Southern IFCA
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Summary of Responses

Public Consultation on a District Wide Review of Management Measures in the Inshore Pot Fisheries.

January 2021

Document Control

Date	Author	Version	Reason	Approver
01/12/2020	C Smith	1.0	Draft	
20/01/2021	C Smith	1.1	Draft	
21/01/2021	C Smith	1.2	Draft	
23/01/2021	C Smith	1.3	Draft	
24/01/2021	C Smith	1.4	Draft	S Pengelly
25/01/2021	C Smith	1.5	S Pengelly Comments Addressed	

Title: Public Consultation on a District Wise Review of Management Measures in the Inshore Pot Fisheries

Authors: C Smith

About this document: This document has been developed to summarise the public consultation undertaken by Southern IFCA between 6th November 2020 and 15th January 2021 which sought the community's views on future management for the Southern IFCA district's pot and trap fisheries. Engagement and consultation were aimed at stakeholders who hold an interest in either the recreational or commercial pot fisheries. The responses received by the Authority have been summarised in this document. In determining the most suitable next steps, Members of the Authority will have access to the full package of responses received, together with any accompanying evidence.

Further Copies:
This document is available in electronic format from the Southern IFCA website at www.southern-ifca.gov.uk

Alternatively, a hard copy can be obtained from the Southern IFCA Office: enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk

Unit 3 Holes Bay Park,
Sterte Avenue West,
Poole, Dorset
BH15 2AA

Contents

1 Introduction 4
1.1 Informal Consultation 4
1.2 Responses 5
2 Summary of Responses 6
2.1 The Crab and Lobster Fishery 6
2.2 The Whelk Fishery 7
2.3 The Cuttlefish Fishery 9
2.4 The Recreational Pot Fishery 10
2.5 Additional Comments 11
3 References 13
Annex 1. Existing Management Measures 14
Annex 2. Responses to each question not displayed as figures in main body text. 16

1 Introduction

The inshore pot and trap fisheries (collectively referred to in this paper as 'pot fisheries') are of great economic and social importance throughout the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District and, have been carried out for generations across the coastal communities of Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

In order to support the coastal communities and the future sustainability of the inshore pot fisheries, the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) is undertaking a review of the existing management arrangements within the district relevant to both commercial and recreational pot fisheries. A summary of existing management measures can be found in **Annex 1**.

A 'Call for Information', evidence gathering exercise was hosted in April 2018. Following this a Summary of the Responses was published in December 2018. In July 2019, Members of the Authority attended a Working Group in order to consider the responses to the 'Call for Information' alongside other scientific and economic evidence. Following this Working Group, a recommendation was made to the Technical Advisory Group (TAC) in August 2019, where it was agreed that draft management measures (to include both voluntary and statutory) were to be further developed in the following areas:

1. Recreational pot fisheries
2. Commercial whelk fisheries
3. Commercial cuttlefish fisheries

In line with the recommendations made at the TAC in August 2019 a further three Working Groups were held between October 2019 and February 2020. During these Working Groups Members considered Evidence Packages specific to the pot fisheries in order to build a picture of the fishery under review.

During these working groups members agreed a number of questions regarding the management of the fisheries, which would form the first public consultation for the review.

This document summarises the responses to the questions included within the public consultation.

1.1 Informal Consultation

This consultation was aimed at supporting the development and appraisal of potential management options within the pot fisheries through engagement with the community, in order to support the future sustainability of the pot fisheries within the Southern IFC District. The consultation was open to all stakeholders and members of the public with an interest in the pot fisheries. It considered four marine species groups: crabs (including edible, spider, velvet and green crabs), lobsters (European lobster and crawfish), the common whelk and common cuttlefish.

The consultation questions considered catch limits and shellfish pot limits for recreational pot fishers, whelk pot limits for the commercial pot fishers, cuttlefish pot limits for the commercial pot fishers, seasonal closures specific to the whelk pot fishery, minimum conservation reference sizes for whelks and other shellfish, and escape gaps for crab and lobster pots. The final question invited input on an any additional management intervention deemed to be relevant to this review.

In order to publicise this consultation throughout our stakeholder groups a number of techniques were employed.

