



Department  
for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Fisheries Management Plan for Celtic Sea and Western Channel demersal species

## Engagement Report

February 2026

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# Summary

This report provides an overview of the stakeholder engagement carried out by Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) and undertaken as part of the development of the Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal Fisheries Management Plan (CSWCD FMP). It outlines the overall approach to stakeholder engagement, summarises key engagement events, and describes additional communication methods used throughout the FMP development process.

The CSWCD FMP forms part of the fourth tranche of FMPs being developed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Throughout 2024 and 2025, the MMO used a series of engagement methods as part of both formal and informal engagement to:

- Raise awareness about development of the CSWCD FMP for English and Welsh waters amongst stakeholders; and
- Present draft FMP content such as evidence requirements and proposed management interventions to stakeholders to gather feedback, alternatives, and additional evidence that should be considered.

The CSWCD FMP covers English and Welsh waters of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) divisions 7e, 7f, 7g and 7h and includes the following species:

| Family            | Species   |
|-------------------|---|
| Gadiformes        | cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> ), haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> ), pollack ( <i>Pollachius pollachius</i> ), whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> ), blue ling ( <i>Molva dypterygia</i> ), roundnose grenadier ( <i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i> ), saithe ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> ).                               |
| Pleuronectiformes | plaice ( <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> ), sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> ), megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> ), four-spot megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus boscii</i> ).   |
| Lophiformes       | white anglerfish ( <i>Lophius piscatorius</i> ), black-bellied anglerfish ( <i>Lophius budegassa</i> )  |
| Nephrops          | nephrops ( <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> ).  |
| Elasmobranchs     | <b>Skates and rays:</b> blonde ray ( <i>Raja brachyura</i> ), thornback ray ( <i>Raja clavata</i> ), cuckoo ray ( <i>Leucoraja naevus</i> ), spotted ray ( <i>Raja montagui</i> ), small eyed ray ( <i>Raja microocellata</i> ), sandy ray ( <i>Leucoraja circularis</i> ), undulate ray ( <i>Raja undulata</i> ), shagreen ray |

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
|             | ( <i>Leucoraja fullonica</i> ), common skate complex (blue skate ( <i>Dipturus batis</i> ) and flapper skate ( <i>Dipturus intermedium</i> )), white skate ( <i>Rostoraja alba</i> ), longnosed skate ( <i>Dipturus oxyrinchus</i> ).  |
|             | <b>Deep water sharks:</b> deep water catsharks ( <i>Aristurus spp.</i> ), frilled shark ( <i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i> ), gulper sharks ( <i>Centrophorus spp.</i> ), Portuguese dogfish ( <i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i> ), longnose velvet dogfish ( <i>Centroscymnus crepidater</i> ), black dogfish ( <i>Centroscyllium fabricii</i> ), birdbeak dogfish ( <i>Deania calceus</i> ), kitefin shark ( <i>Dalatias licha</i> ), greater lantern shark ( <i>Etmopterus princeps</i> ), velvet belly lanternshark ( <i>Etmopterus spinax</i> ), mouse catshark ( <i>Galeus murinus</i> ), six-gilled shark ( <i>Hexanchus griseus</i> ), sailfin roughshark ( <i>Oxynotus paradoxus</i> ), knifetooth dogfish ( <i>Scymnodon ringens</i> ), Greenland shark ( <i>Somniosus microcephalus</i> ). |
| Spariformes | red seabream ( <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> ).  |

## Stakeholder identification

Prior to stakeholder engagement, interested FMP parties required identification. To do this, stakeholder analysis was carried out which involved first creating a list of all possible stakeholders relevant to the FMP and then assigning a category to each stakeholder (Collaborate, Consult, or Inform) based on various factors (see Annex 1). Those who were deemed to fall under the category of “collaborate” were approached to be part of the Working Group (WG) (see Annex 2). Detailed information on the criteria applied during stakeholder analysis can be found in Annex 1. The stakeholder list and associated assigned level of engagement was fluid and therefore changed as the FMP developed.

## Working Group

To assist in the development of the CSWCD FMP, the MMO set up a Working Group (WG). The purpose of the WG was to advise the MMO as the lead delivery partner. In addition, the WG had the function of a forum for engagement on the FMP, and members were encouraged to seek opportunities to engage the wider fishing industry (commercial and recreational) and other key stakeholders where appropriate to feed their views into the FMP’s development.

The WG membership was composed of fishing sector representatives (see Annex 2) and also included representatives from Welsh Government. These individuals were invited to attend WG meetings held online due to the large geographic spread of potential members. Members who could not attend online meetings were encouraged to provide feedback via email and one-to-one telephone conversations. One face-to-face WG meeting was held on 25 March 2025 to develop the FMPs policy goals.

Throughout the preparation phase of the development of the FMP, MMO sought feedback and input from the group on fishery concerns, drafted elements of the FMP and potential opportunities that could be proposed in the first iteration. Detailed information on the number of attendees and links to published meeting notes can be found below in Table 1.

**Table 1: CSWCD FMP Working Group meeting dates, attendance and links to meeting notes. OGDs stands for Other Governmental Departments, including Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities (IFCAs). Other includes those attendees from non-governmental organisations and academia.**

| Date       | Purpose of Meeting   | Minutes             |
|------------|--|---------------------|
| 01/10/2024 | WG meeting to introduce and provide an overview of the FMP. Discussion about issues and opportunities.                             | <a href="#">WG1</a> |
| 18/11/2024 | WG meeting to provide engagement feedback and overview of evidence collected.  | <a href="#">WG2</a> |
| 22/01/2025 | WG meeting to discuss engagement and policy development plan for 2025  | <a href="#">WG3</a> |
| 25/03/2025 | WG draft policy workshop, in person, Plymouth  | N/A                 |
| 21/05/2025 | WG meeting to provide an overview of FMP draft policy goals, followed by group discussion  | <a href="#">WG4</a> |
| 02/07/2025 | WG meeting to discuss FMP draft policy goal updates and Q&A  | <a href="#">WG5</a> |
| 14/01/2026 | WG meeting to provide a walk-through of key sections of the draft FMP, and changes following the last WG. Followed by Q&A session. | <a href="#">WG6</a> |

The WG were given the opportunity to review the draft FMP policies. During the 4th WG meeting the MMO provided an on-screen walk through of the first draft policies. Draft policy goals included an associated rationale, evidence dependencies and stakeholder views.

The description of the fisheries and stocks provided evidence from commissioned biological and ecological data, as well as key MMO landings data by species, gear type, and more. Furthermore, an economic overview of the fishery and survey-based recreational data were included. The environmental considerations section included commissioned risk assessments of certain gear types associated with the FMP fishery on MPA features and the impacts of achieving Good Environmental Status of UK Marine Strategy Descriptors.

The WG were given 3 weeks to review the draft FMP policies and provide feedback through multiple channels.

During the 5<sup>th</sup> WG meeting, the MMO provided an update on the draft inshore fisheries management proposal, which had been requested by the WG at the previous meeting.

The WG were presented the final draft FMP during the 6<sup>th</sup> WG meeting, followed by a Q&A session.

## **Wider stakeholder engagement**

A variety of communications and engagement activities took place to engage stakeholders beyond the WG. This included outreach to the commercial fishing industry, recreational anglers, academics and environmental non-governmental organizations (eNGOs). Where possible and appropriate, the FMP development team coordinated engagement activities with other Tranche 4 FMPs and made use of existing engagement platforms, such as the Regional Fisheries Groups (RFGs), to avoid creating entirely new events and helping to avoid duplication and address ongoing concerns around stakeholder fatigue. All feedback and evidence gathered through these channels was logged and considered in the development of the FMP.

It is important to note that during the run-up to the general election in 2024, there was a pause on engagement that is a mandatory requirement in government. This meant it was not possible to engage with the WG or wider stakeholders during this time.

The MMO engaged with wider fishing stakeholders between October 2024 and May 2025. The feedback from the various methods of engagement are summarised in chronological order below.

