

Clerk of the Authority
Caroline Lacey
County Hall, Beverley
East Riding of Yorkshire, HU17 9BA

Chief IFC Officer
David McCandless, BSc. MSc.
Town Hall, Quay Road, Bridlington
East Riding of Yorkshire, YO16 4LP



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Our ref: NEIFCA
Date: 18 June 2019

Dear Member

Meeting of North Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority – Thursday 27 June 2019

I hereby give you notice that the next Authority Meeting of North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority will be held on **Thursday 27 June 2019**, at, **Monk Bar Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, York, YO31 7JA starting at 10:00am.**

The nearest council car park is the Foss bank car park, York, YO31 7PL.

On arrival please ask for David McCandless. Could members please send in any apologies by Monday 24 June 2019, please telephone 01482 393515 or email ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk. Thank you to members who have already given their apologies.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

Yours Faithfully

David McCandless
Chief IFC Officer

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
27 JUNE 2019

MONK BAR HILTON HOTEL, YORK, YO31 7JA 10:00 am

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interests – Members to declare any interests in items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests

Annual Meeting Business

3. Membership of the Authority
- 4a. Extract from Standing Orders:-

“Order of Business

The Authority shall, at its June meeting in every year, elect two of its number to be respectively Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority for the ensuing year. The previous Chair and Vice-Chair shall always be eligible for re-election up to a maximum of 10 consecutive years.

Should the Chair not be a representative of one of the constituent councils, the Vice-Chair shall be elected from the council representatives, unless they so decline.

- 4b. To elect a Chair for the ensuing year
Last year: Councillor Chris Matthews
- 4c. To elect a Vice-Chair for the ensuing year
Last year: Dr Stephen Axford
5. To appoint an Executive Committee for the ensuing year (8 Members with Chair and Vice-Chair as ex officio members and with equal representation between Local Authority and MMO appointees)

Last year: Chair, Vice-Chair
Councillors, Bell, Randerson, Allcock
Professor Mike Elliott, Mr Redshaw. Mrs Kirsten Carter
6. To confirm membership of Standards Committee
Last year: Councillors Bell, Randerson and the Clerk
7. To confirm membership of Science Advisory Group (6 MMO appointees including at least 1 fishing industry representative)
Last year: Chair, Vice Chair of the Authority
Mrs Kirsten Carter, Mr John Whitton, Professor Mike Elliott, Mr Robert Houghton, Mr Phillip MacMullan, Mr Michael Montgomerie and

representatives from the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Environment Agency

8. To appoint representatives:

(a) To serve on and report quarterly on:-

- (i) Flamborough Harbour Commissioners (2 representatives)
Last year: Cllr Chris Matthews
Mr R Houghton

- (ii) Staithes Harbour Board (4 representatives)
Current Members: Councillor D Chance
Steven Mallinson
Jon Whitton

(b) To attend meetings of:-

- (i) Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Forum
Last year: Chairman (Vice Chairman substitute)
Clerk or Treasurer
Chief Officer

- (ii) Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities Directors
Chief Officer

Meeting Business

9. To consider the Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 6 December 2018 (*pages 1-6*)

10. To consider the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 14 March 2019 (*pages 7-12*)

Items for decision

11. NEIFCA Financial Outturn 2018/2019 (*pages 13-18*)

12. Management of scallop dredging 2019/2020 (*Not For Wider Circulation*)

13. Management of permitted intertidal sea bass fishery 2019/2020 (*pages 13-22*)

14. NEIFCA Draft Annual Report 2018/2019 (*pages 23-24*)

Items for discussion

15. Science Advisory Group Update (*pages 25-120*)

16. Chief Officer's Operational report (*pages 121-160*)

17. Fisheries Statutes and Regulations – Prosecutions (*pages 161-164*)

Items for information

- 18. Reports from partner Agencies and bodies *(165-172)*
 - 18(a) Marine Management Organisation
 - 18(b) Environment Agency
 - 18(c) Natural England

- 19. Any other items, which the Chairman decides, are urgent by reason of special circumstances which must be specified.

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**AUTHORITY MEETING
06 DECEMBER 2018****Present:**

Councillor Ron Allcock
 Dr Stephen Axford
 Councillor Edward Bell
 Mrs Kirsten Carter
 Councillor David Chance
 Councillor Stephen Harness
 Councillor Chris Matthews (Chair)
 Christian Proud
 Mr Nigel Proctor
 Councillor Tony Randerson
 Mr Gary Redshaw
 Mr Andrew Wheeler
 Mr Jon Whitton

Representing:

North Lincolnshire Council
 MMO appointee
 Durham County Council
 MMO appointee
 North Yorkshire County Council
 North East Lincolnshire Council
 East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 MMO Representative
 MMO appointee
 North Yorkshire County Council
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee
 MMO appointee

Mrs Caroline Lacey, Clerk, Mr David McCandless, Chief Officer, Mr Neal Beckett, Treasurer, Mr Tim Smith, Senior Environmental & Scientific Officer, Mr Steven Mallinson, Senior Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Officer, NEIFCA, Bex Lynam, YWT, Jeremy Wilcox, Hull University Peter Andrews, Hull University and David Harness, Hull University also attended the meeting.

The Committee met at the Double Tree by Hilton Monkbar Hotel, York. The meeting started at 12:00.

63.

APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received from MMO member Elliot, Houghton, Macmullen, Montgomerie and Wood and Councillor Members Allen, Atkinson, Cranney and Owen, EA nominee Slater and Natural England appointee Brown.

64.

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Resolved – The Clerk asked Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests with respect to items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests. No such interests were declared.

65.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2018

(a) That the minutes of the Annual meeting held on 14 June 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

66.

**PRESENTATION BY HULL UNIVERSITY – EMFF FLAG PROJECT –
HOLDERNESS COAST LOBSTER FISHERY**

Jeremy Wilcox, Peter Andrews and David Harness from Hull University attended the meeting and provided a presentation to members on the Holderness Coast Lobster Project, 'Operation Pincer'. The presentation provided an update and progress report on

phase one of the two phase project.

67.

LEVY 2019/20

The Treasurer submitted a report to determine the levy on member local authorities for 2019/2020 and to highlight issues relating to the setting of the levy for 2020/21 and 2021/22. The Treasurer highlighted a number of factors which needed to be considered when determining the levy beyond 2019/20. The pay award for 2018/19 and 2019/20 was set at 2% (plus larger percentages for staff on lower grades to meet the National Living Wage). A 2% increase in pay would increase the cost of the employees' budget by over £24,000 per annum. There is currently a commitment to fund the replacement of the boat by £100,000 per annum which is a permanent commitment made from the levy. This was increased from £80,000 from 2018/19 but this may have to be increased further in future years. The next triennial valuation of the East Riding Pension Fund, due in 2020/21, may result in a budget pressure.

Resolved – (a) That the levy for 2019/20 be set at £1,224,320 (an increase of 2% (£24,010) above the 2018/19 rate) and the Clerk be authorised to issue demands on the relevant local authorities as presented at Appendix A.

(b) That the Board acknowledge the issues affecting NEIFCA and their effect upon the levy for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

(c) That a detailed budget for 2019/20 be brought to the Authority for approval at the Executive meeting in March 2019.

68.

SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP

The Chair of the SAG and the Chief officer presented a report to update members on considerations and recommendations emanating from the most recent meeting of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) held on 6 September 2018. Members requested an update on discussions surrounding the McCain Wheatcroft Outfall and minewater discharge, it was agreed that the Chief Officer should seek to arrange some meetings with interested parties outside the main Authority and its sub-groups to try and move things forward.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) The Chief Officer to arrange a meeting with the lead officers involved to discuss the McCain Outfall Pipe and the progress to date.

69.

CHIEF OFFICERS OPERATIONAL REPORT

The Chief Officer presented a report to provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational summary covering the period June to November 2018. The reporting period heralded a prolonged dry spell of settled weather with some of the warmest recorded air temperatures in over forty years. Landings of lobster, however, were generally lower than might have been expected compounded by reports of high levels of discarding of egg bearing females. Landings only started to improve during September and October as the numbers of egg bearing lobsters reduced in catches. Throughout the summer numerous breaches of legislation protecting egg bearing lobsters had been reported by Authority officers for further consideration. Two cases were successfully prosecuted in Court attracting fines and costs totalling £2,462, seven

formal warning letters and five fixed penalty notices were issued and one formal caution. A further eleven cases were currently under investigation. Officers had also been undertaking trials of a chemical testing process to identify lobsters which have been manually scrubbed to remove eggs. The Chief Officer also advised members of the retirement of one of the Authority's longest serving officers, Iain Baxter who had given exemplary service stretching across a thirty year period. Officers and members wished Iain a long and happy retirement.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

70. BUDGET MONITORING 2018/2019

The Treasurer of the Authority presented a report detailing the budget position at the end of month 7 (October) in 2018/19. At the end of October 2018, the Authority had net expenditure of £694,181 against an expected £698,014, underspending by £3,833. The projected outturn indicated a balanced budget. The major variances included Pay, NI and Superannuation expenses of £27,520, reflecting vacancies in the early months of the year, which had been offset by recruiting to vacant posts and an additional two temporary posts on a fixed term of 12 months. An overspend on supplies and services of £22,146, partially due to the need to replace ICT equipment to upgrade to Windows 10, the replacement of vehicles and on advertising expenses. Overall, it was anticipated that there would be a balanced budget. This allowed for a transfer of £100,000 plus accrued interest into the renewals fund and £10,000 into the vehicle replacement reserve.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

71. FISHERIES STATUTES AND REGULATIONS - PROSECUTIONS

The Clerk submitted a report on the fisheries enforcement activities taken by the Authority since June 2018. Discussions focused on the level of penalties and sanctions imposed.

Resolved – That the notes be received

72. NEIFCA RESPONSE TO UK FISHERIES WHITE PAPER

The Chief Officer presented a report to provide a copies of both the Authority's response and that of the national Association of IFCA's to the UK Fisheries White Paper which was published on 4 July 2018.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

73. UK FISHERIES BILL

The Chief Officer presented a report to advise members on the recent publication of the UK Fisheries Bill.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

NEIFCA ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Officer presented a report to inform members of the publication of the Annual Report covering the period, 2017/2018, summarising the Authority's outputs and activities during the year, a full copy of the Annual Report was circulated electronically on 22 November 2018.

Resolved – That the notes be received.

NEIFCA BYELAWS UPDATE

The Chief Officer presented a report to update members on all current fisheries byelaw work streams. A new byelaw regulation, Byelaw XXVIII Crustacea Conservation Byelaw 2018 was made by the Authority at its meeting on 14 June 2018, it retained, updated and rationalised existing management regulations covering the exploitation of lobster, edible crab, velvet crab and nephrops within the Authority's district. Following a period of informal consultation with the MMO IFCA byelaws team, formal public consultation commenced on 15 October 2018 and was scheduled to terminate on 5 December 2018. At the time of writing the report, primary representation had focused on the new proposed vessel size length of 10m for shell fishing inside 3 nautical miles.

The following four byelaws which were formally made by the Authority on 27 April 2016 remain in process:

- XVIII Method and Area of Fishing (Netting) Byelaw 2016
- XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2016
- XXX Automatic Identification System (AIS) Byelaw 2016
- XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw 2016

Following review by the Marine Management Organisation the byelaws progressed to formal consultation which commenced on 21 December 2016 and terminated on 17 February 2017. Since July 2017 the byelaws had passed through two further reviews by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and at one point had been signed and formally submitted to Defra but were sent back into the quality assessment process overseen by the MMO. Further delays have resulted from issues surrounding the supporting Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs). Since the 25 May 2018 officers had made further submissions and representations, regarding the byelaws, to the MMO IFCA byelaw team via the Authority's legal advisors. On 8 October 2018 the MMO advised officers that the quality assurance process had now been completed on three of the four byelaws with the exception of the AIS Byelaw which carried a recommendation that it should be subject to a further period of formal consultation. To that end officers commenced a second period of formal consultation on the AIS byelaw alongside the Crustacea Conservation Regulation on 15 October 2018. This consultation period was expected to close on 5 December 2018. At the time of writing the report primary objection to the proposed AIS byelaw had been received from representatives of the Hartlepool and Whitby charter angling vessel owners. These objections had reiterated concerns expressed previously following the first consultation process. Members raised concerns over the potential impact the mandatory AIS provision included in the proposed byelaw regulation would have on the charter angling fleet, stating it may put them at a distinct disadvantage to Charter Boats based at ports outside of the Authority's district, and that it may also have VAT implications for their businesses. The Chief Officer did highlight to members that the Authority had a statutory duty to ensure the sustainable management of all sea fisheries resources and at present, the Authority had

very little data on exploitation levels by the Charter Angling fleet which might result in more precautionary management measures being taken. It was agreed that the Chief Officer would bring a further report with recommendations to the March Executive committee and the June Authority meeting once all of the comments received during the consultation period had been reviewed by the Authority's officers.

Resolved – That the notes be received.

76. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 06 SEPTEMBER 2018

Notes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 06 September had been circulated for Members' information.

Resolved – That the notes be received.

77. REPORT FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS – MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY & NATURAL ENGLAND

The Marine Management Organisation and Environment Agency partner briefing papers had been circulated prior to the meeting, papers from Natural England were unavailable at the time of printing.

Resolved – That the notes be received

78. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minutes 79) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved – that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (minutes 78).

79. STAFFING & ORGANISATION REVIEW

The Chief Officer presented a report to seek the endorsement of members for the commencement of a review of staffing roles, duties and responsibilities and organisational structure to be led by the Chief Officer. The last comprehensive organisational review was initiated in 2012 to support the transition and development of the Sea Fisheries Committee into the IFCA. The findings of the review had been endorsed by the Executive Committee and implemented during 2013/2014. Since then, role of the Authority had continued to develop at pace alongside the day to day duties of the staff and the commencement of a new review was now considered timely. Such a review would re-examine the operational structure of the Authority and the roles, duties and responsibilities of the post holders within it. It would include a comprehensive assessment of all associated pay scales including comparisons with other IFCA's and equivalent employers.

Resolved – (a) That members note the report.

(b) That members endorse the commencement of a staffing and organisational review to

be led by the Chief Officer in consultation with the Chairman, Clerk and Human Resources.

- (c) That members' delegate authority to the Executive Committee to provide oversight on the review process and to consider the recommendations emanating from it.

80.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Officer provided an update on the NEIFCA Permitted Intertidal Netting Fishery and the process that would be followed.

The meeting closed at 14:15

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14 MARCH 2019

Present

Councillor Ron Allcock
Dr Stephen Axford
Kirsten Carter
Councillor Chris Matthews
Councillor Tony Randerson
Mr Gary Redshaw

Representing

North Lincolnshire Council
MMO appointee
MMO appointee
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
North Yorkshire County Council
MMO appointee

Chief Officer Mr David McCandless, Clerk Caroline Lacey, East Riding of Yorkshire and Jim Wright, East Riding of Yorkshire Council also attended the meeting.

The Committee met at the Bridlington Business Centre, Enterprise Way, Bessingby Industrial Estate, Bridlington. The meeting started at 10:00.

82. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Council Members Bell and MMO Appointee Elliot and Proctor.

83. **DECLARATION OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

Resolved – The Clerk asked Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests with respect to items on the Agenda and the nature of such interests. No such interests were declared.

84. **TO TAKE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 06 DECEMBER 2018 AS A CORRECT RECORD**

The Clerk informed members that a response to the official complaint made to Unison had been received on the 15 January 2019, the letter confirmed that as of the 18 August 2018, the case had been closed and requested that the letter be accepted as an apology, any future claims would need to be substantiated by evidence and Unison confirmed that training was been provided amongst staff at branch level.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 06 December 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

85. **NEIFCA ANNUAL PLAN 2019/2020**

The Clerk and Chief Officer submitted a report detailing the draft Annual Plan for 2019/2020 and to authorise the drafting of an accompanying annual report, summarising the Authority's main activities and outputs during the 2018/2019 year. The Chief Officer highlighted that the key areas of focus for the year ahead included development of byelaws and implementation, effort limitation, development of the Authority's website,

the organisational review and replacement of the Authority's main patrol vessel. Members discussed a potential training event which would be mandatory for all members to attend. It was suggested that ideas and suggestions on the format and content of the training should be circulated amongst members for comment prior to the June Authority meeting.

Resolved (a) Members endorsed the plan for 2019/2020 for submission to Defra to meet the deadline of 1 April 2019.

(b) Members authorised the drafting of an annual report, summarising the Authority's main activities and outputs during the 2018/2019 year for submission to the June 2019 meeting of the full Committee.

86. URGENT ITEM – ISSUES SURROUNDING THE PRIMARY 6.4M DAUGHTER RIGID INFLATABLE BOAT (RIB)

The Chief Officer presented to members a briefing note which highlighted the current pressing issues surrounding the primary 6.4m daughter Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB), Bravo One. The Authority's main 6.4 metre RIB, 'Bravo I', was built and commissioned in Finland by Boomeranger boats in 2007 as the 'daughter' craft to North Eastern Guardian III (NEG III) and delivered to the UK with the main patrol vessel. The hull is designed specifically to operate from the after stern ramp of NEG III. The RIB is still powered by its original engine, a Volvo Penta 130 horse power D31 diesel with SX Stern Drive which has been well maintained throughout its operating life.

On 24 January 2019 the engine suffered a serious mechanical failure which has been diagnosed as a potential broken crankshaft. The damaged engine and stern drive remain out of the vessel pending a full appraisal of all the options and taking an urgent decision on the agreed solution. Without the RIB, offshore operational activity is severely limited, particularly in terms of capability to board and inspect vessels at sea and is totally reliant on the Authority's 4.7 m RIB 'Protector II' which has to be towed by NEG III. The briefing note included a full options appraisal on possible solutions, including repair and re-installation of the original engine, installation of a new engine of a different make and model and also the replacement of Bravo One.

Members were informed that the current issues faced in relation to, 'Bravo I', the main 6.4 m offshore RIB provided the opportunity to re-assess current offshore needs, address the issues faced in terms of the specific mechanical breakdown and provide support to cover the anticipated transition period through the building and commissioning of a new main patrol vessel. Given that the matter was urgent and needed to be considered before the next Authority meeting and in full consideration of all the options outlined within the briefing paper, senior officers recommended the following:

1. That a new engine and stern drive are installed in 'Bravo I' at an estimated cost of £16,000 to be met from a combination of insurance cover and existing operational budgetary provisions.
2. 'Protector II' is sold.
3. That an order for a new RIB of the same make and model as 'Bravo I' is placed with Boomeranger boats as the single source of supply at an anticipated cost of £130,000 to be met from a combination of income generated from the sale of 'Protector II', savings made from the operational budget and general reserves.

Members discussed the various options, and agreed with the recommendations made by the Chief Officer, it was agreed at the meeting that the funds to purchase the new RIB should be utilised from the general reserves, alongside the funds generated from the sale of the Authority's second Rigid Inflatable Boat, Protector II, and that any underspend from 2018/19, should be used to replenish the general reserve.

Resolved – (a) That a new engine and stern drive are installed in ‘Bravo I’ at an estimated cost of £16,000 to be met from a combination of insurance cover and existing operational budgetary provisions.

(b) ‘Protector II’ is sold.

(c) That an order for a new RIB of the same make and model as ‘Bravo I’ is placed with Boomeranger boats as the single source of supply at an anticipated cost of £130,000 to be met from a combination of income generated from the sale of ‘Protector II’, savings made from the operational budget and general reserves.

87. BUDGET REPORT 2018/2019

The Treasurer of the Authority presented a report detailing the budget position at the end of month 10 (January) in 2018/19. At the end of January 2019, the Authority had net expenditure of £876,717 against an expected £883,168, under-spending by £6,451. The projected outturn shows a balanced budget. Members agreed at the meeting that £120,000 would be utilised from the general reserve to fund the purchasing of a new Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB), and that any underspend from 2018/19, would be used to replenish the general reserve.

Resolved – (a) That £120,000 is used from the general reserve to purchase a new Rigid Inflatable Boat, and any underspend from 2018/19 be used to replenish the reserve.

(b) Members noted the report.

88. REVENUE BUDGET 2019/2020

The Treasurer provided members with a detailed budget for new 2019/20 financial year which had been produced in line with the draft 2018 Annual Plan, Strategic Risk Register and local priorities and in consultation with senior operational staff. Members had previously agreed a total levy of £1,224,320 at the Authority meeting held on 6 December 2018. Members discussed the level and allocation of reserves held by the Authority which were considered prudent for mitigating against the potential risks associated with the Authority’s operational activities including meeting inflationary pressures, dealing with significant mechanical breakdowns and replacing the Authority’s main patrol vessel.

Resolved – (a) That the draft budget for 2019/20 be approved

(b) That the level of general reserves is maintained at £228,449 (19%) of the annual levy.

(c) That £120,000 is used from the general reserve to purchase a new Rigid Inflatable Boat, and any underspend from 2018/19 be used to replenish the reserve.

89. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY & STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER REVIEWS

In accordance with the Risk Management Strategy an annual review had been undertaken. The Clerk and Chief Officer presented the revised Strategy to Members for their consideration and approval. The Chief Officer highlighted that in the main, identified strategic and operational risk had largely remained unchanged since September 2018, although there had been some changes in operational risk relating to staff vacancies, funding for a replacement patrol vessel and implications surrounding the 2019 Organisational Review.

Resolved – That the revised Risk Management Strategy be adopted and the revised Strategic and Operational Risk Register be approved and reviewed in six months’ time.

**90. NEIFCA HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY & SAFE WORKING PRACTICES
2019/2020**

The Chief Officer provided a report to inform members of the completion of the annual review of the Authority's Health & Safety provisions; a revised policy was included within the report. The Chief Officer reported that policy and provisions were reviewed continuously throughout the year at NEIFCA staffing and Senior Management Team meetings and the guidance documents represented the most current version at the time the report was written.

Members were informed that since the last review in September 2018 there had been no notable incidents to report and as part of this standard six-monthly review all the Safe Working Practices and supporting risk assessments have been fully reviewed and updated. New provisions had been added to the 2019 Safe Working Practices document to cover the use of drones

Resolved – (a) Members noted the report.

**91. NEIFCA BYELAWS UPDATE – CRUSTACEA CONSERVATION & AIS
BYELAW**

The Chief Officer presented a report to update the group on all current fisheries byelaw work streams.

Byelaw XXVIII Crustacea Conservation Byelaw 2018

This new byelaw regulation was made by the Authority at its meeting on 14 June 2018. It retains, updates and rationalises existing management regulations covering the exploitation of lobster, edible crab, velvet crab and nephrops within the Authority's district and included some other key revisions including protection for egg bearing lobsters, 'V' notched lobsters and a new protection for 'soft' lobsters. Following a period of informal consultation with the MMO IFCA byelaws team, formal public consultation commenced on 15 October 2018 and concluded on 7 December 2018. In total the Authority received ten objections to the proposal, primarily in relation to the new maximum vessel length size for shell fishing of 10 m within the 3 nautical mile limit and the prohibitions on taking soft and mutilated lobsters. Prior to responding to the objections, all members were contacted via email on 24 January 2019, the Chief Officer outlined his intentions to strengthen some of the definitions contained within the byelaw, particularly relating to 'soft' lobsters and submit the byelaw proposal for formal confirmation. The definition of 'soft lobster' was strengthened within the draft byelaw and it was submitted for formal confirmation on 8 February 2019. Following a preliminary review of the submission some minor changes were recommended to the wording of the draft regulation. A revised draft of both the regulation and supporting Regulatory Impact assessment were re-submitted for confirmation on 18 February 2019 and copies were included within the report for member's information.

XXXI Automatic Identification System (AIS) Byelaw 2016

The proposed AIS byelaw was one of five regulations which were formally made by the Authority on 27 April 2016 which also included the following:

- XVIII Method and Area of Fishing (Netting) Byelaw 2016
- XXIX Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw 2016
- XXXI Catch Returns Byelaw 2016
- XXII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2016

Following informal review by the Marine Management Organisation the byelaws progressed to formal consultation which commenced on 21 December 2016 and terminated on 17 February 2017.

During the formal consultation process 44 responses were received including two multi-signature petitions. Members considered the output from the formal consultation on 20 July 2017 and agreed to continue with the progression of the byelaws with the exception of the Shellfish Permit regulation which needed further consideration. Since July 2017 the byelaws have passed through two further reviews by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and at one point had been signed and formally submitted to Defra but were sent back into the quality assessment process overseen by the MMO. Further delays have resulted from issues surrounding the supporting Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs). Since the 25 May 2018 officers had made further submissions and representations, regarding the byelaws, to the MMO IFCA byelaw team via the Authority's legal advisors. On 8 October 2018 the MMO advised officers that the quality assurance process had been completed on three of the four byelaws with the exception of the AIS Byelaw which carried a recommendation that it should be subject to a further period of formal consultation. The MMO considered that given the significant development of the national IVMS project since the original byelaw was made in 2016, necessitating subsequent changes to the supporting RIA, a further period of consultation was felt appropriate. To that end officers commenced a second period of formal consultation on the AIS byelaw alongside the Crustacea Conservation Regulation on 15 October 2018. This consultation period closed on 7 December 2018. During the second period of formal consultation on the AIS byelaw proposal the Authority received eighteen objections and two letters of support for the measure. Sixteen of the eighteen objections came from representatives of the recreational rod fishing sector and two from the commercial fishing industry.

The objections from the recreational rod fishing sector raised a number of complex issues relating to the commercial classification of recreational charter fishing businesses many of which carried no clear or immediate answer. Copies of all the objections received and responses were attached for additional information. Prior to responding to the objections the Chief Officer contacted all members via email on 21 December 2018 indicating his intention to remove the recreational fishing sector from the scope of the byelaw provisions and re-submit the regulation for formal confirmation. All members were supportive and the AIS byelaw was re-submitted for formal confirmation on 24 January 2019 and alongside the three other outstanding byelaws, is now, finally, being considered by senior Defra officials.

Resolved – Members noted the report.

92.

CHIEF OFFICER OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The Chief Officer presented a report to provide an operational update for members' information. Members were updated on the situation surrounding the permitted intertidal sea bass fishery. Given the continuing EU prohibition on commercial sea bass fishing from the shore, the final issue of NEIFCA permits for the 2018/2019 season had been withheld. At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, held on 6 December 2018, members were updated on communications received from the netsmen who were requesting that they be permitted to work sole nets for the remainder of the season which would have run until the end of April 2019. A response to that request was sent to the fishermen's legal representative on 10 December 2018 and at the time of writing the reports, no formal reply had been received, however the Chief Officer had been notified that the netsman were no longer taking legal representation. The Chief Officer informed members that it was his decision to issue permits to the netsman to enable them to work sole nets for the remainder of the season, May and June, this process would commence at

the end of March 2019. It was highlighted to members that a strategy would need to be agreed prior to the application process which would commence once again in October 2019, as the situation remains that the Authority's byelaw is in conflict with the EU legislation. In terms of wider fisheries enforcement, compliance with the national prohibition on the landing of egg bearing lobsters remains an ongoing concern for the Authority's officers.

The Chief Officer provided a verbal update on progression with the replacement of the Authority's main patrol vessel. Since the last meeting, a number of RIB yard visits had taken place, and detailed evaluations and assessments of each yard had been produced. Officers planned to meet with a number of boat yards in the coming months, with the expectation of bringing back to the Executive Committee a clear indicative budget needed to fund the replacement vessel.

Members were informed that the Chief Officer had commenced work on the organisational review, phase one had included bench marking against other organisations and partners, and the information obtained was currently being analysed. Phase two was expected to commence soon, which would include one to one meetings with all officers. The Chief Officer informed members he would produce a detailed and comprehensive report with recommendations.

Members were also informed of the results from the Customer Service Satisfaction Survey which the Authority's Officers commenced in September 2018. The responses received were overwhelmingly positive, 515 responses were received in total, with 80-90% indicating a strong satisfaction with the service provided.