- IFCOs contacted two hundred and twenty-seven commercial fishermen who were known to participate in pot fisheries within the District. Stakeholders were informed of the consultation and how to respond. They were given the opportunity to complete the online questionnaire or request an email, postal copy or virtual meeting to respond to the consultation. Of these:
    - 137 were spoken to directly either by telephone or on the quayside;
    - 58 were left voicemails containing the information they needed to respond to the consultation; and
    - 32 could not be reached via telephone so were emailed or posted the consultation.
- Furthermore, 18 recreational fishers, 11 fishing associations and 19 merchants were notified of the consultation by email and an additional 3 stakeholders were notified by either email, voicemail or post.
- The consultation was advertised on Southern IFCAs website and social media platforms and, an article was posted in the fishing news advertising the opportunity to participate in the consultation.

1.2 Responses

A total of 110 responses to the public consultation were received by Southern IFCA. The following table summarises the proportions of the responses which were received from differing stakeholder groups.

Stakeholder	Number of responses
Commercial Fishers	88
Recreational Fishers	13
Fishing Associations	3
Non-Governmental Organisations	3
Fish Merchants/ Shops	1
Other	2
Total	110

Of these, 92 were completed using the online questionnaire and 18 were received via post or email.

The majority of responses (60) were received from stakeholders in Dorset. Sixteen responses were completed by stakeholders from Hampshire, and a further ten from the Isle of Wight. Additionally, ten responses came from stakeholder outside of the Southern IFCA District including Devon, Cornwall and Sussex. Thirteen responses were submitted anonymously and therefore it was not possible to know from where these responses were received.

For note, three responses were excluded from the analysis as they were found to be duplicates confirmed to be submitted by persons who had already provided responses including the same answers. The summary of responses reflects both the feedback received in response to the specific questions asked in the ‘Online Questionnaire’, as well as an account of the less structured written and verbal responses received via email, post or over the telephone.

2 Summary of Responses

The feedback provided by respondents to the 'Call for information' have been split into the following areas:

- The crab and lobster fisheries;
- The whelk fishery;
- The cuttlefish fishery;
- The recreational pot fishery and;
- The general pot fishery.

2.1 The Crab and Lobster Fishery

Thoughts and ideas on whether management is required in the crab and lobster fisheries were mixed. The majority of stakeholders believed that escape gaps should be required in parlour pots as either a mandatory or voluntary requirement **(Figure 1)**. Three fishers expressed concern that the inshore crab and lobster stock is being over fished, with the suggestion that this is a result of a change from inkwell to parlour pots.

However, when additional measures are considered, despite the majority indicating that they believe additional management measures are required (72 percent), no clear individual measure was preferred **(Annex 2: Table 1)**. The three most popular measures were a raise of crab minimum size, lobster minimum size and a pot limit for the fishery. However, each of these were chosen by less than half of the total number of responses received for the question.

