

FACTSHEET: King scallop Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)

Why a king scallop FMP?

King scallop has been prioritised due to the stock's vulnerability to over-exploitation, the economic value of the fishery and a lack of evidence to assess and monitor the state of the stock properly. King scallop fisheries contribute culturally, socially, and economically to coastal communities through employment and recreational fishing interests. Better management action is needed to ensure scallops are fished sustainably to secure the future of this important stock and the future of the industry that depend on them.

What does the FMP do?

The plan collates the evidence on king scallop stocks and the king scallop fishery around England and Wales, identifies existing management measures and sets out short and long-term policies and actions to manage the king scallop fishery. The Scallop Industry Consultation Group Working Group (SICGWG) have developed this FMP in partnership with Defra and Welsh Government.

Summary -----

Current Management

King scallop fisheries have a range of management measures in place to protect stocks and the environment. Management in England and Wales is currently applied at national, regional, and local levels through fisheries licensing, legislation and byelaws.

The current measures include technical gear specifications, Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS) of 100mm round shell length, except for in the Irish Sea and Eastern Channel where MCRS is 110mm, king scallop licences or permits with conditions, seasonal closures to protect spawning stocks, closures to protect seabed features and days at sea fishing limits for vessels of 15m and over length, fishing in certain areas (Western Waters (WW) effort regime).

Goals

Regional based management is needed, together with improved species and fisheries data to ensure long-term sustainability of these important fisheries.

Proposed Actions

- Improve the evidence base
- Seek opportunities for strengthening existing measures, such as extending the scope of seasonal and area-based closures to protect spawning animals and if beneficial to localised sustainability and management, broad alignment of

measures where it is appropriate, such as gear requirements, to avoid unnecessary differences in measures applying across management borders.

- Exploring and developing science-based output controls, which would limit the proportion of stock that can be removed, and/or input control measures which would limit fishing effort.

Environmental Impacts

The king scallop FMP identifies three potential environmental risks; a) risk to seafloor integrity, b) bycatch c) marine litter. Based on current evidence, bycatch and marine litter are considered low risk while seafloor integrity is considered a higher risk issue.

What does this consultation mean for me?

This is an opportunity for you to have your say in the future of king scallop management in English and Welsh waters. Defra and Welsh Government we want to receive your input and views throughout the consultation and beyond.

Give us your views

Find the consultation online at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/fisheries-management-plans-1/kingscallop-fmp-consultation/>

or scan the QR code to visit the page.

The consultation is open to 23:59 on 1 October 2023.



What happens next?

Your feedback will be analysed and considered as part of the consultation process. Following this the plans will be updated to reflect as appropriate. The aim is to have the final plans published by the end of 2023.