

Title: Cockle Fisheries Management Plan		De-Minimis Assessment (DMA)		
Date: October 2024				Stage: Consultation
BRU No: N/A				Source of intervention: Domestic
Lead department or agency: Defra				Type of measure: Other
Summary: Rationale and Options		Contact for enquiries: annabel.stockwin@defra.gov.uk		
Total Net Present Value £0.0m	Business Net Present Value £0.0m	Net cost to business per year £0.0m		

Rationale for intervention and intended outcomes.

Fish stocks are a common pool resource; they are non-excludable, yet rivalrous. Rivalrous here means anyone can catch a fish, but once a fish is caught and retained it cannot be caught again. They are non-excludable because it is not possible for one actor to exclude another from catching fish. These characteristics mean government intervention is needed to avoid fisheries becoming over-exploited.

The Fisheries Act 2020¹ sets out the legal framework to achieve “a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK” and places an expectation on the UK’s Fisheries Policy Authorities to publish Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). The Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS)², published in November 2022 sets out how the ambition of the Fisheries Act 2020 will be achieved in practice and lists 43 proposed FMPs.

The aim of the draft cockle FMP is to provide national clarity on a disconnected, locally based management framework. The draft cockle FMP captures the current cockle legislative framework and evidence on which various harvest approaches are being implemented in the ten Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) and presents policies and actions to be tested at consultation. The FMP brings together and builds on the complete portfolio of existing management measures and research for cockles with the purpose of explaining the harvest approach it is taking.

Describe the policy options considered.

Option 0: Do Nothing – continue without a national framework for emerging fisheries, no national cockle forum and no clarity on the management and composition of private cockle beds.

- Lack of strengthened/ new, evidence-based management would increase the likelihood of stocks being overexploited with insufficient protection for the wider marine environment and be legally non-compliant.

Option 1: Self- Regulation – no formal Government FMP but industry introduces voluntary management measures.

- The introduction of non-regulatory measures, such as voluntary measures developed and introduced by industry, would unlikely go far enough to ensure stocks are being fished sustainably and the wider marine environment is protected. This is because financial incentives would not align with change behaviour.
- Voluntary measures are unenforceable so there’s no guarantee they will increase protection to stocks.

Option 2 (preferred option): Cockle FMP

Sets out policies **to provide clarity** around a national framework designed to manage emerging fisheries, improve understanding introduce a record of private fisheries, and establish a national forum to address overarching issues affecting cockle and other bivalve species.

¹ Fisheries Act 2020 (legislation.gov.uk)

² Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Rationale for DMA rating

A DMA has been produced because the FMP itself will have no direct monetised impacts and as such fall below the £5m threshold necessary for an IA. When individual actions are specifically implemented, the statutory or non-statutory mechanism through which these will be implemented will have their own impacts assessed.

Will the policy be reviewed? Yes		If applicable, set review date:		
Are these organisations in scope?	Micro Yes	Small Yes	Medium No	Large No
Senior Policy Sign-off:	<input type="checkbox"/>		Date: 27 March 2024	
Better Regulation Unit Sign-off:	<input type="checkbox"/>		Date: 2 May 2024	

1.0 Policy Rationale

Policy background

1. The Fisheries Act 2020³ provides the framework to manage our fisheries as an independent coastal state outside of the EU Common Fisheries Policy. The Act requires the UK fisheries policy authorities (Defra, and the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) to prepare and publish fisheries management plans (FMPs) to help deliver our ambition for sustainable fisheries. The Joint Fisheries Statement⁴ (JFS), published in November 2022 sets out how the ambition of the Fisheries Act 2020 will be achieved in practice and lists 43 proposed FMPs to be published, one of which is the Cockles FMP in English waters. The fisheries policy authorities have a statutory obligation to prepare and publish any FMP on that list in accordance with the timescales set out in the JFS.
2. FMPs set out the policies designed to restore one or more stocks of sea fish to, or maintain them at, sustainable levels. Each plan will specify the stock(s), type of fishing and the geographic area covered. Each FMP will also identify the measures that will be used to deliver its policies. Such measures may include both existing or new regulations, statutory instruments, technical measures, or non-statutory routes such as research plans, voluntary agreements, or codes of conduct. The precise mechanisms used will depend on the policies set out in the plan and, where appropriate, will be enforced by the relevant national fisheries authority. This DMA has been produced to support the consultation on the Cockle Fisheries Management Plan. The purpose of the consultation is to seek views from those with an interest on the proposed goals and actions set out in the plan. The consultation also seeks feedback on the evidence presented in the plan and provides an opportunity for respondents to provide additional evidence that may support the FMP goals.

