De-Minimis Assessment

For Self-Certified Measures in Defra

Title of Measure	Seabream FMP
Lead Department/Agency	Defra
Expected Date of Implementation	2027 onwards
Date of Assessment	May 2025
Lead Departmental Contact	phil.mcbryde@defra.gov.uk
Type of Measure (primary/secondary etc)	Other (FMP)

Cost of Preferred Option

Total Net Present Social Value	**Business Net Present Value**	**Equivalent Annual Net Direct Cost to Business (EANDCB)**
£0m	£0m	£0m

Policy overview, rationale for intervention and intended effects

The Fisheries Act 2020[1] places an expectation on the UK's Fisheries Policy Authorities to publish Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). The Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) 2022[2] sets this out in practice and lists 43 proposed FMPs. The Seabream FMP sets out the road map to manage stocks in English waters and protect the wider environment. Once published, the policies and measures in the FMP will be implemented separately through appropriate mechanisms such as statutory instruments, licensing conditions or voluntary measures. The seabream Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) has been produced to drive progress towards the sustainable fishing of specific species in English waters.

Seabream are targeted both commercially and recreationally, but there are currently no stock assessments for Black Seabream or Gilthead Bream in the FMP area, and no assessment units are currently defined for either species. Existing management is fragmented, with Black Seabream subject to some technical and conservation measures, whilst there is no species-specific management in place for Gilthead Bream. Rising water temperatures have initiated a northward migration of both species, therefore the effects of temperature changes, food availability, and migration patterns will need to be considered to ensure effective management. It is also essential that the FMP remains open to additional seabream species becoming more abundant in English waters, as these species are reported to be of high value to both commercial and recreational fisheries yet have little to no management or scientific evidence to support sustainable exploitation.

Given these challenges, a comprehensive FMP is essential to manage these fisheries effectively. Sustainable management requires appropriate harvesting to protect our diverse stocks and will permit us to achieve our responsibility to support vibrant, profitable, and sustainable fishing industries alongside a healthy and productive marine environment. An FMP will provide the tools to manage fishing activity towards more sustainable fisheries, and is a requirement of:

- the Fisheries Act 2020 ('the Act')
- the UK Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) 2022
- the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 for England [3]

Government intervention is required as fish stocks, including seabream, are a common pool resource. This would lead to the classic economic problem of 'the tragedy of the

[1] Fisheries Act 2020 - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament

[2] Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) - GOV.UK

[3] Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 - GOV.UK

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, and this FMP provides the framework through which government intervention would work.
Furthermore, a thriving marine environment has positive externalities, such as improved biodiversity, which benefit society and would not be captured by the market mechanism[4]. Government intervention is therefore required to ensure that the optimal social benefit is achieved.

Policy Options (including alternatives to regulation)

Option 2 was decided as the preferred way forward, as the government has a legal obligation to produce the FMP under the JFS and the fisheries Act 2020.

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

- 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 / Industry introduces voluntary measures.

- The introduction of non-regulatory measures, such as voluntary measures developed and introduced by industry, are unlikely to go far enough to ensure stock are being fished sustainably and the wider marine environment is protected.
- Voluntary measures are unenforceable so there is no guarantee they would provide increased protection to stocks.
- Industry introduced measures would likely not account for the impact of recreational fishing on these stocks, which can be significant.

Option 2 (preferred option): Seabream FMP.

- The seabream FMP puts forwards policies designed to synthesise existing measures, information, data and evidence, identifying where there are gaps and highlighting opportunities to fill them. They provide a clear pathway for developing an improved, evidence-based management approach (both regulatory and non-regulatory), in collaboration with industry and stakeholders, and facilitate progress towards establishing a sustainable fishery for these stocks.

Description of Novel and Contentious Elements (if any)

FMPs are internationally recognised as a sustainable way to manage fisheries and are being implemented in the UK with 6 FMPs published already. The broader policy of FMPs is not considered novel, but there may be elements of the seabream fishery which are novel.