Resolved – Members noted the report

93.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 11:40am

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
27 June 2019

FINANCIAL OUTTURN 2018/19

Report of the Treasurer

A. Purpose of Report

To report the outturn position for the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2019.

B. Recommendations

- 1 That Members approve the outturn position

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the final income and expenditure account and balance sheet for the year ended 31 March 2019.
- 1.2 With effect from the financial year 2015/16 NEIFCA, which is classified as a joint committee, has no statutory obligation to prepare accounts which are externally audited. From 1 April 2015 any expenditure overseen by a joint committee was subject to audit as part of the main accounts of the constituent audited body, in this case the contributing local authorities.

2. Responsibility of the Authority

- 2.1 The North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is required –
 - to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one officer has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. That officer is the Treasurer.
 - to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.

3. Responsibility of the Treasurer

- 3.1 The Treasurer is responsible for arrangements for the proper administration of Authority's financial affairs. The Treasurer is also responsible for the maintenance and preparation of its accounts in accordance with proper practices.

4. Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

- 4.1 The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is attached as Appendix A.
- 4.2 Detailed monthly monitoring of expenditure against the profiled budget has been undertaken and reported to the Board on a quarterly basis. At the Executive meeting held on 6 September 2018, the Authority meeting held on 6 December 2018 and the Executive meeting held on 14 March 2019, it was reported that the projected outturn was a balanced budget.
- 4.3 The total net expenditure for 2018/19 of £1,086,059 is shown in Appendix A. There is an outturn underspend of £1,351 which is proposed to be transferred to the external projects reserve in order to progress with increased costs of the AIS project, as described in paragraph 6.3.

5. Balance Sheet

- 5.1 The Authority's Balance Sheet, attached as Appendix B, is a representation of its net worth. As expected, the Authority's main asset, North Eastern Guardian III, forms the majority of its worth. The vessel is being depreciated over its anticipated useful working life of eleven years, leaving an estimated residual value of £639,440.
- 5.2 Usable Reserves of £1,356,465 have increased by £114,251 as a result of transfers to the external projects, vehicle replacement and renewals fund reserves.

6. Reserves

- 6.1 The final outturn has increased the value of reserves held which are shown at Appendix C. The general reserve enables the Authority to demonstrate its financial standing as a 'going concern', to be in a position to meet unforeseen liabilities and remains at £228,450, which represents 19% of the annual levy for 2019/20. This is considered a reasonable level of balances for the Authority to hold.
- 6.2 At the Executive at 14 March 2019 it was agreed that £120,000 would be utilised from the general reserve to fund the purchase of a new Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB). The original indicative price has significantly increased, meaning that it is no longer economically viable. The Chief Officer is considering alternatives in conjunction with the Clerk and Treasurer.
- 6.3 The Authority also maintains specific reserves. In 2011/12 the Authority created a reserve to manage the risk associated with patrol vessel maintenance. Due to its nature, certain maintenance is cyclical rather than annual and other maintenance may be of an exceptional and urgent nature. The balance on the reserve will be maintained at £50,000.
- 6.4 The external projects reserve has been increased by £1,351 and now stands at £91,344, which will enable the Authority to progress with the regulatory impact of the AIS project, subject to DEFRA approving the byelaw. This will be sufficient to cover the main commercial fishing sector. It is estimated that a further £12,006 will be required to complete the project and it is anticipated that this can be met from within budget in 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- 6.5 A vehicle replacement reserve was established to fund the maintenance and replacement of vehicles and has reduced by £18,518 due to the replacement of two vehicles in 2018/19. Maintaining a vehicle replacement reserve enables the fleet programme to be effectively managed and an annual set aside of £10,000 was approved by the Executive.

The 2018/19 closing balance is £11,482. Currently the Authority owns one small multi-purpose van, one large transporter van, two 4x4 'pick up' vehicles, one all-terrain two seater 'gator' and leases a further 4x4 'pick up' and a pool car. Owning vehicles has proven much more cost effective in terms of flexibility of managing mileage and additional 'end of term costs' which are applied with each lease agreement.

- 6.6 The levy included £102,900 to be transferred to the renewals fund, which is funding set aside towards the replacement of the patrol vessel. The fund now stands at £975,189. Estimates of the total cost of replacing the boat are between £3.5m and £4.5m and external funding is now very limited.

Contact Officer

Liz Smith (Tel 01482 394261)
Principal Accountant, East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Stephen Chandler
Treasurer

Appendix A

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY						
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT						
2017/18		2018/19				
Net Expenditure		Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Original Budget	Variance
£		£	£	£	£	£
343,136	Central / Headquarters	441,372	6,210	435,162	385,080	50,082
113,418	Land Based Operations	120,528	0	120,528	137,010	(16,482)
435,947	Offshore Operations	430,709	10,287	420,422	453,740	(33,318)
101,443	Environment	109,676	0	109,676	111,580	(1,904)
0	Grant Aided Projects	146,739	146,468	272	0	272
993,944		1,249,024	162,965	1,086,059	1,087,410	(1,351)
Net Income		Expenditure	Income	Net Income	Original Budget	Variance
£		£	£	£	£	£
SOURCES OF FINANCE						
1,162,310	Annual levy on Local Authorities	0	1,200,310	1,200,310	1,200,310	0
0	Contribution from Reserves	0	18,518	18,518	0	18,518
-10,950	Cont (to)/from Capital - Vehicles	46,518	28,000	(18,518)	0	(18,518)
-157,416	Contribution to Earmarked Reserves	114,251	0	(114,251)	(112,900)	(1,351)
993,944		160,769	1,246,828	1,086,059	1,087,410	(1,351)
Contributions to earmarked reserves					£	
Renewals Fund					102,900	
Vehicle Replacement					10,000	
External Projects					1,351	
					114,251	
2018/19 underspend of £1,351 to be transferred to the External Projects Reserve						

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY				
BALANCE SHEET				
31 March 2018		31 March 2019		
£		£	£	£
	LONG TERM ASSETS			
1,914,748	Waterborne Assets - Gross Book Value	1,914,748		
-1,167,308	Waterborne Assets - Depreciation	<u>-1,268,908</u>		645,840
151,466	Vehicles and Equipment - Gross Book Value	169,984		
-75,682	Vehicles and Equipment - Depreciation	<u>-89,687</u>		80,297
0	Work in Progress			<u>0</u>
823,224				726,137
	CURRENT ASSETS			
	Debtors			
29,502	HMRC - VAT	11,029		
23,706	Other	45,647		
14,568	Prosecution Costs	2,278		
-2,328	Provision for Bad Debt	<u>-2,328</u>	-50	
479	Payment in Advance		<u>479</u>	57,105
0	Short Term Investments			0
	Cash and cash equivalents			
945,887	Temporary Investments	1,445,886		
372,909	Cash at Bank and in Hand	31,221		
350	Petty Cash	<u>350</u>		1,477,457
	CURRENT LIABILITIES			
-89,341	Creditors	-161,598		
-18,500	Receipt in Advance	<u>0</u>		-161,598
2,100,456	NET ASSETS			2,099,102
	FINANCED BY			
1,260,732	Usable Reserves			1,356,465
839,724	Unusable Reserve			742,637
2,100,456	TOTAL RESERVES			2,099,102

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY		
RESERVES		
General Reserve	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£
Balance brought forward	228,450	228,450
Usage	0	-120,000
Transfer to Revenue	0	0
Balance carried forward	<u>228,450</u>	<u>108,450</u>
Patrol Vessel Maintenance	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£
Balance brought forward	50,000	50,000
Transfer from Revenue	0	0
Balance carried forward	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
External Projects	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£
Balance brought forward	89,993	91,344
Transfer from Revenue	1,351	0
Balance carried forward	<u>91,344</u>	<u>91,344</u>
Vehicle Replacement Reserve	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£
Balance brought forward	20,000	11,482
Transfer to Revenue	-18,518	10,000
Transfer from Revenue	10,000	0
Balance carried forward	<u>11,482</u>	<u>21,482</u>
Renewals Fund	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£
Balance brought forward	872,289	975,189
Transfer from Revenue	102,900	102,900
Transfer to Revenue	0	0
Balance carried forward	<u>975,189</u>	<u>1,078,089</u>
TOTAL USEABLE RESERVES	<u>1,356,465</u>	<u>1,349,365</u>

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
27 June 2019

NEIFCA Permitted Intertidal Netting Fishery 2019/2020

Report by the Chief Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To update members on the current situation surrounding the issuing of intertidal fixed netting permits to target sea bass and ongoing legislative conflict with European Fisheries legislation.

B. Recommendation

1. That Members note the report.
2. That Members endorse the recommendation that, given the continuation of the European ban on commercial sea bass fishing from the shore, no intertidal permits are issued for the forthcoming 2019/2020 season.
3. That the situation surrounding intertidal permits remains under review with a further report presented at the next meeting of the Authority in December 2019.

1. Background

- 1.1 At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on 9 March 2017 members were advised of changes to European Fisheries regulations affecting the exploitation of sea bass. When first notified of the proposals officers expressed concerns over the potential impact of a 'blanket' prohibition on all commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore which would effectively stop the Authority's permitted intertidal fishery. Prior to the publication of the proposals the Chief Officer made direct representation to Defra officials on 18 January 2017 and wrote to the European Commission on 26 January 2017 seeking some form of dispensation for the Authority's permitted intertidal fishery.
- 1.2 Authority officers continued to lobby both Defra and the European Commission, supported by external representation from local MPs, throughout 2017, in the hope that some form of dispensation could be offered for the permitted intertidal sea bass fishermen. As the commencement of the 2017/2018 season approached in October 2017 intertidal sea bass permits were issued as officers continued to try and find a resolution to the issue but as the season progressed into the beginning of 2018 the challenges of trying to ensure compliance with the European fisheries regulations were becoming more evident with officers removing quantities of sea bass for disposal which had been caught in the nets.
- 1.3 On 5 September 2018 I sought an update from Defra on the situation regarding a potential dispensation for the permitted intertidal netting fishery which was scheduled to commence on 15 October 2018. Defra advised that the status quo position remained but they were

hopeful that some concession would be incorporated into the 2019 EU fisheries regulation which would permit commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore.

- 1.4 On 7 September 2018 I sought internal legal advice on the position surrounding the potential issuing of permits given the continuing prohibition on commercial fishing from the shore. That legal advice was provided on 18 September 2018 and highlighted the issues the Authority would effectively face if it permitted an activity that was effectively prohibited under European law. Having considered the legal advice very carefully, in my role as the Permitting Officer, I took the decision to withhold issuing the permits on 24 of September 2018. I immediately wrote to all the provisional permit applicants on the same day to advise them of my decision followed by a further letter on 5 October 2018 to update them and confirm the original decision. All Authority members were informed, via email, of the decision on 2 October 2018 and a further update was provided on 5 October 2018.
- 1.5 On 8 November 2018 I received legal representation on behalf of the five affected permit holders threatening a judicial review into the decision not to issue permits. A response, reiterating the Authority's position was sent on 19 November 2018. On 6 December 2018, members received a further update on communications received from the netsmen who were requesting that they be permitted to work sole nets for the remainder of the season until the end of April 2019. A response to that request was sent to the fishermen's legal representative on 10 December 2018 offering to consider the issue of permits to enable fishing for sole from the shore between 1 May and 30 June 2019 inclusive.
- 1.6 Following further consultation with the Authority's legal advisors, the Clerk and members I took a decision to issue permits to the intertidal netsmen to enable them to target sole only between 1 May and 30 June 2019. These permits were issued on 29 March 2019 alongside clear instructions relating to net construction, marking of gear, weekly closure and a requirement that any sea bass caught must be returned back to the sea at the point of capture. Despite these instructions since the 1 May 2019 officers have reported three offences relating to the retention of sea bass which are currently under investigation.
- 1.7 Alongside issuing permits to target sole, further representations were made to the Fisheries Minister, Robert Goodwill MP to highlight the ongoing conflict with the European legislation. A response was received from the Minister on 31 May 2019 which is attached for information. Unfortunately there is no immediate prospect of any change being made to the European regulation until January 2020 at the earliest.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That given the continuing conflict with the European legislation, prohibiting the commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore no intertidal sea bass permits are issued for the 2019/2020 season.
- 2.2 The situation remains under review with a further report presented to the full Authority at its meeting in December 2019.

Contact Officer

David McCandless, Chief Officer
Ext. 3690

Background Papers

Letter from Fisheries Minister dated 31 May 2019



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP
Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

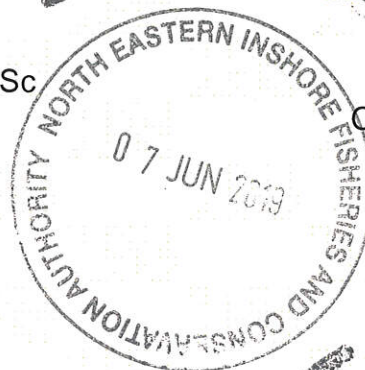
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Dr David Thomas McCandless BSc, MSc
Chief Fishery Officer
Town Hall
Bridlington
YO16 4LP

Your ref: neifca/
Our ref: PO2019/07600/KN

31st May 2019



Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 12 March about the Yorkshire Coast Intertidal Bass Fishery and many thanks for your good wishes. I do apologise for the delay in replying.

I note you have had the support of my predecessor as the UK Fisheries Minister, and that Defra has consistently pressed for a solution to the shore based commercial netting issue at EU level since 2017. I also now confirm my support of course, and I can fully understand the frustration of the Yorkshire Coast intertidal sea bass fishery operators that the matter has not been resolved from 2017 onwards. I also recognise the enforcement difficulty this has presented for your authority.

I noted two key principles that have underpinned our UK representations in the EU negotiations. Prohibiting the marketing of incidental bass catches from permitted shore nets does not reduce bass fishing mortality – in similar operations across the England and Wales most of these nets will continue to be set and catch bass incidentally whether or not a derogation is obtained. Not finding a solution fails to address the reality of shore-based netting activity, and only succeeds in imposing a socio-economic impact on small operators regulated locally.

I welcome your ongoing contact and information-sharing with the Defra policy team, and I will ensure this issue is pursued with the Commission while we are still able to, in the EU equation and subject to CFP rules. Looking ahead, resolution will come from our exit from the EU, when we will determine how best to manage the bass resources available to us in UK waters. We will certainly take into account the two key principles I noted above as we do so. This seems a particularly good example of an issue that is better managed locally within the context of an adaptable and coherent bass management approach designed at UK level, rather than an inflexible and broadly applied approach set at EU level.

You queried any EU compensatory mechanisms that may be of help in this situation. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) provides financial support to the seafood sector in a variety of ways. Whilst the EMFF does not rule out compensation, the criteria for this is very limited, and it can only be granted for temporary cessation of fishing activities for 6 months. In this case, the general bass fishing prohibition including from shore in the EU measures, has not been temporary in nature, and has been consistently applied (despite our representations for adjustments) since 2017.

The EMFF *does* offer support to allow fishers to diversify and fund new forms of income. Due to the specialised nature of the Holderness fishery, I realise that options for diversification in the case of shore based netting activity not linked to vessel use are likely to be limited. There is guidance for the EMFF which can be found online on the MMO website¹, however, to enable consideration of any viable options that may be eligible for funding.

Please do also note that Dr James Wood has written to me on behalf of the Yorkshire Beach Netsmen on this issue, and I have replied in a similar vein confirming my support.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by several loops and a final downward stroke.

RT HON ROBERT GOODWILL MP

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund-emff-apply-for-funding>

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
27 June 2019

Draft NEIFCA Annual Report 2018/2019

Report by the Chief Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members with a draft Annual Report covering the period, 2018/2019, summarising the Authority's outputs and activities during the year.

B. Recommendation

1. That members note and endorse the report

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 178 of the 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act places a statutory duty on Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA's) to prepare and publish an annual report on their activities during the proceeding year.
- 1.2 A draft annual report covering the period 2018/2019 and summarising the Authority's work, main outputs and achievements during its eighth operational year is attached for members information and review. Any further comments from members are very welcome on this draft report and should be submitted by Monday 15 July 2019.

Contact Officer

David McCandless
Chief Officer
Ext. 3690

Background Papers

Draft NEIFCA Annual Report 2018/2019

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
20 June 2019

Science Advisory Group Update

Report by the Chair of SAG & the Chief Officer

1. Purpose of Report

To update members on considerations and recommendations emanating from the most recent meeting of the Science Advisory Group (SAG) held on 14th March 2019.

B. Recommendation

That members note the report and consider the Group's recommendations.

1. Background

1.1 At the Authority meeting held on 7 December 2017 members supported revisions to the role and function of the Science Advisory sub-group. It was agreed that the group should play a more central function in providing the Authority with scientific and technical advice to fully support its decision making processes. The Authority can also delegate specific work streams or tasks to the SAG for further consideration (minute record 31 refers).

1.2 Authority members agreed that they would receive a written report from the SAG at each meeting summarising its most recent considerations and any specific recommendations for further consideration.

1.3 Since the last Authority meeting held on 6th December 2018, one meeting of the SAG was held on 14th March 2019 and is summarised below:

1.4 14th March 2019

At the meeting members considered the following items. The annual research report and a supplementary 'State of the Fisheries' report are attached for information:

- NEIFCA 5 year strategic research plan
- NEIFCA annual research programme 2019/2020
- NEIFCA annual research report

1.5 The group provided constructive feedback and input into the structure and content of both the 5 year Strategic Research and Evidence Plan and the supporting Annual Research and Evidence Plan. A review of the priority levels associated with each strategic area was undertaken and the recommendations have been incorporated. Discussions were also held regarding the current state of the fisheries, their sustainability, socio-economic background information and evidencing focus areas within the strategic plan. Officers have collated landings data to demonstrate recent trends for all regional fisheries and current stock

status. This report is attached for members information (State of the Fisheries report). Data collection regarding socio-economic metrics is ongoing.

- 1.6 The group considered the findings presented in the 2018/19 Annual Research Report. The aim of the report is to synthesize a range of monitoring outputs into a single accessible reference document to be presented each year. It includes details of the lobster and crab stock assessments completed during 2018 for the year 2017. Both Cefas and NEIFCA assessments consider the status of lobsters to be low and not reaching targets for Maximum Sustainable Yield. There are early indications that the introduction of escape gaps is having a positive impact, reversing the long term trend of increasing harvest rate and reducing mortality estimates towards sustainable levels. Similarly, assessments consider the status of edible crab to be fairly low. Mortality rates are considered to be high, around the maximum reference point limits for both males and females. It is thought that the introduction of escape gaps and the increase in the minimum size to 140mm has contributed to the stabilisation of harvest rates.
- 1.7 The report also included sections on the scallop dredge fishery (since superseded by the 2018/19 scallop report attached to Agenda Item 12), cockle management, No Take Zone blue mussel monitoring, Humber EMS eelgrass monitoring and temperature data collected from NEGIII.
- 1.8 In addition, the Chief Officer updated members on the progression of the Crustacea Conservation and Automatic Identification Byelaws and external partner project work.

Contact Officer

David McCandless,
Chief Officer,
Ext. 3690



Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority



Annual Research Report

2018/19

This report has been prepared by North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority with all reasonable care and attention to detail. All information provided is the best available at the time of production.

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Date submitted:	01/03/2019
Report compiled by:	TS, JB, AB, CF
Quality control by:	
Approved by & date:	
Version:	1

Authority production and the title of the publication specified.

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Bridlington
East Riding of Yorkshire

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DRAFT

1. Introduction

The Authority's Environmental and Scientific team complements the Enforcement and Administrative teams to deliver evidence based fisheries management that is sensitive to social, environmental and economic needs. As well as a range of inshore fisheries operating in the district, the district supports a wealth of important natural features that are protected under a suite of UK and EU designations (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Marine Conservation Zones). These sites collectively contribute to the national network of Marine Protected Areas.

In addition to continuing to support the Authority's management of the shellfish potting and scallop dredge fisheries, the Environmental and Scientific team undertake research, monitoring and assessment to ensure that the Authority delivers its statutory duties with regards to Marine Protected Areas. The annual research report highlights the key research and monitoring results for 2018/19. Significant time during 2018/19 has been directed towards on-going programmes that will be reported on at a later date. These include:

- Development of testing procedures to effectively enforce legislation prohibiting the landing of egg bearing female lobsters.
- Management of recreational shore collection in Marine Protected Areas.

The lobster and crab stock assessments presented were carried out in 2018 with data obtained during 2017. Data collection undertaken during 2018 is currently being analysed and will be discussed at the Science Advisory Group meeting in September 2019.

2. European lobster stock monitoring

Since 2007 the European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) fishery has been subject to targeted data capture to support periodic stock assessments and the review of harvest regimes in relation to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) targets, in addition to annual review by the Authorities Science Advisory Group (SAG) to identify survey priorities (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 Lobster data requirements

Requirements	Source	Priority	Programme review
Mortality rates	Quayside and Offshore size compositions	High	Performed and updated annually
Stock structure	Quayside and Offshore size compositions	High	Performed and updated annually
NEIFCA management impact Effects	Targeted offshore surveys	High	Performed and updated annually
Effort intensity, distribution and landings	Vessel sightings and MSAR	High	Performed and updated annually*
Length ~ weight relationship	Targeted capture of individual weights for larger animals	Low	Performed ad-hoc as workload allows
Male functional maturity	Potential partnership project	Low	Currently not performed

* Accuracy greatly increased by forthcoming vessel monitoring and catch return byelaws

2.1 Overview

The NEIFCA lobster fishery reported landings of 542 tonnes in 2017 (Figure 2.1), accounting for 16% of the UK's total landings. Total landings into the main ports within the district were reported as 985 tonnes, providing an estimate of the offshore fishery at 443 tonnes, an increase of 28% since 2015. As a singular port, combined landings from inshore and offshore fisheries into Bridlington accounted for 453 tonnes, equating to 46% of landings into the NEIFCA region (Table 2.4).

Since 2007 NEIFCA district-wide fishing effort has increased from 3.5 to 4.2 million pots hauled, however there is a decreasing trend in the number of pots registered from 102,000 to 83,000. Relative landings per unit effort (kg per 1000 pots hauled) is variable across the fishery with reported annual LPUE ranging from 115 to over 142 kg (Table 2.4).

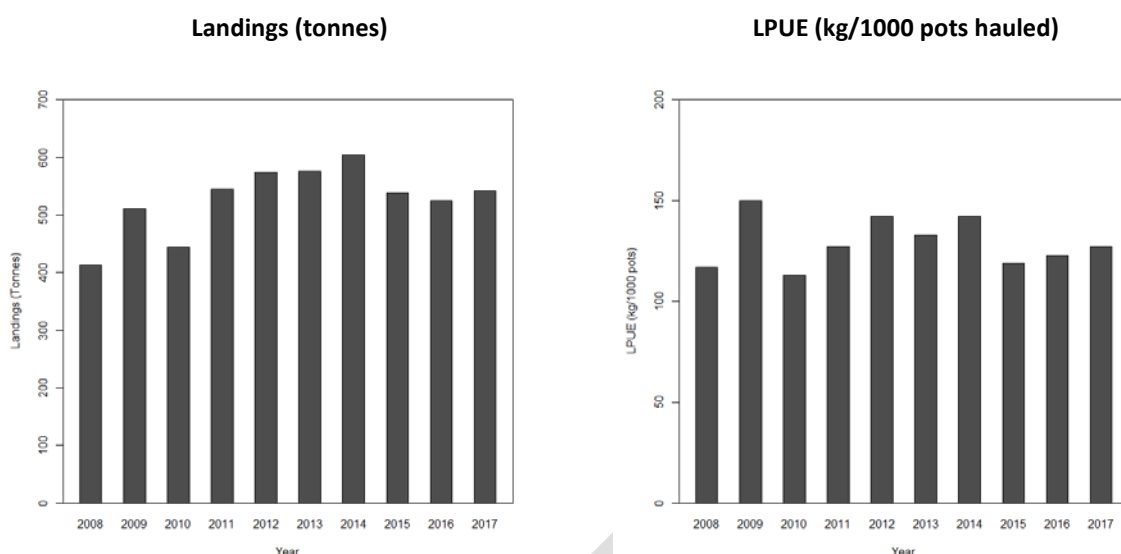


Figure 2.1 Reported lobster landings and calculated landings per unit effort (LPUE) for the NEIFCA district between 2008 and 2017.

2.2 Stock structure and population dynamics

Abundance

Recruit abundances varied throughout the year, July to September accounted for almost 40% of landings. Reduced landings were recorded between February and April (Figure 2.2), corresponding with low local sea temperatures and poor weather conditions. This broadly replicates previous years and continues the adherence to seasonal patterns.

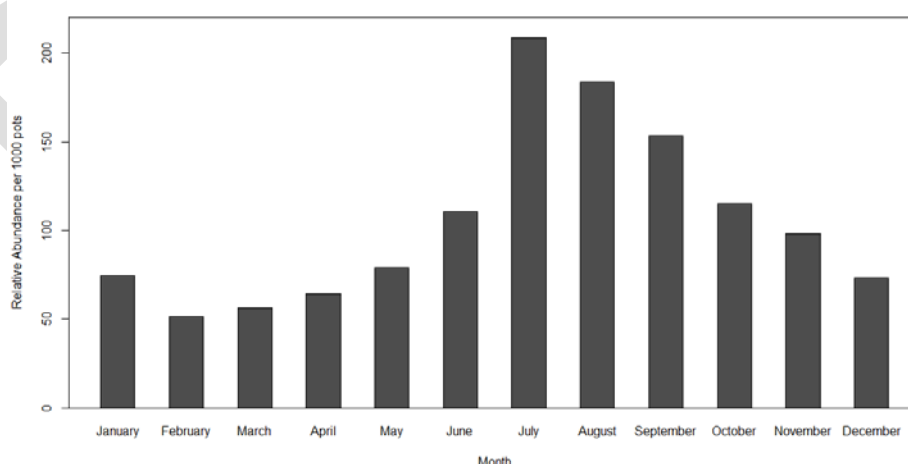


Figure 2.2 Relative monthly abundances (per 1000 pot hauls) for 2017.

Animal Size

The assessment of monthly size distributions for recruits determined that these did vary significantly in males (Kruskal Wallis $df = 11$, $\chi^2 = 148.77$, $p < 2.20 \times 10^{-16}$) and females (Kruskal Wallis $df = 11$, $\chi^2 = 56.297$, $p < 4.48 \times 10^{-08}$) (Figure 2.3). Post-hoc pairwise comparisons for males highlighted significant differences in September and December compared to most

other months, and between April and the first quarter months. Significant differences in female size distribution is also observed in April, while a restricted size range in August is likely linked to reproductive factors.

Annual size distributions for recruits determined that these did vary significantly in both males (Kruskal Wallis $df = 5$, $\chi^2 = 101.79$, $p < 2.20 \times 10^{-16}$) and females (Kruskal Wallis $df = 5$, $\chi^2 = 150.83$, $p < 2.20 \times 10^{-16}$) (Figure 2.4). In 2017, a small but significant increase in the median size of both males and females was observed, reversing the decreasing trend observed over previous years. Size distribution is highly constrained around the Minimum Landing Size (Figure 2.5) and there has been a decrease in larger animals in recent years ($>100\text{mm}$ in females and $>110\text{mm}$ in males).