Problem under consideration

3. Non-quota species (NQS) fisheries, including cockles, are of significant interest to UK vessels, given the high monetary value of NQS, and their importance to local communities. In 2022 landings of NQS made up 17.4% (110,000 tonnes) of the total quantity of landings (640,000 tonnes) by the UK fleet and 28.8% (£299m) of the total value (£1,037m) into the UK and abroad⁵.

³ [Fisheries Act 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

⁴ [Joint Fisheries Statement \(JFS\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

⁵ [UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

4. Cockle fisheries occur predominantly in inshore waters. Within the 0-6 nautical mile (nm) zone, cockle fishing is regulated by the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs). There is no national minimum conservation reference size (MCRS), the size of a living marine aquatic species, below which restrictions on catching apply for cockles. IFCAs have introduced their own MCRSs in response to the specific management needs of local cockle stocks. Cockles are non-quota stocks, which means that fishing of these stocks is not currently subject to catch limits in offshore waters. However, some IFCAs have introduced their own catch limits.
5. The cockle fishery presents valuable fishing opportunities to the inshore fleet at local level. Out of the 10 IFCAs, only four (Kent and Essex, Eastern, Southern and North Western) have commercially valuable cockle beds. These beds are located within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The combined average annual landings between 2016 and 2022 for these regions with significant commercial fisheries were 11,000t with an price of £900 per tonne⁶. There is currently a modest domestic market for cockles. Export markets are significant but exact data is not available because of issues with aggregated reporting mechanisms. The remaining six IFCAs report no significant fishery in Northumberland, North Eastern, Sussex, Devon & Severn, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly IFCAs. However, due to the widespread distribution of cockles around the English coast some of these IFCAs have regulations in place relevant to the cockle FMP.
6. The current management framework is varied and depending on the area and nature of the fishery (aquaculture or wild) it is implemented by byelaws, Several, Regulating and Hybrid Orders. Most of the cockle fisheries occur within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Alongside the day-to-day management of the fishery, the IFCAs also have a statutory duty to protect designated MPA, SPA or SAC features such as migrating and overwintering birds.
7. Recognising the evolution of cockle management, changes in harvesting methods and market drivers over time, a reference period of 2016-2022 is presented within the cockle FMP. Landings data reported within this FMP consist of data provided by the IFCAs. Landings values are based on an estimate of £900 per tonne, however it is understood that this value can vary greatly.
8. The most significant commercial cockle fisheries in English waters are found in the following IFCA districts:
 - Kent and Essex IFCA
 - Eastern IFCA
 - North Western IFCA
 - Southern IFCA
9. These IFCAs collect cockle specific fishing activity data as a condition of permit or order licensing schemes. The combined average annual landings for these regions were 11,000t with an estimated value of £10m⁷. The remaining six IFCAs report no significant fishery in Northumberland, North Eastern, Sussex, Devon & Severn, Cornwall, and Isles of Scilly IFCAs. However, due to the widespread distribution of cockles around the English coast some of these IFCAs have regulations in place relevant to the cockle FMP.

⁶ Information provided by IFCAs

⁷ Information provided by IFCAs

There is currently a modest domestic market for cockles. Export markets are significant but exact data is not available because of issues with aggregated reporting mechanisms.