The introduction of some potential management measures (e.g. the minimum conservation reference size (MCRS)) could inhibit EU vessels from landing undersized Bream caught as bycatch in demersal trawls. This measure would negatively impact EU vessels, resulting in potentially significant financial impacts and increases in discards. Meanwhile the measure would likely not impact UK fishermen negatively, as in stakeholder engagement they expressed not wanting to land undersize seabream. The impacts of any measures will be assessed when they brought forward for implementation.

Assessment of Impacts on Business

Over the period from 2016 to 2023, an average of 497 tonnes of seabreams were landed from English waters per year. This equates to an annual average value of £1,231,850. The landed seabream species have the following three species codes: Gilt-Head Seabream

[4] State of the environment - the coastal and marine environment

(SBG), Black Seabream (BRB), Sea Breams (SBX). The proportion of landings differs between UK and EU vessels, with EU vessels accounting for 400 tonnes (80%) of the annual average landed live weight and UK vessels the remaining 97 tonnes (20%). As a result, EU vessels account for the majority of the landed value of seabreams, comprising 77% (£945,835) of the total annual average value.[5]

In 2023, of the 407 UK vessels that landed seabream species, 96% of these generated less than 20% of their total fishing income from this fishery. In the same year, the remaining 16 UK vessels generated more than 20% of their total fishing income from seabreams, accounting for 14% of the total UK landed live weight. [6]

The seabream FMP will have no direct monetised impacts and therefore will have no direct costs to businesses. As and when the individual measures are implemented, the mechanisms used to do so will have their own impact assessments.

Whilst the Seabream FMP identifies measures that could be introduced post-consultation, these proposed measures will be developed further and do not currently have sufficient detail for a full assessment to ascertain these impacts, if any.

Wider Impacts (Including Assessment of Impact on SMBs and Households)

Whilst the seabream FMP identifies measures that could be introduced post-consultation, these proposed measures will be developed further and do not currently have sufficient detail for a full assessment to ascertain these impacts, if any. When individual measures 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.

Assessment of Impact on Trade and Investment (Including Internal Market Assessment)

When individual measures 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. At the moment, there are not expected to be wider impacts of publishing the plan, until the measures are brought forward for implementation.

Assessment of Environmental Impacts

Alongside the seabream FMP, an environmental report has been produced to assess the potential positive and negative environmental effects of the FMP's proposals. This report concluded that the evidence shows the current seabream FMP fishery has a relatively small environmental impact, in large part because of the relatively small scale of current commercial operations.

Black Seabream are a popular target for recreational fishing, with survey data showing high retention rates. Beyond this high retention impact, rod and line gear present minimal bycatch risk and align well with the Good Environmental Status (GES) of UK Marine Strategy (MS)[7] descriptors due to their highly selective nature. The assessment found that nets, trawls and seines pose moderate to high risks towards bycatch of MPA designated features and GES of UK MS descriptors.

The assessment of likely negative effects identified a low risk of significant adverse effects on the environment from implementing individual policies and actions. Where appropriate, these will be developed to avoid any potential negative effects identified by the assessment process.

Rationale for producing a DMA (as opposed to an OA/IA

[5] UK sea fisheries annual statistics - GOV.UK

[6] UK sea fisheries annual statistics - GOV.UK

[7] Marine strategy part one: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status - GOV.UK

A DMA has been produced because the FMP itself will have no direct monetised impacts and as such, falls below the £10m threshold necessary for an OA / IA. Over the period from 2016 to 2023, an average of 497 tonnes of seabreams were landed from English waters per year equivalent to an average annual value of £1,231,850. Therefore, the potential impacts of the FMP on the total annual value of the fishery are unlikely to exceed the £10m threshold required for options assessments and impact assessments [8].
The implementation of specific individual measures, whether by statutory or non-statutory mechanisms, will have their own impact assessments completed separately. The FMP is not considered to be novel or controversial.

Will the policy be reviewed (yes/no): Yes	**Review date if applicable: By 2032**

Review Provision Detail and Monitoring and Evaluation Plans

The Fisheries Act 2020 requires the seabream 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 stocks have been affected.

