

FMP Special Newsletter

August 2023

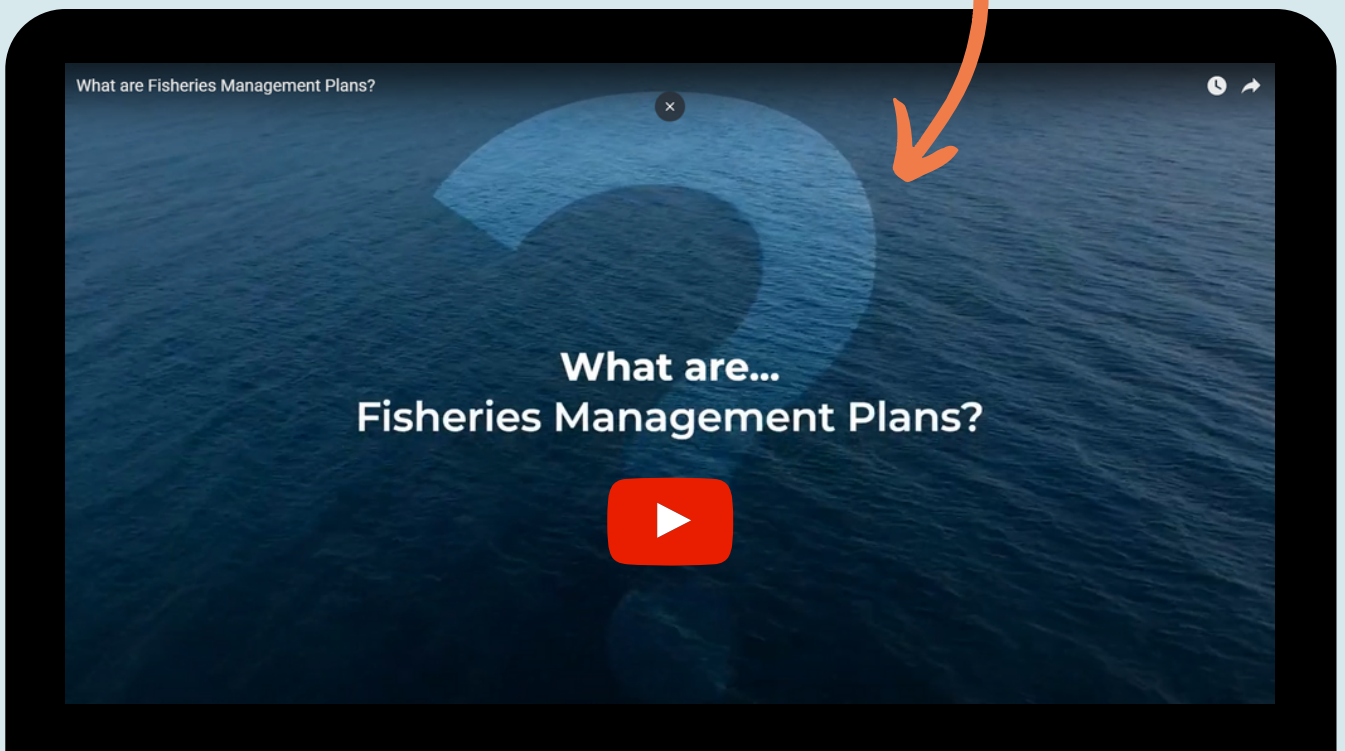
Welcome to the Future of Our Inshore Fisheries (FOIF) FMP special newsletter.

In this issue:

- **What are Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)?**
- **New Fishing Measures Announced by UK Government**
 - Fisheries Management Plans
 - Further announcements
- **FMP Consultations**
 - Purpose of the FMP consultations
 - FMP priorities
 - Crab and lobster
 - Whelk
 - King scallop
 - Bass
 - Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish
 - Channel Demersal Non-Quota Species
- **Ways to engage**
 - Live FMP events

What are Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)?

Click to watch!



New Fishing Measures Announced by UK Government

New measures aim to support the UK fishing industry, post-Brexit.

New Fishing Measures Announced

Fisheries Management Plans

Consultations on the first six 'frontrunner' Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) were announced on 17 July; the first of [43 FMPs](#) originally put forward in the UK's [Joint Fisheries Statement](#) in November 2022. After 18 months of development involving input from the fishing industry, local communities, and anglers, the six frontrunner FMPs will deliver on commitments proposed in the [Fisheries Act 2020](#).

Each FMP sets out policies for **maintaining one or more stocks at sustainable levels, or restoring them to these levels if needed**. The plans detail a combination of actions that can be taken now to protect stocks – such as seasonal closures or further scientific studies – and longer-term approaches, using the latest scientific evidence to build a resilient, productive, and sustainable fishing sector.

