the owner, master and/or charterer of a fishing vessel shall not commence landing, transhipment or make use of other port services, unless prior authorisation has been granted by the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre; and, the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) period, as stated in the prior notification form (PSC1or PSC2), has expired.

12.2. The master of a fishing vessel may commence landing, transhipment and/or make use of other port services prior to the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) with written permission from the competent authorities of the port State. The master shall present evidence of this permission on request by an inspector.

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LICENCE TO FISH IN UNITED KINGDOM WATERS – EU VESSEL

PART 3: ANNEX

1. Species for which the vessel must not fish

Description of Sea Fish	Areas of Sea
Blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a
European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 7j. United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 7a and 7g that are more than 12 nautical miles from baselines under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom.
European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 7d, 7e, 7f and 7h. United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 7a and 7g in waters within 12 nautical miles from baselines under the sovereignty of the United Kingdom. Applicable from 00:01hrs on 01 February to 23:59hrs on 31 March.
Small-eyed ray (*Raja microocellata*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a, subarea 4, and divisions 6a, 6b, 7a, 7h, and 7j
Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES subarea 6 and divisions 7a, 7f, 7g, 7h and 7j
Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 7d and 7e Applicable 00:01 hrs 01 May to 23:59 hrs 31 August
The following ICCAT species: 1. Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*)[2] 2. Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*)[2] 3. Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)[2] 4. Northern albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)[2] [3]	United Kingdom waters of the ICCAT convention area

2 Except as a by-catch

3 Unless the fishing vessel has been issued a licence to authorise targeting of Northern albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) by the United Kingdom Single Issuing Authority (UKSIA)

The following species of sawfish: 1. narrow sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidata*); 2. dwarf sawfish (*Pristis clavata*) 3. smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*); 4. largetooth sawfish (*Pristis pristis*); 5. green sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*);	All
Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) and white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*)	All
Smooth lantern shark (*Etmopterus pusillus*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4 and in United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 5, 6, 7 and 8
Reef manta ray (*Manta alfredi*)	All
Giant manta ray (*Manta birostris*)	All
The following species of *Mobula* rays: 1. devil fish (*Mobula mobular*); 2. lesser Guinean devil ray (*Mobula rochebrunei*); 3. spinetail mobula (*Mobula japanica*); 4. smoothtail mobula (*Mobula thurstoni*); 5. longhorned mobula (*Mobula eregoodootenkee*); 6. Munk's devil ray (*Mobula munkiana*); 7. Chilean devil ray (*Mobula tarapacana*); 8. shortfin devil ray (*Mobula kuhlii*); 9. lesser devil ray (*Mobula hypostoma*);	All
Norwegian skate (*Raja (Dipturus) nidarosiensis*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 6a, 6b, 7a, 7e, 7f, 7g and 7h
White skate (*Raja alba*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 6, 7 and 8
Guitarfishes (*Rhinobatidae*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 5, 6, 7 and 8
Angel shark (*Squatina squatina*)	All
Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and sea trout (*Salmo trutta*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 2 and 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
Houting (*Coregonus oxyrhynchus*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 4b
The Adriatic sturgeon (*Acipenser naccarii*) and common sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*)	All
Hatpin urchin (*Centrostephanus longispinus*)	All

Starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 2a and 7d and ICES subarea 4
Leafscale gulper shark (*Centrophorus squamosus*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4
Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4
Kitefin shark (*Dalatias licha*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4
Birdbeak dogfish (*Deania calcea*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4
Common skate (*Dipturus batis*) complex (*Dipturus cf. flossada* and *Dipturus cf. intermedia*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and ICES subareas 4, 6, 7 and 8
Great lanternshark (*Etmopterus princeps*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4
Tope shark (Galeorhinus galeus)	When taken with longlines in United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4 and in United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 5, 6, 7, and 8.
Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*)	All
Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES subarea 6
Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*)	All
Orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*)	United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 4, 5, 6, 7
Short Fin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus)*	All

2. Species subject to catch limits

Description of Sea Fish	**Areas of Sea**
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3. Flag state restrictions

Subject to authorisation indicated at Part 1 section 3, this licence will only authorise fishing by vessels flying the flag of a country listed in the below sea areas and only for the species listed in the adjacent column.

Flag state	Sea area of United Kingdom waters between 6 and 12 nautical miles of the baselines in ICES divisions 4c and 7d-g	Species permitted[4]
Belgium	An area between: (i) a line drawn due north from Cromer lighthouse and (ii) a line drawn due east from North Foreland lighthouse;	Demersal fish
	An area between: (i) a line drawn due east from North Foreland lighthouse and (ii) a line drawn due south from Dungeness New lighthouse;	Herring Demersal fish
	an area between: (i) a line drawn due south from Dungeness New lighthouse and (ii) a line drawn due south from Selsey Bill;	Demersal fish
	an area between: (i) a line drawn south-east from Straight Point lighthouse and (ii) the northernmost boundary of ICES division 7g (Latitude 52°N)	Demersal fish
Federal Republic of Germany	an area between: (i) a line drawn due east from North Foreland lighthouse and a line drawn due south from Dungeness New lighthouse.	Herring
Netherlands	an area between: (i) a line drawn due east from North Foreland lighthouse and a line drawn due south from Dungeness New lighthouse.	Herring

LICENCE TO FISH IN UNITED KINGDOM WATERS – EU VESSEL

Flag state	Sea area of United Kingdom waters between 6 and 12 nautical miles of the baselines in ICES areas 4c and 7d-g	Species permitted[4]
France	an area between: (i) a line drawn due east from Lowestoft lighthouse and (ii) longitude 2 degrees 56 minutes W;	All descriptions of sea fish
	an area between: (i) longitude 2 degrees 56 minutes W and (ii) a line drawn due south from Eddystone lighthouse;	Demersal fish
	an area between: (i) a line drawn due south from Eddystone lighthouse and (ii) a line drawn south-west from Longships lighthouse;	Demersal fish Lobster Crawfish Scallops
	an area between: (i) a line drawn south-west from Longships lighthouse and (ii) a line drawn north-west from Hartland Point lighthouse.	Demersal fish Lobster Crawfish
	Such part of the area within 12 miles of the baselines adjacent to Lundy Island, but outside 6 miles from all baselines, as lies to the north and east of a line drawn north-west from Hartland Point lighthouse.	Demersal fish
	Such part of the area within 12 miles, but outside 6 miles, from the baselines and between: (i) a line drawn north west from Hartland Point lighthouse and (ii) the northernmost boundary of ICES division 7g (Latitude 52°N) as lies outside 12 miles from the baselines adjacent to Lundy Island.	All descriptions of sea fish

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4 “Demersal fish” means all sea fish except salmon, migratory trout, mackerel, clupeoid fishes, sand eels, Norway pout, smelts, eels, great weevers, crustaceans and molluscs (other than squids).