### **In-person stakeholder engagement 2024**

A report setting out stakeholder engagement feedback during 2024 for the CSWCD FMP was published in April 2025 [CSWCD pre-xmas engagement feedback document April 2025 final 07042025.pdf](#).

The feedback included in the report is also set out in this section.

### **Developing Cornwall's Fisheries – pilot engagement**

This event took place between 16-18 October 2024 and was hosted by Defra and members of the industry in St Ives, Cornwall. The event was co-designed and delivered by Defra, the MMO, the Cornish Fish Producers Organisation (CFPO) the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) and the UK Association of Fish Producer Organisations (UKAFPO). The aim of the pilot was to test how Government, fisheries managers, scientists and the commercial fishing sector could work together to tackle and address a range of cross cutting policy issues in fisheries management in a single event.

On 17 October, the MMO facilitated a workshop specifically aimed at commercial stakeholders with an interest in the CSWCD FMP. The aim of the workshop was to seek feedback on the main species to be prioritised within the FMP, as well as gathering

feedback on species prioritisation, key concerns, opportunities, potential solutions and evidence requirements.

The workshop was attended by 20 stakeholders, and their feedback has been summarised below and is categorised into the following themes: species prioritisation, key concerns, opportunities, management solutions and evidence recommendations.

### **Species prioritisation:**

Economic importance was a key driver in the prioritisation process. Species were broadly prioritised by stakeholders as:

1. Gadoids (with a particular focus on pollack, cod and haddock)
2. Flatfish (sole, megrim, plaice)
3. Lophius (monkfish/anglerfish)
4. Skates and rays
5. Nephrops

High priority ratings for gadoids (in particular pollack, cod, haddock), lophius (monk/anglerfish), and flatfish (in particular sole, megrim, plaice) was a common theme among attendees. Stakeholders noted that monkfish stocks appear to have increased over the last 5 years. This growth is likely to have contributed to monkfish becoming a more prominent target species, with its economic value highlighted for both trawlers and inshore boats. Haddock was also highlighted as an important species for the south west trawl sector. Skates and rays were highlighted as a staple for inshore trawlers. Nephrops were noted as a high value, developing fishery in the FMP area, although predominantly targeted by the Scottish fleet.

It was also noted that as a mixed fishery, all species are important.

Specific ports and locations were mentioned, Newlyn being highlighted as a key port for megrim, and the importance of monkfish to small boats operating in Cadgwith and the Lizard.

### **Overview of key concerns:**

*Total Allowable Catches (TAC) and stock management issues:* Concerns were raised about the instability caused by fluctuating TAC and the need for TAC realignment, particularly for sole and plaice in ICES areas 7a, 7e, 7f and 7g. Issues around choke species, namely cod, were highlighted, and there were calls for stock recovery measures, especially for pollack. The lack of stock assessments and the impact of the removal of the 5% scallop bycatch limit were also flagged as problematic. Finally, concerns were noted around the impact that the pollack ban may have on the sustainability of other stocks.

*Governance and enforcement challenges:* Stakeholders expressed frustration with slow regulatory decision-making, the need for improved enforcement, and a lack of clarity in the FMP process. There were also concerns about the UK's influence in EU negotiations and whether FMP measures would apply to non-UK vessels. The need for clearer marine planning seascape plans and seabed regulations was also noted.

***Environmental and Spatial Pressures:*** Concerns were raised around displacement of effort due to spatial-temporal measures, spatial squeeze from offshore windfarm projects and fishing restrictions due to Marine Protected Area (MPA) management. Climate change impacts, such as rising sea temperatures and associated changes in species distribution were also highlighted. Pollution, including land runoff, was another environmental concern. Comments were also made regarding the impact of larger vessels from beyond the 6 nm limit. It was highlighted that lower discards leads to less waste, which is a factor in sea lice levels.

***Market and Industry Viability:*** Areas of the fishing industry were perceived to be in decline, with reduced market turnover, high licence and entry costs, and limited opportunities for diversification. Infrastructure concerns, such as the potential loss of harbours, and the impact that the reduction in the fishing industry may have on tourism were also raised. Concerns were raised regarding Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) re-certification, in particular for monkfish and the need to demonstrate compliance with bycatch indicators.

***Gear and species concerns:*** Concerns were raised around ring netters and the impact of wreck netting, including calls for seasonal restrictions and debates over its selectivity. There were also concerns about seal predation, recreational pollack catches, and the need for better monkfish/anglerfish identification. Stakeholders noted that prohibited catch in a mixed fishery often leads to unavoidable discards.

***Social and sector concerns:*** Calls were made for the MMO to engage more broadly with wider communities reliant on fishing. Concerns were raised regarding charter vessel owners not currently being treated as commercial vessels, making them exempt from some commercial measures.

### **Opportunities for the FMP:**

Key opportunities raised by stakeholders included taking advantage of species shifts due to warming waters, with increased abundance of octopus, sponge crab, tuna and seabream highlighted. It was suggested that some species may benefit from market branding, an example of which was the rebranding of megrim as 'Cornish sole'. The opportunity to develop a local nephrops fishery was also suggested.

### **Proposed management solutions:**

Stakeholder suggestions included the following:

- Measures to address quota trading concerns.
- Technical measures including increase mesh size, Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS), and cod end requirements.
- Closed seasons to protect stocks such as at sensitive spawning periods.
- Remote Electronic Management (REM) for all UK and EU vessels as a means of addressing enforcement concerns as well as addressing evidence gaps.
- Reinstatement of the 5% scallop dredge bycatch limit was raised as a solution to the perceived targeting of sole.
- More effective enforcement and real time management to issues.

- Stock trawl surveys to address evidence gaps for Pollack

### **Evidence gap recommendations:**

Stakeholder suggestions included using improved data to inform TAC-setting, including technology (REM, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Catch app, Geofish data) to fill evidence gaps and involving fishers in gathering evidence. Identifying nursery locations for different species and gathering evidence to identify distinct sole stocks were also suggested. Other gaps included the need for data (e.g. VMS data) to demonstrate that fisheries do not interact or impact on Marine Protected Areas.

### **FMP/RFG stakeholder drop-in sessions**

To ensure the best use of stakeholders time the FMP development team joined up with RFG teams for several drop-in events held across the south west.

Drop-in sessions were held at key locations in the south west in November 2024, as identified by the FMP working group and MMO landings data. Sessions were held on the 27 November in Mevagissey and Newlyn and on 28 November in Ilfracombe and Padstow. On the 29 November, a drop-in session was also held in Plymouth. The MMO spoke to individuals such as vessel owners, industry group representatives and charter vessel skippers.

Across these sessions, 28 stakeholders from the commercial fisheries sector were engaged with and their views obtained regarding this FMP.

| Drop-in Location  | Number of Attendees |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mevagissey</b> | 5                   |
| <b>Newlyn</b>     | 1                   |
| <b>Ilfracombe</b> | 5                   |
| <b>Padstow</b>    | 2                   |
| <b>Plymouth</b>   | 15                  |

The main aim of these events was to engage with local fishers/stakeholders on this FMP, focussing on their concerns and their suggested solutions. Feedback was also captured relating to matters outside of the scope of this FMP, which the MMO passed on to the relevant team or organisation, where appropriate.

Their feedback has been summarised below.

**Mevagissey drop-in:** Five fishers from the commercial fisheries sector attended this drop-in session.

FMP-specific concerns:

- The increase in regulation in Celtic Sea fisheries, and mixed fishery choke concerns.
- Seal depredation.
- Regarding climate change, concerns were raised regarding the cost of blue carbon. Concerns were also raised spatial squeeze due to Marine Protected Area management.
- Reduction in whiting catch.
- Whether the sentinel small-eyed ray fishery will be funded in the following year.
- Issues regarding the Pollack compensation scheme, specifically the minimum catch record requirement for qualification. Displacement impacts following the pollack management restriction were also raised.