	Name, Role	**Date**
Internal Directorate Clearance		
Policy sign off	**Phil McBryde, NQS Policy Lead**	**25/06/25**
Senior Analyst sign off		
Central Sign Off		
Better Regulation Unit (Policy) Sign off		**25/08/01**
Office of the Chief Economist (Central Appraisal Team) Sign off		**25/08/01**

Supporting Evidence

1 The Policy Overview and Rationale for Government Intervention

The United Kingdom (UK) government has responsibilities under both national and international law to manage our fisheries in a sustainable way. Meeting our responsibilities will support vibrant, profitable and sustainable fishing industries alongside a healthy and productive marine environment. The UK Government White Paper 2018 on Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations[9] states the objective of 'a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK and setting a gold standard for sustainable fishing around the world'.

The subsequent Fisheries Act 2020[10] sets out the legal framework governing fisheries in the UK and requires the UK Fisheries Policy Authorities to prepare and publish FMPs. FMPs set out the policies designed to restore stocks and maintain them at sustainable levels. The seabream FMP has been prepared to comply with requirements in the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS)[11], section 6 of the Fisheries Act, to contribute to achieving the eight Act

[8] UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2023 - GOV.UK
[9] Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations
[10] Fisheries Act 2020
[11] Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) - GOV.UK

objectives[12], and the environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA regulations)[13].

The Act requires the relevant authorities to prepare and publish FMPs in accordance with the list and timetable included in the JFS. Defra is the relevant authority for the seabream FMP. The FMP applies to fishing of seabream in English waters of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) divisions 4b, 4c, 7a, 7d, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h and 7j.

In addition to meeting the requirements of the Act, the FMP also supports the implementation of wider commitments on protecting the marine environment, restoring biodiversity, and addressing climate change. In particular, the Environment Improvement Plan 2023[14] restated the commitment to deliver FMPs. The FMP supports commitments under the UK Marine Policy Statement[15], the UK Marine Strategy[16], the Marine Wildlife Bycatch Mitigation Initiative[17], UK Marine Plans[18] and the Climate Change Act 2008[19].

1.1 Policy Background

The seabream FMP is a requirement of the Fisheries Act 2020[20] and the Joint Fisheries Statement 2022[21] and includes two Bream species, Black Seabream and Gilthead Bream. These species are commercially exploited in English waters, with many vessels landing them in English ports, and only a few vessels substantially relying on them for their income. Both species can live in a wide range of salinities and temperatures and therefore can thrive in diverse environments. Rising water temperatures have initiated a northward migration, with Gilthead being increasingly reported in the English Channel and Black Seabream anticipated to spread into northeastern regions of the UK.

Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is the highest theoretical equilibrium yield that can be continuously taken on average from a stock under existing average environmental conditions without significantly affecting the reproduction process[22]. Currently there is no assessment of MSY or MSY proxy for either Black Seabream or Gilthead Bream, nor is there any alternative method of assessing the stock. Thus, whilst there is an expectation and anecdotal reporting to suggest that these stocks are becoming more abundant within the FMP area, there is also enough uncertainty to warrant intervention. At the present time, there is no standardised management of these FMP species across English waters, with some Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA's) having introduced measures for Black Seabream within their jurisdictions and others not. There are currently no measures in place with regards to Gilthead.

It is also essential to remain open and aware to additional seabream species becoming more abundant in English waters, as these species are reported to be of high value to both commercial and recreational fisheries yet have little to no management or scientific evidence to support sustainable exploitation.

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[12] Fisheries Act 2020

[13] "The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

[14] Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 - GOV.UK

[15] UK marine policy statement - GOV.UK

[16] Marine strategy part one: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status - GOV.UK

[17] Marine wildlife bycatch mitigation initiative - GOV.UK

[18] Explore marine plans - GOV.UK

[19] Climate Change Act 2008

[20] Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) - GOV.UK

[21] Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) - GOV.UK

[22] The Fisheries Bill 2017–19, Briefing Paper 8442, House of Commons Library, December 2018, page 29

1.3 Rationale for Intervention

The government has a legal obligation under the Fisheries Act 2020 and the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) to produce Fisheries Management Plans (FMP) which will contribute towards the sustainability of both the fishery and the wider marine environment. Therefore, the government must act to produce the Seabream FMP.

Government intervention is required as fish stocks, including seabream, 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, and this FMP provides the framework through which government intervention would work.