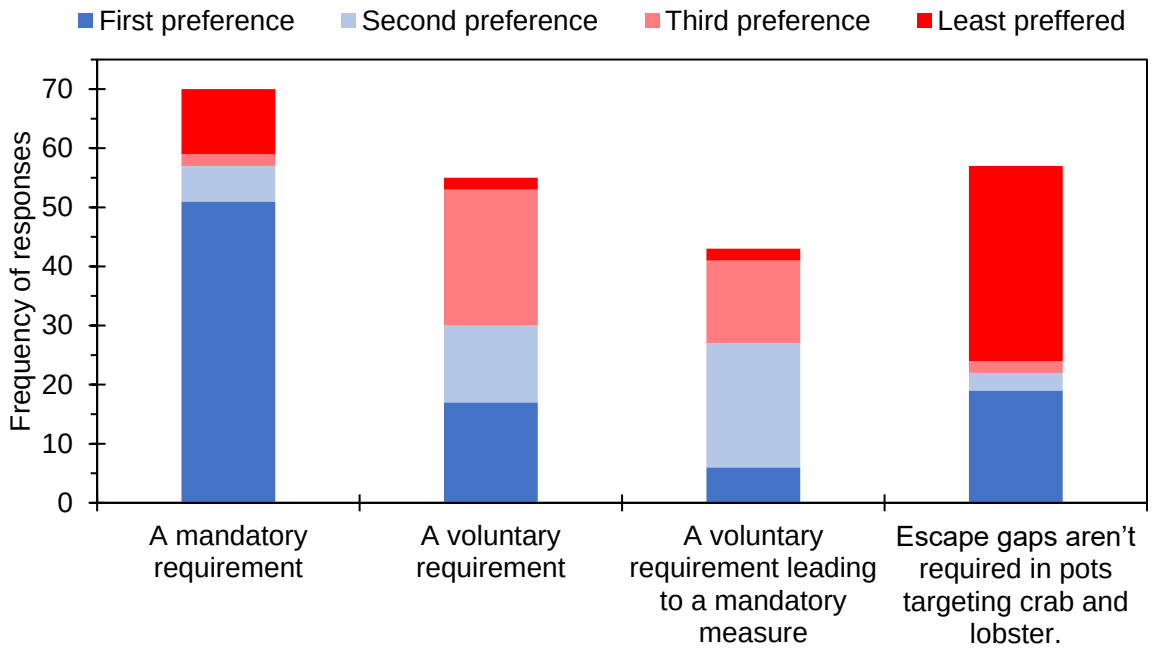

Figure 1. The responses received, in the Southern IFCA Pot Fisheries Consultation, to the Question 'Would you prefer escape gaps… to be?'. Escape gap size of 84mm x 46mm was suggested.

With regards to a crab/lobster fishery pot limit, one respondent suggested less than 1000 pots per vessel, two respondents suggested 500 as a maximum, whilst two others suggested 250 per vessel. It was suggested by two that it would be appropriate to align a limit with Devon and Severn IFCA. However, concerns were raised about the effective enforcement of such measures. As potential alternative crab and lobster management measures, the introduction

of a lobster closed season and the creation of a lobster hatchery were suggested. The idea of creating a lobster hatchery in the district was proposed by four fishers, with the aim that a hatchery and release scheme could replenish stocks. One suggested that this could be funded by a pot permit.

Within the Solent and around the Isle of Wight, concerns were raised regarding the sudden disappearance, around September 2018, of all year classes of lobster. This decline has continued into the 2020 season. Stakeholders are concerned that dredging of channels and harbours or, disease could have led to this decline. However, there is also concern that a sudden increase in conger eels may be the cause. It is believed that soft crab and lobster would be particularly vulnerable to predation from species such as conger eels. Meanwhile, in the Fleet similar concerns have been raised regarding green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) stocks.

With regards to a lobster minimum size, one response suggested that this should align with Devon and Severn IFCA. On a similar theme, another respondent felt that fishers who bring undersized crab and lobster ashore should receive a heavy fine.

One response questioned whether a maximum size would work for lobster, stating that a five-pound male lobster would measure a different size to a female lobster. It was also suggested that an increase in minimum size would be better than a maximum size because an increase in large lobsters and crabs on the ground may increase levels of disease within populations. However, one respondent highlighted their support for maximum sizes with the reason being the potential for increased breeding capacity, and to enable apex predators such as edible crab and lobster to continue their ecological role.

Those who do not feel management is required highlighted that lobsters are already managed through the prohibition of landing berried hens or v-notched females, and current minimum size limits.

Six responses specifically highlighted concerns over the use of edible crab as bait in the whelk fishery. Edible crab may be retained as undersized, soft shell and low quality or, crabs may have claws removed on a vessel, leaving the body to be used as bait. It was suggested that this species should be completely banned for use as bait, or only sizeable, hard and not berried crab should be permitted. A recommendation was given that research on the quantity of edible crab used as bait should be carried out.

2.2 The Whelk Fishery

The Southern IFCA consultation confirmed a dominant feeling within the industry that management measures are sought in the whelk fishery **(Figure 2)**. A raise in minimum landing size was the most popular management measure, with both this and a closed season also favoured. Several respondents highlighted concerns regarding the interaction of multiple measures at the same time. For example, one individual felt that the introduction of a pot limit would mean that a closure and minimum size increase should not be needed. A number of responses suggested that measures such as minimum size, and combinations of potting measures should be staged over a period of several years. This would allow fishers to continue to work at an economically viable level, whilst decreasing effort and/or changing fishing practices over time. Particularly, regarding minimum size where a large change in such a measure can reduce the landings potential beyond that which is economically sustainable. However, given time the proportion of fish at the new size should increase allowing the minimum size to be raised over time.

Speaking from personal experience, some highlighted that the closure of the whelk fishery over the winter period would severely impact those fishers who rely on this fishery as either

their sole income, or main income during this season. An example was given in which described that the waters around Poole are only cold enough to support the whelk fishery between October and April.

Of those in support of a whelk closed season, a number recommended closed periods over the months coinciding with summer or autumn e.g. July to September, whilst others suggested alternative dates over the winter period i.e. 1st January to 31st March or the breeding season led by scientific evidence. Concerns were raised regarding the interaction of a closed season with other fishing stocks, whereby this measure could shift effort and impacts to other fish species. An idea to avoid this was to have closed whelk seasons in different areas at different times so that whelk fishing could continue throughout the year, but that areas could be allowed to recover over specified periods. For example, east of Portland closed November to April, west of Portland closed July to December. It was also considered that a whelk closed season would only be beneficial if the whelks are already mature.