Suggested solutions:

- The suggestion of a more equitable solution in relation to management of recreational and commercial fisheries sectors was raised. Potential pollack fishery solutions included bag limits, spawning close season, an appropriate MCRS, and a mesh size increase.
- The need for community buy-in with FMPs was highlighted, and examples of marine coastal partnerships were given, including Cornwall Coastal Partnerships.
- Implementation of a precautionary approach to assist stock recovery for at-risk species was suggested. Closed seasons were also suggested to aid stock recovery.
- Flexibility to allow fishers to take advantage when there is fish available was suggested.
- Monkfish/anglerfish ID was proposed to assist in species identification.
- Regarding gear technology, it was suggested that there is a need for more innovation, leading to more efficient effort.
- Pollack-specific feedback included anecdotal feedback that pollack stock is returning.
- A suggestion for seal stock size assessment.

Non-FMP specific comments:

- The need for clarity on how/who regulates the seabed.
- The lack of clarity on the FMP process, and the costs of implementing measures. Reduction of the fishing industry and market turnover, and the lack of alternatives for diversification.

**Newlyn drop-in:** One fisher from the commercial sector attended this drop-in session.

FMP-specific concerns:

- Comments included socio-economic impacts on local communities; impacts due to netting.

- The need for management measures for recreational fishing.

Suggested solutions:

- The suggestion of a yearly quota for pollack catch was raised.

Non-FMP comments:

- Impacts due to the delay in opening up the bass fishery was raised. It was suggested that bass bycatch should be recorded, for instance on a spreadsheet.

**Ilfracombe drop-in:** Five fishers from the commercial sector attended this drop-in session.

FMP-specific concerns:

- Impacts due to implementation of the precautionary approach was raised.
- The lack of diversification opportunities, and displacement of pressure following fishing restrictions was raised.
- Barriers for those wanting to enter the fishing sector was discussed, including the prohibitive cost.
- The reduction in the trawler fleet was highlighted.
- Impacts due to fisheries regulation and increased Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) vessel requirements was highlighted.

Suggested solutions:

- It was suggested that there needs to be a definition of the “inshore” industry, to aid clarity.
- Effort management was proposed, e.g. pot limits, catch limits, and days at sea. It was suggested that adherence to effort should be rewarded with more quota.
- A vessel decommissioning scheme was also suggested.

Non-FMP comments:

- The state of the crab fishery was raised, and apparent environmental impacts due to Hinkley power station.
- Suggestions included the need for technology innovation, e.g. propellor efficiency.
- Other suggestions included the proposal that North Devon fisheries be separated from south Devon fisheries, due to differing tidal regimes.
- Environmental impacts were raised regarding pollution and land run-off, and impacts due to climate change including the disappearance of the lobster fishery, and associated warming waters impacts such as algae and jellyfish.
- Other proposals included a size increase in whelk MCRS.
- It was also suggested that there should be more engagement with the wider fisheries market.

**Padstow drop-in:** Two fishers from the commercial sector attended this drop-in session.

FMP-specific concerns:

- Declining cod and pollock stocks was highlighted.
- The decline of the Under 10 metre fleet was discussed, including concerns that supporting infrastructure will also disappear, leading to tourism decline.
- The effort impact of larger vessels from the over 6nm limit during January- March was raised.

Suggested solutions:

- It was suggested that fishers need the ability to switch species, depending on season and fish availability.

**Plymouth drop-in:** 15 fishers from the commercial sector attended this drop-in session.

FMP-specific concerns:

- It was highlighted that more support is required for the inshore under 10m fleet.
- The need for more management of recreational fishing, including charter boats, was raised.

Suggested solutions:

- It was proposed that under 16.5m vessels be allowed keep all catches for 12 months in order to create an influx of data providing a new baseline on the stocks, to be followed by data analysis to inform stock health.
- Other solutions included effective regional management, rather than national management.

Non-FMP comments:

- Comments were raised regarding the need for better collaboration between industry and science. Specifics on this subject included the apparent need for science to utilise fishers' experience when designing trawl surveys.
- It was also highlighted that decision-making needed to be based on the most up to date evidence. For example it was suggested that ICES stock assessments are not always reflective of fishers' "on the ground" experience, and that more account needs to be taken of their observations.
- Comments were also raised regarding the limited financial support and incentive for fishers to contribute to science.
- The financial costs to be borne by industry due to REM implementation was highlighted.
- The lack of diversification opportunities was raised, such as the cost of changing gears due to new regulations. Displacement impacts were also raised.

- It was also suggested that the pollack management-related communications was ill-timed, being just before Christmas, and apparent lack of contactable MMO staff. It was also suggested that the announcement gave little time to enable adaptation.

## Online stakeholder engagement 2024

### Angling Trust Forum and Recreational Sea Fishing Forum

The Angling Trust hosted an online Angling Trust Forum in the evening of the 14 November. Representatives from the teams developing the Celtic Sea and Western Channel Pelagic, Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal, and Wrasses Complex and Seabream FMPs presented an overview of each FMP. A total of 19 anglers attended this online session. Attendees were encouraged to get in contact with the team if they were interested in the development of the FMP and/or had information they would like to share.

The MMO also attended a Recreational Sea Fishing Forum on 31 October, hosted by Defra. In addition to Defra and MMO, attendees included representatives from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA), Cefas, Environment Agency (EA), Cornwall IFCA, Devon and Severn IFCA, and a representative from the Bass Angling Conservation. This was another opportunity for recreational fishers to ask questions and provide feedback on the FMP.

Stakeholder views from both events have been summarised below.

#### **Species prioritisation:**

Pollack and cod were identified as key species to the recreational sector, with specific mention of the importance of pollack for food security.

#### **Overview of feedback:**

In addition to the reported benefits to fishers' mental health, recreational fishers highlighted the economic importance of the sector in supporting local industries, including benefits to tourism, outlining that anglers are often willing to travel to pursue their interest. The importance of achieving a sustainable balance between recreational and commercial fishing sectors was highlighted. Furthermore, comments were made that questioned the effectiveness of the yearly approach to ICES advice, suggesting that a multi-year approach may be more effective.

Stakeholders noted that there has been a notable increase in the number of cuttlefish and squid, which may provide additional fishing opportunities.

#### **Proposed management solutions:**

Stakeholder suggestions included:

- Ensuring that Minimum Conservation Reference Size measurements reflect the size in which a species can spawn at least once.
- Take a mixed fisheries approach for the FMP.
- Spatial and temporal closures should be used as a means of protecting stocks at sensitive periods.

#### **Evidence gap recommendations:**

Recreational stakeholders suggested that economic data associated with the recreational sector is collected. Alongside the suggestion that REM, iVMS data and commercial landings data should be used to improve compliance, it was recommended that further information on commercial bycatch should be obtained.

For a more detailed summary of 2024 engagement feedback, see the published [2024 Stakeholder Engagement Feedback](#) document.

## **ENGO meeting: Tranche 4 FMP introduction**

The aim of this online event was to introduce eNGOs to the tranche 4 FMPs, these being the Celtic Sea and Western Channel Pelagic, Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal, and Wrasse and Seabream FMPs. The MMO presented an introduction for each FMP, the timeline tranche 4 FMPs are working to, and the progress that had been made to date.

ENGOs commented on the following:

- Whether species subject to zero Total Allowable Catch (TAC) ICES advice will be prioritised.
- ENGOs signposted a STECF (Scientific, Technical and Economic support to the Common Fisheries Policy) review on effectiveness of existing technical conservation measures.
- Sought clarification on how FMP measures interact with the European Commission and Specialised Committee for Fisheries (SCF) negotiations.

