

Title: Southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays Fisheries Management Plan Date: October 2024 BRU No: N/A Lead department or agency: Defra		De Minimis Assessment (DMA)	
		Stage: Consultation	
		Source of intervention: Domestic	
		Type of measure: Other	
Summary: Rationale and Options		Contact for enquiries: katie.plumridge@defra.gov.uk	
Total Net Present Value £0.00m	Business Net Present Value £0.00m	Net cost to business per year £0.00m	

Rationale for intervention and intended outcomes.

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

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

This FMP in its first iteration covers the following species of rays found in English waters: thornback ray (*Raja clavata*), blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*), undulate ray (*Raja undulata*), small-eyed ray (*Raja microocellata*), spotted ray (*Raja montagui*), cuckoo ray (*Leucoraja naevus*), starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*). There is sufficient available scientific evidence for five of the stocks in scope of the FMP to be assessed against maximum sustainable yield (MSY) by International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and these are considered data category 2. Three stocks have been assessed against MSY proxy by ICES and are considered data category 3. Three stocks have not been assessed by ICES and are considered data category 5, more evidence gathering is required to improve data for these species. Compared to most bony fish, skates and rays are long lived, slow-growing, and late to mature at between 5-10 years of age, with the smaller bodied species maturing at an earlier age.

This FMP collates existing information for species in the southern North Sea and English Channel including existing management measures, science and evidence, and highlights where gaps exist. The FMP sets out the policies and proposed steps to build the evidence base while maintaining or increasing stock levels. To protect the stocks that are potentially not being fished sustainably at present, the FMP proposes some precautionary management measures to be considered in the short term, while more evidence is gathered.

Describe the policy options considered.

Option 0: Do nothing – no FMP or related management measures developed.

- There is a legislative requirement for this FMP as set out in the JFS. The lack of strengthened / new evidence-based management would increase the likelihood of stocks being over exploited, there being insufficient protection for the wider marine environment and be legally non-compliant.

Option 1: Self-regulation – The FMP is implemented entirely through voluntary measures.

- The introduction of non-regulatory measures, such as voluntary measures, would unlikely go far enough to ensure stocks are being fished sustainably and the wider marine environment is protected. This is because financial incentives would not align, as illustrated in the rationale.

Option 2 (preferred option): Southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays FMP.

- Meets the above commitments under the Fisheries Act and JFS sets out the legal framework to achieve “a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK” and complies with the statutory obligation in the Fisheries Act to prepare and publish the FMP (the FMP having been included in the JFS which was published in November 2022).
- The FMP sets out the policies designed to maintain stocks at sustainable levels by bringing together information on existing measures and available evidence, mapping where there are gaps and opportunities to fill them, setting a clear pathway to developing and introducing improved, evidence-based management (both regulatory and non-regulatory) in collaboration with industry/ stakeholders.

Rationale for DMA rating

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

Will the policy be reviewed? Yes		If applicable, set review date:		
Are these organisations in scope?	Micro Yes	Small Yes	Medium No	Large No

Senior Policy Sign-off: Date: 28/03/2024

Better Regulation Unit Sign-off: Date: 02/05/2024

1.0 Policy Rationale

Policy background

1. The Fisheries Act 2020¹ provides the framework to manage our fisheries as an independent coastal state outside of the EU Common Fisheries Policy. The Act requires the UK fisheries policy authorities (Defra, and the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) to prepare and publish fisheries management plans (FMPs) to help deliver our ambition for sustainable fisheries. The Joint Fisheries Statement² (JFS), published in November 2022 sets out how the ambition of the Fisheries Act 2020 will be achieved in practice and lists 43 proposed FMPs to be published, one of which is the Southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays FMP in English waters. The fisheries policy authorities have a statutory obligation to prepare and publish any FMP on that list in accordance with the timescales set out in the JFS.
2. FMPs set out the policies designed to restore one or more stocks of sea fish to, or maintain them at, sustainable levels. Each plan will specify the stock(s), type of fishing and the geographic area covered. Each FMP will also identify the measures that will be used to deliver its policies. Such measures may include both existing or new regulations, statutory instruments, technical measures, or non-statutory routes such as research plans, voluntary agreements, or codes of conduct. The precise mechanisms used will depend on the policies set out in the plan and, where appropriate, will be enforced by the relevant national fisheries authority. The proposed measures could be regulatory or deregulatory, and positive or negative to business.