10. The management of the cockle fishery in English waters is disjointed. Different management approaches have evolved over time in response to the needs of local stocks and fleets and to allow the IFCA's to meet their environmental obligations.
11. New emerging fisheries in inshore and offshore waters require a framework that puts in place clear and consistent management processes to be followed by regulators while considering the needs of local stocks. This is to allow the IFCA's to intervene quickly when a new fishery emerges. Such a framework is currently missing.
12. Lack of an appropriate framework for emerging fisheries in English inshore and offshore waters is further compounded by the species' biology and ephemeral nature of the fishery, which is vulnerable to bad weather, tidal forces, and environmental stress factors. Therefore, stocks require different management approaches in very small areas. Given the complexities of the biology and differing management needs, there is a risk that cockle stocks are particularly susceptible to localised depletion and slow recovery from overexploitation.
13. Other unknowns when considering the sustainability of cockle stocks is around the management, composition, impact and contribution of private cockle beds. It is important that the government has in place a framework that will allow us to understand the health of wild cockle populations within private fisheries. Such stocks contribute to the wider stock abundance within inshore waters and beyond.
14. Information on private cockle fisheries is currently limited. Understanding the impact private fisheries have on stocks, would also support the proposed framework of the draft FMP and relevant actions that aim to enhance stock sustainability. We assume that private fisheries also make a contribution to local economies, but we do not currently have any data.
15. At consultation the draft cockle FMP will focus on a management framework for emerging fisheries, both in inshore and offshore waters; assess the need for a national cockle forum; ask for evidence on the management and composition of private fisheries.

Rationale for intervention

16. Cockles were prioritised for early development of a Fisheries Management Plan because they met the following criteria:
 - a. High economic value contributing to coastal communities.
 - b. Wider social and economic importance of the stock and its associated fisheries, considering factors such as employment levels, local income, recreational fishing interest, contribution to coastal communities, and legal or governance and institutional structures.
 - c. Ecosystem significance of the stock, including factors such as its fisheries' impact on the ecosystem and interactions with non-target species including protected species.
17. The IFCA's with cockle fisheries have developed MSY proxy approaches, such as the rule of thirds or Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE), to ensure stock sustainability. In such

approaches, the IFCA's take into account interactions with co-located bivalve fisheries while ensuring they meet their environmental obligations in relation to migratory, overwintering birds which rely on cockles for food. Through the cockle FMP actions, guidance will be provided on appropriate assessment methods that could be used where fisheries emerge.

18. The cockle FMP is not proposing management measures within this iteration. IFCA's have in place an existing legislative framework at the scale relevant to their cockle fisheries.
19. The FMP will test at consultation certain policies and actions to link local management with wider policy considerations that are relevant to all cockle fisheries in English waters. It will also highlight evidence gaps that managers need to address in order to deliver sustainable fisheries.
20. Government intervention is required as fish stocks are a common pool resource. That is, that they are non-excludable, yet rivalrous. Rivalrous here means anyone can catch a fish but once a fish is caught and retained it cannot be caught again. They are non-excludable because it is not possible for one actor to exclude another from catching fish. These characteristics would lead to the classic economic problem of 'the tragedy of the commons', were the government not to intervene. This is because market agents would only consider the benefits of catching. They would not weigh it against the impact it will have on the stock health, overall, leading to overexploitation of the stock. Government intervention would prevent this overexploitation of fish stocks.
21. A thriving marine environment has positive externalities to society which would not be captured by the market mechanism. Industry alone would not be able to provide adequate protection of the marine environment as this requires coordination and enforcement that is not possible within markets. Government intervention would prevent the overexploitation of fish stocks and increase protection of the wider marine environment. This FMP provides the framework through which government intervention would work.

Policy objective

22. The objective of this policy, in accordance with the Fisheries Act 2020, the Joint Fisheries Statement and the 25 Year Environment Plan, is to contribute to the health and abundance of key commercial species and promote healthy seas and economic stability.
23. The cockle FMP sets out the existing IFCA policy framework for managing cockle stocks in English waters. Commercially viable cockle fisheries are managed by appropriate MSY proxies. Such proxies enable the IFCA's to manage interactions with co-located bivalve fisheries, while ensuring they meet their environmental obligations in relation to migratory, overwintering birds which rely on cockles for food.
24. The IFCA's with cockle fisheries have developed MSY proxy approaches, such as the rule of thirds or CPUE, to ensure stock sustainability. In such approaches, the IFCA's take into account interactions with co-located bivalve fisheries, while ensuring they meet their environmental obligations in relation to migratory, overwintering birds which rely on

cockles for food. Through the cockle FMP actions, guidance will be provided on appropriate assessment methods that could be used where fisheries emerge.