Furthermore, a thriving marine environment has positive externalities to society which would not be captured by the market mechanism. For example, a healthy marine environment can capture carbon emissions, helping reduce the impact of climate change for all individuals, which would provide social benefit far greater than the private benefit of an individual taking actions to protect the marine environment. 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 is therefore required to ensure that this optimal social benefit is achieved.

1.4 Policy Objectives and Intended Effects

The seabream FMP has been produced with the intention of outlining a pathway to sustainably manage Bream stocks in English waters, ensuring the long-term social and economic viability of fisheries and the health of the marine ecosystems.

The UK government has responsibilities under both national and international law to manage our fisheries in a sustainable way. The UK government White Paper 2018 on Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations[23] states the objective of 'a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK and setting a gold standard for sustainable fishing around the world'.

The subsequent Fisheries Act 2020 sets out the legal framework governing fisheries in the UK and provides for UK Fisheries Policy Authorities to prepare and publish FMPs, setting out policies designed to restore stocks and maintain them at sustainable level. In addition to meeting the requirements of the Act, the FMP also supports the implementation of wider commitments on protecting the marine environment, restoring biodiversity, and addressing climate change.

There is insufficient evidence to determine MSY or a proxy for MSY for seabream species included within this FMP. This FMP sets out the proposed steps to build the evidence base for these data limited stocks to support progress towards defining and measuring stock status and reporting on stock sustainability.

1.5 Policy Options Considered, Including Alternatives to Regulation

The Fisheries Act 2020 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

[23] Fisheries white paper: sustainable fisheries for future generations - GOV.UK

Wales) to prepare and publish fisheries management plans (FMPs) to help deliver our ambition for sustainable fisheries. The plans were decided during the Joint Fisheries Statement- a collaboration between the UK fisheries authorities.

FMPs are an internationally recognised mechanism to manage fisheries sustainably. Many UK stocks are data poor and lack management. FMPs provide a framework to fill data gaps and introduce management measures to protect stocks now and into the future. Therefore, Option 2, publishing the FMP, was selected as the preferred way forward.

Option 0: Do nothing - No FMP or related management measures developed.

- The seabream FMP is a legislative requirement of the Fisheries Act 2020 and the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS), meaning that the UK government must act to introduce the FMP or be legally non-compliant.
- The species included within the FMP are commercially and recreationally fished, however the evidence base is extremely limited, meaning that they are at risk of potential over-exploitation if we do not seek to improve our understanding of these stocks.
- Failure to produce an FMP may also risk insufficient protection for the wider marine environment, and potential social and economic harm to coastal communities if the exploitation of the stocks is not sustainably managed.

Option 1: Self-regulation - No formal Government FMP / Industry introduces voluntary measures.

- Current management measures for these stocks are notably piecemeal and lack an understanding of the wider scope of factors affecting their distribution and prevalence. Reliance on non-regulatory, voluntary measures developed and introduced by industry, would unlikely go far enough to gain a better understanding of the stocks and ensure they are being fished sustainably.
- Industry introduced measures would likely not account for the impact of recreational fishing on these stocks and ensuring these are mitigated will be key to ensuring a good outcome for the species listed in the FMP. A coherent, joined-up approach is therefore critical.

Option 2 (preferred option): Seabream FMP.

- A comprehensive FMP is essential to manage these fisheries effectively and ensure they remain ecologically and socioeconomically viable to coastal ecosystems and communities.
- The first iteration will focus on understanding the status of the stock and considering implementing management measures, whilst also filling evidence gaps associated with these fisheries to understand their current status and future management needs.
- Future iterations will strive to account for the variability in life history traits, the different species' vulnerabilities, and the effectiveness of different management practices, ensuring the long-term sustainability of these populations and balancing ecological needs with those of the fishing community.

2 Expected Level of Business Impact

2.1 Summary of Preferred Option

As the FMP itself will not implement any measures upon its introduction, there will be no direct impacts on businesses through its publication.
Whilst the seabream FMP identifies measures that could be introduced post-consultation, these proposed measures will be developed further and do not currently have sufficient detail for any economic analysis to be done. As detailed costs and benefits cannot be provided in this DMA, background figures about the fishery to understand the potential scale of impact

and scope have been provided below. When individual measures 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.