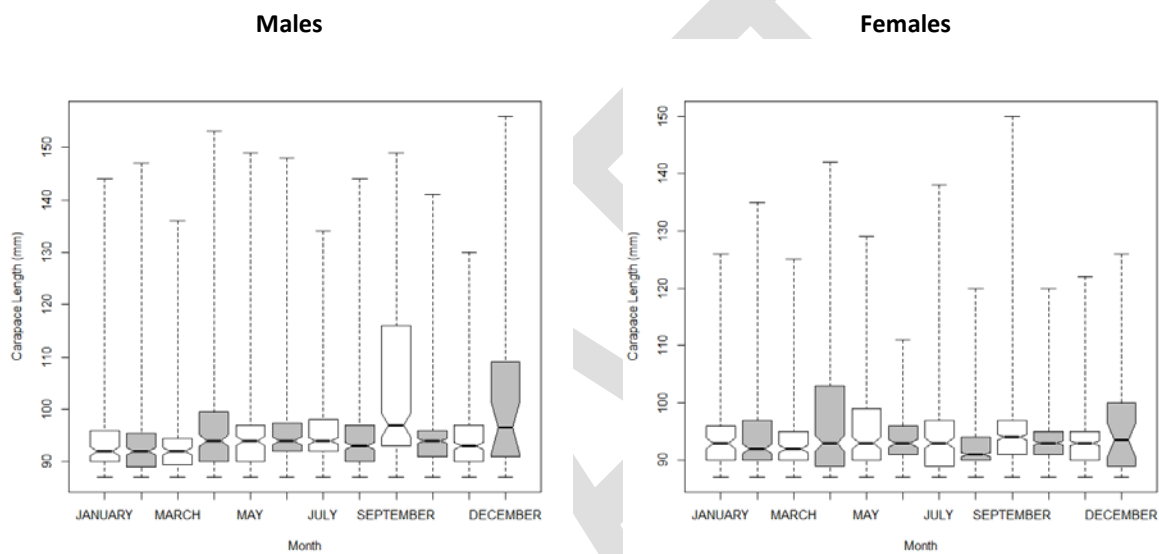


Figure 2.3 Notched box and whisker plots of monthly male and female recruit carapace lengths. Aggregated data for 2012-2017.

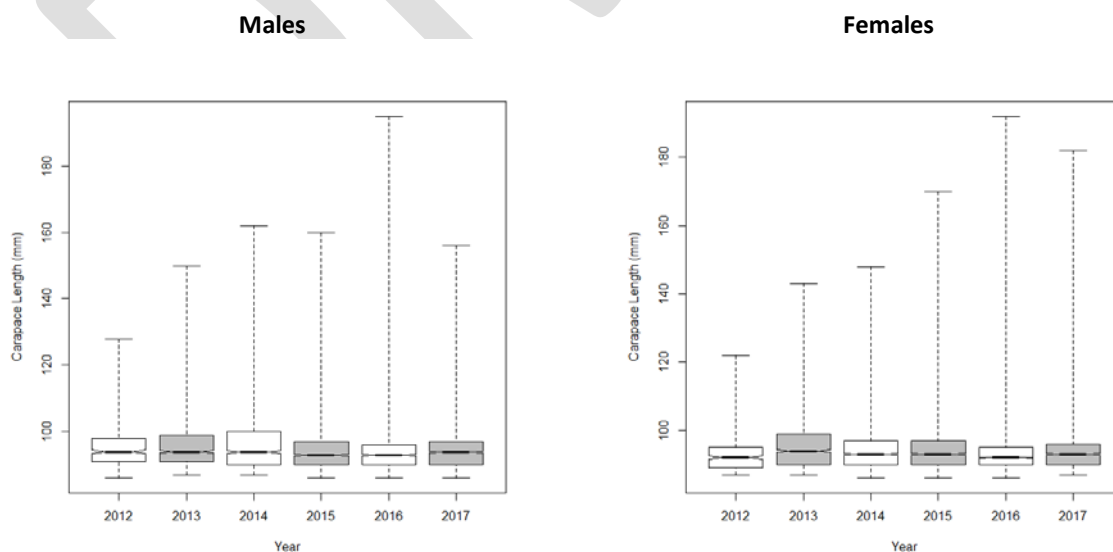


Figure 2.4 Notched box and whisker plots of annual male and female recruit carapace lengths for the period 201-2017.

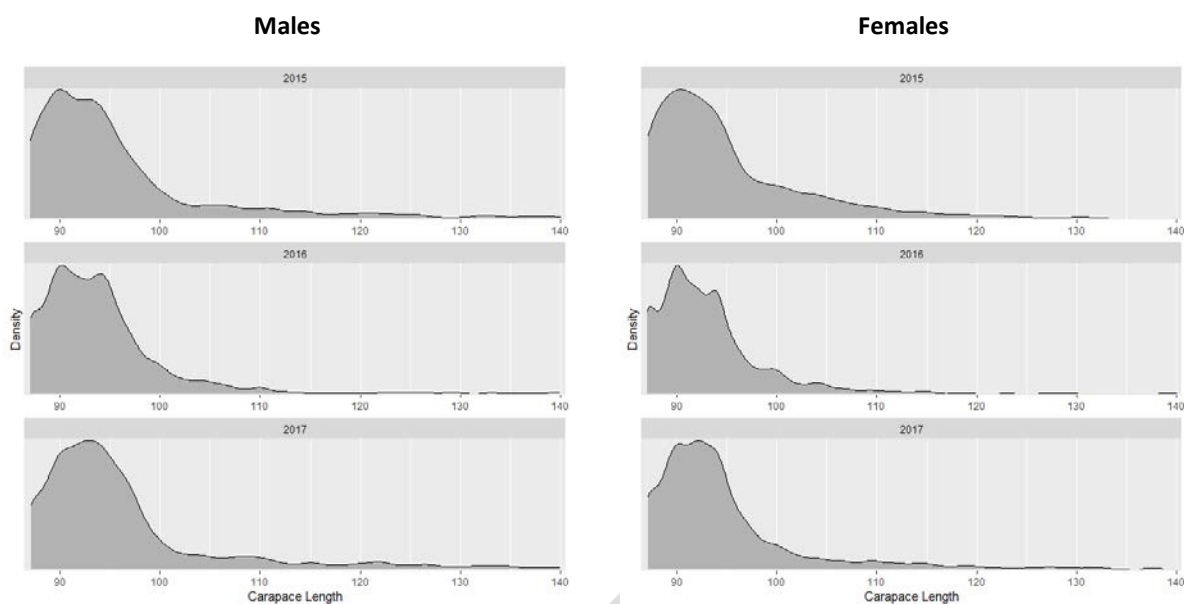


Figure 2.5 Density plots of male and female recruit carapace lengths for the period 2015-2017.

Sex Ratio

The proportion of female lobsters in catches increased to 60% during the early months of the year, before falling to 40% over June and July. There was then a marked increase in female catches in August followed by a decreasing trend for the remainder of the year (Figure 2.6). This broadly correlates with seasonal patterns of reproductive behaviour and ecdysis (shelling) observed in previous years.

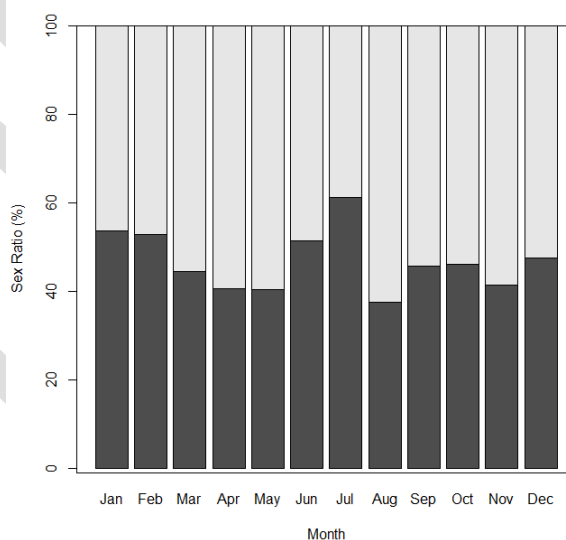


Figure 2.6 2017 monthly recruit sex ratios (%). Males in black and females in grey.

2.3 Mortality estimates

Since 2013 annual exploitation rates in the main have been steadily increasing, within a range of 40-55% and 45-60% for males and females respectively. Female mortality continues to show a greater degree of annual variability, which as previously noted appears attributed to the representation of older females in samples. However both male and female

exploitation rates are subject to a reduction of ~9%, between 2016 and 2017 (Figure 2.7). In part, this decrease can be attributed to the introduction of mandatory escape gaps in latter part of 2015 via NEIFCA bylaw XXVIII. Although shown, the 2012 annual harvest rate estimate is thought to be artificially inflated as the assessment was performed on a reduced data set from only one port.

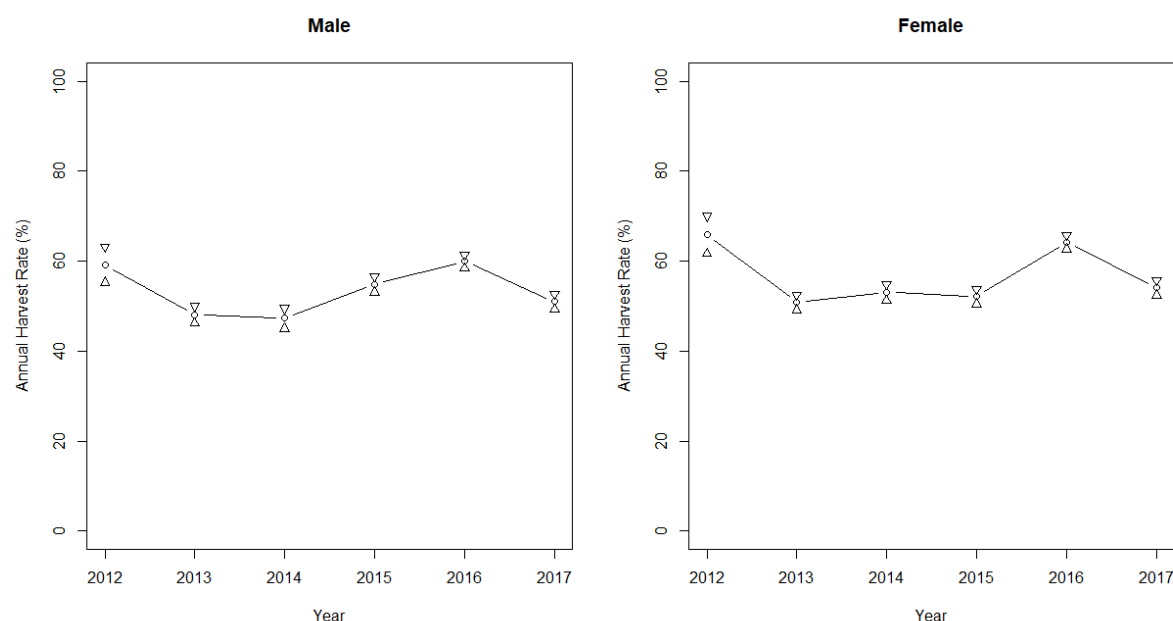


Figure 2.7 Chapman-Robson derived estimates of annual harvest rates for male and female lobsters for the period 2012-2017. Upper and lower (95%) confidence limits for each data point are included.

2.4 Stock Modelling

Models were developed in consideration of the Food and Agriculture Organisations (FAO's) recommended MSY target, which identifies that a stock subject to exploitation should retain a minimum of 35 % of the stock's unfished level of spawning stock biomass to remain sustainable (35 % Virgin SpR, Caddy & Mahon 1995¹). Adapted age-based Thompson – Bell (predictive) models were utilized to assess mortality and survivorship for a cohort through multiple years (FAO methodology, as detailed in Sparre & Venema 1998² and King 1995³).

Models were developed for both sexes as relative estimates, predicting the impact of mortality rates (F) ranging from 0 to 1.5 on the spawning stock biomass for a nominal

¹ Caddy JF and Mahon R (1995). Reference points for fisheries management. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. 347 83pp, Rome, FAO ftp://ftp.fao.org

² Sparre UPE and Venema SC (1989) FAO methodology found in, Introduction to tropical fish stock assessment. Part 1 Manual FAO Fish. Tech. Pap. 306:337

³ King M (1995) FAO methodology found in, Fisheries Biology, assessment and management. Fishing News Books, Blackwell Science Ltd, Oxford UK.

population of 1,000 individuals. The input parameters included: natural mortality of 0.15, average animal weights identified through quayside sampling and female functional maturity proportions identified during the 2007-2010 offshore study. Males were assumed to be mature from 87 mm and females at 90mm carapace length, with male and female assessments using age ranges from 5-15 and 6-15 years respectively. A cut off at 15 years was used rather than an encompassing plus group, as reproductive capacity has been noted to be restricted by behavioural, biological and anthropogenic factors for larger individuals (Skog 2009)⁴. Chapman-Robson derived mortality estimates from 2015-17 are presented within the models for context in relation to MSY estimates (Figure 2.8).

The status of lobster stocks in the NEIFCA district is low, with both male and female fishing mortality rates above the maximum reference point of 15% Virgin SpR (Table 2.2). An increase of over 200% in SSB is needed for both male and females to attain MSY, equating to a 70-75% reduction in fishing mortality (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2 Thompson-Bell model outputs.

Model	Current % of virgin SSB retained	Additional SSB biomass to achieve 35 % (MSY)	MSY F value	Relative decrease in F to achieve MSY
Male	10%	236%	0.23	75%
Female	10%	202%	0.31	75%

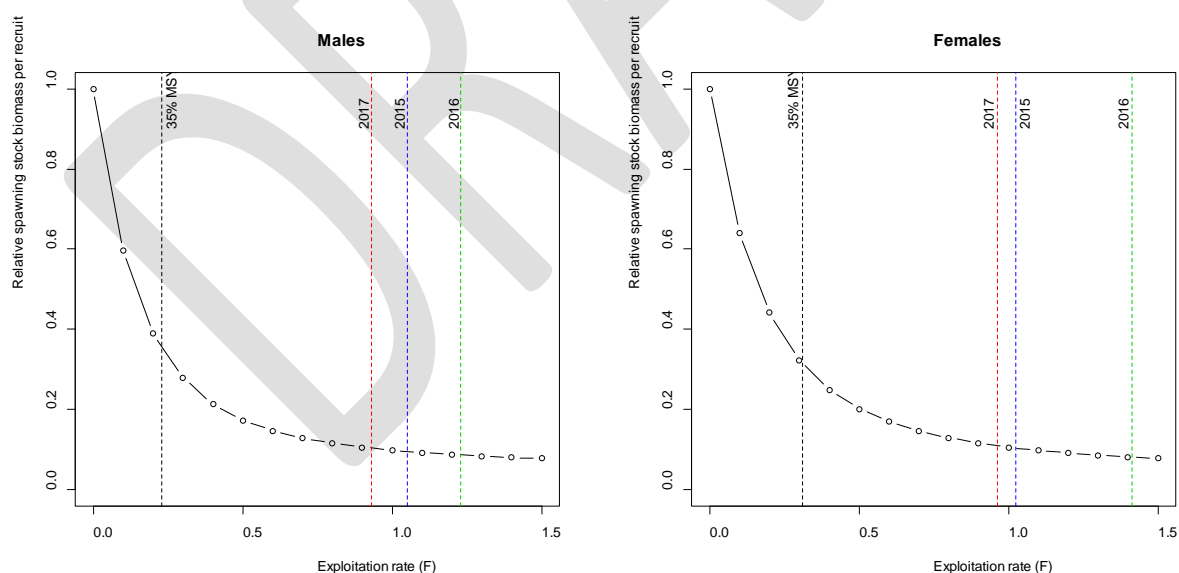


Figure 2.8 Plots of male and female lobster mortality estimates for 2015-2017 in relation to MSY target.

⁴ Skog M (2009) Male but not female olfaction is crucial for intermolt mating in European lobsters (*Homarus gammarus* L.). Chem. Senses 34:159-169

2.5 Comparison with Cefas Stock Assessment

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) undertake periodic assessment of lobster stocks, most recently in 2017⁵. Cefas assess stock status by defined Lobster Fishery Units (LFU) of which there are two which encompass the NEIFCA district; Yorkshire and Humber which covers from the south of the district to the River Tees, and Northumberland and Durham which covers the River Tees to the Scottish border. NEIFCA results were assessed in relation to the Yorkshire and Humber stock unit (Table 2.3), however Cefas results for both the Yorkshire and Humber and Northumberland and Durham LFU were similar.

Cefas describe the status of the stock as fairly low. Female biomass is below the minimum reference point limit however the male biomass is slightly above. The exploitation level is very high, above the maximum reference point limit but has decreased in recent years. The assessment also states that fishing pressure is particularly high around the Minimum Landing Size, in agreement with the current and previous NEIFCA assessments.

Table 2.3 Comparison of NEIFCA stock monitoring results and Cefas assessment of stock status in the Yorkshire and Humber Lobster Fishery Unit.

Parameter	NEIFCA result	CEFAS result	Comparison
Landings & effort	General increase, however decrease in last few years (2015-2017)	General increase (>2009). however decrease in last few years (2015-2016)	Similar
Size distribution	Highly constrained around MLS, decrease in larger animals in recent years (>100 F, >110M)	Highly constrained around MLS, decrease in larger animals in recent years	Similar
Fishing mortality estimates	2016: 0.6 males, 0.64 females 2017: 0.51 males, 0.54 females	2016: 0.55 males, 0.6 females	Similar

2.6 Conclusion

Both NEIFCA and Cefas assessments consider the status of the lobster stock to be low and not reaching targets for MSY. NEIFCA data for 2017 suggests that the introduction of mandatory escape gaps in all pots is having a positive impact, reversing the long term trend of increasing harvest rate and reducing mortality estimates towards sustainable levels.

During the latter part of 2017 a national Statutory Instrument and local byelaw were introduced banning the landing of egg bearing lobsters. This measure should increase productivity by allowing a greater proportion of female lobsters to release their eggs and

⁵ Cefas (2017) Lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) Stock Status Report 2017. Centre Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Lowestoft. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crab-and-lobster-stock-assessment-2017>

future stock assessments will investigate if any measurable impact on the metrics routinely used can be identified.

NEIFCA is progressing the introduction of an effort limitation system within the district which will place a cap on the number of pots that can be used and provide the management mechanism to reduce effort if deemed appropriate. Collaboration with regional and national fishery managers and scientific advisors should be further progressed in order to improve regulatory cohesion and reduce data uncertainties.

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Table 2.4 Lobster Multiple Indicator Framework

Multiple Indicator Framework												Value Ref	Data Source
Fishery Overview	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Total Landings (NEIFCA)	406	413	511	444	545	575	576	605	539	525	542	Tonnes	NEIFCA MSAR Collation
MMO Bridlington Landings	X	X	362	322	366	375	362	421	405	410	453	Tonnes	MMO Stats
Total Effort (Hauled)	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.2	Million	NEIFCA MSAR Collation
Total Effort (Pots Set)	102	91	109	113	117	109	114	105	92	90	83	Thousand	DEFRA
Q3 Catch Distribution	62	67	67	66	64	62	57	60	58	62	61	Q3 %	NEIFCA MSAR Collation (36F0)
Primary Reference Points	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Annual Mortality Rate - Males	55	58	57	x	x	54	43	42	50	55	46	%	CR - QS Sampling
Annual Mortality Rate - Females	67	71	66	x	x	61	46	48	47	59	50	%	CR - QS Sampling
LPUE 36 F0	140	180	270	210	180	200	240	120	200	212	195	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA MSAR Collation
LPUE 36 E9	170	130	180	130	150	140	170	130	180	202	202	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA MSAR Collation
LPUE 37 E9	110	110	140	100	120	120	110	150	105	115	136	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA MSAR Collation
LPUE 38 E8	70	80	110	60	70	80	50	140	60	69	67	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA MSAR Collation
LPUE 38 E9	90	60	60	50	100	110	100	160	70	85	80	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA MSAR Collation
Economic	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Average Annual Price	12.20	11.79	9.00	9.91	10.28	9.75	10.54	9.72	9.49	12.00	13.18	£	MMO GCV / Kg
Gross Catch Value	4.95	4.90	4.60	4.40	5.60	5.60	6.10	5.19	4.20	6.30	7.14	Million	MMO Annual Stats
No. Vessels	171	225	150	168	158	161	159	181	177	193	217	#	Effort Survey
No. Employment	376	406	407	391	389	424	406	376	376	432	471	#	Effort Survey
Biometric	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Average Carapace Length M (mm)	92	92	94	x	94	96	96	98	95	95	97	mm	QS Sampling
Average Carapace Length F (mm)	91	91	92	x	93	93	97	95	95	94	95	mm	QS Sampling
Max Carapace Length M (mm)	126	116	153	x	127	128	150	162	160	195	156	mm	QS Sampling
Max Carapace Length F (mm)	110	188	127	x	111	122	206	148	170	192	182	mm	QS Sampling
Sex Ratio (% Female)	x	x	x	x	44%	49%	58%	64%	54%	50%	56%	%	QS Sampling
Proportion Crippled (%)	x	x	x	x	2.2%	1%	5%	5%	7%	5%	5%	%	QS Sampling
Proportion Berried (F-FB %)	x	x	x	x	x	x	23%	17%	33%	30%	N/A	%	QS Sampling

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3. Edible Crab stock monitoring

Since 2007 the Edible crab (*C. pagurus*) fishery has been subject to targeted data capture to support periodic stock assessments and review of the harvest regime in relation to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) targets, in addition to annual review by the Authorities Science Advisory Group (SAG) to identify survey priorities (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1. Crab data requirements

Requirements	Source	Priority	Programme review
Mortality rates	Quayside and Offshore size compositions	High	Performed and updated annually
Stock structure	Quayside and Offshore size compositions	High	Performed and updated annually
NEIFCA management impact Effects	Targeted offshore surveys	High	Performed and updated annually
Effort intensity, distribution and landings	Vessel sightings and MSAR	High	Performed and updated annually*
Length ~ weight relationship	Targeted capture of individual weights for larger animals	Low	Performed ad-hoc as workload allows
Size at maturity	Lawler and Addison, 2006 (Smith, 2010 ⁶)	Low	Currently not performed
Stock boundaries	Cefas Stock Status report (Cefas, 2017 ⁷)	Low	Currently not performed

* Accuracy greatly increased by forthcoming vessel monitoring and catch return byelaws

3.1 Overview

Landings of crab originating from within the district are declared via Monthly Shellfish Activity Returns (MSAR) directly to NEIFCA as a permit condition. Annual landings followed an increasing trend between 2009 and 2013 when the fishery peaked. Since this time landings have declined to 1,394 tonnes in 2017, down 205 tonnes on the previous year (Figure 3.1). Despite relative stability in the number of pots set and hauled (Figure 3.2), Landings Per Unit Effort (LPUE, kg/1000 pots hauled) has mirrored the landings data closely with a declining trend since 2013 (Figure 3.1).

Over the same period landings into ports within the NEIFCA district, recorded by national reporting mechanisms, highlight an increasing trend from 2,393 tonnes in 2009 to 5,678 in

⁶ Smith (2010). Development of a multiple indicator framework macrocrustacean fishery assessment and management. Available at:

http://www.shellfish.org.uk/files/PDF/25439C3609%20Stage_1_Report_6_2010_Final.pdf

⁷ Cefas Stock Status report 2017. Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722904/Cefas_Crab_Stock_Assessment_2017.pdf

2017 (Figure 3.3). An assessment of the relative contribution of the inshore fishery however shows that the proportion of regional catches originating from within NEIFCA jurisdiction has declined from almost 50% in 2009 to only 25% in 2017 (Figure 3.4). This finding is in agreement with anecdotal reports of reduced crab catches within 6nm in recent years and fishers shifting effort further offshore, as well as an increase in the number of offshore vivier vessels. The value of crab landed into ports within the district follows the same trend as landed tonnage. The average annual price per kilo for crab increased steadily between 2009 (£1.01) and 2016 (£1.23). Despite the fall in landings in 2017, regional landings values increased to £8.63 million due to a sharp increase in the first sale value to £1.52/kg (Figure 3.5).

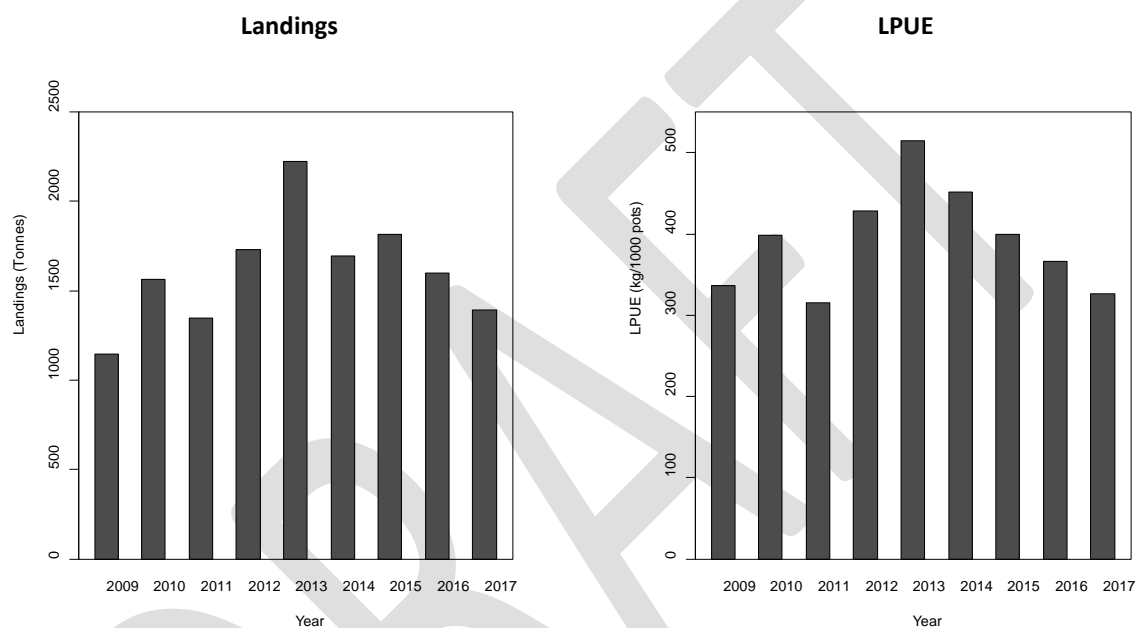


Figure 3.1 Annual landings (tonnes) originating from with the district and corresponding landings per unit effort (LPUE, kg/1000 pots hauled) for the period 2009-2017.

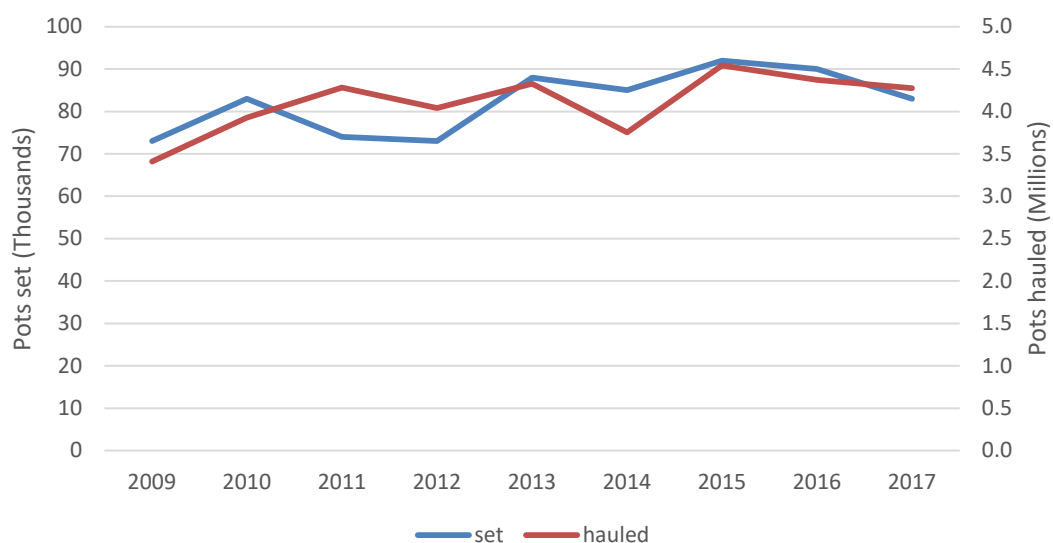


Figure 3.2 Annual number of pots set and hauled within the NEIFCA district for the period 2009-2017.