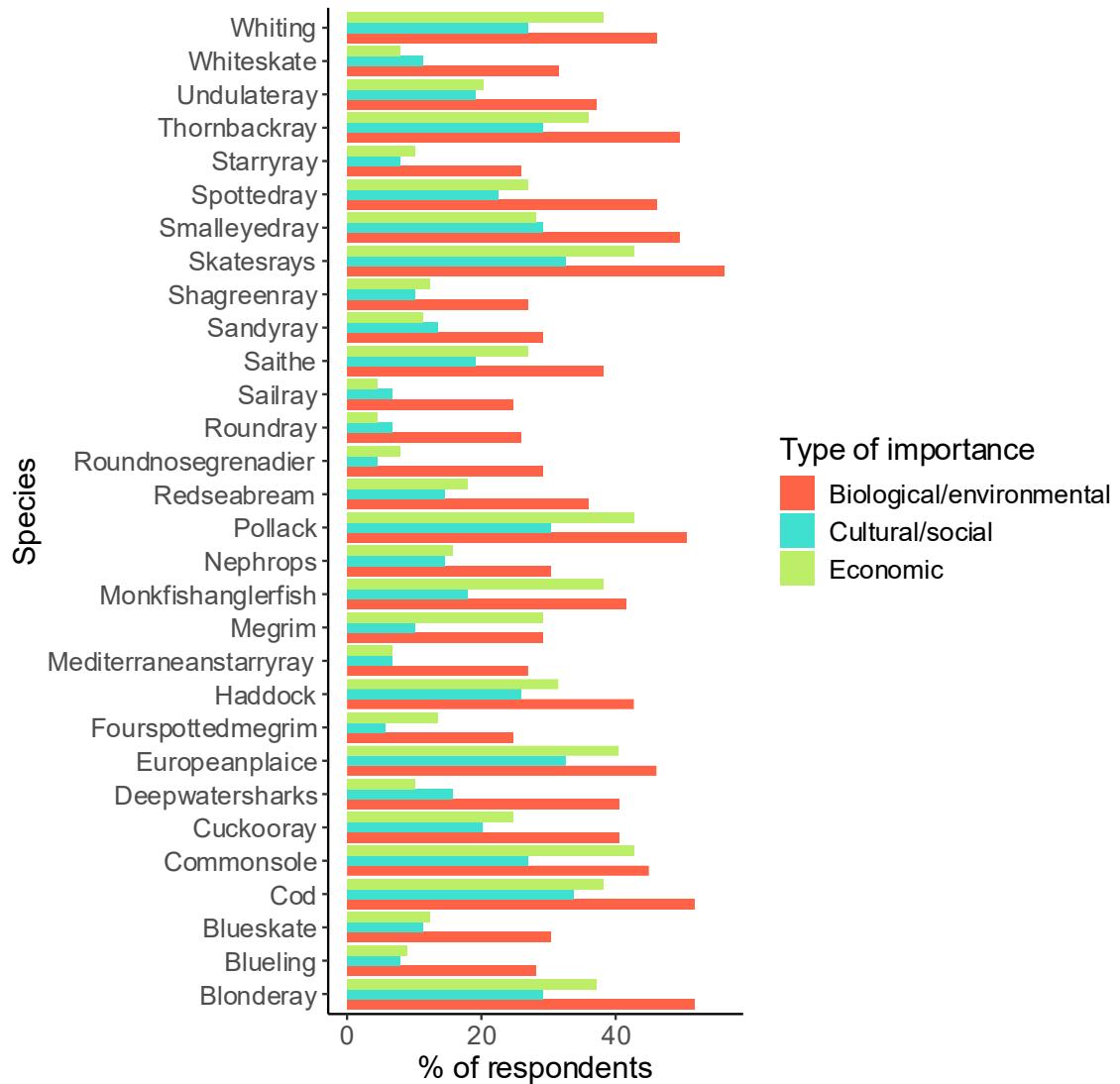
## **Online survey**

To obtain the views of as many interested stakeholders as possible, we launched an online survey to help us better understand the interest in the FMP species. The online survey was open from 26 September 2024 to 31 January 2025.

The survey was completed by 89 respondents, most of whom were answering as individuals (70%), others answered on behalf of an organisation, business or charity (20%), with a few responding on behalf of an association or group (3%) or other (3%). Survey respondents represented a wide range of sectors and interests. Most respondents were involved in either the recreational (36%) or commercial fishing sectors (inshore 26%; offshore 10%), other sectors represented included environmental non-governmental organisations (7%), producer organisations (6%), Community Interest Companies (3%), coastal retailer/business (3%), aquaculture (1%), government (2%) and scientific/academic body (1%). Most of those who completed the survey carried out their activities in English waters (64%), some carried out their activities in Welsh waters (12%) and others in both English and Welsh waters (21%).

Respondents were asked to indicate which FMP species were important to them biologically/environmentally, social/culturally and economically. The findings show that all FMP species are important in all ways to at least some respondents and for all FMP species, more people reported biological/environmental importance than economic or cultural/social importance.

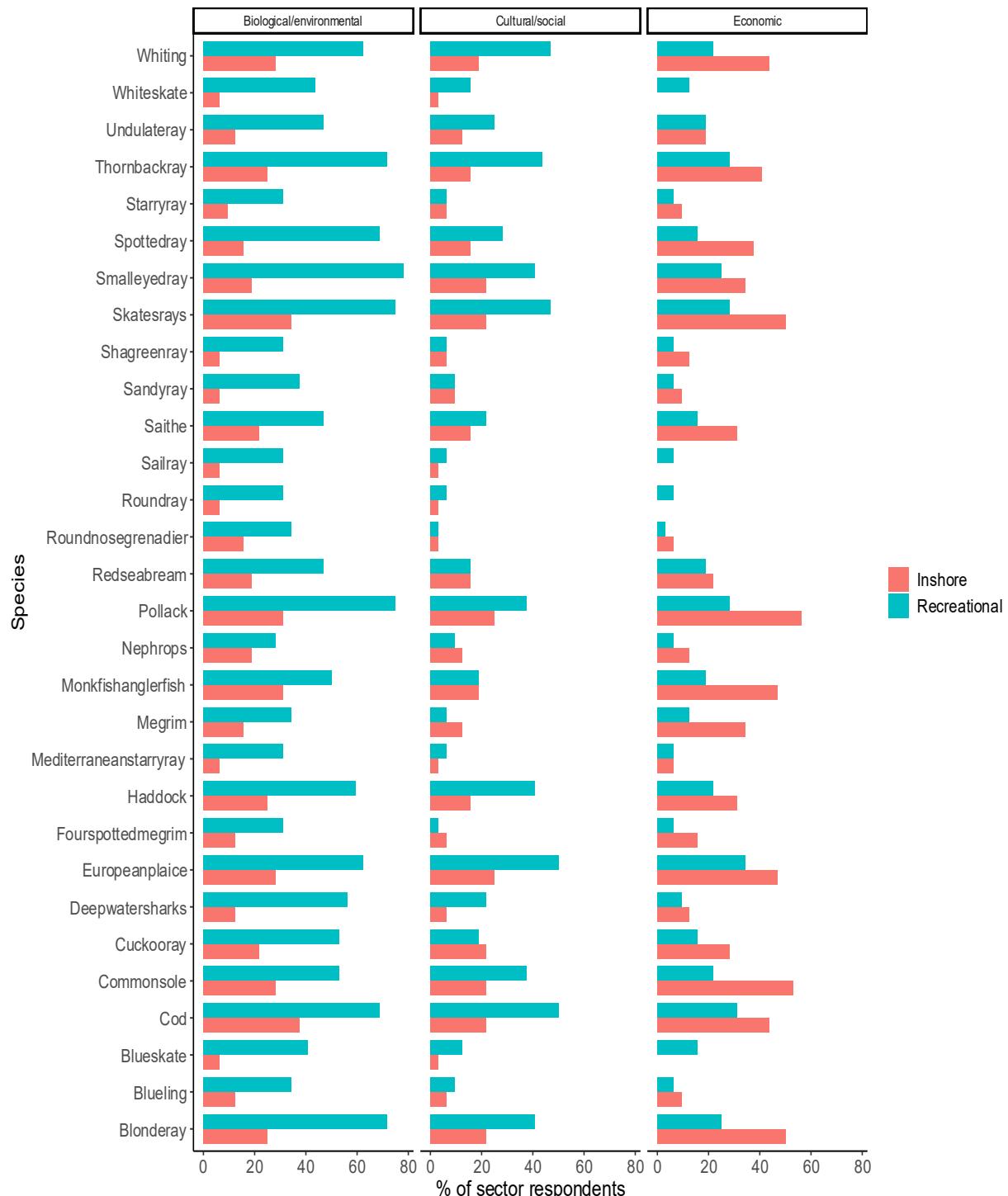
### Importance of FMP species



When asked specifically whether skates and rays were important to them, most respondents said yes (80%). Some respondents elaborated on their answers in an open text box.