¹ [Fisheries Act 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

² [Joint Fisheries Statement \(JFS\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

3. This DMA has been produced to support the consultation on the southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays Fisheries Management Plan. The purpose of the consultation is to seek views from those with an interest on the proposed goals, actions, and management measures set out in the plan. The consultation also seeks feedback on the evidence presented in the plan and provides an opportunity for respondents to provide additional evidence that may support the FMP goals.

Problem under consideration

4. The southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) is one of the 43 FMPs set out in the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) required by the Fisheries Act 2020 (the Act). It establishes a road map to achieve long-term sustainable management of FMP fisheries in English waters in ICES areas 4b, 4c, 7d and 7e, in line with the Fisheries Act 2020 objectives. Once published, the policies and measures in the FMP will be implemented separately through appropriate mechanisms such as statutory instruments, licence conditions or voluntary measures.
5. This FMP in its first iteration covers the following species of rays found in English waters in ICES divisions 4b and 4c (southern North Sea) and 7d and 7e (English Channel):
 - thornback ray (*Raja clavata*)
 - blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*)
 - undulate ray (*Raja undulata*)
 - small-eyed ray (*Raja microocellata*)
 - spotted ray (*Raja montagui*)
 - cuckoo ray (*Leucoraja naevus*)
 - starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*).
6. The species within scope of the FMP are caught across a range of seasonal and gear-specific fishery subsets, and otherwise more generally caught in mixed fisheries with other quota stocks. Commercially, the FMP fisheries averaged (2016-2022) £1.6m to UK vessels per annum. Fisheries landings data show thornback rays to be the most important species in the scope of the FMP, by weight and value for both the UK and EU fleets. Blonde rays, spotted rays, cuckoo rays and undulate rays emerge as the second, third, fourth and fifth most important species by weight and value, respectively. An average (2016-2022) of 1,100t³ of focal species were landed annually from the FMP area by UK vessels, 52% of which was thornback ray (total accounting for 610t; £750k)⁴, 28% was blonde ray (total accounting for 330t; £580k)⁵, 7% spotted ray (total accounting for 83t; £93k) and 6% cuckoo ray (total accounting for 72t; £54k)⁶. Skates and rays typically fetch lower prices (in comparison to the EU market) in the UK market.
7. Recreational catch data in respect of the FMP species is limited but existing research has indicated that it is of high economic and social value and may form a key component of coastal community income. Further evidence gathering is required through the implementation of the FMP.

³ [UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104222/uk-sea-fisheries-annual-statistics-report-2022.pdf)

⁴ [UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104222/uk-sea-fisheries-annual-statistics-report-2022.pdf)

⁵ [UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104222/uk-sea-fisheries-annual-statistics-report-2022.pdf)

⁶ [UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104222/uk-sea-fisheries-annual-statistics-report-2022.pdf)