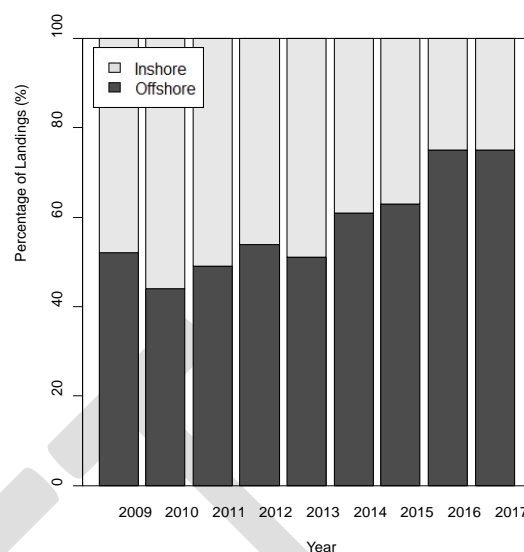
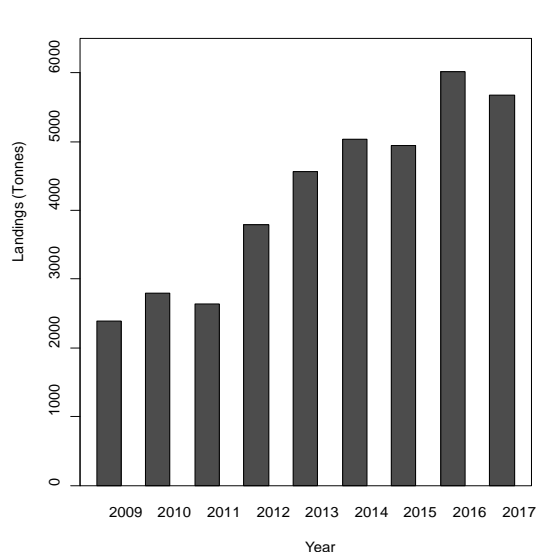


Figure 3.3 Annual landings (tonnes) made into ports within the NEIFCA District (Source: MMO).

Figure 3.4 Relative contribution (%) of landings captured within the district (inshore) and beyond 6nm (offshore).

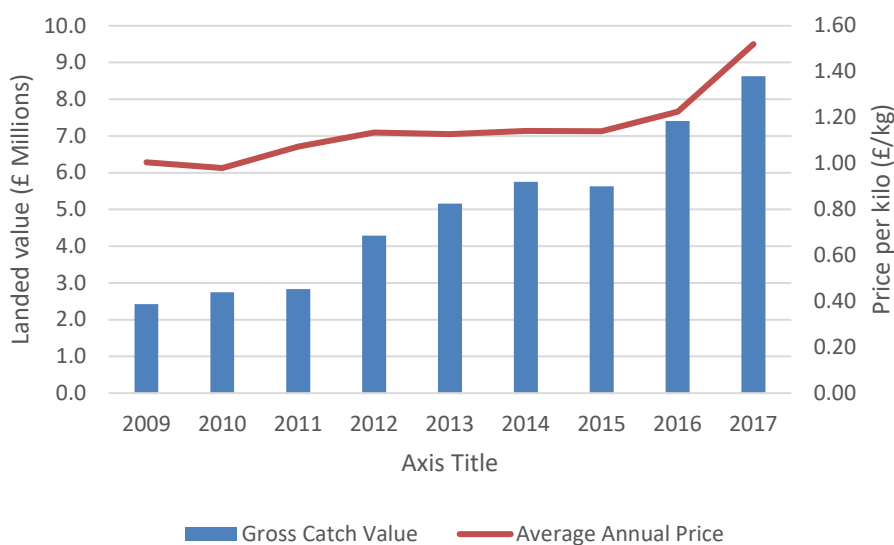


Figure 3.5 Annual gross catch value (£ millions) for landings into ports within the NEIFCA District and the national average price per kilogram (£/kg) for the period 2009-2017 (Source:MMO).

3.2 Stock structure and population dynamics

Abundance

Recruit abundances varied significantly throughout the year, with the period of September-December accounting for 43% of relative monthly abundances in 2017 (Figure 3.6). Large reductions in landings were observed during January and February, corresponding with a

decrease in local sea temperatures and adverse weather conditions. The seasonality of *C. pagurus* landings in 2017 largely conformed to previous trends in the data, although the relative monthly abundance of *C. pagurus* (kg/per 1000 pots hauled) in 2017 was an average of 19% lower than 2016 (80 kg/per 1000 pots hauled).

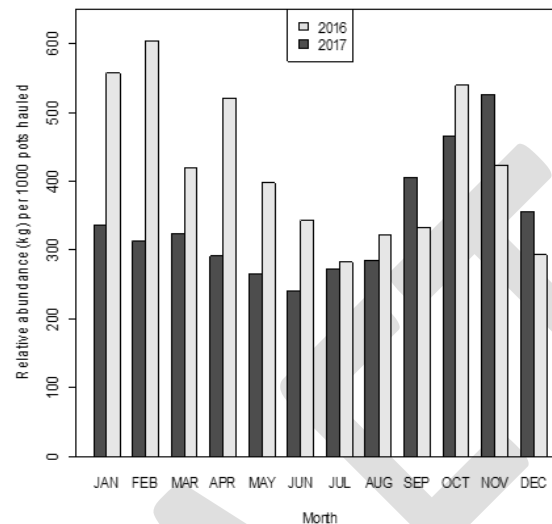


Figure 3.6 Relative monthly abundances (kg/1000 pots hauled) of crab for 2016 and 2017.

Animal Size

Given the lack of offshore data collected in 2017, the assessment of monthly size distributions was carried out using recruit data from quayside sampling. The assessment determined that these sizes varied significantly in both males (Kruskal-Wallis; $df = 11$, $\chi^2 = 179.21$, $p\text{-value} < 0.05$) and females (Kruskal-Wallis; $df = 11$, $\chi^2 = 350.5$, $p\text{-value} < 0.05$) (Figure 3.7). Post-hoc pairwise comparisons indicated that for male crab, September differed significantly to April and May, while for females, July differed significantly from April and May.

Inter-annual comparisons for males shows a stable median carapace width between 2012-2017 with no significant variation (Kruskal-Wallis; $df = 5$, $\chi^2 = 70.35$, $p\text{-value} > 0.05$). Female median carapace length however varied significantly (Kruskal-Wallis; $df = 5$, $\chi^2 = 435.98$, $p\text{-value} < 0.05$) with a decreasing trend between 2012 and 2015 but remaining stable in subsequent years (Figure 3.8). The size distribution covers a large range, with animals over 200mm not uncommon. There does tend to be a greater proportion of larger females compared to males however (Figure 3.9)

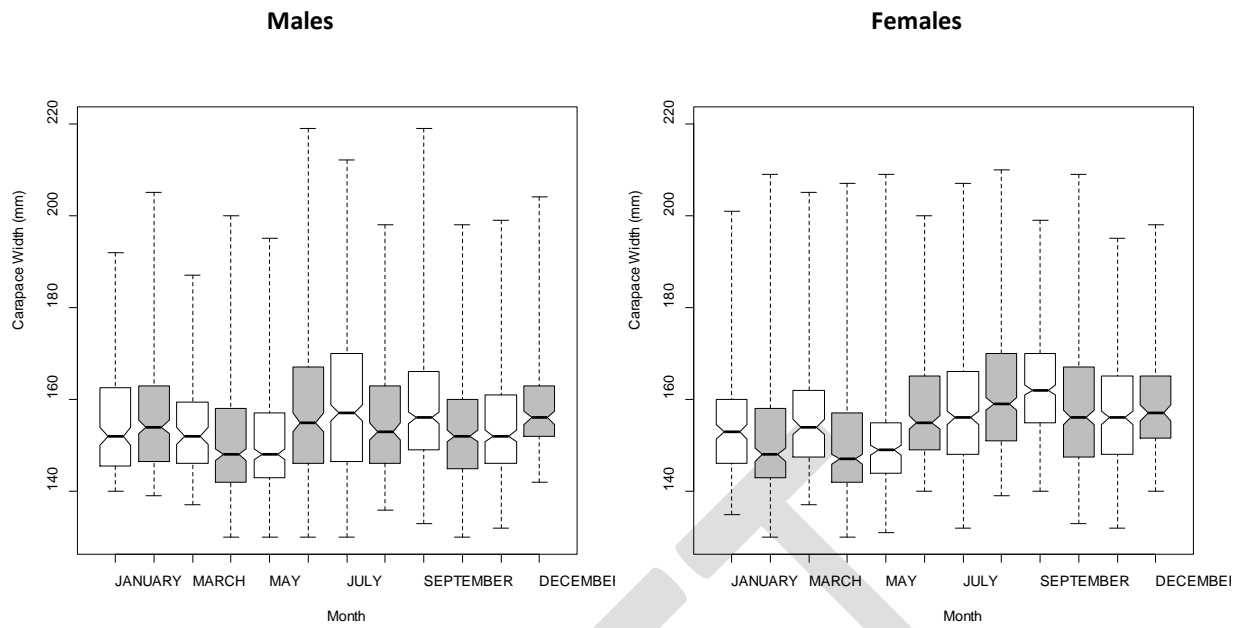


Figure 3.7 Notched box and whisker plots of monthly male and female recruit carapace width for 2017.

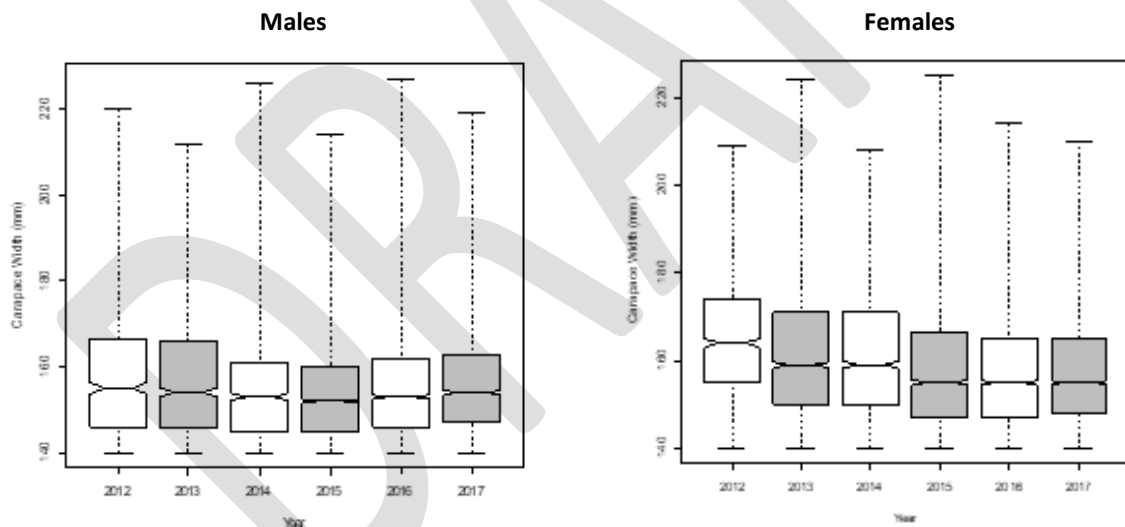


Figure 3.8 Notched box and whisker plots of monthly male and female recruit carapace width for 2017.

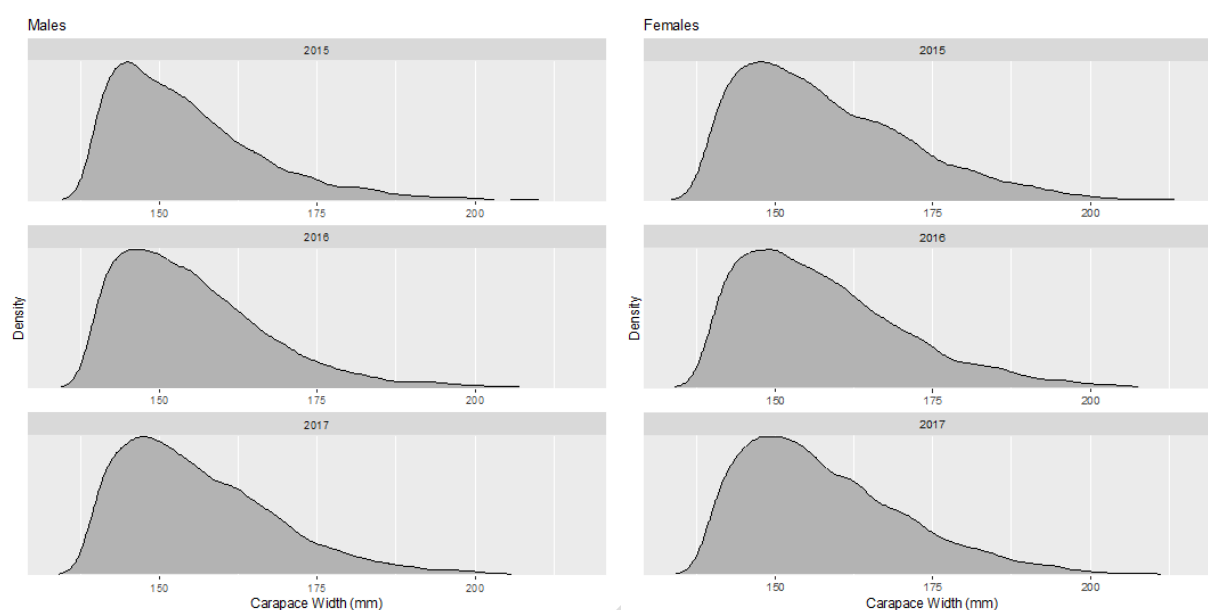


Figure 3.9 Density plots of male and female recruit carapace lengths for the period 2015-2017

Monthly sex ratio

Offshore survey crab data collected between 2014 and 2016 highlights a disparity between males and females amongst pre-recruits, with a much greater proportion of juvenile females being captured (Figure 3.10). Data for recruits is divided more evenly however, with males accounting for around 50% of crab captured. The proportion of males captured was highest in May (59%). It is unclear to what extent sex ratios differ over the winter months due to survey limitations.

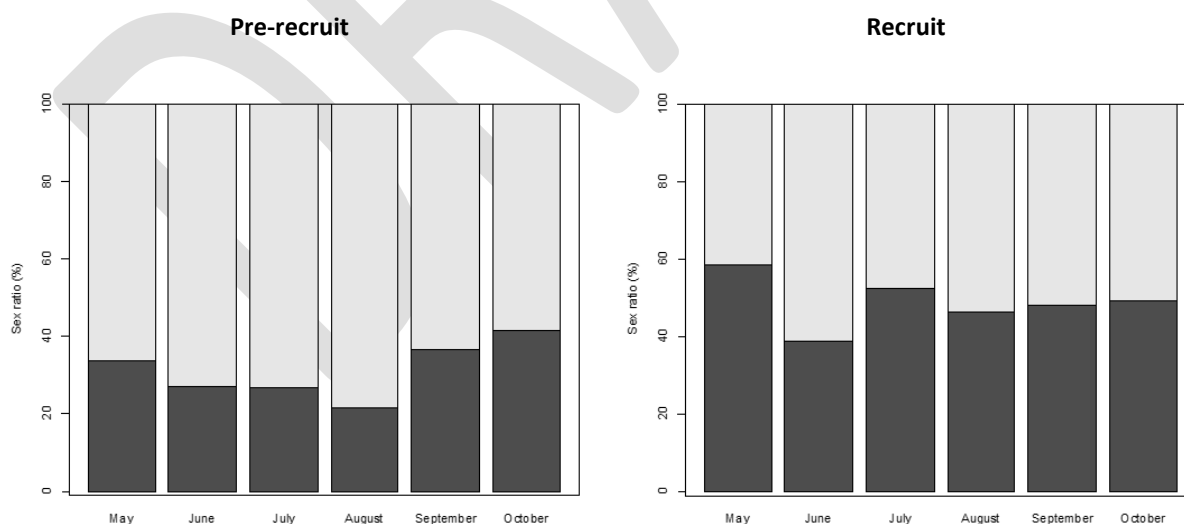


Figure 3.10 Monthly pre-recruit and recruit sex ratios (%) for the period 2014-2016. Females shown as light grey.

3.3 Mortality estimates

Exploitation rate for both sexes has followed an increasing trend since 2012 (Figure 3.11). This trend was slowed in 2017 for females which remained stable at 47%, and reversed in males with harvest rate falling from 52% to 49%. It is thought that the increase in the minimum crab size to 140mm, introduced in late 2015, is contributing to halting the long term increasing trend.

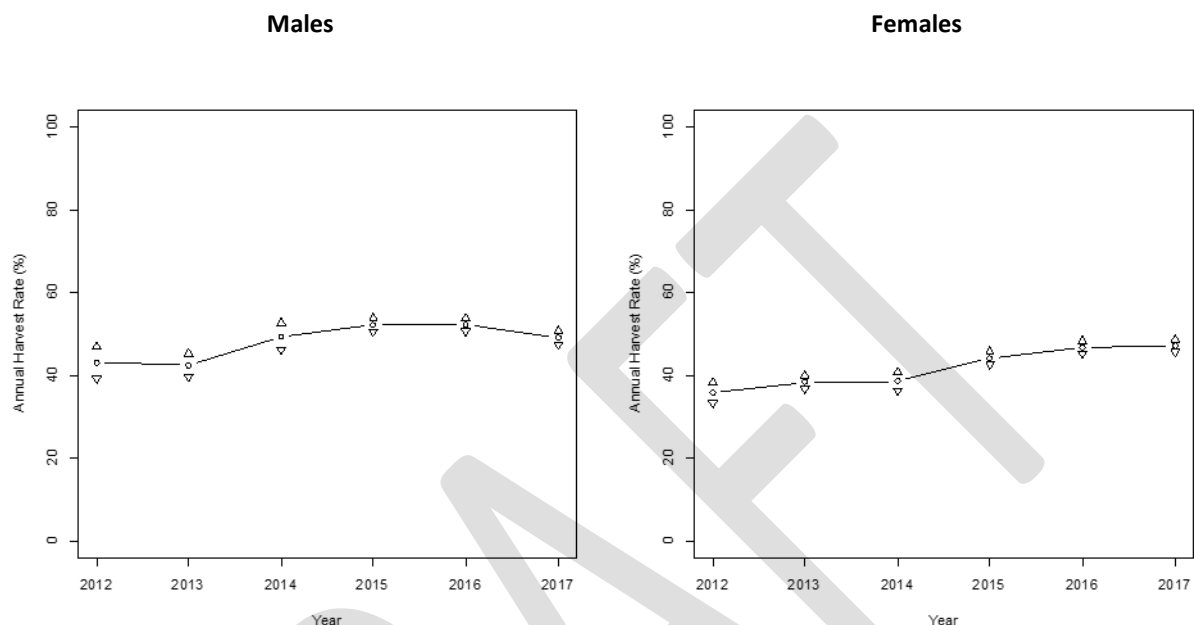


Figure 3.11 Chapman-Robson derived estimates of annual harvest rate for Edible crab for the period 2012-2017. Arrows indicate upper and lower 95% confidence intervals.

3.4 Stock modelling

Models were developed in consideration of the Food and Agriculture Organisations (FAO's) recommended MSY target, which identifies that a stock subject to exploitation should retain a minimum of 35 % of the stock's unfished level of spawning stock biomass to remain sustainable (35 % Virgin SpR, Caddy & Mahon 1995⁸). Adapted age-based Thompson – Bell (predictive) models were utilized to assess mortality and survivorship for a cohort through multiple years (FAO methodology, as detailed in Sparre & Venema 1998⁹ and King 1995¹⁰).

⁸ Caddy JF and Mahon R (1995). Reference points for fisheries management. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. 347 83pp, Rome, FAO ftp://ftp.fao.org

⁹ Sparre UPE and Venema SC (1989) FAO methodology found in, Introduction to tropical fish stock assessment. Part 1 Manual FAO Fish. Tech. Pap. 306:337

¹⁰ King M (1995) FAO methodology found in, Fisheries Biology, assessment and management. Fishing News Books, Blackwell Science Ltd, Oxford UK.

Models were developed for both sexes as relative estimates, predicting the impact of fishing exploitation rates (F) ranging from 0 to 1.5 on the spawning stock biomass for a nominal population of 1,000 individuals. The input parameters included a natural mortality of 0.2 with average animal weights identified through quayside sampling. Both sexes are considered to be fully mature at a carapace width of 140mm, with male and female assessments using age ranges 5 to 8 and 5 to 9 respectively. Chapman-Robson derived mortality estimates for 2016 and 2017 are presented within the models context in relation to MSY estimates (Figure 3.12).

The status of the crab stock within the NEIFCA district is considered fairly low. Mortality rates are above the level needed to achieve MSY but are below the maximum reference point of 15% Virgin SpR (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 Thompson-Bell model outputs.

Model	2017 F estimate	Current % of virgin SSB retained	Additional SSB biomass to achieve 35 % (MSY)	MSY F estimate	Relative decrease in F to achieve MSY
Male	0.98	21%	68%	0.37	63%
Female	0.91	21%	68%	0.38	59%

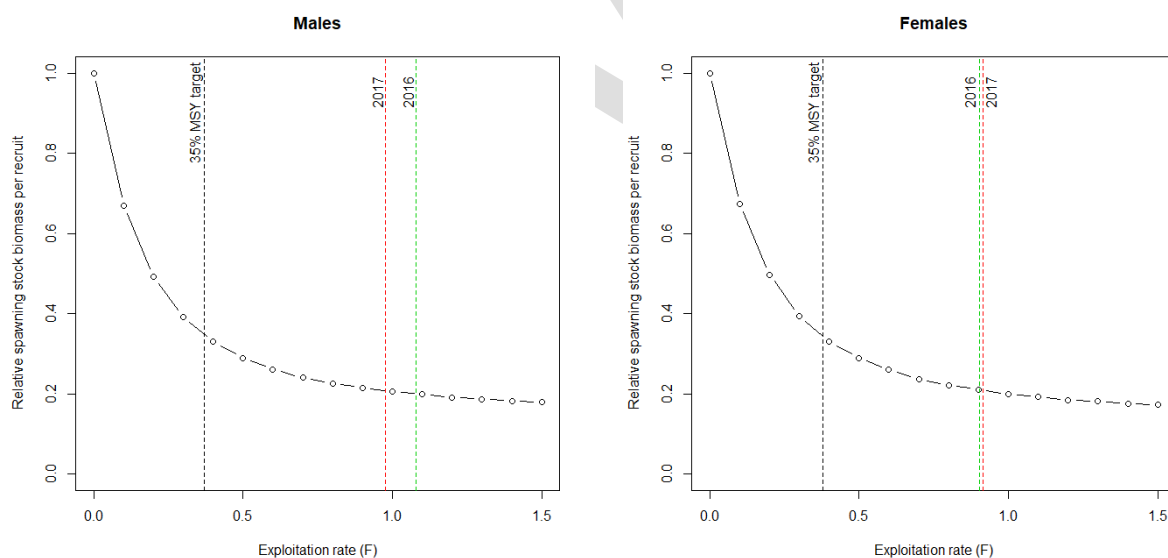


Figure 3.12 Plots of male and female Edible crab mortality estimates for 2016-2017 in relation to MSY target.

3.5 Comparison with Cefas stock assessment

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) undertake periodic assessment of edible crab stocks, most recently in 2017¹¹. Edible crab in the North Sea are assessed as two separate crab fishery units (CFU); the Central North Sea CFU which includes Northern England to Flamborough Head and offshore to grounds off the Danish coast, and the Southern North Sea CFU which includes the Holderness fishery and two further distinct fisheries in Norfolk.

The increasing trend in landings for both CFU is reflected by landings into ports in the NEIFCA district (Figure 3.3). A large increase in landings from vessels over 10m in length was highlighted by the assessment of the Central North Sea CFU. Size frequency observed in catches covers a large range with animals over 200mm carapace width not uncommon. A reduction in the exploitation rate on males over the past four years in the Central North Sea CFU is thought to be the result of an increase in the landings of larger male crab.

Table 3.3 Comparison of NEIFCA stock monitoring results and Cefas stock status assessment.

Parameter	NEIFCA result	CEFAS - Central North Sea	CEFAS - Southern North Sea
Landings	Increasing trend 2009-2013. Decreasing trend 2013-2017.	Increasing trend since 2013. Large increase in landings from >10m fleet in 2016	Increasing trend since 2009.
Size distribution	Large size distribution with animals over 200mm carapace width not uncommon.	Increase in landings of larger males observed.	Large size distribution with animals over 200mm carapace width not uncommon.
Fishing mortality estimates	2016: 1.08 males, 0.90 females 2017: 0.98 males, 0.91 females	2016: ~0.85 males, ~0.7 females	2016: ~1 males, ~0.85 females

3.6 Conclusion

Both NEIFCA and Cefas assessments consider the status of the Edible crab stock to be fairly low. Mortality rates are considered to be high, around the maximum reference point limit for both males and females. It is thought that the increase in the landings size to 140mm and the introduction of escape gaps has contributed to the stabilisation of harvest rates within the district and the impact of these measures will continue to be monitored.

¹¹ Cefas (2017) Edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*) stock status report 2017. Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Lowestoft. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crab-and-lobster-stock-assessment-2017>

Table 3.4 Edible crab Multiple Indicator Framework

Multiple Indicator Framework												Value Ref	Data Source
Fishery Overview	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Total Landings (NEIFCA)	1,175	791	1,144	1,563	1,350	1,730	2,226	1,695	1,818	1,599	1,394	Tonnes	NEIFCA DEFRA
MMO Bridlington Landings	1,679	1,260	1,423	1,755	1,576	2,284	1,849	2,134	2,053	2,485	2,045	Tonnes	MMO Stats
MMO Scarborough Landings	176	139	147	150	187	259	694	754	370	626	562	Tonnes	MMO Stats
MMO Whitby Landings	376	211	260	233	230	374	675	494	483	369	418	Tonnes	MMO Stats
MMO Hartlepool Landings	x	18	9	11	14	19	30	35	29	29	20	Tonnes	MMO Stats
MMO Grimsby Landings	x	484	460	555	483	610	1,087	1,453	1,803	2,329	2,517	Tonnes	MMO Stats
Total Effort (Hauled)	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.9	4.3	4.0	4.3	3.8	4.5	4.4	4.3	Million	NEIFCA DEFRA
Total Effort (Pots Set)	85	91	73	83	74	73	88	85	92	90	83	Thousand	Effort Survey
Q1 Catch Distribution (% of Annual Total)	16	18	16	15	17	22	8	12	13	15	14	Q1 %	NEIFCA DEFRA
Q2 Catch Distribution (% of Annual Total)	24	33	29	30	35	30	33	24	25	26	21	Q2 %	NEIFCA DEFRA
Q3 Catch Distribution (% of Annual Total)	29	31	27	32	27	24	41	39	37	40	39	Q3 %	NEIFCA DEFRA
Q4 Catch Distribution (% of Annual Total)	31	18	28	23	21	24	18	24	26	26	25	Q4 %	NEIFCA DEFRA
Primary Reference Points	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Annual Mortality Rate - Males	x	x	x	x	x	43	43	49	52	52	49	%	CR - QS sampling
Annual Mortality Rate - Females	x	x	x	x	x	35	38	39	44	47	47	%	CR - QS sampling
LPUE 36 F0	471	418	813	970	652	919	877	814	857	745	737	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA DEFRA
LPUE 36 E9	164	202	177	171	145	256	275	169	157	155	128	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA DEFRA
LPUE 37 E9	227	185	233	309	241	262	649	561	295	329	415	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA DEFRA
LPUE 38 E8	168	116	342	169	87	91	129	171	73	102	105	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA DEFRA
LPUE 38 E9	346	108	76	93	104	140	470	352	334	301	255	KG/1000ph	NEIFCA DEFRA
Economic	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Average Annual Price	1.00	0.88	1.01	0.98	1.07	1.13	1.13	1.14	1.14	1.23	1.52	£	MMO GCV / Kg
Gross Catch Value	1.18	2.23	2.42	2.75	2.83	4.29	5.16	5.75	5.63	7.41	8.63	£ Million	MMO Annual Stats
No. Vessels	197	193	205	196	191	194	204	181	177	194	213	#	Effort Survey
No. Employment	376	406	407	391	389	424	406	376	376	432	471	#	Effort Survey
Biometric	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Average Carapace Length M (mm)	x	x	x	x	151	156	153	151	149	154	155	mm	NEIFCA QS
Average Carapace Length F (mm)	x	x	x	x	159	165	160	158	154	156	157	mm	NEIFCA QS
Max Carapace Length M (mm)	x	x	x	x	215	220	240	226	214	227	219	mm	NEIFCA QS
Max Carapace Length F (mm)	x	x	x	x	208	209	224	266	225	214	240	mm	NEIFCA QS
Sex Ratio (% Female)	x	x	x	x	55	65	70	61	51	54	53	%	NEIFCA QS
Proportion Crippled (%)	x	x	x	x	2	1	4	4	9	8	7	%	NEIFCA QS
Proportion Nuns (%)	x	x	x	x	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	%	NEIFCA QS

DRAFT

4. Scallop dredge fishery

4.1 Introduction

King scallops (*Pecten maximus*) in UK waters are the focus of a highly valuable fishery, with landings in 2016 valued at £62.8m (MMO data). The fishery off the Yorkshire coast is the only significant fishery between Sussex, on the south east coast of England and the Aberdeenshire coast, in eastern Scotland (Figure 4.1). The regional fishery has received little research attention in the past and is poorly understood. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) is currently undertaking the first stock assessment of the English North Sea fishery. This, combined with on-going research carried out by NEIFCA, will greatly improve knowledge of the state of the stocks.