Leading on from this theme, one respondent has raised concerns that the whelk fishery in the Solent, which has been relatively unfished for the past few years, is not returning and therefore a minimum conservation reference size led by scientific evidence is most appropriate. One of the main reoccurring points in the responses highlighted that changes to minimum sizes should be staged over years, as they would make the fishery less profitable. The respondent

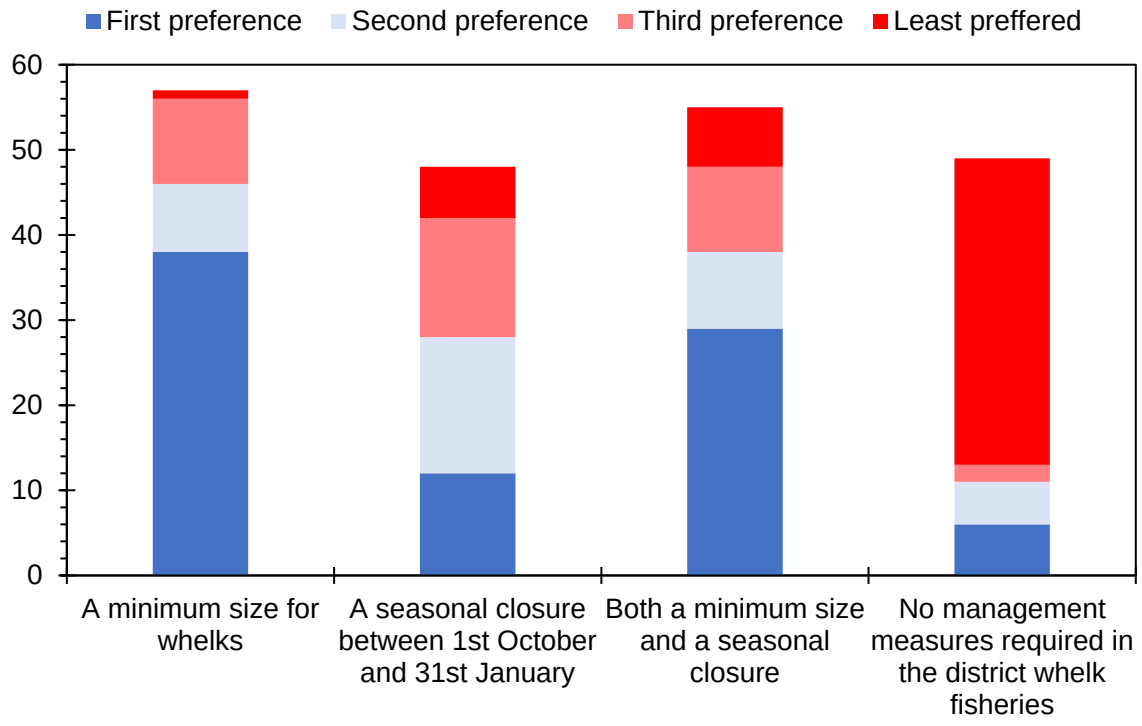

Figure 2. The responses received in the Southern IFCA Pot Fisheries Consultation in response to the Question 'How would you most like to see the whelk fishery managed?'.

expressed concerns that historical overfishing in the Solent has likely led to the lower Size at Maturity (SOM) recorded in the Solent (McIntyre *et al.,* 2015), and therefore it is felt that this should not be used to determine a MCRS. Any increase was suggested to be at a level which allows the depleted stock to recover from any fishery induced suppression of size at maturity, likely through an incremental phased approach.

Eighty-five percent of respondents support the introduction of a whelk pot limit, the majority of whom suggested 600 per vessel as an appropriate maximum **(Annex 2: Table 2)**. However, most respondents do not feel that there should be a difference in a pot limit between the 0 to 3nm and 3 to 6nm areas.

Of the thirty-seven percent who do feel pot limits should differ by area, a limit of 200 to 300 was most popular between 0 to 3nm **(Annex 2: Table 3)**. Whilst, between 3 to 6nm a limit of 600 to 800 was most common. A suggestion was made that any pot limit that is introduced should be staged, with the limit decreasing over time. Speaking from experience, one fisher highlighted that without iVMS technology a whelk pot limit is not enforceable and has proved unsuccessful in 'The Wash'.