25. The FMP also highlights where gaps exist and what is required to fill those gaps and provide the necessary protection for stocks now and in the long term.
26. The fishery management actions for the cockle FMP are designed to address key fisheries management issues facing the cockle fisheries in English waters, and aim to:
 - To develop a framework to support the role of the FMP in realising sustainable cockle fisheries in English waters.
 - Consider developing national monitoring and reporting mechanisms to detect inshore and offshore emerging fisheries.
 - Review the data collection framework and evidence base relating to interactions between cockle fisheries and designated bird prey requirements.
 - Assess the data collection framework for social and economic data used to inform management decisions.
 - Establish a national cockle FMP forum.

Options considered

Option 0: Do Nothing - no FMP or related management measures developed.

- The Government would fail to meet commitments under the Fisheries Act 2020 and Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) to publish FMPs, increasing risk of legal challenge.
- Lack of strengthened/ new, evidence-based management would increase the likelihood of stocks being overexploited with insufficient protection for the wider marine environment.
- This causes a lack of clarity on a national framework for emerging fisheries will continue to undermine the expectations the government has for the management of cockle fisheries in English waters, prevent regulators from strengthening the management of cockle stocks and fail to provide clarity to the fleet and to the sector on how new cockle fisheries can be brought into an appropriate management structure. This will increase the likelihood of cockle stocks being overexploited or not husbanded appropriately with insufficient protection for the wider marine environment and fail to deliver legal obligations.

Option 1: Self- Regulation – no formal Government FMP but industry introduces voluntary management measures.

- No legally recognised FMP which would result in above commitments not being met and associated legal risks.
- The introduction of non-regulatory measures, such as voluntary measures developed and introduced by industry, would not go far enough to ensure stocks are being fished sustainably and the wider marine environment is protected. This is because it relies too heavily on the industry's desire to commit to and put resources to applying and observing voluntary measures. As voluntary measures are unenforceable, there is no guarantee they will be consistently adhered to and provide a high enough level of protection to stocks.

Option 2 (preferred option): Cockle FMP

- Meets the above commitments under the Fisheries Act and JFS sets out the legal framework to achieve “a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK” and complies with the statutory obligation in the Fisheries Act to prepare and publish the cockle FMP (the FMP having been included in the JFS which was published in November 2022).
- Sets out the policies designed to continue to manage or to restore stocks to, or maintain them at, sustainable levels, by bringing together available evidence, mapping where there are gaps and opportunities to fill them, setting a clear pathway to developing and introducing improved, evidence-based management (both regulatory and non-regulatory) in collaboration with industry/ stakeholders. It also sets out policies around a national framework designed to manage emerging fisheries, introduce a record of private fisheries, and establish a national forum to address overarching issues affecting cockle and other bivalve species.

2.0 Rationale for De Minimis Rating

27. The purpose of this de-minimis assessment is to:

- a. Assess the impact of the cockle FMP as a new policy according to the better regulation framework.
- b. Demonstrate that, at this stage, there are no monetary impacts to business.
- c. Allow Defra to formally consult on and publish the cockle FMP.
- d. Begin to assess proposed approaches and measures as set out in the draft cockle FMP (specific measures will be assessed separately as and when they are developed and implemented).

28. Whilst the cockle FMP includes a variety of proposed goals and actions that will be used to deliver its policies, these actions will not be implemented immediately when the plan is published. Instead, specific plans must be developed through the appropriate processes before being implemented; such development may require further evidence and/or stakeholder, legal and policy input. The appropriate process will depend on whether the actions being introduced are statutory or non-statutory.

29. The cockle FMP does not result in direct measurable impacts at this stage because the FMP does not result in new regulation upon publication. Therefore, this document is a narrative assessment and does not include monetised costs to business. It is also a de-minimis assessment rather than a full impact assessment because the impact is less than £5m.

As specific actions are implemented, further impact assessments or de-minimis assessments will be completed that include the monetised costs to business of that measure.

3.0 Costs and Benefits

30. Whilst the cockle FMP identifies goals and actions that could be introduced post-consultation, these proposed actions will be developed further and do not currently have sufficient detail for any economic analysis to be done. These proposed actions could be regulatory or deregulatory, and positive or negative to business, hence it is not possible to estimate impacts. As it is not possible to provide detailed costs and benefits in this DMA, background figures to understand the potential scale of impact and scope have been provided. When individual actions are specifically implemented, the statutory or non-statutory mechanism through which these will be implemented will have their own impacts assessed in the appropriate manner.