8. Compared to most bony fish, skates and rays are long lived, slow-growing, and are late to mature at between 5 and 10 years of age, with the smaller bodied species maturing at an earlier age. Therefore, these species have a longer generation time and are more vulnerable to fisheries harvest, the FMP considers measures required to protect juvenile skate and rays. It is also understood that skates and rays utilise distinct areas to breed and grow as juveniles, the FMP considers the need to protect these areas during sensitive periods.
9. The FMP proposes actions to achieve the Act's precautionary objective to reach harvest at or below MSY. There are 11 skate and ray stocks in scope of this FMP. Five of these are already assessed against MSY by ICES, and three are assessed against an MSY proxy. Three stocks are currently not assessed by ICES. Short term management will focus on seeking to ensure the assessed stocks are harvested at or below MSY in English waters, while gathering data to contribute to the future assessment of the three ICES data category 5 stocks. Commitments for the long-term will look to close the data gaps on all FMP species, seeking to enable all stocks to be managed through MSY assessment, and for all FMP species to be fished at or beneath this.
10. Sustainability concerns have been identified for some of the stocks within the scope of this FMP; Starry ray in the southern North Sea has been assessed by ICES which has identified fishing pressure exceeds the FMSY proxy, and the stock size falls below the index trigger. Therefore, ICES advises that there should be 0 catches up to 2027. Anecdotal evidence from stakeholders has suggested some concern around the sustainability of thornback rays in ICES area 4c, and undulate rays in 7d and 7e. This FMP will look to address some of these concerns.
11. Exploitation of skates and rays are regulated through the current system of Total Allowable Catches (TACs). There are currently combined TACs for skates and rays in the North Sea, the eastern English Channel and the Celtic Seas. There is some ability to transfer a proportion of these TACs to adjacent TAC areas. There is a separate stock-specific TAC in place for undulate ray in the English Channel since 2019, although there were various sub-TACs for this stock in place since March 2015. There are a few existing management measures in place, i.e. minimum conservation reference size, however they are not widespread across all species or areas covered by this FMP and so this FMP will consider them more widely.

Rationale for intervention

12. Southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Ray were prioritised for early development of a Fisheries Management Plan because they met the following criteria:
 - a. The variety of data levels for the stocks and the need to improve them.
 - b. Wider social and economic importance of the stock and its associated fisheries, considering factors such as employment levels, local income, recreational fishing interest, contribution to coastal communities, and legal or governance and institutional structures.
 - c. Potential risk of over-exploitation without additional management action (Skates and rays are late to mature, have fewer offspring etc.)
 - d. Ecosystem significance of the stock, including factors such as its fisheries' impact on the ecosystem and interactions with non-target species including protected species.
13. The FMP sets out the policy framework for managing stocks in English waters to achieve MSY and includes the complete portfolio of existing management measures in inshore

and offshore waters in addition to all relevant science and evidence. The FMP also highlights where gaps exist and what is required to fill those gaps and provide the necessary protection for stocks now and in the long term.

14. The FMP will also consider evidence of the wider impacts the fishery has on the marine environment and will set out a long-term plan to improve data that will inform mitigation and management actions. The ecosystem management measures outlined in the FMP will aim to support the fishery to operate harmoniously within the wider marine environment and recognises its role as an important forage fish species.
15. Government intervention is required as fish stocks are a common pool resource. That is, that they are non-excludable, yet rivalrous. Rivalrous here means anyone can catch a fish but once a fish is caught and retained it cannot be caught again. They are non-excludable because it is not possible for one actor to exclude another from catching fish. These characteristics would lead to the classic economic problem of 'the tragedy of the commons', were the government not to intervene. This is because market agents would only consider the benefits of catching. They would not weigh it against the impact it will have on the stock health overall, leading to overexploitation of the stock. Government intervention would prevent this overexploitation of fish stocks, and this FMP provides the framework through which government intervention would work.
16. 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.

Policy objective

17. The objective of this policy, in accordance with the Fisheries Act 2020, the Joint Fisheries Statement and the 25 Year Environmental Plan, is to contribute to the health and abundance of key commercial species and promote healthy seas and economic stability.
18. The FMP vision is that skate and ray fisheries in the southern North Sea and English Channel will be managed to achieve environmental, social, and economic sustainability, for the benefit of coastal communities and wider society. The FMP vision will be delivered using the following principles:
 - a) Align with legislation and government policy.
 - b) Adopt an evidence-based approach.
 - c) Seek to apply a precautionary approach where needed.
 - d) Adopt a holistic approach.
 - e) Deliver the FMP and iterate over time.
19. To support delivery of this FMP the MMO, with the help of stakeholders, developed specific goals based around the key themes of Sustainable Fisheries, Social and