Two respondents indicated that a requirement to include 24 or 25mm escape holes in whelk pots would negate the need for a raise in minimum landing size or a closed season. Three felt that a mandatory riddle size should be introduced.

A recreational fisher and NGO raised concerns that the whelk fishery was having a long-term impact on the wider entire ecosystem. Speaking from personal experience the fisher emphasised that hermit crabs, which use whelk shells as shelter, used to be abundant in the Solent. Hermit crabs are an important source of food for smooth hounds which are intern a favourite catch and release fishery for anglers. Southern IFCA were urged to consider the management of whelk in a wider context in order to ensure conservation of the wider ecosystem and protect the charter angling fleet.

2.3 The Cuttlefish Fishery

When asked whether a pot limit should be implemented in the inshore cuttlefish fishery, fifty-two respondents were in favour of this as a mandatory measure **(Annex 2: Table 4)**. A further sixteen individuals felt this management could be introduced through a voluntary scheme, however, thirty-one stakeholders felt that there should not be any limit on cuttlefish trap numbers within the district.

It was suggested by twenty-eight respondents that the limit should be set at 100 or less traps per vessel **(Annex 2: Table 4)**. A similar number (twenty-nine) indicated that 150 to 200 traps per vessel would be appropriate. Conversely, eight suggestions were made for a higher limit of between 250 to 300 traps per vessel.

Based on information provided in the responses, it is clear that immature cuttlefish are targeted by trawlers inside and outside the district before they reach areas suitable for cuttlefish traps, which is believed to be affecting cuttlefish stocks. The short life span of cuttlefish was proposed as a reason for not requiring cuttlefish trap limits, but on the other hand this was also given by a different stakeholder as a reason to introduce cuttlefish trap limits to reduce impact on a highly pressured stock. Others recognised that the cuttlefish trap fishery is 'generally sustainable'. In contrast, concern was raised regarding the sustainability of the fishery because it takes place on the breeding stock. Conservation NGOs raised concerns regarding the cuttlefish fishery and suggested a cuttlefish Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) should be introduced.

Three more concerned respondents felt that cuttlefish traps should be left somewhere sheltered in the water to allow the eggs to hatch. This practise should include the removal of doors to prevent ghost fishing. One response proposed that fishers should be discouraged from disposing of dead cuttlefish when in port.

2.4 The Recreational Pot Fishery

The majority of stakeholders support the introduction of recreational management measures in the Southern IFCA district **(Figure 3)**, with forty-seven indicating that 'no management measures' is their least preferred option. A number of other suggestions were highlighted as being important including; catch return forms, marking of gear and that recreational pot fishers should be required to comply with basic health and safety requirements similar to those imposed upon the commercial fishery. Concerns were raised regarding the enforcement of recreational fisheries including a feeling that the fishery requires more targeted enforcement, and that pot limits may be difficult to enforce.

Of the nine stakeholders which indicated that no management measures would be their preferred option, six were recreational fishers. The remaining seven recreational fishers were in favour of management, showing mixed preferences within this stakeholder group.

One hundred and two responses were submitted regarding recreational pot limits **(Annex 2: Table 5)**. Once again, the majority (90) supported the introduction of this management measure. Eight of whom were recreational fishers. However, one particularly concerned respondent highlighted that the introduction of this measure would mean that they would require compensation or, would have to sell their pots which could increase fishing pressure in the commercial sector. They explained that a small pot limit would be like having a 200 mile limit on your car but only 5 litre fuel tank.

Opinion was divided on the number a pot limit should be set at, with forty and forty-two stakeholders voting for three, or five pots respectively. An additional eight recommendations for a pot limit were received ranging from one to ten pots per day. Eight responses suggested that pot limits are not required, five of which were received from recreational fishers. On the other hand, four stakeholders felt that recreational fishing should not be permitted at all.

