



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Proposed Fisheries Management Plan for king scallops in English and Welsh Waters

Strategic Environmental Assessment: Environmental Report - Non-technical Summary

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Non-technical Summary

The proposed King Scallop 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 and the Welsh Government will use to manage scallop fishing activity in their waters, so stocks are harvested within sustainable levels. Alongside these measures, the draft King Scallop FMP also sets out management to help support wider social, economic and environmental aspects of the fishery.

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, Landscape and seascape. This report assesses the likely significant effects of the draft King Scallop 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 and cultural heritage that are 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 to reach a suitable judgement on the environmental effects of the draft King Scallop FMP.

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

This report considers and acknowledges the existing environmental effects of king scallop fishing using scallop dredges, in relation to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the UK MS descriptors of Good Environmental Status (GES) for the wider marine environment and climatic factors. The potential positive and negative environmental effects of the King Scallop 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 king scallop fishery has an impact on the marine environment primarily through seabed disturbance. The impact of scallop fishing in MPAs is managed in the 0-12nm zone in English and Welsh waters. Management in MPAs beyond the 12nm limit is being considered and implemented where necessary. Further work is required to reduce the impact of scallop fishing on habitats beyond MPAs to ensure GES targets for seabed integrity (D6) can be achieved. The contribution of scallop

Proposed King Scallop FMP non-technical summary of environmental report

fishing to climate change related issues and cultural heritage through structural damage, for example was also identified as a potential impact.

The King Scallop 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 King Scallop 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 King Scallop FMP should consider the following additional points:

- Future iterations of the King Scallop FMP should consider how it can develop the cultural heritage of each fishery and how fisheries management can contribute to reducing potential negative interactions with marine heritage assets.
- Future iterations of the King Scallop FMP should consider how fisheries management can contribute to reducing potential negative interactions with submerged prehistoric landscapes or seascapes.
- The draft King Scallop 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.