2.2 Costs

As the FMP itself does not introduce any specific actions or measures there are no direct costs associated with its introduction. As detailed costs and benefits cannot be provided in this DMA, background figures to understand the potential scale of impact and scope have been provided. When individual measures 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.

In 2023, of the 407 vessels that landed seabream species, 96% of these generated less than 20% of their total fishing income from this fishery. In the same year, 16 UK vessels generated more than 20% of their total fishing income from seabreams, accounting for 14% of the total landed live weight[24].

From 2016 to 2023, an average of 497 tonnes of seabream (BRB, SBG and SBX codes combined) were landed from English waters per year. This equates to an annual average value of £1,231,850[25]. The proportion of landings differ between UK and EU vessels, with EU vessels accounting for 400 tonnes (80%) of the annual average landed live weight and UK vessels the remaining 97 tonnes (20%)[26]. As a result, EU vessels account for the majority of the landed value of seabream, comprising of 77% (£945,835) of the total annual average value.

2.3 Benefits

There are potential, though not guaranteed, benefits to the introduction of an FMP for Bream. For example, evidence gathering to better understand their status and location could lead to a stock assessment that allows for the sustainability of these fisheries. A well-managed fishery allows for economic benefits via the potential introduction of charter vessels, as well as increasing opportunities for locally sourced fish to be marketed.

Black Seabream is a recreationally important species and better handling and release guidance could improve the health of the stock and reduce its vulnerability during nesting. A well-managed stock could also benefit coastal communities through increased levels of angling and charter fishing, drawing individuals to areas where the stock can be caught.

2.4 Indirect Costs and Benefits

The majority of the policies within the FMP will be focused on the fishery and therefore are likely to only have impacts on those working directly within the fishery. That said, some of the proposals will include measures designed to support the sustainability of the wider environment, such as coastal communities and species, so some indirect benefits may be observed.

The marine environment has positive externalities in that it provides ecosystem services, though these are not solely attributable to the seabream. Instead, they are derived from health and biologically diverse marine environment of which seabream are a part. There are many ecosystem services, some examples are it provides provisioning services such as providing food, regulating services such as biological control and can provided cultural impacts in the form of cultural heritage.

[24] Data provided by MMO for the Seabream DMA, based on data underlying UK sea fisheries statistics

[25] UK sea fisheries annual statistics - GOV.UK

[26] UK sea fisheries annual statistics - GOV.UK and STECF 2024 data call landings data

No sensitivity analysis has been undertaken in this DMA, as there are currently no quantifiable impacts of producing the FMP at this stage

2.5 Risks and Unintended Consequences

There are no direct risks stemming from the introduction of the seabream FMP, however the implementation of future measures intended to achieve the FMP's goals may potentially raise some issues.

Any fisheries management intervention will result in a range of social, economic and biological impacts. When implementing a new management measure, there is a statutory requirement to estimate the anticipated wider national benefits (for example, improved stock status of target species), as well as the likely impacts on stakeholders, and how negative impacts can be mitigated. Broader impacts on local communities, and economic, social and human rights impacts, will be analysed in associated impact assessments, which will be required as part of the development of measures.

3 Wider impacts

There is minimal impact on the wider society as 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.

3.1 Assessment of Impact on Small and Micro Businesses

The primary focus of the legislation is on the fishing industry, which is predominantly composed of small and microbusinesses defined by the Better Regulation Framework as being 10-49 employees or 0-9 employees respectively. Within the catching industry in 2024, 94% of employers were micro-businesses, 6% were small, and there were no medium or large employers, all of which gives an indication of the scope of businesses liable to be impacted by the introduction of the FMP. As all businesses in scope sit within the small or micro business bracket. As all businesses in scope sit within the small or micro business bracket, it would mean the policy would be ineffective if they are exempt from the FMP.

3.2 Impacts on Households

The FMP is not expected to have a direct impact on households. If implemented, certain measures proposed in the FMP could have some impact on households. Any potential impacts will be assessed in future assessments. The direction and scale of the impacts will depend on the specific measures adopted and their scope.