The stocks covered by these FMPs are:

- Crab and lobster
- Whelk
- King scallop
- Bass
- Channel Demersal Non-Quota Species
- Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish

Further announcements

Alongside FMPs, four further consultations were announced relating to English waters:

- Management of discards through a discards reform
- Future roll-out of remote electronic monitoring (REM)
- Recreational catch and release bluefin tuna fishery
- Removal of the licence cap for under-10m vessels

The outcomes of recent consultations on the management of the southern North Sea/English Channel seine-net fishery and spatial management measures for sandeels, were also shared as part of the announcement. In addition, Defra declared that a further £45.6 million from the [UK Seafood Fund](#) has been awarded to projects across the UK to improve infrastructure and provide vital research to inform fisheries management.

[Read more about the measures here](#)

FMP Consultations

Which FMPs are being consulted on, and what are their key priorities?

Purpose of the FMP consultations

These consultations provide stakeholders with a **final opportunity to provide their views on specific measures proposed in the six frontrunner FMPs**. For each FMP, stakeholders are being asked to submit their views on the following areas:

- The process of developing the FMP.
- Priority evidence gaps identified.
- Specific measures and the prioritisation of these.
- How stakeholders wish to be involved in the delivery of the FMP.
- Whether there are any important connections with, or links to, other fisheries that should be considered in finalising or implementing the FMP.
- The likely significant effects of the FMP on wider environmental and social aspects as identified in the additional 'Environmental Report' produced for each FMP.

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit written responses **online** via the links provided on pages 5 and 6.

All consultations on the frontrunner FMPs will close on 1 October 2023.

[Find out more](#)

FMP priorities

While all the FMPs share an overarching objective – **to ensure the sustainability of one or several stocks** – each has scope to set different priorities according to the data and management needs of the stock(s) covered. Accordingly, stakeholders' views are sought on the priority issues identified for each FMP and the measures proposed to address these, in addition to the development and implementation of each FMP.



FMP Consultations

Which FMPs are being consulted on, and what are their key priorities?

Crab and lobster FMP, England



Key priorities of the FMP:

- Collate the existing science and react to evidence gaps such as stock boundaries and spatial inconsistencies in data collection/quality.
- Explore opportunities to standardise or increase lobster and crawfish minimum landing sizes across English waters to harmonise with existing IFCA measures.
- Prohibit the landing of soft brown crab for bait.
- Pilot management regimes for brown crab and European lobster in certain areas.
- Develop and refine measures for long term sustainability, of which seasonal closures, effort limits, and pot and catch limits are under consideration.

[Access the consultation here](#)

Whelk FMP, England



Key priorities of the FMP:

- Collate the existing science and react to evidence gaps such as stock boundaries and especially abundance for this data limited stock.
- Introduce short term measures such as:
 - A permit/licence entitlement scheme to control effort and allow for adaptive management on a local scale.
 - Seasonal closures to protect spawning stocks.
- As the evidence base improves, long term measures will focus on exploring measures for long term sustainability, including minimum landing size variations, pot and catch limits, and gear design.

[Access the consultation here](#)

FMP Consultations

Which FMPs are being consulted on, and what are their key priorities?

King scallop FMP, England and Wales



Key priorities for the FMP:

- Improving evidence base to better inform management driven by stock dependent harvest strategies and ongoing, reliable stock assessments.
- Strengthening existing sustainability measures (short-term) whilst developing longer term targeted measures, including exploring and developing science-based output controls and/or input control measures which would limit fishing effort.
- Inform the development of an action plan to reduce potentially damaging impacts of scallop fisheries.
- Developing collaborative approach with key stakeholders to support implementation of plan and ultimate management of fisheries.

[Access the consultation here](#)

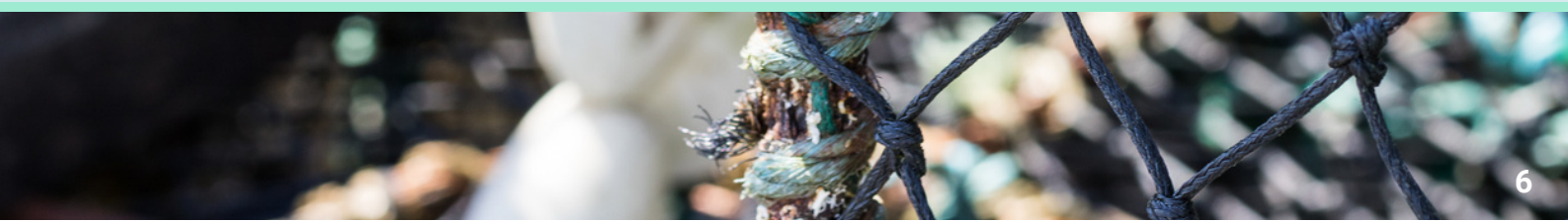
Bass FMP, England and Wales



Key priorities for the FMP:

- Ensuring that the stock continues to be fished within sustainable limits.
- Addressing evidence gaps on how many bass are being discarded by commercial fishing operations, how many are being caught by recreational fishers, and the socio-economic benefits of the stock to coastal communities.
- Mitigating the risk of bycatch of marine mammals, seabirds and other fish.

[Access the consultation here](#)



FMP Consultations

Which FMPs are being consulted on, and what are their key priorities?

Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP



Key priorities for the FMP:

- Ensuring there is sufficient evidence across the nine stocks covered by the FMP.
- Mitigating the risk of seabed abrasion in trawl fisheries.

[Access the consultation here](#)

Channel Demersal Non-Quota Species FMP, English Channel



Key priorities for the FMP:

- Improving data collection and management regimes for the 19 species covered in the FMP.
- Improving the evidence base in relation to the impact of these fisheries on the marine environment.

[Access the consultation here](#)



Ways to engage – Live FMP events

A series of live engagement events will be held around the country, and online.

Defra Events: Future Fisheries Management LIVE!

Defra will be running a series of **in-person and online events through August and into early September**, where stakeholders will be able to find out more about the frontrunner FMPs and provide feedback directly. Details of these events, including how to register, can be found [here](#). More locations and dates will be announced soon.

[Register for these events here](#)

Defra Events: Future Fisheries Management LIVE!		
Engagement area	Meeting date and time	Event location
West Mersea	16/08/2023 16:30	The Victory at Mersea
Gosport	22/08/2023 16:30	Gosport and Stokes Bay Golf Club
Weymouth	23/08/2023 14:00	Best Western Hotel Rembrandt
Poole	24/08/2023 10:00	Poole Quay Hotel
Rye	29/08/2023 16:30	Rye Community Centre

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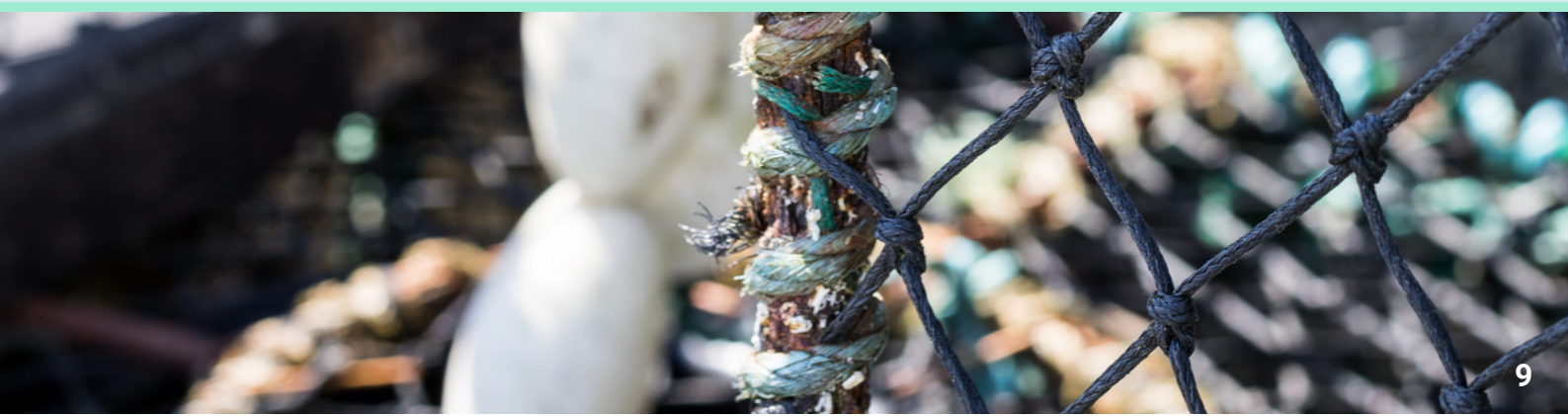
Defra Events: Future Fisheries Management LIVE! Cont.

Engagement area	Meeting date and time	Event location
Folkestone	30/08/2023 10:00	Folkestone Yacht and Motor Boat Club
Whitstable	31/08/2023 17:00	Whitstable Umbrella Centre
Whitehaven	05/09/2023 16:30	The Beacon Museum

Seafish Events: Crab, lobster and whelk FMPs

In addition to Defra's live events, Seafish will be running a series of **in-person events throughout September**.

These events will focus on the **crab, lobster and whelk FMPs**, giving individuals with an interest in these stocks an opportunity to gain more detailed insights into the measures set out by the crab, lobster and whelk FMPs. Details of these events, including how to register, will be available [here](#).



Ways to engage – Live FMP events

A series of live engagement events will be held around the country, and online.

Seafish Events: Crab, lobster and whelk FMPs		
Engagement area	Meeting date and time	Event location
Padstow	04/09/2023 17:00	Padstow Harbour Hotel
Ilfracombe	05/09/2023 18:00	Ilfracombe Harbour Office
Cromer	12/09/2023 17:00	The Cliftonville
Shoreham	14/09/2023 17:00	Sussex Yacht Club
Bridlington	18/09/2023 17:00	Bridlington Spa
Whitby	19/09/2023 18:30	Whitby Fishermans Society

[Register for these events here](#)



To find out more, head to: [Future of Our Inshore Fisheries](#)

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Future of Our Inshore Fisheries is jointly funded by:



Future of Our Inshore Fisheries communications by:



Newsletter no. 6

Date of issue: August 2023