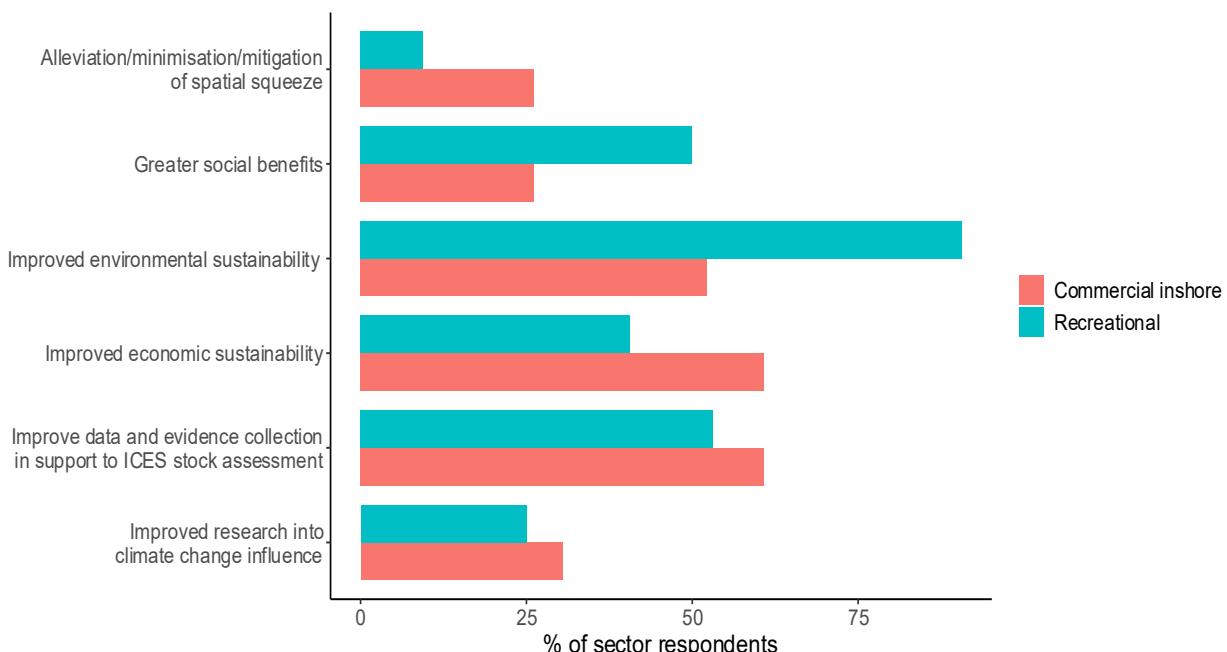
The ways in which FMP species were considered important varied between stakeholder groups. Comparing the two main groups represented in the survey results, namely recreational fishers and commercial inshore fishers, shows that in general a greater percentage of recreational fishers consider FMP species to be important biologically/environmentally and culturally/socially, whereas most species are economically important to a higher percentage of inshore commercial fishers.

#### Importance of FMP species for recreational and inshore commercial fishing sectors



Recreational and commercial inshore fishers also have different views on what the priorities for the FMP should be. A higher percentage of recreational fishers than commercial inshore fishers thought that improved environmental sustainability (91% vs 52%) and greater social benefits (50% vs 26%) should be priorities, whereas a greater percentage of commercial inshore fishers than recreational fishers thought that alleviating spatial squeeze (26% vs 9%), improved economic sustainability (61% vs 41%), improved data collection (61% vs 53%) and climate research (30% vs 25%) should be priorities.

#### FMP priorities of recreational and inshore commercial fishing sectors



Focusing specifically on pollack, 51% of respondents said the species was important to them biologically/environmentally, 43% said it was important to them economically and 30% said it was important culturally/socially. Comparing the two main groups represented in the sample, pollack was considered: biologically/environmentally important by 75% of recreational fishers and 43% of commercial inshore fishers; culturally/socially important by 38% of recreational fishers and 35% of commercial inshore fishers, economically important by 28% of recreational fishers and 78% of commercial inshore fishers.

Respondents were asked whether they had any concerns for the FMP, responses mentioned:

- Sensitive species bycatch including seabirds
- Cumulative impacts of management and spatial squeeze for domestic and foreign fishermen, including specific mention of floating windfarms
- Impact of fishing by large trawlers, fly seine fishing and illegal fishing
- Effects of tuna on fish habitat and populations
- Declining fish stocks and populations of other marine species
- Sediment disposal from Hinkley point
- Reduction in quotas
- Pressure from foreign fleets not being effectively managed
- Poor governance (high staff turnover, inaccessible communication)

When asked whether there were any other species that should be included in the FMP species mentioned included sea bass, turbot,

- The inclusion of cod was questioned due to the unlikely recovery of the stock and its vulnerability to climate change
- One respondent suggested that each species should have its own FMP

## FMP presentation to Finfish Industry Advisory Group (FIAG)

The MMO attended regular FIAG meetings to update members on the progress of the FMP. FIAG provides a forum to discuss sustainability and management of UK finfish non-quota species fisheries. The MMO attended a FIAG meeting on 19 September 2024 and delivered a presentation on FMP progress but received no feedback on the day.

## In-person stakeholder engagement 2025

### Stakeholder drop-in sessions

Further stakeholder drop-in sessions were held in the south west in March and April 2025. These sessions took place in Brixham on 24 March, Mevagissey and Newlyn on 26 March, Padstow and Ilfracombe on 27 March, and Plymouth on 28 March. There were no attendees for the Brixham, Newlyn and Ilfracombe events. The Newlyn event was subsequently rescheduled for 2 April. The MMO spoke to individuals such as vessel owners, industry group representatives, recreational angling sector, including charter vessel skippers, and academics.

Across these sessions, 11 stakeholders from the commercial fisheries sector were engaged and their views obtained regarding this FMP.

| Drop-in Location | Number of Attendees |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Brixham          | 0                   |
| Mevagissey       | 2                   |
| Padstow          | 1                   |
| Ilfracombe       | 0                   |
| Plymouth         | 4                   |
| Newlyn           | 4                   |

**Mevagissey drop-in:** One fisher and a commercial fishers representative attended this drop-in session.

FMP-specific concerns:

- It was highlighted that pollack was the main issue, and that a different approach is needed than for the other gadoids. It was suggested that pollack be separated out from the other gadoids from the FMP.
- Regarding other gadoids, it was noted that whiting is bycatch only in this area, and that haddock has migrated north.
- Regarding flatfish, it was suggested that the sole TAC be increased by 20%.
- Regarding skates and rays, it was suggested that some species are in good condition, such as small eyed ray, whilst cuckoo ray is not.
- The knock-on effects of an Early Warning System were raised, such as a reduced or complete restriction on a stock if it is at risk. It was also highlighted that fish size is an indicator of stock health.
- Concerns were raised regarding the reduction in the gillnetting sector, and it was highlighted that there is an industry need for no further restrictions in the short term.