32. From 2016 to 2022, the annual average of cockle landings was 11,000 tonnes. With an average price of £900 per tonne, the annual value amounts to £10 million⁸. The most productive cockle fisheries are the Thames Estuary Cockle Fisheries Order (TEFCO) and The Wash, with respective landings of 42,000 and 32,000 tonnes during the same period⁹. Further details on landings can be found in the Annex.
33. The number of vessels differs across fisheries, ranging from small hand-fishing vessels to larger ones. TEFCO, the largest fishery, comprises 14 vessels over 10m in length. The Poole fishery, on the other hand, has a significant number of smaller vessels, with 43 under 10m in length. A detailed breakdown of fishing vessels by fisheries is available in the Annex.
34. No specific assessment has been conducted for the FMP regarding small and micro businesses, as the primary focus of the legislation is on the fishing industry. This industry is predominantly composed of small and micro businesses. Out of 4,070 fishing businesses, only 10 would not be classified as small or micro businesses. 115 would be considered small businesses, and the vast majority, 3,945, would be classified as micro businesses. Therefore, when evaluating the impacts of the legislation, our primary focus is on these small and micro businesses. Consequently, we do not anticipate a disproportionate effect on small businesses.

Small and Micro Business Assessment

35. No specific assessment has been conducted for the FMP regarding small and micro businesses, as the primary focus of the legislation is on the fishing industry. This industry is predominantly composed of small and micro businesses. Small and micro business defined by the better regulation framework are 10-49 employees and 0-9 employees respectively¹⁰. Out of 4,070 fishing businesses, only 10 would not be classified as small or micro businesses. 115 would be considered small businesses, and the vast majority, 3,945, would be classified as micro businesses¹¹. Therefore, when evaluating the impacts of the legislation, our primary focus is on these small and micro businesses. Consequently, we do not anticipate a disproportionate effect on small and micro businesses.

Wider impacts

31. There is considered to be minimal impact on the wider society, the benefits and impacts are likely to be specific to those involved with the fishery. However indirect benefits are assumed from the measures which support wider environmental sustainability such as for coastal communities and species.

4.0 Post publication review

32. When producing policy and determining the need for regulatory impact assessments, the Better Regulation Framework guidance and the better regulation principles of robust evidence, transparency and proportionality are taken into consideration. Where policies require legislation, a regulatory impact assessment is undertaken and submitted to the

⁸ Information provided by IFCAs.

⁹ Information provided by IFCAs.

¹⁰ BETTER REGULATION FRAMEWORK

¹¹ UK business: activity, size and location

regulatory policy committee for independent scrutiny. This will be in advance of introducing any secondary legislation for all measures that are above the £5 million per annum threshold for net costs to business. Analysis to support these changes is produced in line with HMT Green Book methodology and includes consideration of the impact on small and micro businesses. This is not required for measures below the £5 million equivalent annual net direct costs to business (EANDCB) threshold and for measures below this threshold Defra will, if appropriate, produce de-minimis assessments.

33. When new measures are introduced and result in new or changed regulation, Defra will complete a monetised impact, or de-minimis assessment for the specific measures, depending on the monetised cost to business.

FMP review

34. The Fisheries Act requires the effectiveness of the FMP is regularly assessed. The FMP must be reviewed at least every six years or sooner if relevant evidence, international obligations, or wider events require a change in the policies set out in the FMP.

35. The results from the individual FMP assessments will contribute to the formal report on the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) that will be published every three years. The JFS reports will be laid before the UK's legislatures. The report will set out the extent to which the policies contained in FMPs have been implemented and have affected stock levels in the UK.

1. **Review status:** Please classify with an 'x' and provide any explanations below.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunset clause	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other review clause	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other reason	<input type="checkbox"/>	No plan to review
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The Fisheries Act 2020 requires the Cockles FMP to be reviewed at least every 6 years to assess the extent to which the policies in the plan have been implemented and how the stock has been affected.

2. **Expected review date** (month and year, xx/xx):

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	/	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Five years from when the Regulations come into force
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Before the end of the period of 6 years beginning with the day on which the FMP is published

3. Rationale for PIR approach:

Formal review:

- The Fisheries Act 2020 requires the cockles FMP to be reviewed at least every 6 years to assess the extent to which the policies in the plan have been implemented and how the stock has been affected.
- Depending upon the outcome of the review, the FMP could be revoked, amended, replaced, or remain the same.
- This formal review is independent of the post implementation review process.

