



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Proposed Crab and Lobster Fisheries Management Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment: Environmental Report - Non-technical Summary

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Non-technical Summary

The draft Crab and Lobster Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Fisheries Act 2020. It sets out the policies and proposed measures Defra will use to manage crab and lobster fishing activity, so stocks are harvested within sustainable levels. Alongside these measures, the draft Crab and Lobster FMP also sets out management to help support wider social, economic and environmental aspects of the fisheries.

This Environmental Report (ER) has been produced in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations 2004). The following issues (from Schedule 2 paragraph 6 of the SEA Regulations 2004) were scoped into the assessment: Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora, Geology and sediments (soil), Water, Climatic factors, Cultural heritage. This report assesses the likely significant effects of the draft Crab and Lobster FMP on these issues.

The assessment was conducted against a baseline that primarily used existing evidence on the state of the marine environment set out in [The updated UK Marine Strategy Part 1](#) published in 2019. Additional sources of evidence were used to establish the current status of the environment in relation to issues such as climatic factors not covered by the UK Marine Strategy (UK MS). The historical impact of fishing activity on the marine environment has been considered part of the baseline. Our assessment used the best available evidence at the present time to reach a judgement on the environmental effects of the draft Crab and Lobster FMP.

This report sets out those plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives, both international and domestic, that Defra consider relevant to the draft Crab and Lobster FMP.

This report considers and acknowledges the existing environmental effects of crab and lobster fishing using pots and traps on those issues scoped into this assessment, in relation to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the UK MS descriptors, and the wider environment. The potential positive and negative environmental effects of the draft Crab and Lobster FMP's policies and proposed measures alone and in combination have also been assessed.

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) concluded that current evidence shows the crab and lobster fisheries have some impact on the wider marine environment. Bycatch of mobile species that are designated features of MPAs was identified as a potential issue. Beyond MPAs, the contribution of fishing-related litter and potential bycatch of non-target species were identified as the principal potential impacts associated with crab and lobster fishing. The contribution of crab and lobster

Proposed Crab and Lobster FMP non-technical summary of environmental report fishing to climate change-related issues and cultural heritage through entanglement of pot ropes for example, was also identified as a potential impact.

The draft Crab and Lobster FMP has considered these impacts and sets out proposals to monitor, and where required, introduce mitigation to address these impacts.

The environmental effects of implementing the Crab and Lobster FMP policies and measures will be monitored to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage, ensuring appropriate remedial action can be undertaken.

This assessment recommends the draft Crab and Lobster FMP should consider the following additional points:

- Future iterations of the Crab and Lobster FMP should consider how they can develop the cultural heritage of each fishery, and how fisheries management can contribute to reducing potential negative interactions with marine heritage assets.
- The draft Crab and Lobster FMP would benefit from providing more specific detail on how the FMP will interact with Marine Plans. Noting how the FMP could positively or negatively interact with this programme, would improve the in-combination assessment.