Suggested solutions:

- The current bass management approach was suggested as an example for pollack e.g. pair trawl ban, closed season, and allow rod and line. It was also suggested that closed seasons should be implemented during January to March (spawning season), and that the ban should be for both recreational and commercial sectors.
- Suggested technical measures for pollack included an increased mesh size to 6". It was also suggested that there is a need to market pollack better, including market bigger fish, and that a minimum landing size would help.

Non-FMP comments:

- Concerns were raised regarding the length of time that REM data would be retained. It was also suggested that whilst REM will work with bigger vessels, there may be operating difficulties with smaller vessels.
- It was also suggested that there is a need to demonstrate a benefit for the use of Catch app.
- Regarding MSC certification, it was suggested that there are currently negative issues with MSC, and it has lost credibility, i.e. some products are not sustainably fished. It was highlighted that there should be no wastage of fish.
- It was suggested that there is a need to consider nature conservancy as a route to bring in business funding, e.g. tax relief.
- Other matters included seal depredation and impacts due to the discard ban.

**Padstow drop-in:** One academic attended this event. No specific comments were raised on the draft polices, other than a broad support for pollack recovery aims.

**Plymouth drop-in:** Four commercial fishers attended this event.

FMP-specific comments:

- The impact of recreational and charter boat fishing on pollack was raised. It was also suggested that catch & release doesn't work for pollack due the species' biological form.
- It was suggested that the impact of netting activities is greater outside the 12nm limit rather than inside. It was commented that there is a reluctance to declare discards due to lack of trust in the system, and how that captured information is used.

Suggested solutions:

- Area closures were suggested as a management solution for pollack.
- It was suggested that youths should be incentivised to enter the industry.
- It was recommended that 100mm mesh size should be the baseline for all areas, and also that MCRS be increased across all species.
- It was also suggested that there should be greater consideration on limiting netting effort.

Non-FMP comments:

- The cost of REM implementation was raised, in particular for smaller vessel operators.
- A perceived lack of influence for smaller operators when dealing with Producer Organisations (POs) was highlighted.
- The impact of climate change and impacts due to displacement pressures was highlighted.
- It was suggested there was anecdotal evidence that charter fleets are using gadoids as chum for shark fishing.

**Newlyn drop-in:** One PO representative and four commercial fishers attended.

Comments on the following areas were made:

### **Pollack**

Concerns:

- The impact of recreational and charter boat fishing was raised.
- The impacts of the current restrictions were highlighted. It was suggested that pollack has already recovered, including the observation that a month's quota can be caught quickly.
- It was noted that larger specimens are being caught, which may be due to seasonal changes and deeper water fishing.
- It was suggested that pollack habitats are shifting, potentially due to wreck degradation.
- It was noted that pollack size can vary depending on location.
- It was also suggested that pollack may not align with cod global warming-associated decline, due to biological differences.
- It was highlighted that a MCRS increase may lead to a rise in discards.

Solutions:

- A licensing system to regulate charter vessels was proposed.

- It was suggested that bigger hooks and increased hook sizes help target larger fish, and regulating hook sizes and bait types to catch larger fish has benefits. It was suggested that trials should be conducted.
- It was highlighted that large pollack are often dead upon reaching the sea surface and that jiggers (where hooks attached to artificial lures are used to attract and capture fish) could help prevent this.
- It was suggested that a management approach similar to bass might be effective, and that bass and pollack could be managed together for better compliance.

### **Seasonal and spatial closures**

Concerns:

- It was highlighted that seasonal bans could lead to higher discards and that a percentage-based bycatch system might work better.
- It was also suggested that spatial restrictions may not work for wreck netters. It was suggested that total seasonal bans wouldn't suit trawling or netting.

Solutions:

- A 10% bycatch limit all year and seasonal bans for specific fisheries was proposed.
- It was also suggested that larger vessels should have different bycatch regulations, and that a balanced approach is needed to create opportunities for small and large boats.

### **Flatfish**

Concerns:

- It was highlighted that industry needs to protect Dover sole, although avoiding unnecessary restrictions.
- It was noted that plaice stocks are decreasing, and issues with selectivity due to their shape. It was noted that there were low catches for megrims in the previous year, and that lemon sole stocks are declining.

Solutions

- Suggested solutions included increased mesh sizes.
- It was suggested that discards should be closely monitored.

### **Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) and data gathering**

Concerns

- It was suggested that REM equipment, such as cameras will impact fishing techniques.
- It was noted that larger boats have the ability to collect data more efficiently than smaller vessels.
- It was highlighted that equitable data-sharing across the European Union is essential.
- It was also highlighted that long-term datasets must be utilized effectively, and concern regarding the lack of analysis of data already collected.

Solutions:

- It was suggested that accounting for all catches instead of discarding could be a solution.
- It was also suggested that REM should have an auditable function and should be designed to fit fisheries' needs.

## **Fisheries Management & Policy**

Concerns:

- The apparent bureaucratic processes linked to sentinel fisheries was raised.
- It was highlighted that inshore fishing protections are needed, and concerns were raised regarding non-UK vessels, particularly in reference to unreciprocated access to the 6-12nm area.
- It was suggested that published FMPs lack strength, commitment and aren't delivering, thus causing disengagement.
- It was highlighted that there is scepticism about supermarket involvement in seafood certifications, and that an FMP label may be preferred over Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification.

Solutions

- It was suggested that the FMP should include text aimed at reducing effort within the 6-12nm, utilising and extending existing regulations on the 221kW restriction for beam trawls. It was suggested there should be a 2-year plan to assess the social/economic/environmental benefits of extending this regulation.
- It was highlighted that support is needed for fishers who are unable to diversify, to aid socioeconomic resilience.

## **Other concerns**

- Benthic disturbance impacts were highlighted and it was suggested that leaving fishing grounds alone has positive effects, although scientific evidence might not fully capture them.
- It was noted that trawl species are disappearing, decreasing profitability, and causing a loss of knowledge in the fishery due to subsequent loss of experience within the fleet.
- It was suggested there was a need for improved management of bream and red mullet.

## **Online stakeholder engagement 2025**

### **FMP presentations to wider stakeholders**

The MMO held a webinar on 3 April, which was open to the general public. The purpose of the webinar was to walk through the draft FMP policies. The webinar was attended by 5 people, including two members of the French fisheries sector, IFCA and a representative of Angling Cymru Sea Anglers.

Comments were made on the following areas:

#### **Gadoids**

Comments were made regarding the impact of climate change on Celtic Sea cod stocks.

## **Flatfish**

Comments were made regarding harmonising measures across European and UK waters. Comments were also raised regarding flatfish habitats in nursery areas, as well as spatial impacts due to offshore energy projects.

## **Existing Celtic Sea management**

Comments were made regarding REM and the need for transparent data, also the need for the technology not to be intrusive in relation to vessel activity. Comments were also made regarding the early warning system.

## **Sector adaptation**

Comments were made regarding MSC certification, and the need for effective governance.

## **Anglerfish**

Comments were raised regarding ways to improve species ID.

## **Wider eco-system considerations**

Comments were made regarding the various data used to map fishing effort, and also the link with MPA fishing activity management.

## **Climate change**

Comments were made regarding carbon emissions related to fishing activity and other forms of food production.

## **Recreational fishers**

The MMO held a meeting on 14 April with the Angling Trust (AT) to review the draft FMP policies.

Comments were made on the following areas:

### **Gadoids**

Comments were raised on both mandatory and voluntary measures and potential monitoring, including that education on voluntary measures is key for effectiveness. Regarding recovery plans, it was suggested that bycatch and links with the Hake FMP should be explored.

It was suggested that any mandatory measures should be science-based, and it was highlighted that the ICES pollack assessment includes integration of recreational data.

It was highlighted that the AT encourages anglers to support the sea angling diary and its data capture. Proposals for evidence gathering on socioeconomic aspects of the stocks was supported, as well as proposals on climate resilience.

The relative low numbers of saithe observed in the south west was highlighted.

## **Flatfish**

Plaice and sole were highlighted as recreationally important species, also that anglers have noted a steep decline in their abundance. Work in terms of a stock recovery plan would be supported.