The group most likely to be impacted by any changes to fishing regulations are those that derive all, or part, of their income from capture fisheries. Households that work in industries that are downstream to the fishery, such as aquaculture business, or other fisheries that use seabream as bait could also be partly affected, though likely to a lesser extent than those directly involved in the fishery. Also, if the measures are sufficient in scale to change the price of fish, households that consume fish could be affected, though the risk of this is believed to be low.

3.3 Assessment of Impact on Trade and Investment (Including Internal Market Assessment)

The implementation of seabream FMP is not expected to have significant impacts on trade and investment. However, if measures proposed in the FMP are implemented at a later date, and the scale of impact on trade and investment is higher enough, a trade and investment assessment will be conducted.

3.4 Assessment of Environmental Impacts

The policies and actions included within the seabream FMP have been developed with due regard to the relevant Environmental principles, however there is still potential for some negative environmental impacts as and when the policies are finalised and implemented.

Fishing for Black Seabream and Gilthead Bream poses some risks to the quality status of the marine environment. These environmental risks may increase in the future in line with the anticipated increases of these stocks in English waters. Potential future management measures such as introducing a national MCRS could lead to increased discards, and management to reduce opportunities could lead to spatial changes in fishing effort, increasing the pressure elsewhere.

Conversely, there is also potential for positive impacts stemming from the development of the seabream FMP. The extensive gathering of data to better inform management will enhance understanding of the wider biodiversity within these fisheries. The FMP also signposts existing national programmes that collect data on the contribution of fisheries towards climate change and will help to identify opportunities to decarbonise the fleet, reducing pollution and contributing to net zero.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Delivery of the actions for this FMP will be monitored by Defra with possible assistance from Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) in the collection of data.

There is insufficient evidence to determine MSY or a proxy for MSY for the species included within this FMP. This FMP sets out the proposed steps to build the evidence base for these data limited stocks to support progress towards defining and measuring stock status and reporting on stock sustainability. An increase in the available evidence to define and measure stock status will be an indicator of the effectiveness of this plan for these stocks.

Other indicators to measure the effectiveness of the policies for restoring, or maintaining these stocks at sustainable levels are:

- A baseline of black seabream and gilthead bream data produced to identify evidence gaps and support future assessment of stocks.
- Increased available evidence to improve understanding of the ecological and biological aspects of FMP seabream species.
- For specific fisheries, the implementation of an increased black seabream MCRS.
- For specific fisheries, the implementation of an MCRS for gilthead bream.
- Identification guides produced for all FMP species to increase species-specific reporting in English waters.
- An introduction of voluntary commercial and recreational fishery guidelines for seabream to increase post-release survival.
- An introduction of a bag limit for black seabream for recreational anglers within the FMP area.
- Increased available evidence on the social and economic importance of black seabream to both the commercial and recreational sector, as well as coastal communities within the FMP area.
- Increased evidence under existing programmes indicating that black seabream and gilthead bream fisheries do not impede the achievement of GES for UKMS descriptors.
- Management of black seabream and gilthead bream do not interfere with the conservation objectives of the features designated of MPAs with which they interact.

The FMP is an evidence-based action plan designed to support the delivery of sustainable fisheries in the long-term, as well as meet the requirements of the Fisheries Act 2020 and the JFS. To remain effective, it is a legal requirement as part of the Fisheries Act 2020 for the

FMP to be regularly reviewed and updated, ensuring it responds to new evidence and practical experience. In line with the legislation outlined above it will also be reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least once every six years.

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.

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.

Annex

Table 1: Value of Landings (£) of seabream by UK + Crown Dependency and EU vessels in the area covered by the FMP[27]

Year landed	EU27	UK+CD	Total
2013	957,066	265,076	1,222,142
2014	926,660	273,463	1,200,123
2015	692,724	221,064	913,787
2016	831,983	250,822	1,082,805
2017	838,817	207,136	1,045,953
2018	799,214	282,379	1,081,593
2019	783,577	239,300	1,022,877
2020	942,753	242,082	1,184,835
2021	937,342	339,115	1,276,458
2022	878,016	242,385	1,120,402
2023	1,538,978	500,900	2,039,878

[27] Data form UK Sea fisheries statistics 2023 and STECF FDI 2024 data call landings data