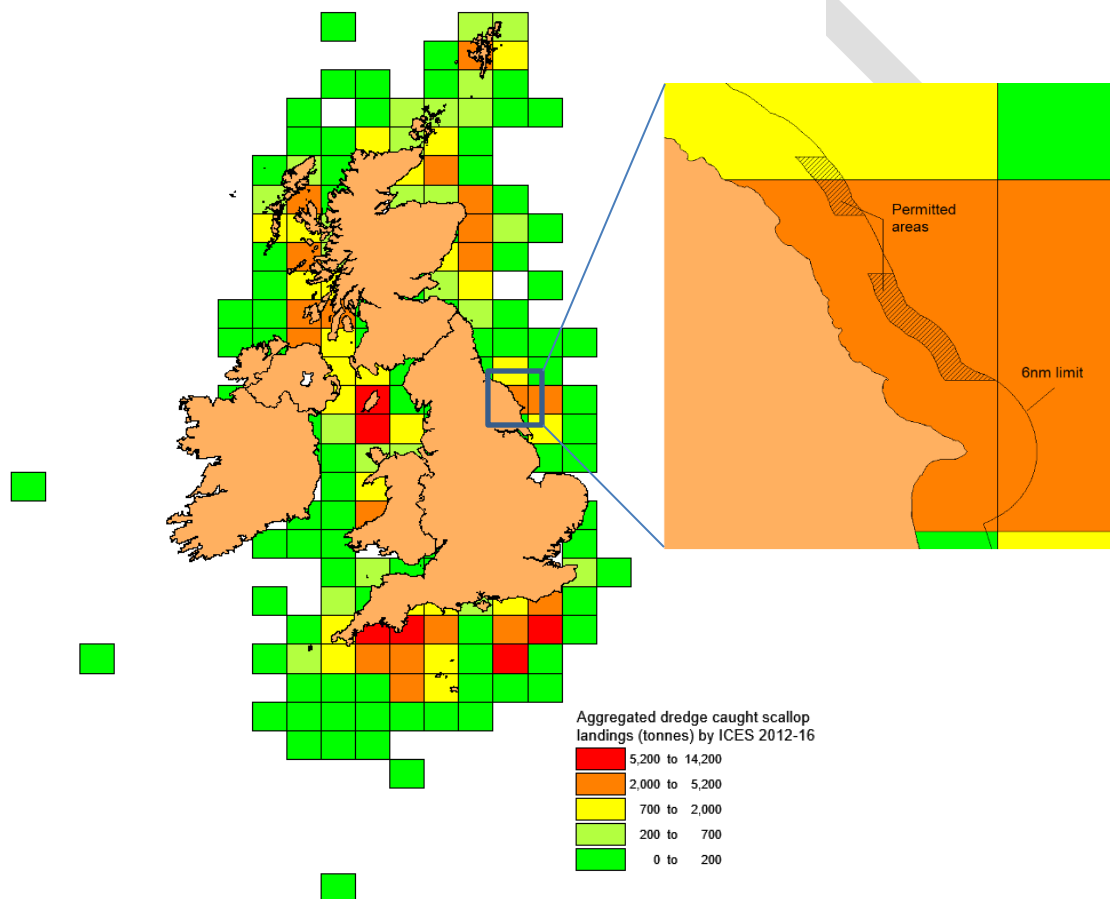


Figure 4.1. UK dredge caught scallop landings (tonnes) by ICES reporting rectangles. (Source: MMO). Detail highlights the current permitted dredge areas within 6nm off the Yorkshire Coast.

4.2 Evolution of management

Between 1999 and 2012 scallop dredging was managed through a byelaw which prohibited fishing with 3nm, placed a limit on the total number of dredges that may be used by a vessel (10), implemented a closed season (July to September) and stated additional technical regulations specifying Newhaven style dredges with minimum 100mm belly rings. A dredging specific permit scheme was not in place at this time and authority to fish within the NEIFCA (then North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee) district was issued by way of a general trawling permit. Specified vessel length and power under this byelaw was 18.3m and 400kw.

In 2012, an increase in scallop dredging activity was observed in the south of the district in an area known as Silver Pit (ICES rectangle 36F0), a large channel feature running north east from the mouth of the Humber Estuary. It was thought that the increase was driven by closures in the Irish Sea and the identification of new beds in the Silver Pit and Inner Dowsing areas, resulting in intensive fishing effort and interest from much of the UK scallop fleet. There was an increase in trawl permit applications from vessels engaged in the emergent fishery to access and prospect grounds within the NEIFCA district and landings for 36F0 rose sharply to over 400t (Figure 4.2).

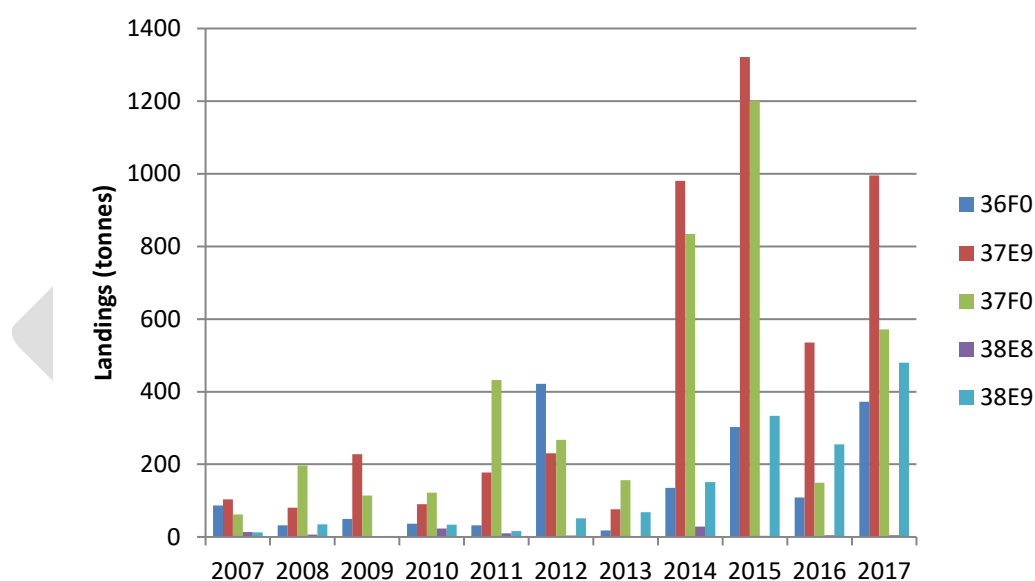


Figure 4.2. Scallop landings by ICES rectangles between 2007 and 2017. Source MMO.

In addition to increasing inshore scalloping effort there was also anecdotal reports of significant breaches of a long term voluntary agreement, established in 2006 between the local potting industry and the main scallop operators, which set aside exclusive potting and dredging zones between Flamborough Head and Spurn Point and out to 12nm. Concerns were also raised regarding potential impacts on sensitive habitats including biogenic *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs.

In response to the emerging situation, and in consideration of the Flamborough Head SAC, the Authority invoked its new emergency byelaw making powers to establish a no dredge zone between Filey Brigg and Spurn Point, extending to the 6nm limit but leaving the area of Silver Pit open to exploitation (Figure 4.3).

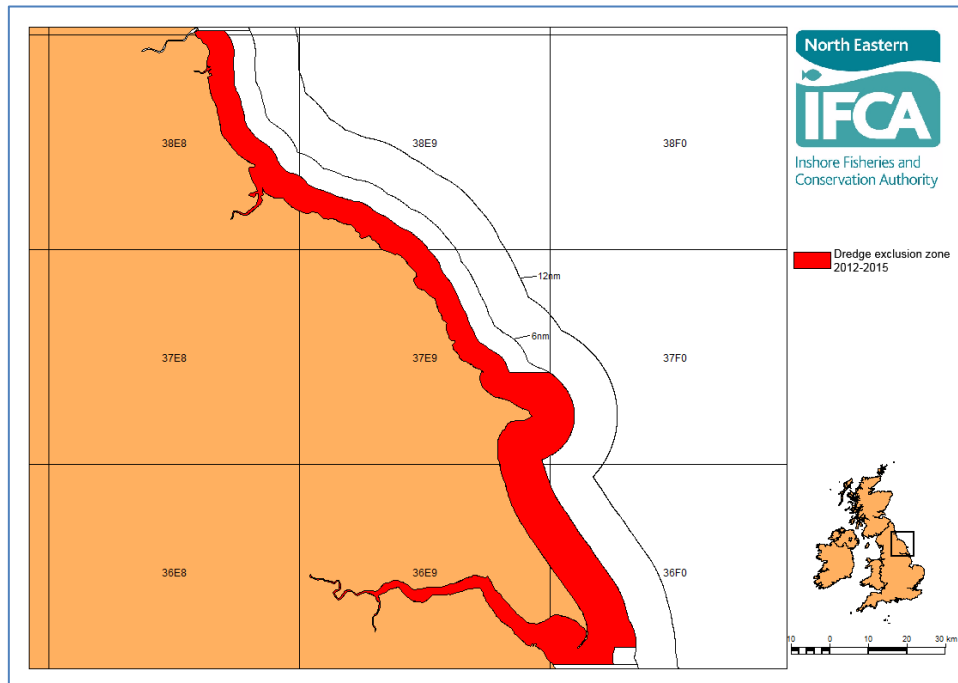


Figure 4.3. Dredge exclusion zone established utilising emergency byelaw making powers in 2012.

In late 2014 and early 2015 a similar situation emerged in North Yorkshire, however the increase in the level of inshore effort was unprecedented. Based on officer knowledge and information provided on trawl permit applications it is thought that the number of vessels targeting King scallops with dredges rose from around 22 to 46, with a steady stream of new permit applications being received. Previous landings for the area (attributed to ICES rectangle 37E9) tended to peak at around 200t. In 2014 and 2015 landings rose to 1000t and 1300t respectively (Figure 4.2). Recognising the limitations of the existing management regime and to address concerns regarding impacts on crab and lobster stocks, the Authority again introduced an emergency byelaw, this time prohibiting all dredging within the 6nm limit while a new management system could be developed.

The new management provisions introduced a restricted permit scheme, allowing the Authority to control the number of permits issued for the first time. Other management measures included:

- A reduction in the maximum vessel size (12m OAL) and engine power (221 kw)
- Extending the closed season (May to October inclusive)
- A daily closure period (7pm to 7am)
- Mandatory requirement for all vessels carrying dredges (IFCA permitted or otherwise) through the district to operate an Automatic Identification System (AIS)

- Mandatory submission of catch returns
- Maximum number of dredges was kept at 10, however a maximum limit of 5m was placed on the towing bar

A significant change in the way the byelaw was framed was the setting of a specified dredge area (Figure 4.4). This approach allows further refinement of management through the application of permit conditions, rather than the relatively costly and slow process of revising an existing byelaw. Previous regional management defined prohibited zones and this is still the normal approach in many scallop dredge fisheries around the UK and elsewhere globally.

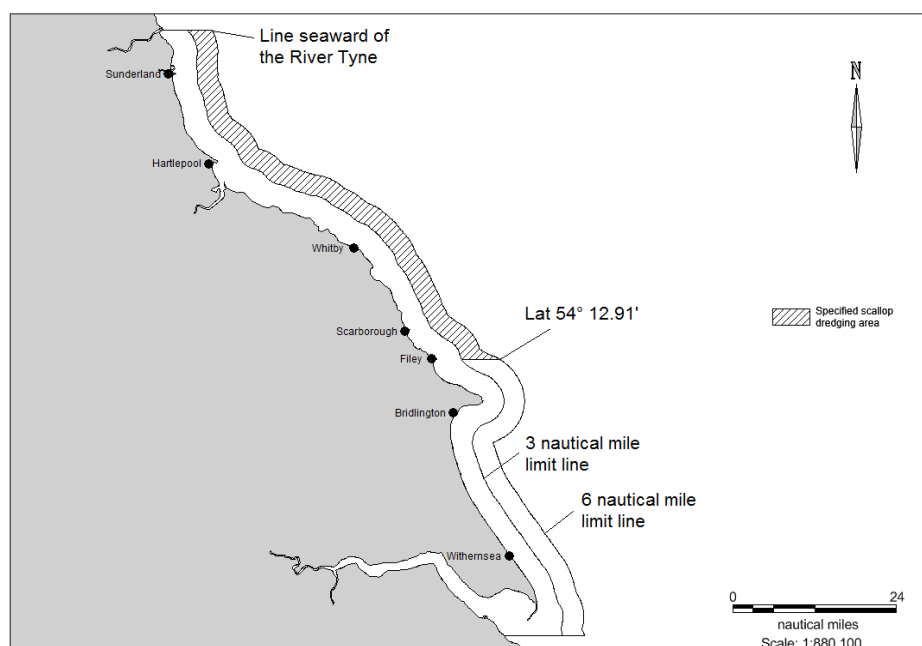


Figure 4.4. Specified scallop dredging area as defined in Byelaw XXIII Method and Area of Fishing (Scallop Dredges) 2015.

Throughout the byelaw consultation period significant representation was made to the Authority by static gear operators regarding concerns about potential impacts on local crab and lobster stocks, damage to gear and opinions regarding the number of permits to be issued. Through substantial consultation and negotiation with the potting fleet, the final permitted dredge areas were refined further from the specified dredge area stated in the byelaw. Two areas were permitted between 4nm and 6nm, avoiding key static gear areas inshore of 4nm and between the two areas where the ground has a greater amount of cobble and boulder (Figure 4.5).

Utilising further new powers granted under the Marine and Coastal Access Act, the byelaw also introduced a permit charge allowing a degree of cost recovery for management of the fishery. While the revenue generated from these permits in no way covers the complete cost of managing the fishery (including administration, enforcement and research), it is an

important principle in the future funding of fisheries management and potential expansion of this approach to other regional fisheries is being investigated.

Three vessels currently hold permits to access the scallop fishery in the North Eastern IFCA district between November 1st and April 30th. A prime focus for the authority is the continued research and monitoring into the King scallop stock and impacts arising from the fishery.

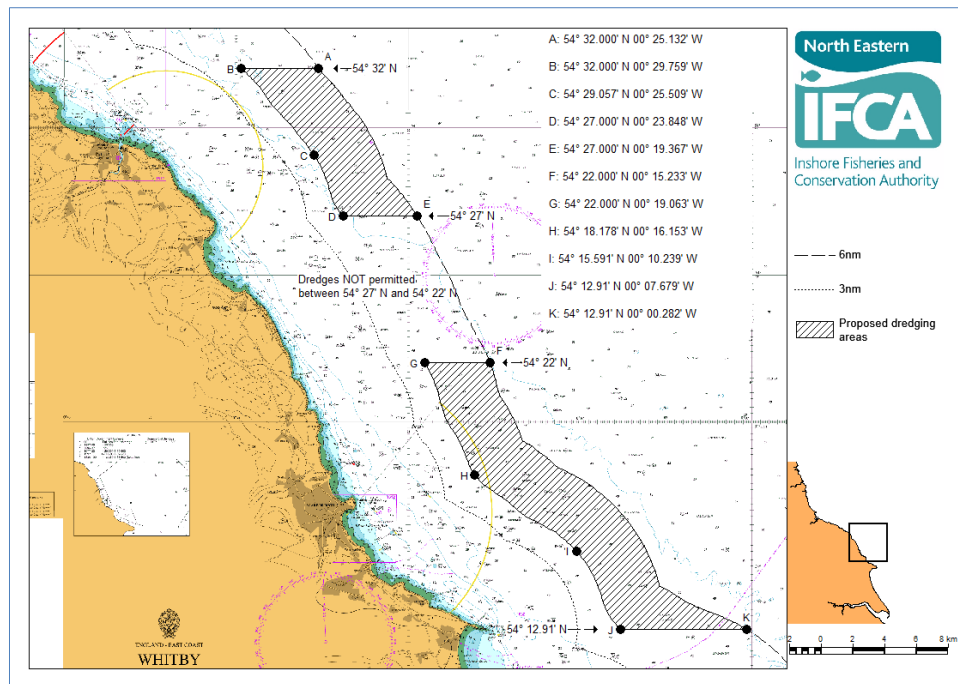


Figure 4.5. Permitted scallop dredge areas finalised through consultation with static gear operators.

4.3 Monitoring Methods

Mandatory monthly catch returns collect daily information on:

- Number of dredges used
- Number of tows
- Tow length (time and distance)
- Area fished
- Landings and bycatch information

Automatic identification System (AIS) data is collected via the MarineTraffic website. While there are limitations to this data it provides the best estimate of the relative intensity of effort within each permitted area. The method of data capture and parameters such as reporting frequency may change in the future given ongoing development of an inshore vessel monitoring system.

Stock monitoring efforts consist of dredge sampling from North Eastern Guardian III (NEG III) using two Newhaven dredges within each of the permitted areas and outside of the permitted areas for comparison. Officers also undertake a significant number of surveys

aboard the permitted vessels to sample catches and to monitor bycatch. Since permitted vessel surveys began no targeted scallop quayside has been carried out due to resources.

4.4 Fishery overview

The primary reason for the variation observed between summary data for the two previous seasons was the addition of a third active vessel in 2017/18. There was an increase in the number of active days (up 77 days) and the number of tows (up 285) reported (Table 4.1). Landings rose by 134.9 tonnes in 2017/18 however additional data is required before trends in landings per unit effort can be reliably used as indicators of stock status (Table 4.2).

Table 4.1. Active days and number of tows for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons reported on catch returns.

Season	Active days			Number of tows		
	Total	Northern	Southern	Total	Northern	Southern
2016/17	89	33	54	473	201	260
2017/18	166	81	84	758	415	337

Table 4.2. Reported landings from catch returns and landings per unit effort (LPUE) presented as tonnes per kilometres swept area and kilogram per kilowatt hour.

Season	Total reported landings (tonnes)	LPUE (tonnes/km ²)	LPUE (kg/kWh)
2016/17	63.9	2.8	0.9
2017/18	198.8	4.0	1.3

A review of MMO statistics by major port highlights the increase in landings into Scarborough in 2015, followed by a significant decrease in subsequent years (Figure 4.6). This reduction may be an indication of the level of landings originating from within the NEIFCA district in 2015 and the effect that the change in management regime has had on regional landings, however a definitive assessment of management impacts is not considered possible due to national reporting limitations. The data also highlights increased landings into Hartlepool in 2017. Anecdotal reports suggest this is in large part due to increased harbour dues in Scarborough resulting in some vessels choosing to operate and land into Hartlepool instead. All of the three permitted vessels currently operate from Scarborough.

Effort during the two completed seasons to date has been distributed relatively evenly between the two permitted areas (Table 4.1, Figure 4.7). Reports from the first half of the 2018/19 season suggest a shift to greater effort in the southern permitted area. Effort in the far south of this area around Filey Brigg is considered low, partly due to the persistent presence of static gear during the dredging season.

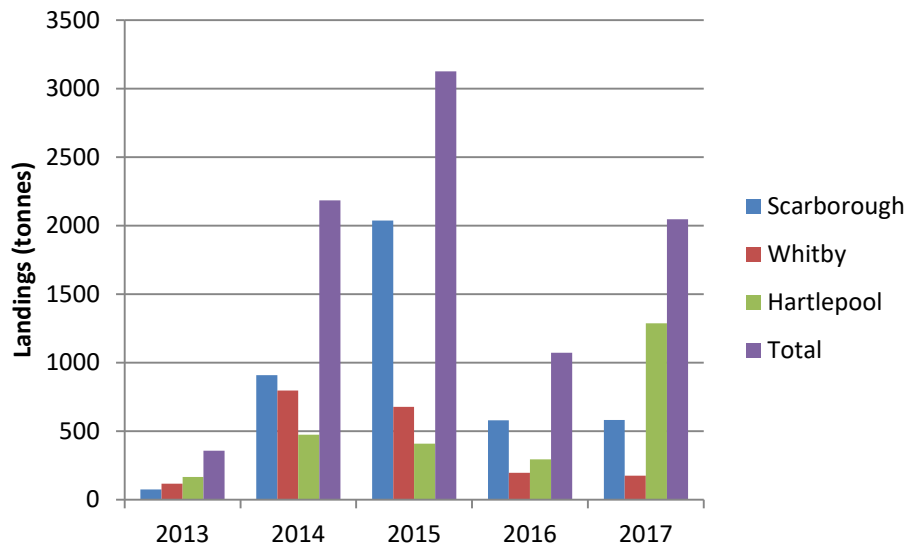


Figure 4.6. Scallop landings into NEIFCA ports for the period 2013-2017. Source: MMO statistics.

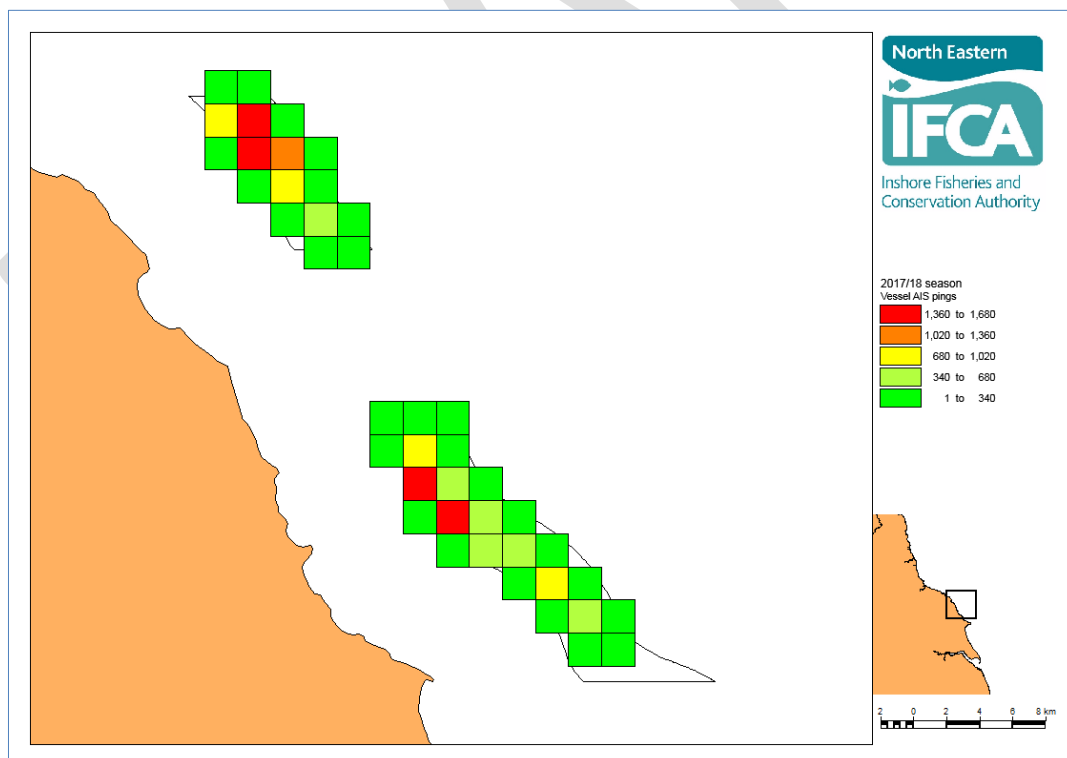


Figure 4.7. Relative fishing effort derived from Automatic Identification System (AIS) pings from permitted vessels during the 2017/18 season.

4.5 Population structure

Biometric data collected during research vessel surveys and observer trips aboard the permitted vessels in 2018 indicate a good population structure, with a wide range of recruit size scallops up to around 140mm shell width (Figure 4.8). Tows carried out from the research vessel retained a greater proportion of pre-recruits. This could be due to industry experience in setting the gear to minimise pre-recruit bycatch or could be a product of sample size. For tows undertaken within the permitted areas in 2018 there was a greater proportion of pre-recruits in the northern area (23%) compared to the southern area (7%). The southern area contained a greater proportion of larger scallops, with size frequency increasing above 120mm shell width (Figure 4.9). Further data collection will allow for the analysis of inter-annual variation in population structure.

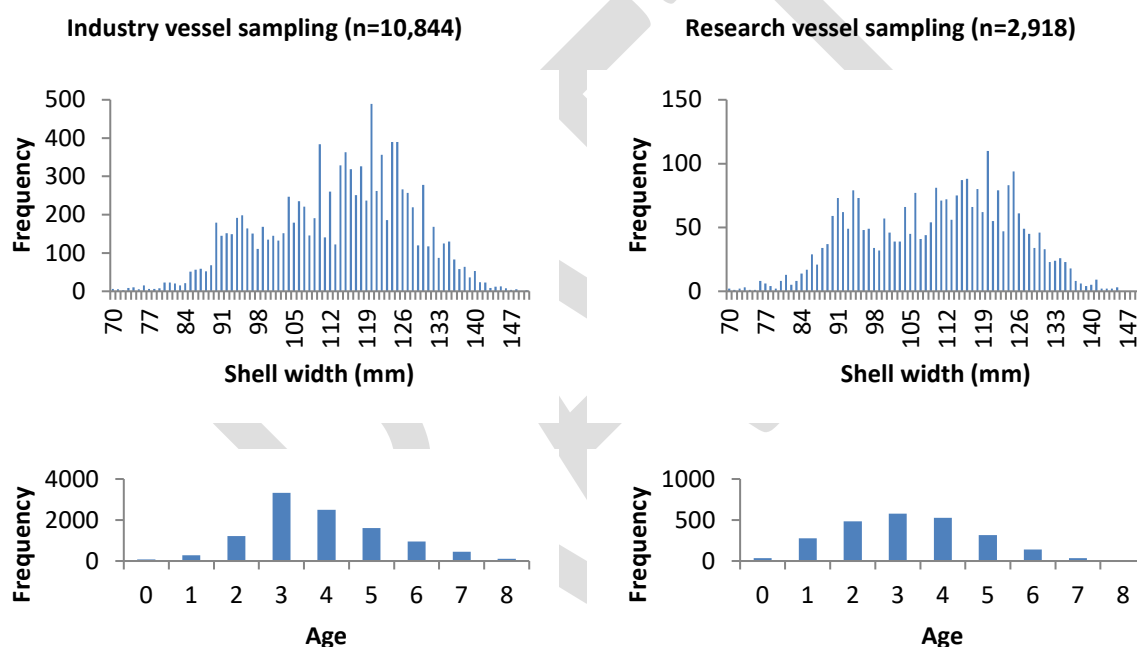


Figure 4.8. Scallop size and age frequency from industry (left) and research vessel (right) tows undertaken in 2017/18.