The most popular opinion within stakeholders was that recreational catch limits should be implemented within the Southern IFCA district **(Annex 2: Table 6)**. A hand full of suggestions

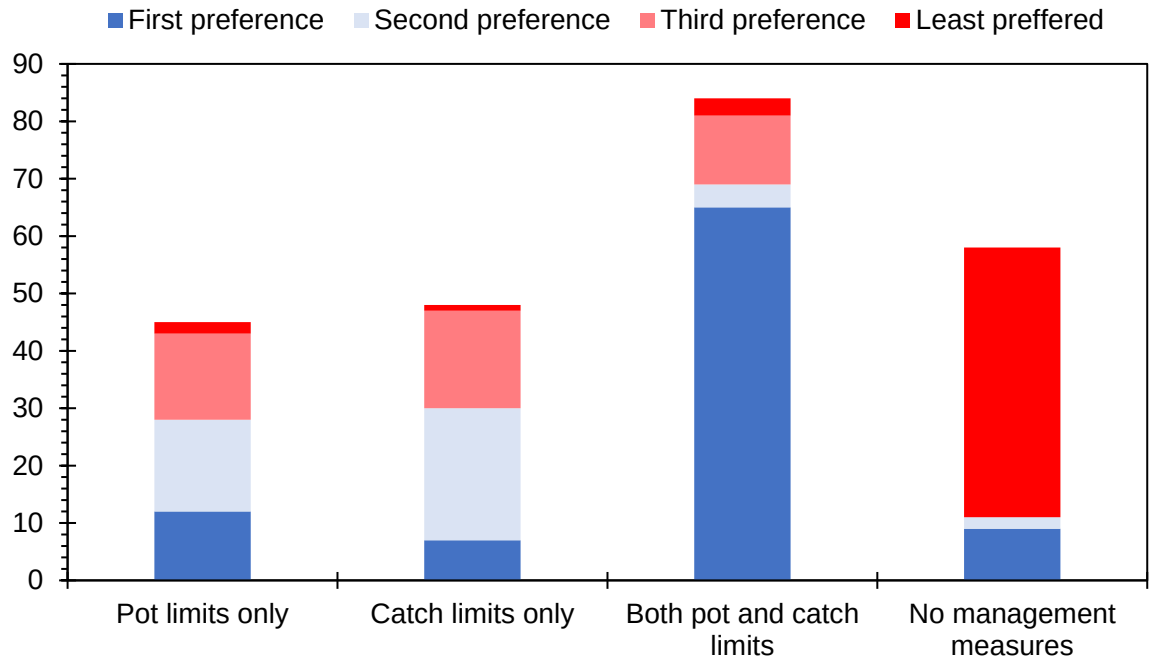

Figure 3. The responses received in the Southern IFCA Pot Fisheries Consultation in response to the Question 'How would you most like to see the recreational fishery managed?'

for a number at which the limit should be set were given, from one to five per day for lobsters/crawfish, and one to six per day for crabs. A small number of respondents felt that a weekly pot limit would be more appropriate because catch rates do not reflect a daily limit. One stakeholder spoke from experience explaining that no daily pot limit is sensible, because using 6 pots, they might catch up to two lobsters and a similar amount of edible crab per week.

Seven stakeholders recommended that landing of crawfish should not be permitted in the recreational fishery because the populations of crawfish cannot support this.

Views on a whelk catch limits were more mixed **(Annex 2: Table 6)**. Eighteen stakeholders felt that a limit is not required for whelks, four of whom explained their reasoning being that a recreational fishery does not currently exist for this species. The majority of respondents supported the introduction of whelk catch limits but no option was clearly preferred between ten and fifty whelks per day.

2.5 Additional Comments

Several responses requested that statutory gear marking should be imposed and enforced, including buoy size, type and identifying marks, both as a measure to improve the safety of other marine users and also as a measure to potentially support the Authority's enforcement of pot limits. Similarly, some would like rules for rope types to be specified, in order to prevent the use of 'floaty rope'.

A general lack of data available for pot fisheries was raised by two respondents, who indicated that effort should be made to monitor catch per unit effort, or utilise onboard computer systems to better inform management decisions in the future.

Overall, there was a strong concern regarding the enforceability of pot limits both in the recreational and commercial fisheries. A suggestion was made that pot limits will only be enforceable with the introduction of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). Furthermore, it was suggested that pot limits should be brought in and reduced over time in order to reduce the immediate impact upon fishers.

A reoccurring suggestion throughout responses was that management should be aligned with neighbouring management authorities. This would prevent vessels entering a different area to fish for animals at a smaller size, or to use a higher number of pots. Measures which do not align were said to lead to higher pot densities at management boarders. Any management of pot numbers should be per vessel irrelevant of management area to prevent a vessel having, for example: 600 pots in one area and another 600 in a neighbouring area, totalling over 1000.