It was suggested that other flatfish, such as flounder and dab, could be included within the FMP in the future.

### **Nephrops**

It was highlighted that nephrops were not important to recreational the recreational sector, although concerns were raised around bycatch and seabird interactions.

### **Celtic Sea management**

Support for REM was highlighted, also that it was hoped this may help to address bycatch issues. Support was also given for an early warning system for stock decline.

It was also suggested that simplifying regulation should be supported if it leads to better enforcement and compliance but also noting that there may be unintended consequences.

### **Sector support**

It was highlighted there should be support for the charter boat sector and for their ability to participate in local opportunities. It was highlighted that there is a need for the FMP to understand every aspect of the community that benefits from a stock.

It was suggested that this FMP is more of a 'business plan', and that stock sustainability is paramount.

### **Anglerfish**

It was suggested that anglers do not target this species.

### **Elasmobranchs**

No comments were raised.

### **Red seabream**

It was highlighted that this species is likely to have emerging recreational importance.

### **Ecosystem based management**

It was noted that both Celtic Sea demersal and pelagic FMPs appear to be a flagship for adopting a more ecosystem-based approach, and this was supported.

### **Wider ecosystem considerations**

A discussion was held on priorities, in particular how FMP evidence gaps are prioritised and funded, and it was highlighted that expectations amongst AT members will need to be managed so they don't lose buy-in for the FMP process when some actions are prioritised over others.

### **Climate change**

It was highlighted that gadoids are particularly vulnerable to climate change. The opportunities of warming waters were also highlighted.

### **Additional comments:**

It was highlighted that FMP accessibility due to language and complexity may be an issue, noting that this may have had an impact on recreational engagement.

It was noted that many species are also covered in other FMPs, and recommendations translated across the programme. It was also highlighted that it was encouraging to note that the recreational sector was being considered.

Concerns were raised regarding porbeagle bycatch in relation to the hake fishery (neither species are included in this FMP).

## **ENGO meetings**

The MMO held meetings with eNGOs on 20 March and 22 May to discuss the draft policies.

Comments were raised on the following areas, as follows:

### **Gadoids**

The decline of haddock was noted, and it was highlighted that eNGOs had predicted and warned of this. Harvest control rules, recovery plans and review periods were also discussed. In relation to mixed fisheries, concerns were raised that selectivity measures are not an effective stock mortality reduction tool.

It was also suggested that actions should be more affirmative and increase clarity. Support was given for REM, and it was suggested that the wording around this should be strengthened.

### **Flatfish**

TAC realignment was supported, however it was highlighted that current work on this should not be paused while waiting for the FMP to be published. Steps to recover plaice stocks and reduce sole impacts were supported. Regarding recovery plan, the example of demersal mixed fisheries in the United States of America was quoted, where if any stock falls below 5% unfished biomass, the entire fishery that effects this is closed.

Regarding gear selectivity, it was suggested that the incentivisation of better gear could come from quota allocation system incentives.

### **Nephrops**

Concerns were raised regarding bycatch and support for REM in relation to this fishery was highlighted.

### **Red seabream**

It was noted that there has been a commitment in previous TCA negotiations to introduce a measure to protect seabream and nesting sites, and it was queried whether this had been acted upon. It was noted that the UK has a red seabream quota, although this is traded to enable fishing for other stocks. It was therefore suggested that there should be a rule that there is no trading or catching of stocks at risk.

### **Celtic Sea management**

Support was given for a review of technical measures, noting the importance of ongoing mixed fisheries research. It was questioned how the early warning system differs from harvest control rules. The importance of ensuring trigger points of the early warning

system are high enough, so that action can be taken before stock collapse was also highlighted.

### **Wider ecosystem**

It was highlighted that ecosystem-based management approach is mandated in the Fisheries Act, and it was suggested a measure is included to define ecosystem-based management. It was suggested that there should be some detail in the FMP regarding benthic impacts and benthic coherence.

### **Sector adaptation**

Support for sector adaption was confirmed, although the role of government was queried. It was highlighted that creating the right market conditions begins with rebuilding stocks.

### **ENGO post-event feedback**

ENGOs submitted further post-meeting feedback on various matters relating to this FMP, which they advised should also be considered as general feedback for all FMPs. Their feedback was as follows:

- Any fisheries management actions should be underpinned with robust controls and full catch documentation using remote electronic and camera monitoring. This would help assess the effectiveness of any measures taken and ensure that the data used to underpin them is reliable.
- The need to identify, account for, and ultimately address any shortcomings in the single-stock advice from ICES which is currently used to underpin fishing opportunities. This is to make sure that any fishing limits set for stocks under the FMP are fully in line with meeting all relevant legal requirements and objectives.
- Rebuilding-focused scientific advice should be a basis for effective rebuilding plans, specifically that ICES advice should include short- or medium-term recovery targets or timeframes.
- Harvest control rules should fully reflect all relevant legal requirements and policy objectives (including on Good Environmental Status under the UK Marine Strategy and the goals of the Environmental Improvement Plan) and contain effective trigger points. The rules should be geared towards a) rebuilding all stocks that are below sustainable levels as quickly as possible, b) preventing stocks that are at or above such levels from falling below them, and c) safeguarding wider ecosystem health.
- Fishing limits for the more abundant stocks in mixed fisheries should be set well enough below their respective ICES single-stock advice to safeguard more vulnerable / less abundant stocks caught in the same fisheries, where selectivity and avoidance alone are insufficient to limit such bycatch to sustainable levels.
- ENGOs referred to previous informal advice they had submitted to Defra regarding recovery of depleted stocks.
- The rollout of REM should be included as an explicit near-term action within each of the policy goals of this FMP, due to the potential the benefits this technology would offer in terms of gathering robust data for scientific assessments, and ensuring catches are recorded and accounted for.

- The policies should be precise and actions are specific, measurable and time bound as this would enable meaningful reporting against the delivery of each of the FMP policy goals.
- Each policy goal should clearly set out the relevant Fisheries Act objectives.
- Any references to the precautionary objective should be aligned with the wording as set out in the Fisheries Act, which states “exploitation of marine stocks restores and maintains populations of harvested species above biomass levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield”. Any relevant measures should be geared towards this objective, rather than aiming for anything lower than “above” Biomass Maximum Sustainable Yield (BMSY) levels (such as maintaining/restoring stocks merely “at”/“to” such levels).
- FMPs should take account of and address any impacts on significantly declining UK seabird species, in order to contribute to achieving Good Environmental Status and the Ecosystem Objective of the Fisheries Act 2020. This includes addressing seabird bycatch, in particular due to static nets.

## **Engagement with the European Commission**

The MMO attended Defra-hosted meetings with the European Commission (EC) on 11 April and 15 May where early engagement on the draft FMP was sought. The complexity of this mixed fishery, with numerous species including stocks of importance were noted. The EC were keen to understand how the FMP fitted with work agreed through the Written Record and Specialised Committee on Fisheries (SCF) processes. Defra committed to further explore cooperation on developing the plan. Other comments related to REM, ecosystem-based management, climate change and warming waters.

In addition to the above, written material summarising key elements of the draft plan was also shared with the EC for circulation to Member States. Views were received from France, Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands. Common themes were ensuring the use of the best available scientific information, compliance with the TCA and undertaking work via the SCF.

## **Business-as-usual engagement**

The MMO had several business-as-usual meetings with various stakeholders relevant to the development of the FMP. These discussions helped to strengthen stakeholder relationships and to provide the MMO with other channels of communication to wider stakeholders.

## **FMP mailbox**

During the development of the FMP, there was a dedicated mailbox set up for stakeholders to send in any queries around the FMP or give feedback on the content. This mailbox was monitored daily, and responses were aimed to be given within 10 working days. All comments regarding FMP content have been covered by other meetings and therefore no specific comments are highlighted here.