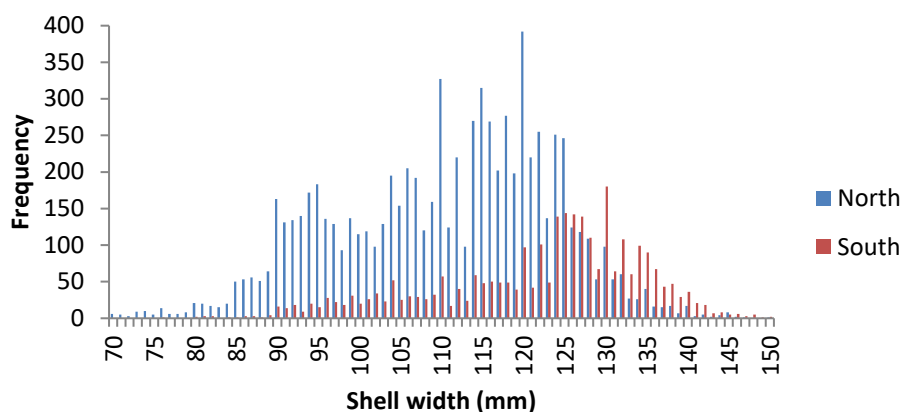


Figure 4.9. Scallop size frequency for tows undertaken within the permitted areas in 2017/18.

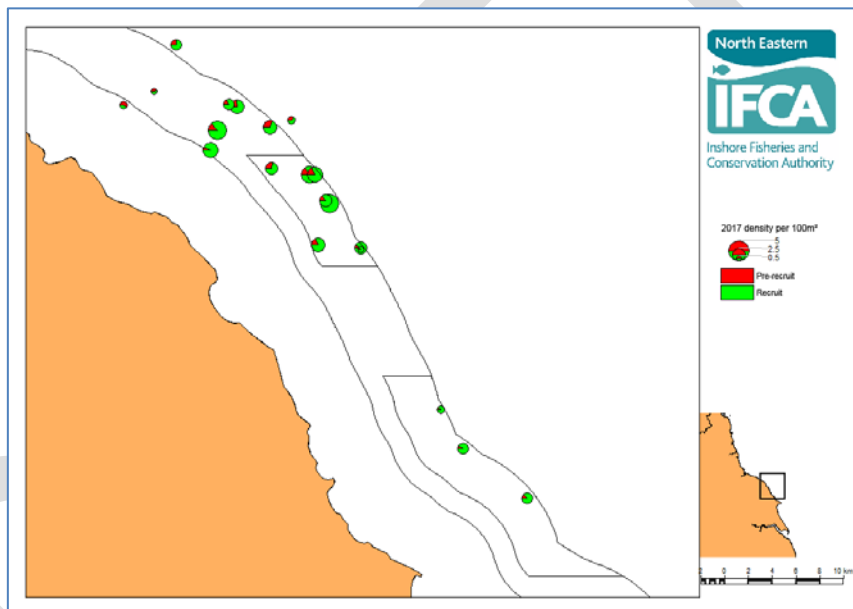
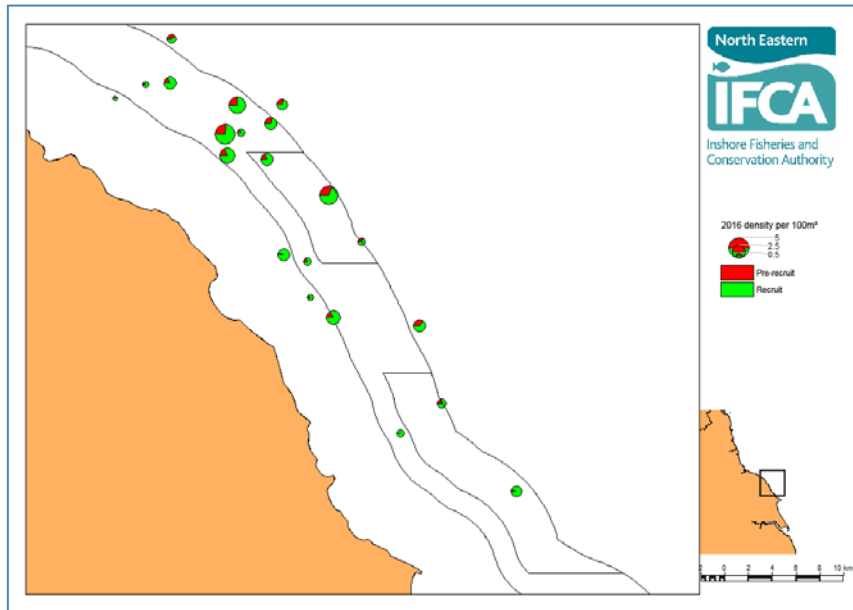
4.6 Stock density

Stock density maps are presented in Figure 4.10 and average density by sector is presented in Figure 4.11.

While data is limited, total scallop density for tows undertaken beyond the 6nm limit, where effort is still considered to be high, was in the range of 1.2-1.5 per hectare (/ha). Within the 3nm total density was also low and did not exceed 0.75/ha. Due to the restrictions placed on dredging within 3nm this is likely due to other factors. Dredging in the 3-4nm sector has been prohibited since the emergency byelaw in 2015 and is exhibiting some limited signs of recovery with an increasing trend in total scallop density from 1.3 to 2.4/ha.

Prior to the 2015 byelaw most of the effort within this region of the district was focussed in the 4-6nm sector and it is within this band where the two permitted areas are located. Outside of the permitted areas and despite a slight reduction in total density between 2016 and 2017 (2.8 to 2.2/ha respectively), density in 2018 increased to 6.3/ha. This trend occurred for both pre-recruit and recruit size scallops, however the significance of these results as an indication of recovery is unclear due to the inclusion of tows in between the permitted areas in 2018. Future sampling programmes should continue to undertake tows in this area.

Density within both of the permitted areas is exhibiting an increasing trend, although the increase was more pronounced in the northern area where it rose from 2.3/ha in 2016 to 4.2/ha in 2018. Pre-recruit density within the northern area decreased slightly in 2017 but increased to 1.4/ha in 2018 and continues to be higher when compared to the southern area. Similarly, recruit density for both permitted areas is showing an increasing trend but is higher in the northern area.



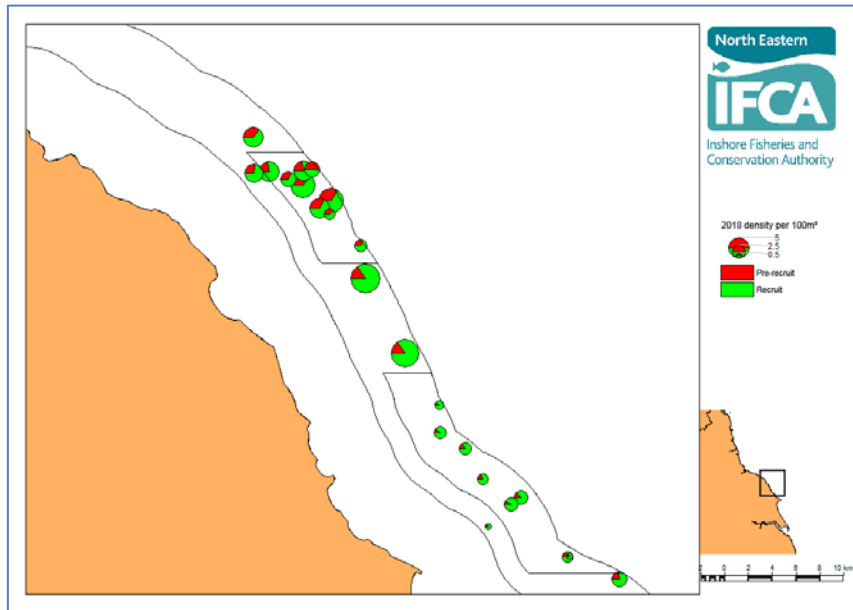


Figure 4.10. Scallop density per hectare (#/100m² swept area) from research vessel tows for the period 2016-2018.

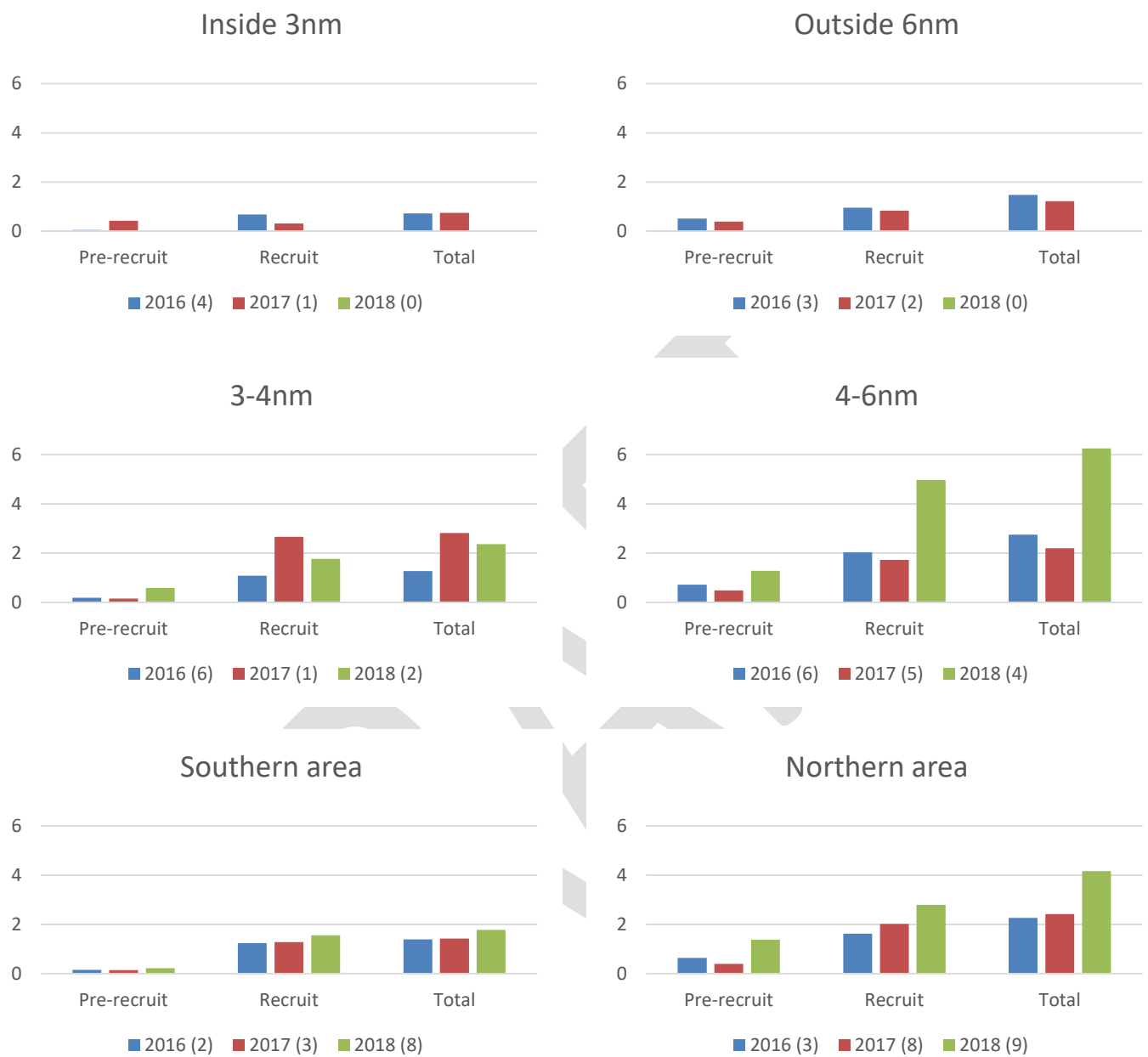


Figure 4.11. Average density of scallops per hectare (#/100m² swept area) by area or sector from research vessel tows for the period 2016-2018. Numbers in brackets show the number of tows in each sector.

4.7 Fishery impacts

Concern regarding impacts on vulnerable habitats and the commercially important crab and lobster stocks have driven much of the research effort to date. The location of the permitted areas was finalised following analysis of the spatial distribution of fishing effort, benthic habitat types and extensive consultation with the static gear fleet.

A number of underwater video surveys have been carried out since 2016, trialling a range of different techniques and further surveys are planned for early 2019. The southern permitted area is a mosaic of fine sand, mud and mixed sediments with a small amount of coarse sediment habitats. The northern permitted area is almost exclusively classified as coarse sediment (Figure 4.12). The permitted areas do not coincide with any Marine Protected Areas and are located in parts of the district that have been trawled and dredged historically and are still open to trawling. Introduction of the current dredging management regime has reduced the number of dredging vessels operating in the district by over 93% compared to 2015 levels. The permitted areas represent less than 20% of the dredge area contained within the byelaw and constitute less than 5% of the total area of the district

In order to monitor local catch rates of lobster and crab, fleets of survey pots were fished within and in the vicinity of the permitted dredge areas in 2018 in addition to the historic sampling stations further inshore (Figure 4.12). Initial CPUE data is presented in Table 4.3. This monitoring will provide a useful metric in order to assess potential impacts arising from the fishery and any changes in management.

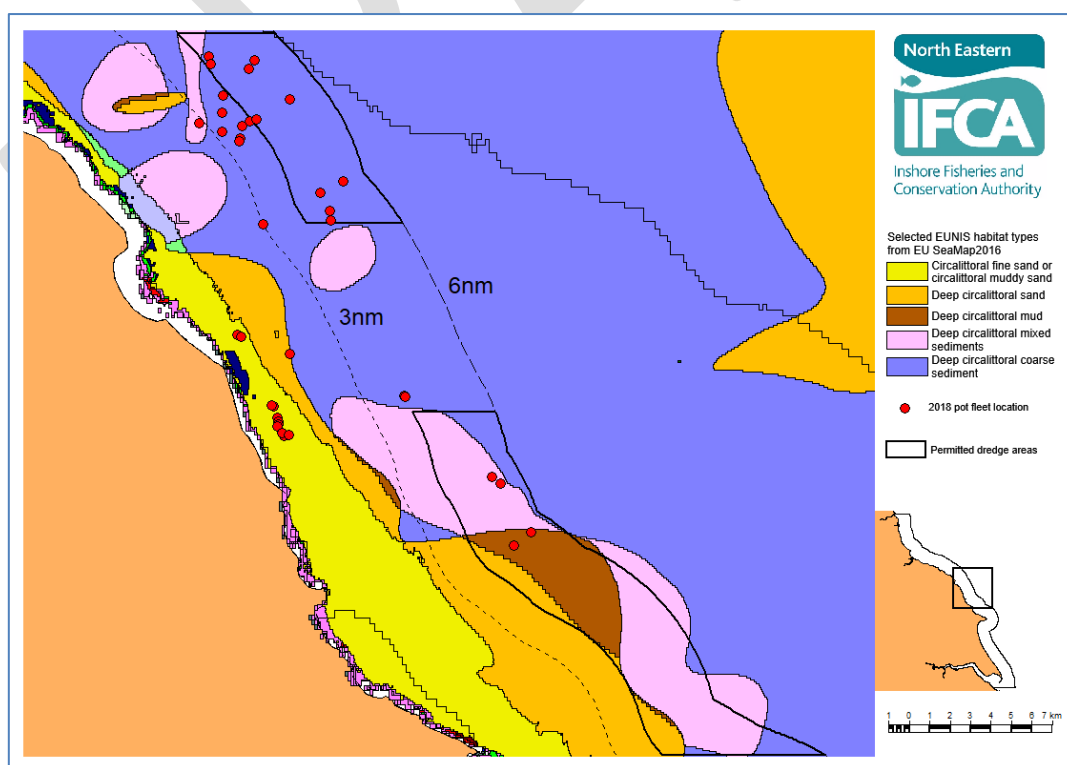


Figure 4.12. Location of potting fleets surveyed during 2018. Selected seabed habitat types from EU SeaMap2016 are highlighted.

Table 4.3. Lobster and crab catch per unit effort (CPUE) from survey pots in 2018.

Survey area	Pots hauled	Lobster CPUE	Crab CPUE
Northern dredge area	150	0.32	2.01
Southern dredge area	60	0.05	3.98
Total dredge areas	210	0.24	2.57
Control fleets 3-6nm	158	0.37	5.03
Historic sampling area 0-3nm	150	2.51	1.91

In addition to the potting surveys, monitoring surveys aboard the permitted dredging vessels have been carried out each season. These provide scallop biometric data and bycatch information from one dredge for each tow undertaken. Starfish (primarily *Asterias rubens* and *Crossaster papposus*) are the most abundant species observed, followed by sea urchins (*Echinus esculentus*) and edible crab. Lobsters are captured very rarely with only a single lobster observed in the sampled dredges over both seasons (Table 4.4).

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) for edible crab was consistent over both seasons, equating to 0.17 crabs/dredge/km towed. During the 2017/18 season observer trips, Officers used a damage index to quantify the condition of crabs captured in the sampled dredges (Table 4.5). The majority of crab were classified as having either no observable damage (46.5%) or damage to the carapace (42.5%), with low observed frequency of the other damage categories. Monitoring surveys are being continued for the 2018/19 season.

As discussed, further monitoring including video, dredge and potting surveys undertaken from the patrol vessel as well as monitoring surveys aboard permitted vessels are ongoing. It is felt, however, that habitat and bycatch impacts are strongly mitigated against by the range of technical and management measures contained within the byelaw and applied as permit conditions. The NEIFCA fishery is one of the most highly regulated dredge fisheries in the UK. At a national level, dialogue between fishers, processors, fisheries managers and researchers are focussed on potential revision of dredging management. In a number of forums in 2018/19 the NEIFCA management model has been lauded as an example of best practice which could potentially be replicated in other fisheries.

Table 4.4 Total bycatch observed in dredges sampled on board permitted vessels for seasons 2016/2017 (n=16) and 2017/2018 (n=97)

Species	2016/17	2017/18
Starfish spp.	60	545
Common urchin	42	152
Edible crab	24	146
Dab		107
Plaice	1	54
Pogge	1	47
Whelk		23
Velvet crab		14
Dragonet		10
Hermit crab		10
Sea scorpion spp.		10
Whiting		8
Swimming crab spp.		6
Brill		5
Thornback ray		4
Cod		3
Flat fish spp.	5	3
Squat lobster		3
Ocean quahog	2	2
Gurnard		1
Lobster		1
Monkfish		1
Pouting		1
Spider crab		1
Lumpsucker	1	
TOTAL	136	1185

Table 4.5. Numerical damage index of edible crab bycatch observed in dredges sampled on board permitted scalloping vessels for the 2017/2018 season

Damage index		No. of edible crab
1	No visible damage	66
2	1-2 legs missing	9
3	> 2 legs missing	1
4	1-2 claws missing	6
5	1-2 claws missing, at least 1 leg missing	2
6	Puncture to carapace	62

5. Cockles

5.1 Introduction and methodology

The common cockle (*Cerastoderma edule* L.) lives in semi-sheltered, intertidal or shallow subtidal marine systems and has a wide geographic presence in warm to temperate waters, with distribution highly influenced by variables such as water currents, salinity and sediment composition as well as resource availability, predation and human exploitation.

NEIFCA management of cockles is delivered through byelaw XXIV, which includes a permit and catch return system, a closed season between the 1st of May and the 31st of August, daily catch limits, technical gear restrictions and minimum landing size. Currently no cockle beds in the NEIFCA district are open for gathering.

Three areas of intertidal habitat in the NEIFCA district are routinely monitored to assess cockle stocks in the Tees and Humber Estuaries; Middleton Basin and Bran Sands in the Tees Estuary and the intertidal sands of Cleethorpes known as Wonderland. In addition to the standard annual reporting carried out to inform decisions on the number of permits (if any) to be issued, a review of previous years data was undertaken in 2018.

Monitoring Methods

Survey work was carried out during low water spring tides across the 3 survey sites; Bran Sands on the 29th of May, Middleton Basin on the 31st of May and Wonderland on the 1st of July 2018. Set sampling stations have been used in Bran Sands and Middleton Basin since 2014 and at Wonderland, Cleethorpes since 2015.

Samples were taken by digging sediment from a 0.1m² quadrat into a 2mm sieve and removing individual cockles. Samples were dug to a depth of 10cm or until the Redox Potential Discontinuity (RPD) layer was reached. All cockles collected were placed in re-sealable bags with waterproof labels and returned to the laboratory for enumeration and biometric analysis. Further analytical methodology and survey stations are detailed in the full report.

5.2 Wonderland, Cleethorpes

A total of 322 cockles were recorded from 18 stations during the 2018 surveys. The dominant year class was the 1+ age class (2016 spat cohort) which accounted for 78% of all recorded cockles (Figure 5.1). Total cockle density ranged from 10-780m⁻², while density for stations with size cockles (≥ 20 mm) ranged from 10-110m⁻² (Figure 5.2).

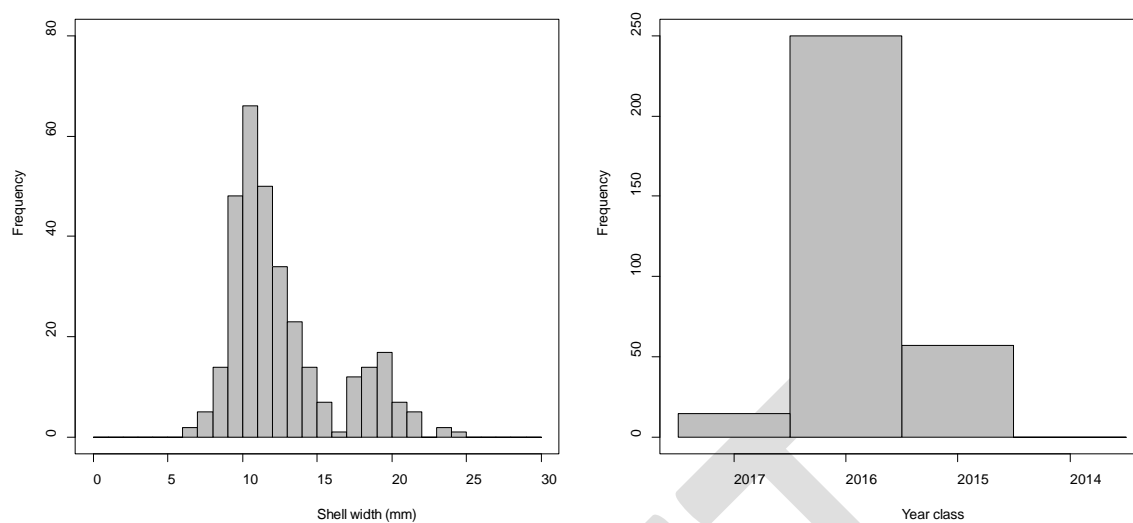


Figure 5.1. Shell width (left) and year class (right) frequency distribution from 2018 surveys at Wonderland, Cleethorpes.

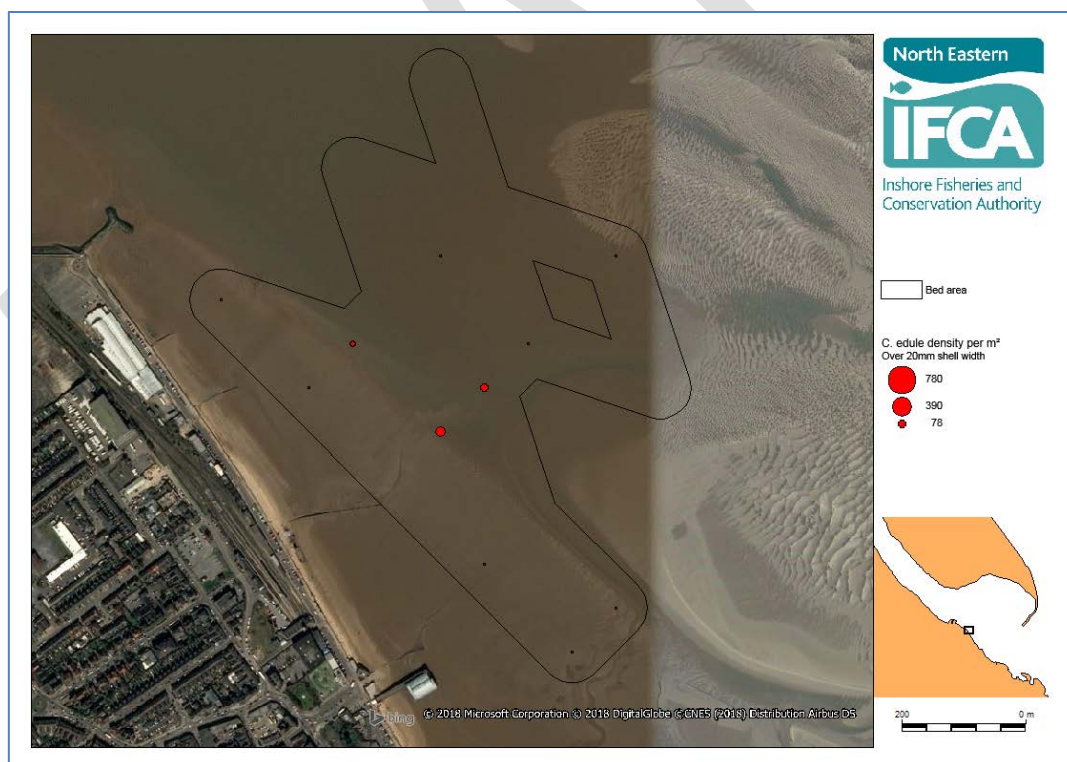


Figure 5.2 Density of cockles $\geq 20\text{mm}$ per m^2 . Note bed area derived from stations with cockles present including juveniles.

Since the establishment of the current sampling stations in 2015 the estimated bed area has remained consistent within the range of 0.33-0.39km². Average density of size cockles and subsequent derived metrics peaked in 2015 but have reduced year on year since then. At its peak, the potential fishery value was estimated at £50,013.

Shell width and year class frequency histograms show a clear year class progression between 2014 and 2015. Data from 2016 onwards highlights the lower abundances of cockles observed. Across all years, cockles rarely exceed 30mm shell width or the 2+ age class.

Table 5.1 Inter-annual cockle stock comparison from 2014 – 2018 at Wonderland, Cleethorpes

Year	Average density ≥20mm (m ⁻²)	Average shell width ≥20mm (mm)	Average weight ≥20mm (g)	Bed area (m ²)	Bed stock ≥20mm (tonnes)	Targetable stock (tonnes)	Potential fishery value (£)
2014	6.3	24.5	5.3	510,500	17.0	5.7	3,823
2015	188.1	21.8	3.6	332,400	222.9	74.3	50,013
2016	64.7	21.7	3.5	330,800	75.6	25.2	16,959
2017	21.4	23.4	4.6	389,800	38.4	12.8	8,607
2018	17.8	20.9	3.1	352,300	19.3	6.4	4,331

5.3 Bran Sands

Twenty-eight cockles were recorded in total during the 2018 survey period across 14 sample stations at this location. The dominant year class was the 0+ (2017) year class which accounted for 75% of all recorded cockles. Abundance was very low, with total density ranging from 10-40m⁻². Density for stations with size cockles ranged from 10-20m⁻².