Multiple responses expressed worry that large vessels are fishing inside 3 or 6nm with over 1000 pots and that this should be prohibited. The grants given to fishers and organisations by government to buy fishing gear was accused of exacerbating this issue. Additionally, some more concerned respondents suggested that pot fishing for any shellfish species should only be permitted for vessels which have a shellfish entitlement. On a similar theme, one respondent highlighted that the management of fisheries should be under one management organisation, so that effort is managed by the same organisation who deal with licencing.

A number of responses raised concerns regarding how other gear types affect the pot fisheries. For example, net haulers can include 'crab crushers', trawling damages whelk breeding grounds and scallop dredging damages all fishing grounds.

Continuing with this theme, concern was raised about the number of pots that have been taken out to sea, which will never be removed leading to plastic and rope pollution. A solution to this

would be to enforce closed seasons in which all pots had to be removed. Similarly, a consultee raised awareness that pots are being ‘stored’ in the sea which is likely to be having damaging affects to the benthic environment. It was suggested that this activity should be assessed.

Also, regarding the wider impacts of pot fishing activities, additional evidence was submitted including a summary of the work completed by Rees *et al.,* (2018), which demonstrated that potting at a high level can lead to benthic impacts and declines in populations of the target species. A further two pieces of evidence were submitted summarising the status of the whelk and cuttlefish fisheries and providing suggestions for management interventions (MRAG, 2018a and MRAG, 2018b).

Furthermore, it was suggested that when considering the sustainability of any pot/trap fishery, Southern IFCA should consider the sustainability of the bait supply and take this into account with regards to management decisions. According to a study of a lobster fishery in Nova Scotia, estimated bait-to-catch ratio was about 1.9: 1.

3 References

McIntyre, R., Lawler, A., Masefield, R. 2015. Size of maturity of the common whelk, Buccinum undatum: Is the minimum landing size in England too low? Fisheries Research **162**: 53-57pp.

MRAG Ltd. 2018a. Management recommendations for English non-quota fisheries: Common cuttlefish. Final Report. September 2018. London.

MRAG Ltd. 2018b. Management recommendations for English non-quota fisheries: Common whelk. Final Report. July 2018. London.

Rees, A., Sheehan, E. V., Attrill, M. J. (2018) The Lyme Bay experimental potting study: A collaborative programme to assess the ecological effects of increasing potting density in the Lyme Bay Marine Protected Area. A report to the Blue Marine Foundation and Defra, by the Marine Institute at the University of Plymouth.

Annex 1. Existing Management Measures

European measures

Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 sets Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS), which, of relevance to the scope of this review include: edible crab: 140mm, lobster: 87mm, spider crab: 120mm (female only, please refer to SI 1502/2000 below), crawfish: 95mm and whelks: 45mm). In addition, when using pots or creels a maximum of 1% weight of the total catch of edible crabs may consist of **detached claws**.

Under Control implementing Regulations EU 404/2011 (detailed rules for the implementation of EC 1224/2009) passive gear must be labelled in all EU waters (including the 0-6nm) with a permanent label (see[1] for label specifications) showing the PLN of the vessel. On pots and traps the label must be attached on the ground rope.

National measures

Statutory Instrument No. 919 The Undersize Velvet Crab Order 1989 sets a minimum size of 65mm for the landing, sale and carriage of velvet crabs.

Statutory Instrument No. 899 The Lobsters and Crawfish (Prohibition of Fishing and Landing) (Amendment) (England) Order 2017[2] prohibits the fishing for or landing of any berried, 'v' notched or mutilated lobster or crawfish in UK waters.

Statutory Instrument No. 1502 The Undersize Spider Crab Order 2000 sets a national minimum size of 130mm for the landing of male spider crabs.

Statutory Instrument No. 1502 The Undersize Lobster Order 2000 sets a national minimum size of 87mm for the landing, sale and carriage of lobsters.

Statutory Instrument No. 2029 The Undersize Edible Crabs Order 2000 sets a minimum size of 130mm for the landing of edible crabs (NB: area exemptions outside of the Southern IFCA District apply).

Under a **commercial fishing vessel license schedule[3]**, vessels are authorized to retain on board and land a maximum of 5 lobsters or crawfish per day caught with pots or nets; and a maximum of 25 crabs per days caught with pots or nets unless the licensed vessel holds a shellfish entitlement.

Southern IFCA Byelaws

Under the **Protection of Berried (egg bearing) Lobsters Byelaw**, the removal of berried lobsters is prohibited in the Southern IFCA District.