Economic, and Evidence. Each of these goals will make contributions towards the 8 objectives within the Act. These goals are to:

- a) Deliver effective management of skate and ray fisheries in the southern North Sea and English Channel.
- b) Deliver effective management to contribute to increasing or maintaining skate and ray stocks; where possible identify and mitigate pressures on skate and ray stocks.
- c) Contribute to improving biological and environmental sustainability by understanding and reducing the wider impacts of skate and ray fishing.
- d) Better understand and optimise social and economic benefits.
- e) Develop partnership working to build capacity for industry to be able to input into matters affecting skate and ray fisheries management.
- f) Better understand the wider skate and ray species evidence gaps
- g) Develop the skates and rays evidence base.

20. The goals were developed while recognising that overall fishing opportunities on the associated stocks are determined through international negotiation. It is recognised that there is the potential for short-term tension between some goals for instance where exact following of scientific advice may have severe socio-economic implications. Balancing these goals and objectives is considered within the negotiations.

21. The FMP lays out a set of goals and measures aimed at improving data collection and understanding for all species in the FMP. These steps aim to facilitate future stock assessments for the species currently lacking ICES assessments. For data limited stocks, the FMP proposes a precautionary approach to management to improve or maintain stock status, with the intent to improve evidence on these stocks as a priority in order to progress toward managing these under MSY.

Options considered

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

- The Government would fail to meet commitments under the Fisheries Act 2020 and Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) to publish FMPs, increasing risk of legal challenge.
- Lack of strengthened evidence-based management would increase the likelihood of stocks being overexploited with insufficient protection for the wider marine environment.

Option 1: Self-regulation – The FMP is implemented entirely through voluntary measures.

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

guarantee they will be consistently adhered to and provide a high enough level of protection to stocks.

Option 2 (preferred option): Southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays FMP

- Meets the above commitments under the Fisheries Act and JFS sets out the legal framework to achieve “a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK” and complies with the statutory obligation in the Fisheries Act to prepare and publish the FMP (the FMP having been included in the JFS which was published in November 2022).
- The FMP sets out the policies designed to maintain stocks at sustainable levels by bringing together information on existing measures and available evidence, mapping where there are gaps and opportunities to fill them, setting a clear pathway to developing and introducing improved, evidence-based management (both regulatory and non-regulatory) in collaboration with industry/ stakeholders.

2.0 Rationale for De Minimis Rating

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

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

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

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

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

3.0 Costs and Benefits

26. Whilst the 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 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.

27. This FMP covers 11 stocks in English waters in ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 7d and 7e. The landings value of these species in the scope of this FMP by UK vessels in these waters in 2022, was approximately 1,300 tonnes in 2022 (liveweight) with a first sale value of approximately £2,000,000⁷. The highest value species is the thornback ray making up over 50% of the first sales value, it had £8⁸ million of the £16 million of landings over the last 10 years. Full breakdown of sales value and landings by species can be found in the Annex.
28. The majority of landings in the fisheries in scope are by the under 10m fleet, with under 10m vessels contributing 69%⁹ of the total landings on average between 2012 and 2022. The vessels most reliant on skates and rays are predominately under 10m in length. Full breakdown of sales value and landings by length can be found in the Annex.
29. No specific assessment has been conducted for the FMP regarding small and micro businesses, as the primary focus of the legislation is on the fishing industry. This industry is predominantly composed of small and micro businesses. Small and micro business defined by the better regulation framework are 10-49 employees and 0-9 employees respectively¹⁰. Out of 4,070 fishing businesses, only 10 would not be classified as small or micro businesses. 115 would be considered small businesses, and the vast majority, 3,945, would be classified as micro businesses¹¹. Therefore, when evaluating the impacts of the legislation, our primary focus is on these small and micro businesses. Consequently, we do not anticipate a disproportionate effect on small and micro businesses.