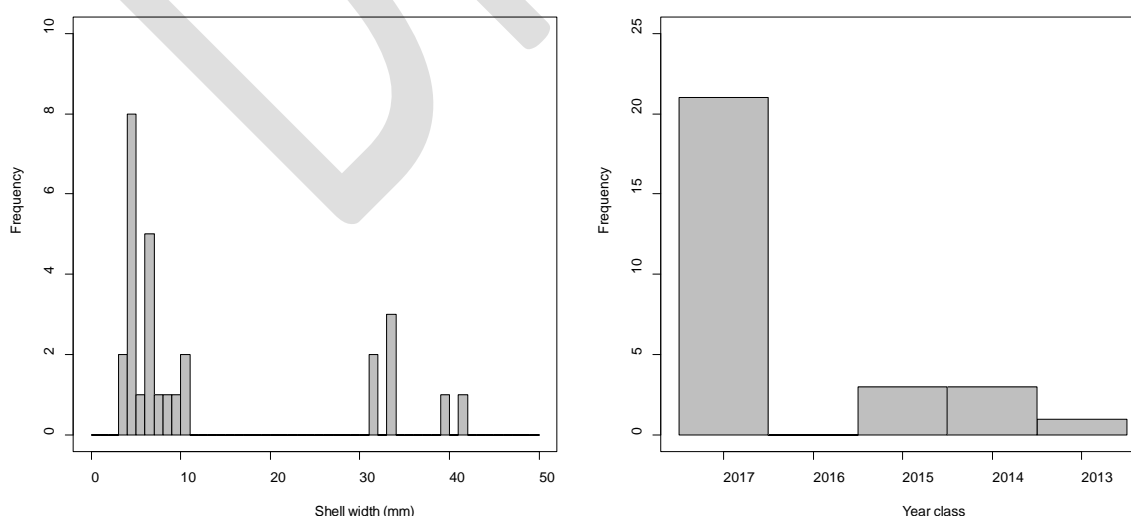


Figure 5.3. Shell width (left) and year class (right) frequency distribution from 2018 surveys at Bran Sands.



Figure 5.4. Density of cockles $\geq 20\text{mm}$ per m^2 . Note bed area derived from stations with cockles present including juveniles.

Between 2014 and 2016 bed area estimates ranged between 0.13km^2 and 0.16km^2 , however this value has reduced in subsequent years. The current estimate is the lowest since the establishment of the monitoring stations. The average density of size cockles has typically been low, with the range of $4.7\text{--}13.8\text{m}^{-2}$. Shell width frequency data highlighted a clear year class progression between 2015 and 2016. Data for other years merely emphasises the low abundances found.

Table 5.2 Inter-annual cockle stock comparison from 2013 – 2018 at Bran Sands.

Year	Average density $\geq 20\text{mm}$ (m^{-2})	Average shell width $\geq 20\text{mm}$ (mm)	Average weight $\geq 20\text{mm}$ (g)	Bed area (m^2)	Bed stock $\geq 20\text{mm}$ (tonnes)	Targetable stock (tonnes)	Potential fishery value (£)
2013	8.9	29.3	9.4	38,000	3.2	1.1	715
2014	8.3	34.7	15.5	130,100	16.8	5.6	3,768
2015	4.7	34.1	14.7	158,800	11.0	3.7	2,471
2016	13.8	24.3	5.2	159,600	11.5	3.8	2,590
2017	11.4	33.1	13.6	55,310	8.6	2.9	1,930
2018	5.0	35.4	16.5	38,000	4.5	1.5	1,006

5.4 Middleton Basin

A total of 26 cockles were recorded from 5 of the sample stations in 2018. The dominant year class was the 0+ age class (2017 spat cohort) which accounted for 71% of all recorded cockles (Figure 5.5). Abundance was low with density ranging from 10-190m⁻². Density for stations with size cockles ranged from 10-30m⁻². A bed area of 0.008km² was estimated using a 20m buffer around stations with cockles present (Figure 5.6).

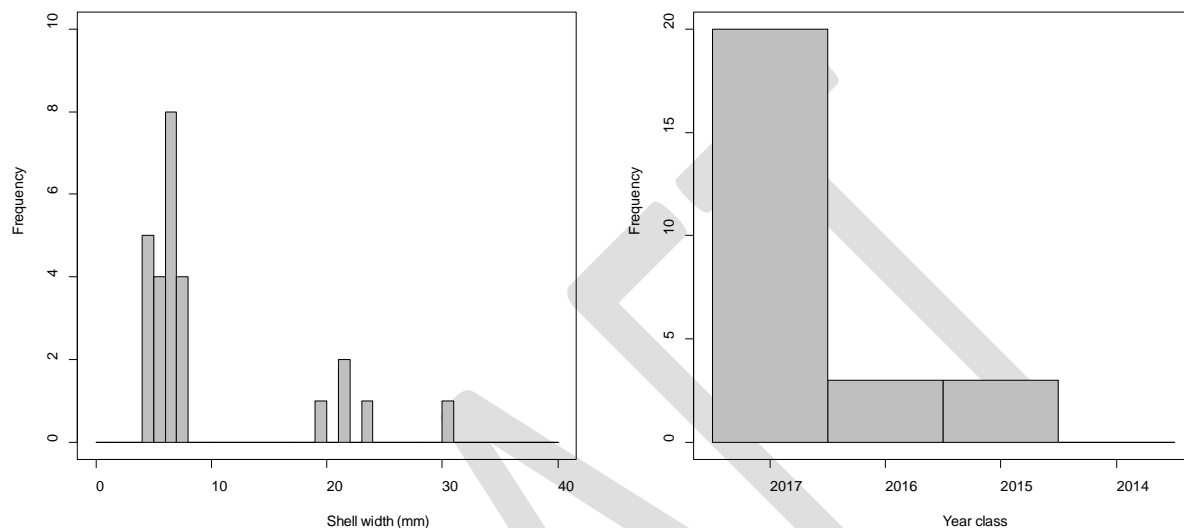


Figure 5.5 Shell width frequency distribution and frequency histogram of year classes at Middleton Basin

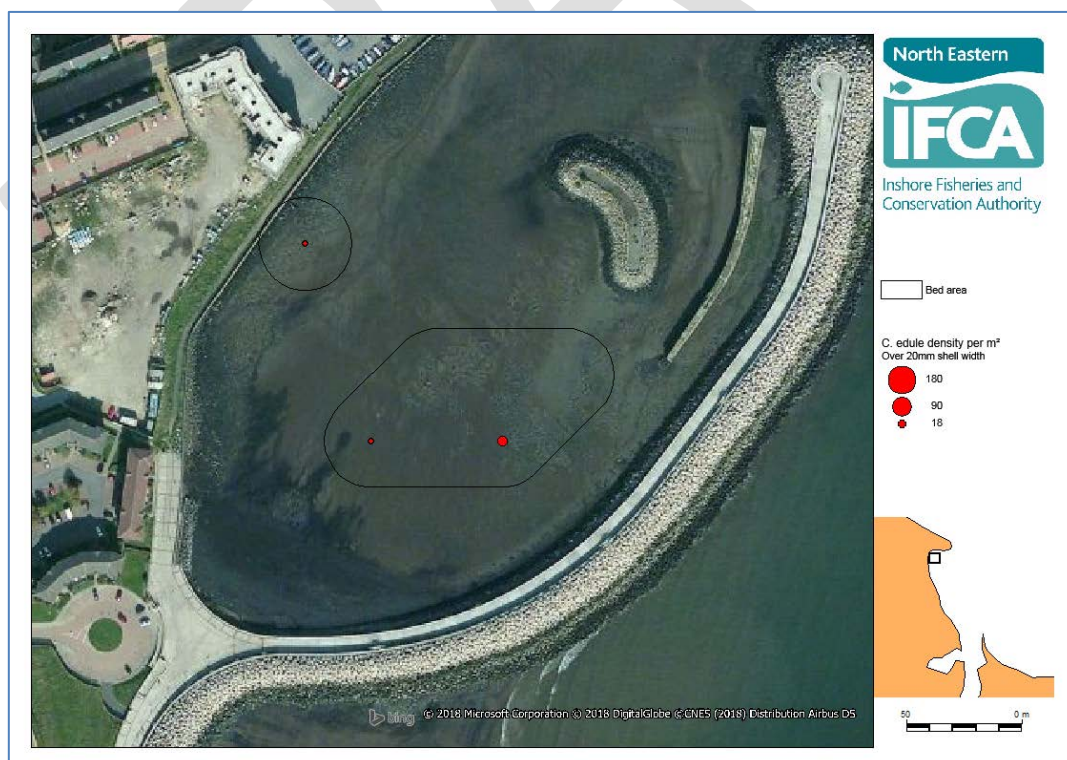


Figure 5.6 Density of cockles $\geq 20\text{mm}$ per m². Note bed area derived from stations with cockles present including juveniles.

Similar to the results for Bran Sands, bed area estimates for Middleton Basin were relatively stable between 2014 and 2016 within the range of 0.015km² and 0.02km². Estimates for 2017 and 2018 were lower with values of 0.006km² and 0.008km² respectively. The available bed area at Middleton Basin is restricted by the artificial structures which border the site and therefore, the bed area is unlikely to ever exceed the maximum estimates already stated. The density of size cockles peaked in 2016 at 63.3m⁻² while values for other years were in the range of 9-35m⁻² (Table 5.3). No meaningful trends could be established from the shell width frequency data due to the low abundances observed.

Table 5.3 Inter-annual cockle stock comparison from 2013 – 2018 at Middleton Basin.

Year	Average density ≥20mm (m ⁻²)	Average shell width ≥20mm (mm)	Average weight ≥20mm (g)	Bed area (m ²)	Bed stock ≥20mm (tonnes)	Targetable stock (tonnes)	Potential fishery value (£)
2013	11.0	32.7	13.1	20,000	2.9	1.0	646
2014	18.8	30.9	11.2	19,740	4.1	1.4	926
2015	35.3	27.4	7.7	20,160	5.5	1.8	1,234
2016	63.3	24.4	5.3	15,540	5.2	1.7	1,173
2017	9.0	26.4	6.9	5,627	0.3	0.1	78
2018	10.0	23.8	4.9	7,943	0.4	0.1	87

5.5 Discussion

Tees Estuary sites

Historically a small cockle fishery had been targeted at several sites throughout the Tees Estuary, however not to the scale of the previous commercial fishery at Horseshoe Point in the Humber Estuary. Concerns were raised regarding organised groups coming to the Tees from other parts of the country to target cockles resulting in the revision of NEIFCA Byelaw XXIV (Cockle Management Byelaw) in 2012. Although a previous restricted permit scheme had been implemented prior to this, the revised byelaw was implemented to ensure the recovery of the depleted stocks as well as wider environmental protection and conservation.

The constrained nature of the beds surveyed in the Tees limits the size of any potential fishery. Furthermore, a full Habitats Regulations Assessment would need to be carried out to ensure that any plans to open the beds would not adversely affect the site integrity of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area.

Humber Estuary

Before the transition to an IFCA, NESFC managed a small cockle production area at Horseshoe Point comprising of three beds on Haile Sands, between Tetney Haven and Donna Nook in North Lincolnshire. Historically, these beds were targeted by vessels from Boston and King's Lynn in addition to local hand-gatherers. The last significant fishery occurred in 1999 with an estimated 400 tonnes taken.

The area was closed to fishing in 2003 with the introduction of the first cockle management byelaw due to low stock levels. In 2006, the stock was estimated at only 51 tonnes. Since assuming management responsibility Eastern IFCA have carried out nine stock surveys, the most recent in July 2017. Observations made during these surveys indicate that the beds are suffering similar atypical mortality to that observed in the Wash since 2008 and the Burry Inlet since 2004. Despite good spatfalls, most of the cockles had died during the following summer with over 90% of stocks 1 year or older being lost between August 2011 (105 tonnes found) and January 2012 (52 tonnes found)

After management and hence survey responsibility for the Horseshoe Point beds was transferred to EIFCA, NEIFCA began cockle surveys at the Wonderland site as it was an area known to be targeted by gatherers in the past. The area surveyed is on the main bathing beach and discussions would need to be held with the Local Authority before any collection. As with the Tees, a Habitats Regulations Assessment would need to be carried out due to the Humber Estuaries designations as both a Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation.

Atypical mortality in cockles

Cockle populations have been known to suffer periodic mass mortalities with resulting population crashes. Events in places such as the Wash, the Thames and the Burry Inlet remain largely unexplained but have been associated with a variety of factors including disease, predation, pollution, recruitment failures, over fishing and more recently climate change (Woolmer, 2013).

Since 2002 reports of 'atypical' mortalities have been reported in the UK and a comparison between 'typical' and 'atypical' mortalities is provided for clarity (taken from Woolmer, 2013).

Characteristics of typical mortalities:

- These are commonly episodic mortality events punctuating extended periods of recovery and persistence of the population.
- These are often associated with a clear causative agent.
- These may manifest as a sudden catastrophic mass mortality or a prolonged event occurring over a single season.
- Post-event the population either recovers to pre-mortality state of multiple year classes and spatial distribution, or, in some instances, may be locally extinct for a period until environmental conditions are suitable.

Characteristics of atypical mortalities:

- These are chronic and persistent mortality events that repeat over a number of years.
- May begin with a mass mortality of all year classes.
- Mortality is chronic occurring (at low levels) over a period (e.g. mortality ~0.5% per day) but there may be localised mass mortality instances within this period.
- Characterised by moribund and dead cockles on sediment surface.
- The causative agent for the chronic low-level mortality is unclear although the periodic localised mass mortalities may be associated with a particular factor e.g. heavy rainfall, high temperatures etc.
- The affected cockle population becomes characterised by low proportions of older or larger individuals and dominated by small cockles of year 1 or 2.
 - It is likely that size rather than year is a key factor with mortality affecting individuals larger than >15mm.
- The typical population follows a cycle of spawning (year class 1 or 2) – chronic mortality (year class 1 or 2) – spat settlement – fast growth (year class 0) – spring spawning

There are concerns that similar atypical mortality may be occurring within the NEIFCA district, however the lack of comparable long term data makes investigating this difficult. Large numbers of cockle shells have been observed lying on the sediment surface during multiple surveys at the Wonderland site and following discussions with Officers from EIFCA it reasonable to assume that both beds are facing similar pressures.

Shellfish classification

Shellfish production areas are classified by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and determines the treatment required before Live Bivalve Molluscs (LBM) may be marketed for human consumption. LBM production and relay areas are classified according to the levels of *E. coli* detected in shellfish flesh. Currently there are no classified shellfish beds within the NEIFCA district. Horseshoe Point was declassified in September 2017 due to an insufficient number of samples being tested.

In order to classify a production or relay area, application forms need to be completed by applicants (fishers) and the Local Authority. Fishers would need to request initiation of this process directly to the relevant Local Authority. After the application is received by the FSA a Provisional Representative Monitoring Report (PRMP) is carried out to assess pollution sources affecting the area, to find appropriate sampling points and determine a sampling plan. Ten samples at least a week apart are required for a provisional classification. After a full year of sampling, annual classification may be granted.

Minimum size

A cockle size of 20mm has been used to separate fishable and juvenile individuals in this and previous reports. The cockle byelaw states that no cockle shall be removed which will pass through a square gauge measuring 20mm over each side. Depending on the orientation of the cockle this could effectively impose a minimum size of ~24mm on any potential fishery. Discussions with other IFCA's which operate cockle fisheries indicate that a much smaller minimum size is used elsewhere in the country (EIFCA 14mm, K&EIFCA 16mm). Consideration should be given to the minimum size used in future analyses as this will significantly affect estimates of fishable stock.

Conclusion

Since the establishment of the current sampling regime, cockle beds within the NEIFCA district have been characterised by low abundances with limited viability as potential fisheries. If stocks were to improve to a level thought to be able to sustain a degree of harvesting, full consideration would need to be given to impacts on designated habitats and species. It also needs to be recognised that in order to open the beds an appropriate sampling regime would need to be established to ensure the cockles were suitable for human consumption.

In light of the current and historic stock levels, it was agreed at the September 2018 Science Advisory Group meeting that surveys would be carried out on a biennial basis, rather than annually. The next surveys are planned for spring 2020.

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6. No Take Zone (NTZ) Mussel bed monitoring

Introduction and methodology

In 2010 the Flamborough Head No Take Zone (NTZ) byelaw was introduced protecting all marine fisheries resources from exploitation within a designated area from Sewerby steps to Danes Dyke (Figure 6.1). The blue mussel *Mytilus edulis* was highlighted in an independently commissioned monitoring strategy (Thompson *et al* 2010)¹² as an appropriate indicator species to assess the effect of the byelaw on stock recovery and enhancement. Since 2011 NEIFCA has assessed the impact of the byelaw on the intertidal mussel bed.



Figure 6.1. Flamborough Head showing the position of the no take zone (NTZ).

Intertidal sampling is undertaken during low water spring tides, with the seaward extent of transects taken as close as practicable to the low water line. Sampling methodology since 2014 has followed Walker and Nicholson (1986)¹³. Bed perimeter is first determined using GPS. Surveyors then walk a transect line over the bed area in a zigzag fashion recording the

¹² Thompson, S., Elliott, M., Johnson, M., Perez-Dominguez, R. & Hull, S., 2010. *No Take Zone monitoring: Flamborough Head*. Report to the Flamborough Head Management Group by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull. Report: ZBB900-D-2009

¹³ Walker, P. & Nicholson, M. D., 1986. *The precision of estimates of mussel biomass by zigzag survey*. International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Shellfish Committee. CM 1986/K:6

number of footsteps which fall on mussels and those that fall on bare sediment/rock, allowing an estimation of percentage cover to be made.

At the end of each transect a 0.1m² quadrat is placed on the nearest patch of mussels. All mussels within the quadrat are collected and washed through a 5 mm sieve to remove any sediment. Post-survey shell length measurements are recorded to the nearest millimetre using Mitutoyo vernier callipers (0.02 mm accuracy). The density and biomass of *M. edulis* was calculated by converting the number and weight of retained individuals to values/m², then multiplying by the bed area.

Results

The extent of the mussel bed area has fallen from 6,802m² in 2014 to 2,068m² in 2018 (Figure 6.2). The most pronounced reduction was between 2014 and 2015 and the bed area has continued to contract, albeit to a lesser degree (Figure 6.3). As in previous years, while mussels are observed at very low, patchy density in the vicinity of the main bed they are not found in the rest of the NTZ at any significant levels.

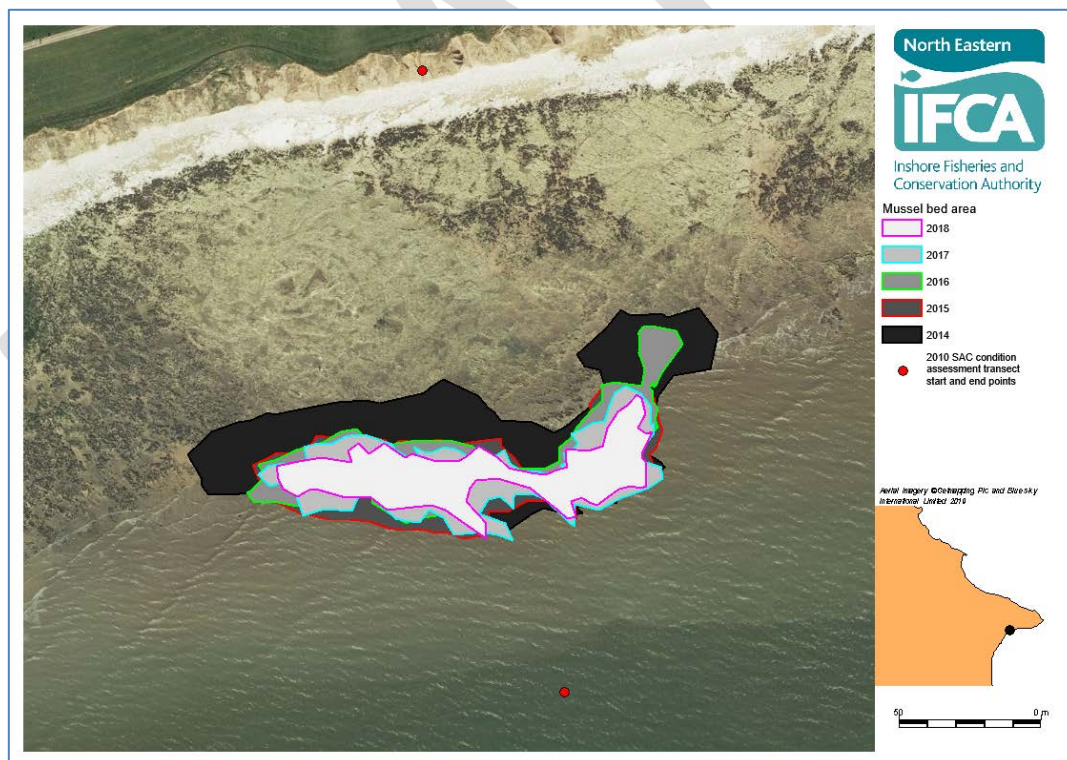


Figure 6.2. Mussel bed area for the period 2014-2018. SAC condition monitoring transect points are shown for reference.

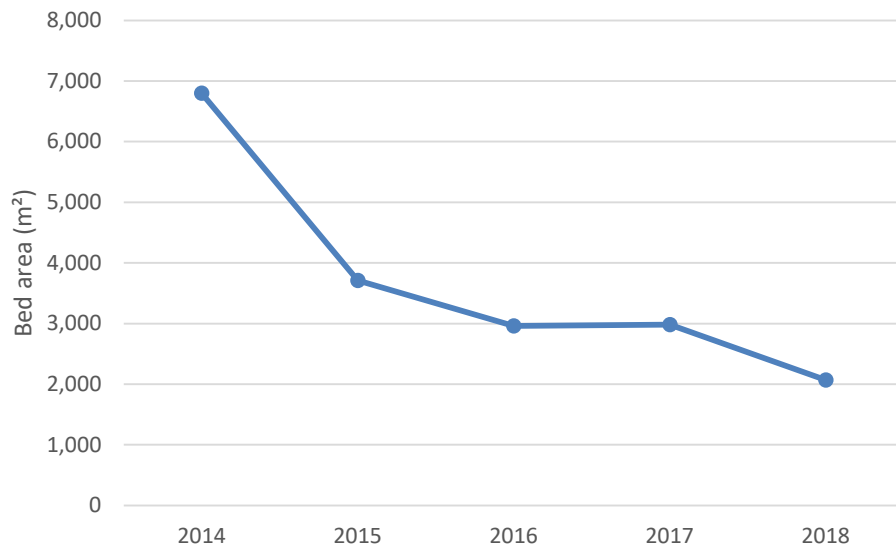


Figure 6.3. Mussel bed area for the period 2014-2018. SAC condition monitoring transect points are shown for reference.

The percentage of footfall on mussels for the 2018 transects ranged from 29.3-46.4% (Figure 6.4). Percentage cover since 2011 is variable but has tended to be within the range of 30-40% since 2014 (Figure 6.5). In 2016 a significant decrease in average shell length was attributed to an increase in the abundance of spat (<10mm shell length) which accounted for 90.6% of the mussels sampled (Figure 6.7). Adjusting the historic data to only include those records where shell length is equal to or over 10mm highlights an increasing trend over time (Figure 6.6).



Figure 6.4. Percentage cover of mussels for the main bed area in 2018.

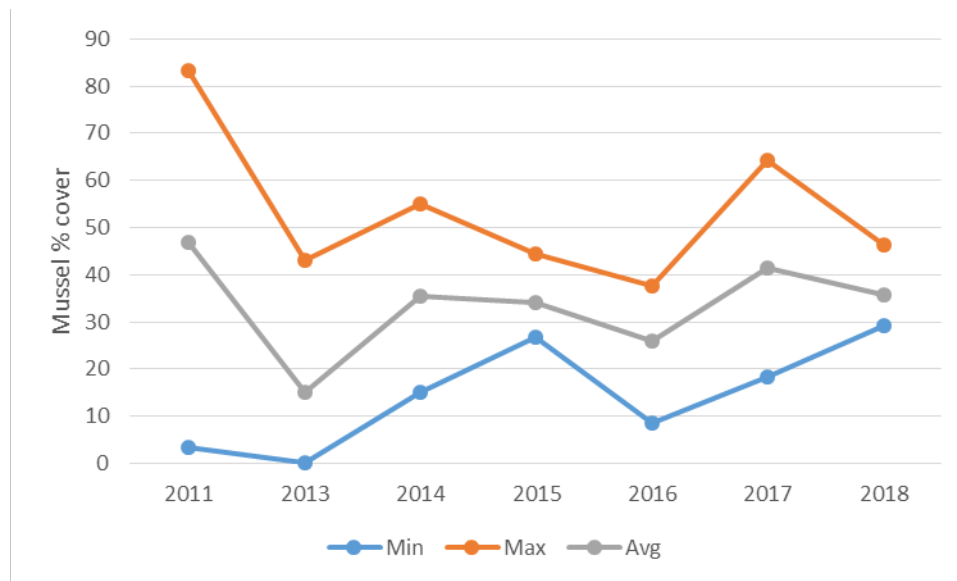


Figure 6.5. Transect percentage cover derived from number of footsteps falling on mussels. Minimum, maximum and average values are presented by year.

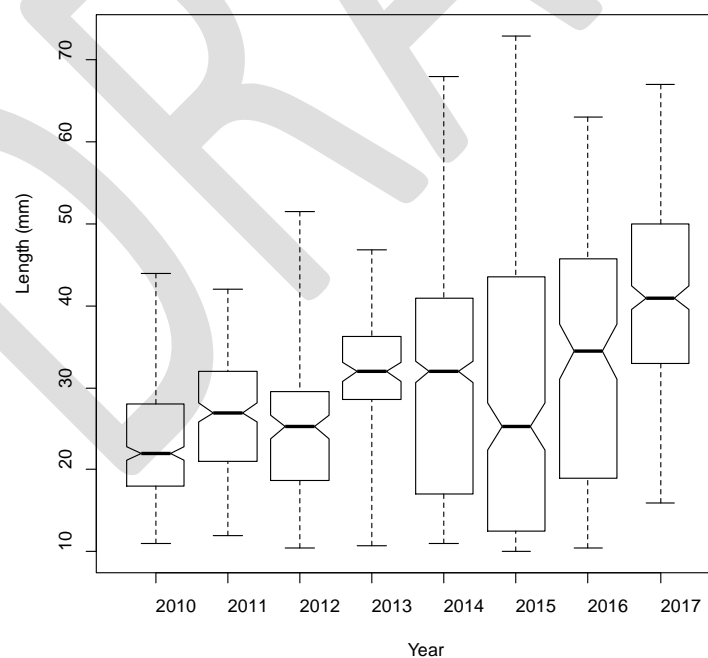


Figure 6.6. Notched box plots of mussel shell lengths >10mm in the representative samples for the period 2010 – 2017.

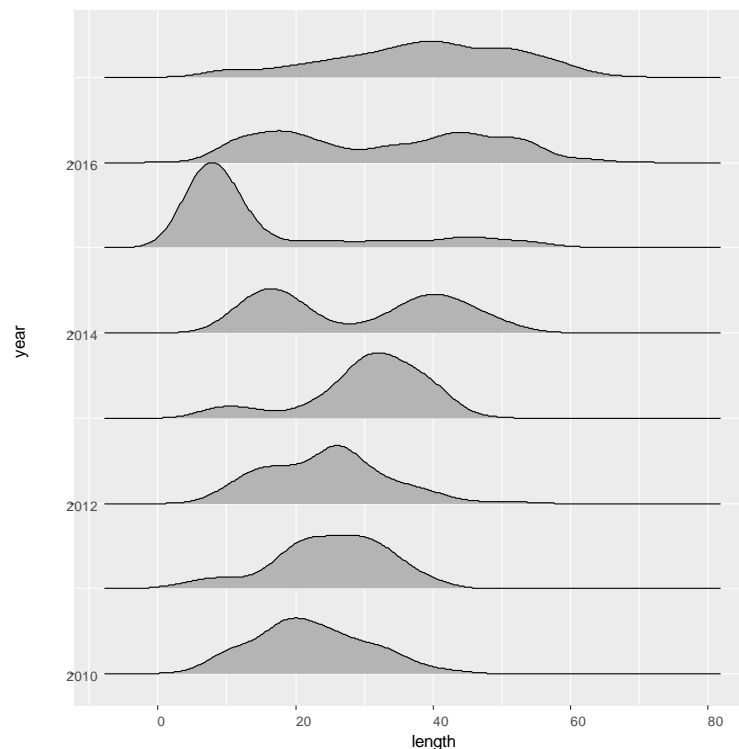


Figure 6.7. Shell length density ridgeline plots for the period 2010-2017.

