

Annex 4: Glossary

Bycatch: Defined by section 52 of the Fisheries Act 2020 as (a) fish that are caught in the course of fishing for fish of a different description, or (b) animals other than fish that are caught in the course of fishing.

Cefas: The Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science is an Executive Agency of Defra (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs). Cefas collects, manages and interprets data on the aquatic environment, biodiversity and fisheries, and provides science evidence and advice to underpin Defra policy development.

Devolved Administrations: The collective term for the executive bodies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales: the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

Discards: The portion of a catch of fish which is not retained on board during commercial fishing operations.

Discarding: The practice of returning unwanted catches to the sea, either dead or alive.

Ecosystem: A biological community which consists of all the organisms and the physical environment with which they interact.

English waters: The area of sea within the limits of territorial waters (12 nautical miles) adjacent to the English coastline (the 'inshore' area). This also includes any area of sea beyond the territorial limit (the 'offshore' area), that is within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the UK sector of the continental shelf (up to 200 nautical miles).

European Union (EU): Union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe.

Fisher: A person who catches fish for a living or for recreational activity.

Fisheries: The capture of wild marine organisms (fish and shellfish); commercial fishing can use a variety of mobile and static gear, vessels and locations.

Fisheries Management Plan (FMP): A document, prepared and published under the Fisheries Act 2020 that sets out policies designed to restore one or more stocks of sea fish to, or maintain them at, sustainable levels.

Fisheries policy authorities: As defined by section 52 of the Fisheries Act 2020, fisheries policy authorities are (a) the Secretary of State, (b) the Scottish Ministers, (c) the Welsh Ministers, and (d) the Northern Ireland department.

Fishing gear: Nets and other equipment used for fishing.

Fishing industry: The economic activity concerned with catching fish for food or sport.

Gear: see fishing gear.

Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS): Defined by section 2(1) of the Fisheries Act 2020 as a document which sets out the policies of the fisheries policy authorities for achieving, or contributing to the achievement of, the fisheries objectives in the Fisheries Act 2020.

Landing obligation (LO): The landing obligation applies to all fishing vessels, including those under 10 metres in length. It does not apply to recreational fisheries. All quota species must be landed and counted against quota unless exemptions apply.

Observer programmes: The Cefas observer programme monitors catches of commercial fishing vessels in England and Wales. The primary objective of the programme is to collect data on discarded catches. Similar programmes exist in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM): Integrated onboard systems that may include cameras, gear sensors, video storage, and Global Positioning System units, which capture comprehensive videos and are used to monitor fishing activity with associated sensor and positional information.

Sensitive species: As defined in section 52 of the Fisheries Act 2020, sensitive species means: (a) any species of animal or plant listed in Annex II or IV of Directive 92/43/EEC of the Council of the European Communities on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (as amended from time to time), (b) any other species of animal or plant, other than a species of fish, whose habitat, distribution, population size or population condition is adversely affected by pressures arising from fishing or other human activities, or (c) any species of bird.

Stakeholder: A person with an interest or concern in something.

Sustainable fishing: In the Joint Fisheries Statement, sustainable fishing means environmental, economic and social considerations are appropriately balanced when managing our fisheries to benefit present and future generations. It means ensuring that fish stocks can be fished, commercially and recreationally, both now and in the future. In doing so, the fisheries policy authorities will carefully consider both the short term and the long term impacts of decisions on fish stocks and the fishing industry before acting; short term socio-economic decisions should not significantly compromise the long term health of the marine environment. These decisions will need to recognise the cultural importance of fishing through maintaining and, where possible, strengthening coastal communities and livelihoods alongside the requirement for fish stocks to reach and maintain sustainable levels.

Total Allowable Catch (TAC): The total allowable catch (TAC) is a catch limit set for a particular fishery or stock, generally for a year or a fishing season. TACs are usually expressed in tonnes of live weight equivalent but are sometimes set in terms of numbers of fish.