Risks and unintended consequences

30. Unintended consequences may emerge from the FMP's ambitions which across the whole programme of FMPs may be challenging to resource and implement. Mitigation is being considered to manage this that involves realistic timeframes being considered as well as prioritising efforts across the whole of the programme.
31. 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.
32. Commercial UK and European Union (EU) vessels operating in the English Channel and southern North Sea have access to the shared stocks in the scope of this FMP under the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). There is a risk of impact for this FMP on EU vessels as they were responsible for 49% of the catch covered under the FMP between 2016 and 2021. The EU are likely to benefit from increased evidence of the stocks as a whole.

Wider impacts

⁷ [UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104242/sea_fisheries_annual_statistics_report_2022.pdf)

⁸ [UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104242/sea_fisheries_annual_statistics_report_2022.pdf)

⁹ [UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104242/sea_fisheries_annual_statistics_report_2022.pdf)

¹⁰ [BETTER REGULATION FRAMEWORK](#)

¹¹ [UK business: activity, size and location](#)

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

Trade Impact

34. Direct implementation of measures which may impact the EU will be considered and assessed separately to the FMP itself.

4.0 Post implementation review

35. When producing policy and determining the need for regulatory impact assessments, the Better Regulation Framework guidance and the better regulation principles of robust evidence, transparency and proportionality are taken into consideration. Where policies require legislation, a regulatory impact assessment is undertaken and submitted to the Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) for independent scrutiny. Such scrutiny will be in advance of introducing any secondary legislation for all measures that are above the £5 million per annum threshold for net costs to business. Analysis to support these changes is produced in line with HMT Green Book methodology and includes consideration of the impact on small and micro businesses. This analysis is not required for measures below the £5 million equivalent annual net direct costs to business (EANDCB) threshold. For measures below this threshold Defra will, if appropriate, produce de-minimis assessments.

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

FMP review

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

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

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

	Sunset clause	x	Other review clause		Political commitment		Other reason		No plan to review
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The Fisheries Act 2020 requires the FMP to be reviewed at least every 6 years to assess the extent to which the policies in the plan have been implemented and how the stock has been affected.

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

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Five years from when the Regulations come into force

Before the end of the period of 6 years beginning with the day on which the FMP is published.

3. **Rationale for PIR approach:**

Formal review:

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

Independent evaluation:

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

Implementing measures:

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

FMP post implementation review:

- A post implementation review for the Southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays FMP will coincide with the formal review to assess the wider impacts of the FMP and its associated measures. This review will include wider impacts to business and unintended consequences.
- This review will also collate the impacts of individual measures where they have been implemented and provide a holistic assessment of the impact of the FMP.

Monitoring:

- The FMP must set out the indicators and specify the monitoring required to assess its effectiveness.

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

Stakeholder Views

- Stakeholder views will be sought by Defra through existing stakeholder channels throughout the development of the FMP. Such collaboration will be ongoing with a commitment to increased engagement as the FMP is published and implemented.
- Stakeholder views will also be sought through the independent FMP Evaluation Programme
- Stakeholder views will be sought through any public consultation on specific management measures in the FMP and through and through public consultation during the formal review process if the FMP is amended, revoked or replaced.

5.0 Annex

Table 1 - Annual value (£) of landings by species by UK vessels.

Year	Thornback ray	Blonde ray	Small-eyed ray	Spotted ray	Cuckoo ray	Starry ray	Undulate ray	Total
2012	720,000	340,000	56,000	82,000	91,000	820	2	1,300,000
2013	780,000	440,000	50,000	110,000	94,000	1,400	0	1,500,000
2014	650,000	390,000	46,000	71,000	76,000	4,100	0	1,200,000
2015	570,000	470,000	48,000	67,000	52,000	500	5,500	1,200,000
2016	720,000	440,000	27,000	89,000	45,000	520	25,000	1,400,000
2017	730,000	400,000	20,000	79,000	46,000	500	44,000	1,300,000
2018	870,000	450,000	17,000	92,000	61,000	360	50,000	1,500,000
2019	790,000	510,000	24,000	100,000	66,000	490	70,000	1,600,000
2020	610,000	560,000	23,000	79,000	42,000	12	64,000	1,400,000
2021	740,000	750,000	33,000	97,000	47,000	0	64,000	1,700,000
2022	790,000	900,000	45,000	120,000	72,000	17	110,000	2,000,000
Total	8,000,000	5,700,000	390,000	990,000	690,000	8,6700	430,000	16,000,000