Southern IFCA Code of Conduct

Under the **Cuttlefish Traps Code of Practice,** the following measures have been developed to ensure that cuttlefish eggs are able to develop and hatch.

a) If cuttlefish eggs are found attached to cuttlefish traps take care to minimise damage caused to these eggs when hauling and shooting gear;
b) Avoid cleaning or washing traps when cuttlefish eggs are found attached;

[1] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/marking-of-fishing-gear-retrieval-and-notification-of-lost-gear#eel-passivegear
[2] Original Order: The Lobsters and Crawfish (Prohibition of Fishing and Landing) (England) Order 2000)
[3] https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understand-your-fishing-vessel-licence#understanding-your-vessel-licence

c) Once traps have finished fishing for the season fishermen should not remove their traps from the sea until the cuttlefish eggs attached have hatched, typically during late August or September;
d) When leaving traps in the sea, users should seek to avoid conflict with other users of the sea and avoid damaging features of Marine Protected Areas.

When leaving traps in the sea, users should regularly attend their traps to remove captured creatures, or remove entrance panels to avoid ghost fishing.

Annex 2. Responses to each question not displayed as figures in main body text.

Table 1. Number of responses received in the Southern IFCA Pot Fisheries Consultation in response to the Question 'Would you like to see any other form of management in the crab or lobster fishery?'. This was a 'tick all that apply' question type and therefore some respondents chose multiple selections. In total 103 individuals selected one or more options.

Response	Number of responses
Crab Minimum Size	45
Lobster Minimum Size	44
Crab Maximum Size	15
Lobster Maximum Size	29
Crab/lobster Pot Limit	45
No Management Required	29

Table 2. Number of responses received in the Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Consultation from stakeholders in response to the question 'Do you think there should be limit on the number of whelk pots that can be carried or set by a vessel in the District?'.

Response	Number of responses
Yes: 200 to 500 pots per day	10
Yes: 600 pots per day	50
Yes: 600 to 800 pots per day	1
Yes: 900 pots per day	10
Yes: 1200 pots per day	6
Yes: not sure of number	5
No: Pot limit not required	15
Total	97

Table 3. Number of responses received in the Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Consultation from stakeholders in response to the question 'Do you think whelk pot limits should be different depending on whether a vessel is fishing between 0 to 3 nautical miles and 3 to 6 nautical miles?'.

Response	Number of responses	
Yes	38	
No	64	
Total	102	
If Yes, when fishing between 0 and 3 nm and 3 to 6nm should the daily whelk pot limit be:		
	0 to 3nm	**3 to 6nm**
200-300 pots per day	27	10
400-500 pots per day	3	1
600-800 pots per day	12	28
900-1100 pots per day	3	3
1200+ pots per day	1	7
Total	46	49

Table 4. Number of responses received in the Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Consultation from stakeholders in response to the question 'Do you think there should be a limit on the number of cuttlefish traps that can be carried or set by a vessel in the District?'

Response	Number of responses
Yes: as a mandatory requirement	52
Yes: as a voluntary requirement	16
No cuttlefish pot limit required	31
Total	99
If Yes:	
50 to 100 traps per day	28
150 to 200 traps per day	29
250 to 300 traps per day	8
Total	65

Table 5. Number of responses received in the Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Consultation from stakeholders in response to the question 'Do you think there should be a limit on the amount of pots a recreational fisher can use to target crab, lobster and whelks?'.

Response	Number of responses
Three pots per day	40
Five pots per day	42
One to two pots per day	6
Eight to ten pots per day	2
No recreational pot limit	8
The recreational fishery should not be permitted	4
Total	102

Table 6. Number of responses received in the Southern IFCA Pot Fishing Consultation from stakeholders in response to the questions:

Response	Number of responses
'Do you think that recreational pot fishers should be limited to landing two lobster/crawfish per day?'	
Yes: One per day	7
Yes: Two per day	72
Yes: Four to five per day	5
Yes: Two to four per week	4
The recreational fishery should not be permitted	3
No catch limit required	9
Total	100
'Do you think that recreational pot fishers should be limited to landing three crabs per day?'	
Yes: One per day	3
Yes: Two per day	4
Yes: Three per day	70
Yes: Four to six per day	7
Yes: Two to four per week	4
The recreational fishery should not be permitted	2
No catch limit required	11
Total	101
'Do you think there should be a daily limit on the number of whelks a recreational fisher can land?'	
Yes: Ten to forty per day	4
Yes: Twenty per day	23
Yes: Thirty per day	28
Yes: Fifty per day	19
Yes: A weekly limit	2
The recreational fishery should not be permitted	3
No catch limit required	18
Total	97