# Communications overview

MMO and its supporting MMO communications officer developed and maintained core material relevant to this FMP. Materials evolved as the project progressed. Where appropriate, MMO also utilised core material created and managed by the Defra FMP team for the wider FMP programme. These core documents supported the production of communications material used for the following:

- Gov.uk Seabream FMP landing page
- Defra FMP blog
- Printed posters and flyers advertising the online survey, in-person workshops and drop-ins.
- Traditional media:
  - Fishing News article
  - Angling industry press
- Newsletters:
  - Use of email marketing platform to circulate updates on FMP progress and engagement events with interested stakeholders.
  - Fishers bulletin (fortnightly)
  - Defra stakeholders bulletin (monthly)
  - MMO stakeholder bulletin (monthly)
- Direct communications
  - Monthly marine officer FMP update.
  - Producer Organisations
  - Fisherman Associations
  - Blue Marine Foundation.
- Updates to pre-existing networks:
  - Regional Fisheries Groups
  - Finfish Industry Advisory Group
  - Future of Inshore Fisheries Angling Trust Forum
- Social Media advertising:
  - Focused on Facebook as the most heavily used platform by fishers. We harnessed the Facebook algorithm to directly target anglers with a track record of interest in our FMP species to ensure as far as practicable that people with the highest interest in the FMPs were aware of their opportunities to engage via online surveys and engagement events.
  - Other MMO social media channels

- IFCA social media platforms were used where available.

MMO aimed to ensure that the information and updates were disseminated in a clear, accessible, and timely manner and that particular attention was paid to ensure that the language used was appropriate to the audience.

## Annex 1: Stakeholder analysis scoring criteria

The scores will be given by the Fisheries Management Plan team during a workshop and checked by Principle Marine Officers for local expertise. Each stakeholder is given a score for the following:

**Influence:** (Stakeholders ability to influence the projects' ability to successfully deliver its objectives)

- 5) Ability to directly stop the FMP process e.g. FMP securing approval. Mostly this score used for government department stakeholders from whom we need sign off e.g. Defra, Arm's Length Bodies and Devolved Administrations
- 4) Ability to significantly influence or steer the development of the FMP
- 3) Moderate ability to influence the FMP (positive or negative)
- 2) Minimal ability to influence the FMP
- 1) No influence

**Impact:** (Stakeholder may be impacted/ affected both negatively and positively by project outcomes)

- 5) Major impact as a consequence of FMP outcomes to stakeholder e.g. stopping incomes
- 4) Significantly impacted by the consequences of FMP outcomes
- 3) Moderately impacted by the consequences of FMP outcomes
- 2) Minimal impact from the consequences of FMP outcomes
- 1) No impact to stakeholder

**Expertise:** (May hold academic or practice-based expertise relevant to the project)

- 5) Up to date in depth knowledge relevant to the project
- 4) Good knowledge
- 3) Moderate knowledge
- 2) Minimal knowledge
- 1) No knowledge

**Interest:** (May have expressed an interest in the project/ potential outputs and whose interest we wish to encourage)

- 5) Significant interest in the FMP
- 4) Good interest in the FMP

3) Moderate interest in the FMP

2) Minimal interest for the FMP

1) No interest for the FMP

Note: MMO have assumed that a lack of overt interest does not necessarily equate disinterest within the commercial fishing sector as research states this is instead more likely to be linked to disempowerment, so interest has been assumed as universally high when it comes to the commercial sectors.

### **Target aspirations for the stakeholder groups**

**Collaborate:** Primary and key stakeholder who will be directly affected both positively and negatively by the FMP outputs. MMO will work collaboratively with the group, engaging with them regularly to update them on relevant policy, and providing guidance and support through regular meetings and digital contact. Regular and direct engagement will help build a partnership based on trust and collaboration. These stakeholders will be kept fully informed on the FMP programme and project specific details.

High level of influence and impact

- Target for expertise = 4 or over
- Target for influence = 4 or over
- Target for Impact = 4 or over
- Target for interest = 4 over

**Consult:** Secondary and some key stakeholders. This includes people or groups that are indirectly affected, either positively or negatively, by the FMP's output. This includes people who have a strong interest in the effort for academic, philosophical, or political reasons, even though they and their families, friends, and associates are not directly affected by it. MMO will pursue 'semi' pro-active arrangements with them. They will also reach out to seek informal input with them when appropriate. Concerns will be considered, and feedback obtained on issues that affect stakeholders, these concerns can be fed back to the working groups.

Medium to high level of influence and impact

- Target for knowledge = 3 or below
- Target for influence = 3 or below
- Target for impact = 3 or below
- Target for interest = 3

**Inform:** Secondary stakeholder. This group includes people or groups who have shown some interest but will only be indirectly affected and hold no influence or obvious expertise. These stakeholders are privy to the most passive level of engagement.

Low level of influence and impact

- Target for expertise = 2
- Target for influence = 2
- Target for impact = 2
- Target for interest = 2

## Annex 2: CSWCD FMP WG member list

Note that multiple individuals may have represented an organisation.

| Name             | Job Title  | Role on WG   |
|------------------|--|--|
| Rachel Thirlwall | MMO Principal Fisheries Manager  | Working Group Chair  |
| Nicholas French  | MMO Principal Fisheries Manager  | Working Group Deputy Chair                                       |
| Mark Qureshi     | MMO Fisheries Manager  | Working Group Secretariat  |
| Emily Theobold   | MMO South West Principal Marine Officer                                  | MMO coastal operations representative                            |
| Anna Maclennan   | MMO South West Regional Fisheries Group lead                             | MMO SW RFG representative  |
| Hannah Rudd      | Angling Trust Policy Advisor   | Representing recreational sea anglers                            |
| Drew Collin      | Anglo Scottish Fish Producers' Organisation                              | Representing offshore Scottish vessels fishing in English waters |
| Paul Dolder      | Cefas Principal Scientist and Advisor for mixed fisheries                | Cefas Celtic Sea fisheries lead                                  |
| Andrew Pascoe    | Cornish Handline Association   | Representing handliners in the FMP area                          |
| Chris Ranford    | Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation                                     | Cornish Inshore and offshore fishermen                           |
| Colin Trundle    | Cornwall IFCA (CIFCA)  | Representing CIFCA   |
| Phil Green       | Defra Celtic Sea Policy Division and EU negotiations                     | Defra FMP Policy lead  |
| Sarah Clark      | Devon and Severn IFCA  | Representing D&S IFCA  |
| David Stevens    | Fishing into the Future  | Representing Fishing into the Future                             |
| Judith Farrell   | Humberside Fish Producers' Organisation                                  | Representing offshore vessels                                    |
| Nick West        | Mevagissey Fisherman's Association                                       | Representing inshore fishers in Cornwall                         |
| John Balls       | North Devon Fisherman's Association                                      | Representing inshore fishers in North Devon                      |
| Adam Holland     | Northern Ireland Fishermen's Federation Fisheries Sustainability Officer | Representing Northern Ireland Fishers                            |

|                             |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Edward Baker                | Plymouth Fishing and Seafood Association, CEO                        | Representing interests of PFSA members        |
| Juliette Hatchman           | South West Fish Producers' Organisation                              | Representing offshore vessels                 |
| Adam Doyle                  | Stevensons & Sons Ltd (Newlyn)                                       | Representing Processors in Cornwall           |
| Jim Evans                   | Welsh Fishermen's Association  | Representing inshore fishermen in south Wales |
| Mark Stafford               | Welsh Government   | Welsh Government FMP lead                     |
| Colin Charman               | Natural Resources Wales<br>Lead Specialist Advisor: Marine Fisheries | Lead Specialist Advisor: Marine Fisheries     |
| Libby West                  | Natural England Advisor  | Representing Water, Land and Seas Team        |
| Harry Owen                  | Western Fish Producer Organisation (WFPO)                            | Representing WFPO                             |
| Robbie Fisher/Edward Mosely | Defra  | Head of Defra Domestic Fisheries and Reform   |