Independent evaluation:

- A 3-year independent process, impact and value for money evaluation of the FMP programme and individual FMPs is underway currently due to run to March 2025. The evaluation will:
- Generate key learning to support adaptive management and provide an independent and objective assessment of the FMP programme objectives.
- Capture lessons learnt by the FMP to inform the design and implementation of future FMPs.
- Contribute to monitoring and evaluation plans to generate the evidence needed to assess performance to support the 6-yearly reviews of FMPs.

Implementing measures:

- The FMP sets out the goals, policies and actions needed to achieve its stated goals. It does not implement those actions upon publication. When proposed new measures are implemented, they may require separate impact assessments, monitoring regimes and post implementation reviews.
- Progress against the actions in the plan will be routinely monitored and reported through Defra's normal corporate reporting functions.
- The FMPs are listed in the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 as key measures to achieve the headline targets. FMPs will be part of the EIP23 reporting process.

FMP post implementation review:

- A post implementation review for the cockle FMP will coincide with the formal review to assess the wider impacts of the FMP and its associated actions. This review will include wider impacts to business and unintended consequences.
- This review will also collate the impacts of individual goals and actions where they have been implemented and provide a holistic assessment of the impact of the FMP.

Monitoring:

- The FMP must set out the indicators and specific monitoring required to assess its effectiveness.
- Stock status will be monitored using available stock assessment data.
- Compliance with harvesting rates will use the data on fish landings collected by the IFCA's.
- Information will be drawn from on-going data collection by the IFCA's, MMO and Seafish to assess progress against social and economic objectives in the FMP.
- The ongoing monitoring of the wider environment through the UK Marine Strategy and MPA programmes will provide information to assess the impact of the FMP' policies to mitigate the impact of the fishery on the wider environment.

Stakeholder Views

- Stakeholder views will be sought through the cockle FMP Evidence Group which contributed to the development of the cockle FMP evidence plan and cockle FMP management goals, the Shellfish Association of Great Britain, IFCA's and various

environmental bodies. This collaboration will be ongoing with a commitment to increased engagement as the FMP is published and implemented.

- Stakeholder views will also be sought through the independent FMP Evaluation Programme.
- Stakeholder views will be sought through any public consultation on specific management goals and actions in the FMP and through public consultation during the formal review process if the FMP is amended, revoked, or replaced.

5.0 Annex

Table 1 - Annual tonnage of cockle caught by fishery.

Year	Kent and Essex IFCA		Eastern IFCA	North West IFCA			Southern IFCA
	TECFO	Permit	Wash	Morecambe Bay	Wirral	Ribble	Poole Harbour
2016	5,300	0	8,200	NA	NA	NA	13
2017	3,600	300	5,300	NA	NA	NA	28
2018	6,500	260	4,500	1,400	870	closed	44
2019	7,800	160	3,700	290	closed	120	79
2020	7,000	0	3,500	1,700	170	closed	11
2021	6,000	0	3,500	590	closed	closed	34
2022	5,400	0	3,400	110	closed	370	34
Total	42,000	730	32,000	4,100	1,000	500	250

*North West hand gathered instead of vessels.

Table 2 – Number of annual vessels by fishery over 10m in length

Year	Kent and Essex IFCA		Eastern IFCA	Southern IFCA	
	TECFO	Permit	WFO	Poole permit	Solent permit
2016	0	0	20	39	0
2017	0	0	19	39	0
2018	0	0	17	42	0
2019	0	0	16	43	0
2020	0	0	17	43	0
2021	0	0	17	43	23
2022	0	2	11	43	31

Table 3 – Number of annual vessels by fishery over 10m in length

Year	Kent and Essex IFCA		Eastern IFCA	Southern IFCA	
	TECFO	Permit	WFO	Poole permit	Solent permit
2016	14	0	35	0	0
2017	14	33	34	0	0
2018	14	24	34	0	0

2019	14	30	35	0	0
2020	14	0	36	0	0
2021	14	0	19	0	3
2022	14	28	11	0	4