Table 2 - Annual landings by species in tonnes by UK vessels.

Year	Thornback ray	Blonde ray	Small-eyed ray	Spotted ray	Cuckoo ray	Starry ray	Undulate ray	Total
2012	520	190	32	57	79	1	0	890
2013	610	237	31	85	78	1	0	1,100
2014	580	249	34	64	86	3	0	1,000
2015	490	280	36	60	69	0	4	940
2016	570	251	19	77	74	0	21	1,000
2017	600	218	14	69	72	0	34	1,000
2018	700	252	12	84	81	0	40	1,200
2019	680	309	19	96	91	0	60	1,300
2020	540	368	24	79	68	0	64	1,200
2021	620	430	28	93	54		53	1,300
2022	590	456	33	86	65	0	73	1,300
Total	6,500	3,200	280	850	820	7	350	12,000

Table 3 - Weight and tonnes by location by UK vessels.

Year	Weight (t)		Value (£)	
	North Sea	Channel	North Sea	Channel
2012	320	580	450,000	860,000
2013	410	650	560,000	940,000
2014		670	400,000	840,000
2015	260	680	300,000	920,000
2016	250	760	320,000	1,000,000
2017	270	740	310,000	1,000,000
2018	280	900	360,000	1,200,000
2019	270	1000	310,000	1,300,000
2020	180	970	220,000	1,200,000
2021	210	1,100	250,000	1,500,000
2022	170	1,100	240,000	1,800,000
Total	3,000	9,100	3,700,000	12,500,000

Table 4 – landings by UK vessel by vessel length.

	Weight (t)			Value (£)		
	10m&Under	Over10m	Total	10m&Under	Over10m	Total
2012	500	390	890	720,000	590,000	1,300,000
2013	560	510	1,100	740,000	760,000	1,500,000
2014	510	500	1,000	630,000	600,000	1,200,000
2015	430	500	940	580,000	630,000	1,200,000
2016	450	560	1,000	650,000	700,000	1,400,000
2017	510	500	1,000	720,000	610,000	1,300,000
2018	610	560	1,200	810,000	720,000	1,500,000

2019	670	590	1,300	840,000	720,000	1,600,000
2020	550	600	1,200	670,000	720,000	1,400,000
2021	610	670	1,300	820,000	910,000	1,700,000
2022	630	670	1,300	940,000	1,100,000	2,000,000

Table 5 -Top 3 gear types by landings.

Year	Weight (t)				Value (£)			
	Drift and fixed nets	Demersal trawls	Beam trawl	Other gear	Drift and fixed nets	Demersal trawls	Beam trawl	Other gear
2012	300	370	120	80	440,000	530,000	170,000	150,000
2013	330	460	170	70	450,000	610,000	290,000	140,000
2014	390	410	140	50	430,000	510,000	190,000	88,000
2015	270	460	130	50	330,000	590,000	190,000	87,000
2016	310	460	170	50	390,000	610,000	240,000	98,000
2017	370	400	160	50	470,000	510,000	240,000	92,000
2018	400	510	200	50	520,000	650,000	270,000	76,000
2019	430	540	220	50	530,000	660,000	280,000	77,000
2020	340	470	260	50	410,000	550,000	330,000	79,000
2021	410	500	260	80	560,000	660,000	400,000	100,000
2022	400	510	290	90	580,000	780,000	520,000	150,000