Discussion

The abundance, distribution and structure of bivalve populations are known to be subject to natural variation, and as such, changes between surveys can readily occur. However, recording and assessment artefacts can also occur. The reduction in bed area between 2014 and 2015 can, at least in part, be attributed to methodological changes. It is also worth considering the relatively small size of the bed and the impact that environmental factors such as tide can have on estimates of bed area. These factors do not however affect interpretation of the long term trend of decreasing bed extent. Mussel beds at other locations around the headland have exhibited considerable reduction in extent and in some areas have been replaced by *Semibalanus* and *F. vesiculosus* habitats.

The NTZ benefits from signage at the top of Sewerby steps and knowledge of the designation and compliance is considered good. To what extent mussels are collected by shore gatherers at other locations around the headland is unknown, however the protection afforded the bed in the NTZ could be contributing to its continued persistence at this location.

7. Eelgrass

As part of the revised approach to fisheries within European Marine Sites, a byelaw was introduced in 2014 to protect eelgrass (*Zostera* spp) beds at Spurn Point in the Humber Estuary. Annual surveys are carried out in partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and other statutory agencies including Natural England and the Environment Agency. The aim of the surveys for NEIFCA is to assess whether the bed area has extended beyond the management zone and the appropriateness of the byelaw.

The distribution of eelgrass has increased since the first survey in 2013. To what extent this can be attributed to the introduction of management measures is unclear due to confounding factors such as periodic breaches of the point in recent years during extreme tidal and storm conditions and the subsequent changes this has had on access.

Despite point records of eelgrass presence outside the designated area, the extent of the main bed is still contained within the designated area and management is considered appropriate.

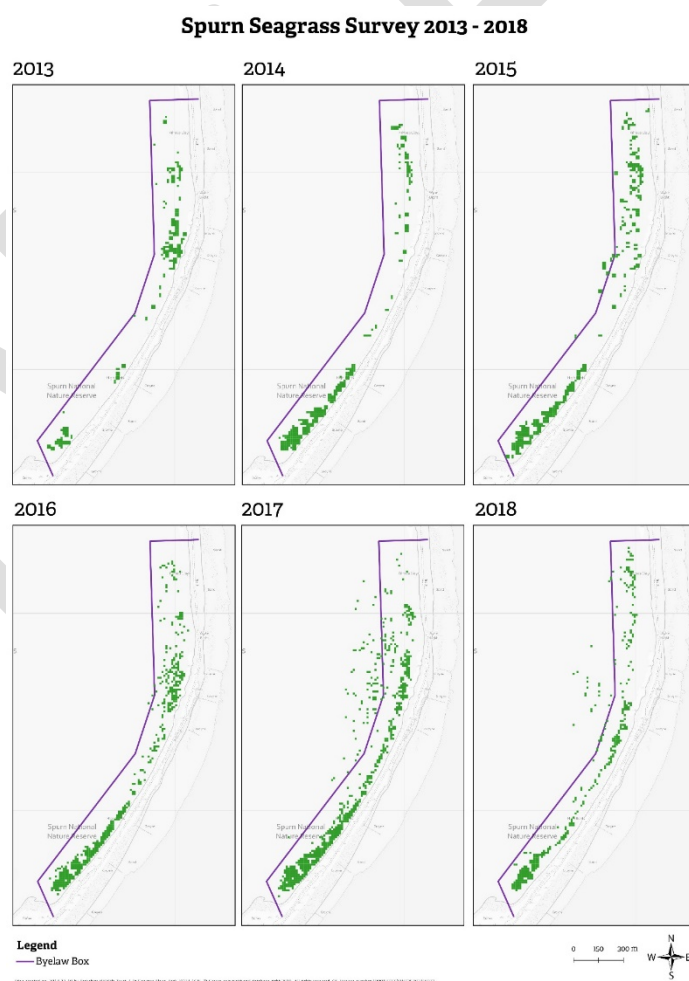


Figure 7.1. Eelgrass distribution within the Byelaw area for the period 2013-2018. (Figure reference: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)

8. Sea Temperatures

Method

Sixteen locations in total are used to record sea surface and bottom temperature throughout the year across the district, previously using the YSI Sonde 6600 probe from 2008 – 2016 and then the SWiFT SVP Sound Velocity probe hereon after.

Upon arrival at a location, the probe is lowered into the water over the side of NEIFCA patrol vessel North Eastern Guardian III where a number of sea water variables are recorded, including sea temperature. These recordings can then be downloaded onto a computer and analysed.

Results

Both surface and bottom temperatures experience the same trend through the year across the data recorded (Figure 8.1). The lowest temperatures are seen during the winter months at the start of the year where they gradually increase through the spring and hit peaks during the summer months. From there, temperature gradually decreases once again into the following year.

Peak surface temperature was seen in July 2018 at 16.2°C. This does not correspond with bottom temperature, where the highest temperature was seen in September 2010 at 14.3°C. April 2013 produced the lowest sea surface and bottom temperatures.

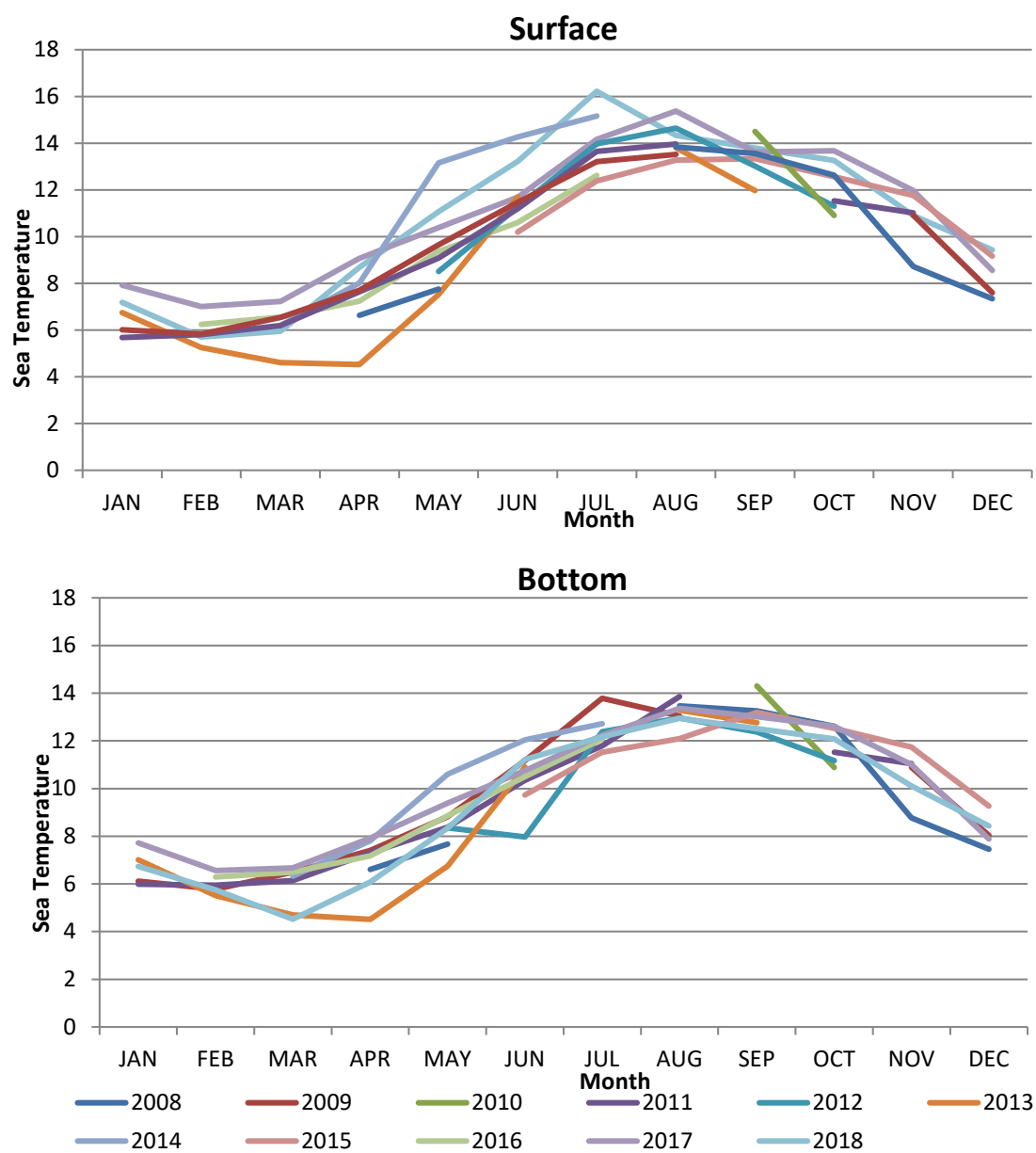
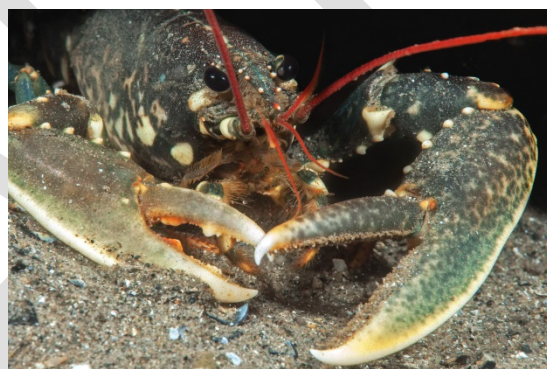


Figure 8.1. Monthly bed and sea surface temperature readings for NEIFCA sampling stations

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State of the fisheries

2019

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1. Introduction

This report is aimed to give an overview of the current state of fisheries in the region of the North Eastern IFCA (NEIFCA) district. The primary source of data used was official landing statistics obtained by data requests to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). These statistics were supplied in two formats:

- By landing port for the period 2008-2017
- By ICES statistical rectangle for the period 2012-2017

Landings by port included data for foreign vessels landing into the ports included in the study. The data was filtered to remove these and only landings associated with UK flag vessels is presented. Incidental landings associated with the gear type categories 'other mobile gears', 'other passive gears' and 'unknown' were also excluded.

A subset from the national port landings data set was selected for the analysis, including:

- Bridlington
- Filey
- Flamborough
- Grimsby
- Hartlepool
- Hornsea
- Hull
- Immingham
- Middlesbrough
- Newcastle
- North Shields
- North Sunderland
- Redcar
- Scarborough
- Seaham
- South Shields
- Staithes
- Sunderland
- Whitby
- Withernsea

Although not located within the geographic area of the NEIFCA district, data for Newcastle and North Shields were included due to their proximity and the potential to include landings captured within NEIFCA jurisdiction. Although there is potential for landings into ports further up the Northumberland coast (such as Blyth) to have originated from within the NEIFCA district, these have not been included in the analysis. There is also potential for a significant proportion of landings into Grimsby to have been captured outside of the study area. These uncertainties have been reduced by correlating port landings with spatially referenced ICES rectangle landings data.

The data available by ICES rectangle covers a shorter time period than that available by port. A subset of regional ICES rectangles was selected for the study and further distinguished into two categories (Figure 1). 'Inshore' ICES were taken as those 5 rectangles traditionally used within the lobster and crab Multiple Indicator Frameworks (MIF) as an indication of landings originating from within the NEIFCA district. While the proportion of the area of each rectangle falling within NEIFCA jurisdiction varies, this constitutes the best available spatially referenced data.

A selection of 'Offshore' ICES were selected based on Officers knowledge of areas utilised or potentially utilised by local vessels. This does not, however, constitute an exhaustive list of ICES rectangles utilised by vessels operating from ports within the NEIFCA district.

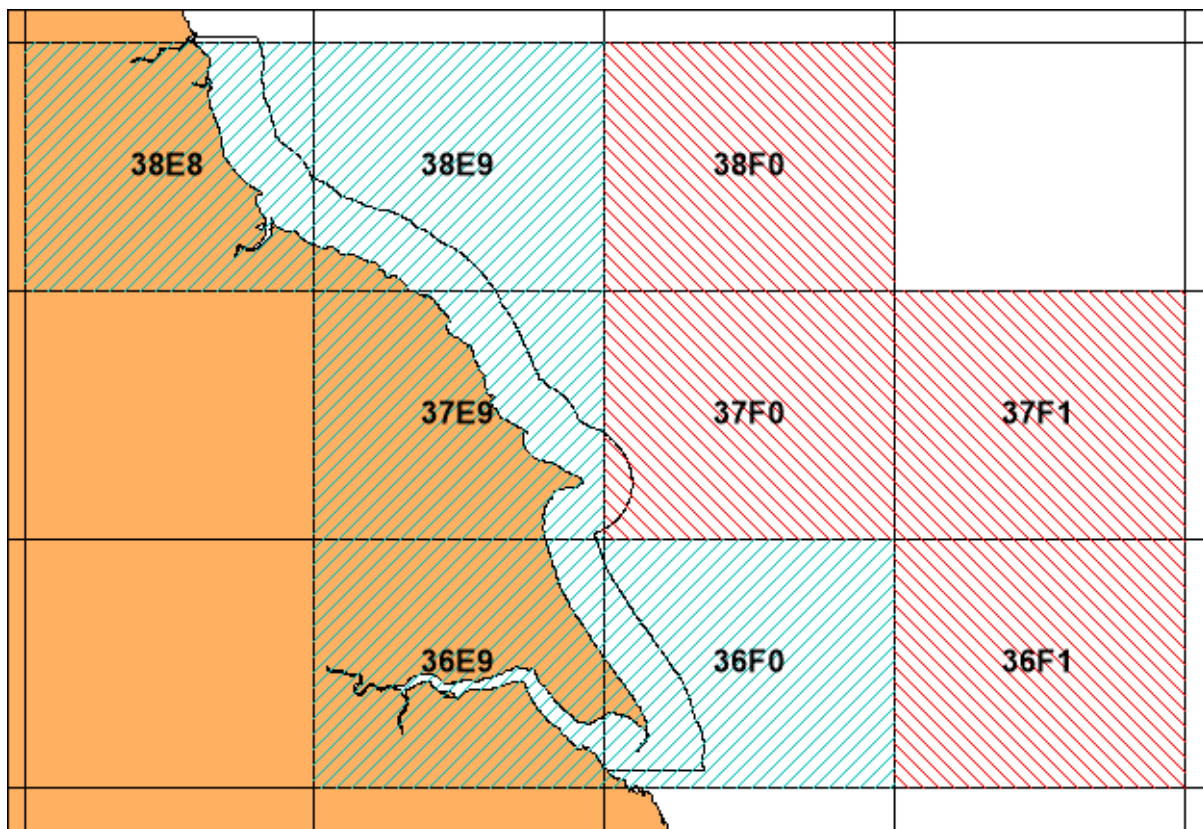


Figure 1. Inshore (Blue) and Offshore (Red) ICES statistical rectangles used for the purposes of this study.

2. Regional fisheries

The primary gear types utilised by regional fisheries are pots and traps, demersal trawl/seines and dredges (Figure 2). Port landings from pots and traps have increased significantly from 3,248 tonnes in 2008 to 8,243 tonnes in 2017. Dredge caught landings between 2008 and 2010 did not exceed 400 tonnes but have since increased as well, with 2,665 tonnes landed in 2017. Average annual demersal trawl/seine landings are in the region of 5,000 tonnes.

Data by ICES rectangles since 2012 further highlights the increase in landings from pots and traps, with both inshore and offshore landings have increasing by c. 1,600 and 1,100 tonnes respectively (Figure 3 & Figure 4). Data for dredging follows the same trend for both inshore and offshore ICES, with an increase in landings up to 2015. Landings fell in 2016, coinciding with the introduction of dredge management within 6NM, but have subsequently increased again albeit not to pre-management levels. Despite a noticeable increase in offshore landings in 2013, demersal trawl/seine landings have decreased by 68% for inshore ICES and 61% for offshore ICES when compared to 2012 levels.

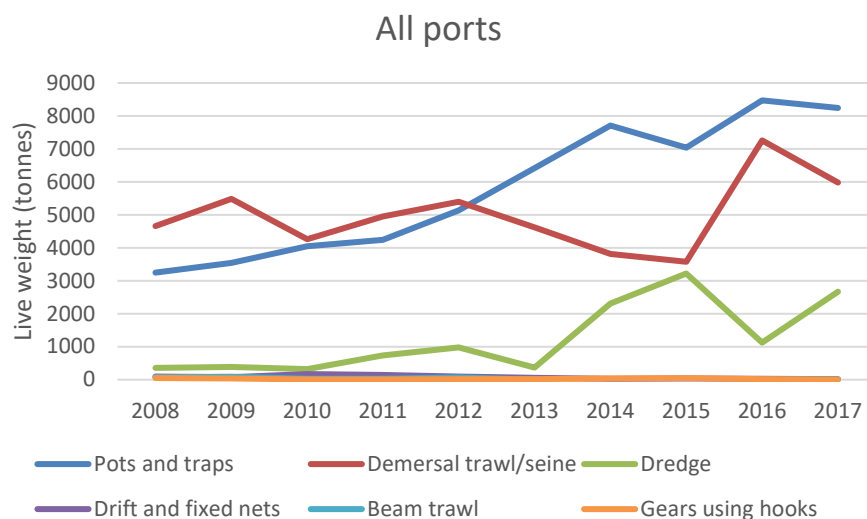


Figure 2. Landings for all ports by gear type for the period 2008-2017.

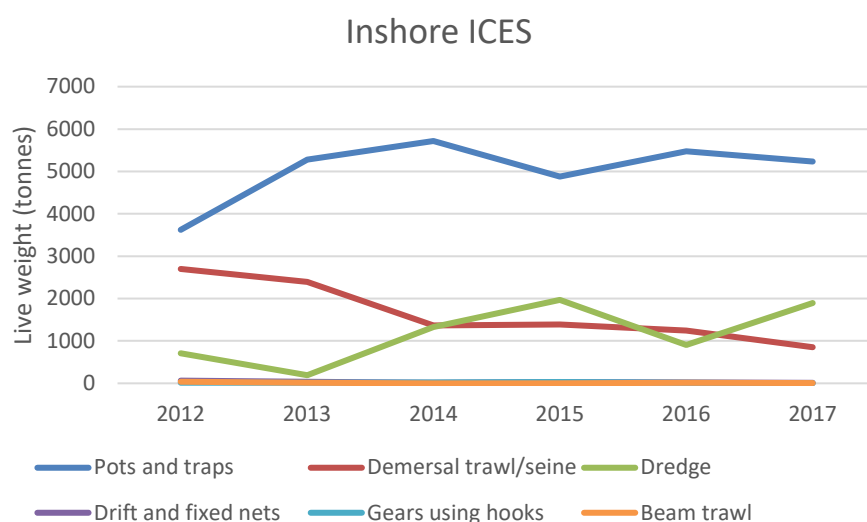


Figure 3. Landings from inshore ICES by gear type for the period 2012-2017.

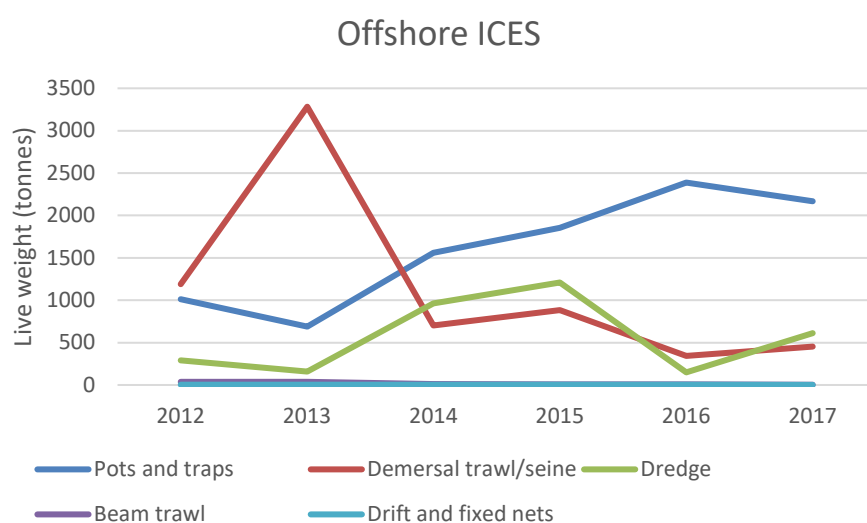


Figure 4. Landings from inshore ICES by gear type for the period 2012-2017.

A further valuable source of information are the sightings of fishing vessels made by North Eastern Guardian III as it transits the district. By standardising these sightings against patrol vessel effort, a picture of the spatial distribution and intensity of active fishing effort can be produced. Figure 5 shows the aggregated sightings by fishing method made from NEGIII for the period 2011-2016. Potting is clearly the most ubiquitous fishing method undertaken within the district. Its distribution is widespread and intensity is highest along the Holderness Coast.

Dredging sightings includes data from before the current management regime was introduced in 2015. The grounds within the district are focussed in the area between Whitby and Filey, extending seaward from around the 3NM line, although intensity is highest beyond 6NM between Scarborough and Flamborough Head.

Trawling is characterised by two distinct fisheries. North east of the Tees estuary, the edge of the Farne Deep *Nephrops* fishery operates primarily on muddy ground. Trawling also occurs along the North Yorkshire coast from Staithes to Flamborough Head.

Netting is known to occur throughout the district, with observed concentrations around the River Wear, Tees bay and inshore along the North Yorkshire coast. Long lining has been observed around Whitby but is known to occur down to Flamborough Head at low intensity. Long lining is also known to have been carried out historically in the Humber Estuary.

It is not possible to disaggregate commercial and recreational angling sightings within the data. Fishing with rod and line occurs throughout the district at low intensity.



Figure 5. Standardised effort sightings by gear type for the period 2011-2016 with associated gear types from data utilised in the current study.

3. Pots and traps

The value of landings from the potting fleet has increased in line with landings (Figure 6) and totalled over £23 million in 2017. The continued increase in landings from pots and traps can be almost entirely attributed to increased landings of edible crabs into ports in the District, which have increased by 143% since 2009 (Figure 7). Lobster landings have increased by 55% since 2008, with 997 tonnes landed in 2017.

Since 2013 whelk landings have exceeded lobster landings, increasing by 287% since 2008 (Figure 7). Total whelk landings for 2017 were 1,262 tonnes while the combined total attributed to ICES rectangles in the current study for the same year were 704 tonnes, 87% of which were captured in the Holderness offshore fishery in either 36F0 or 36F1. Landings reported directly to NEIFCA for 2017 totalled 105 tonnes.

Bridlington remains the largest port in terms of landings (Figure 8), with 3,231 tonnes landed in 2017. The majority of landings into Bridlington are edible crabs while whelk landings have exceeded lobster landings since 2010 (Figure 9). Landings into Grimsby were relatively stable before 2012 and have remained so for lobsters. Whelk and edible crab landings however have increased significantly (Figure 10). Edible crab landings into Grimsby between 2009 and 2017 have increased by 452%. It is understood that the majority of landings into Grimsby originate from outside the District.

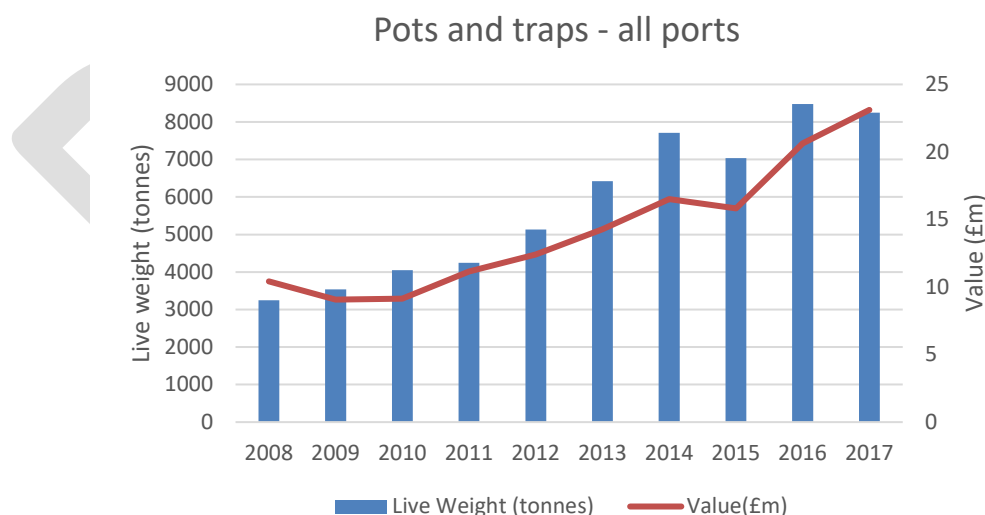


Figure 6. Landings into all ports captured by pots and traps for the period 2008-2017 and their first sale value.

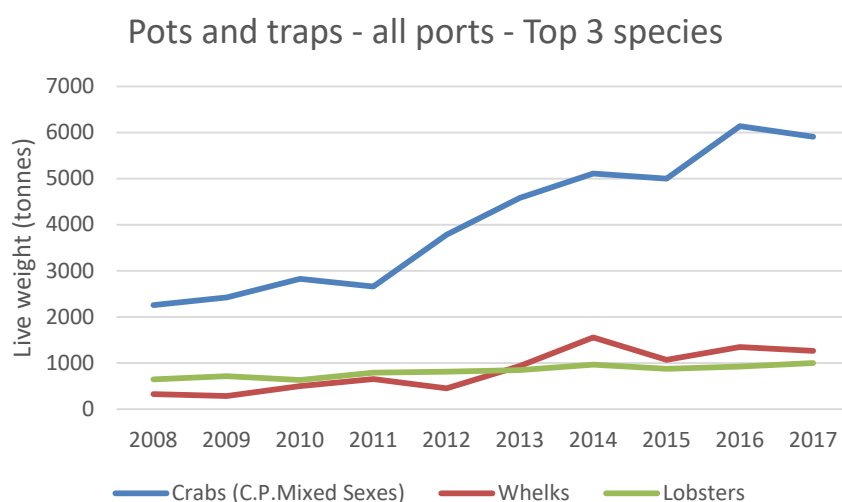


Figure 7. Landings into all ports captured by pots and traps for the period 2008-2017 and their first sale value.
N.B. Live weight for crabs in 2008 includes values for both edible (*Cancer pagurus*) and velvet (*Necora puber*) crabs. 2009 velvet crab landings were 78 tonnes and have decreased over time to 26 tonnes in 2017.

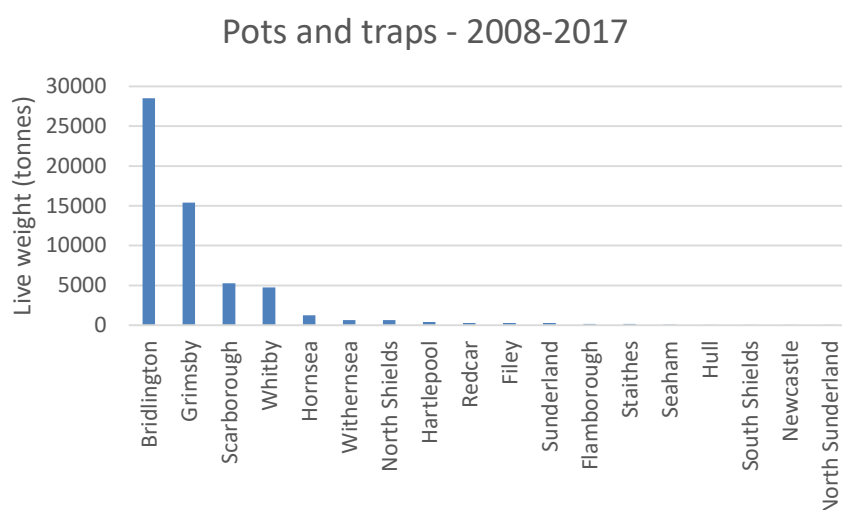


Figure 8. Aggregated landings for the period 2008-2017 from pots and traps into all ports.

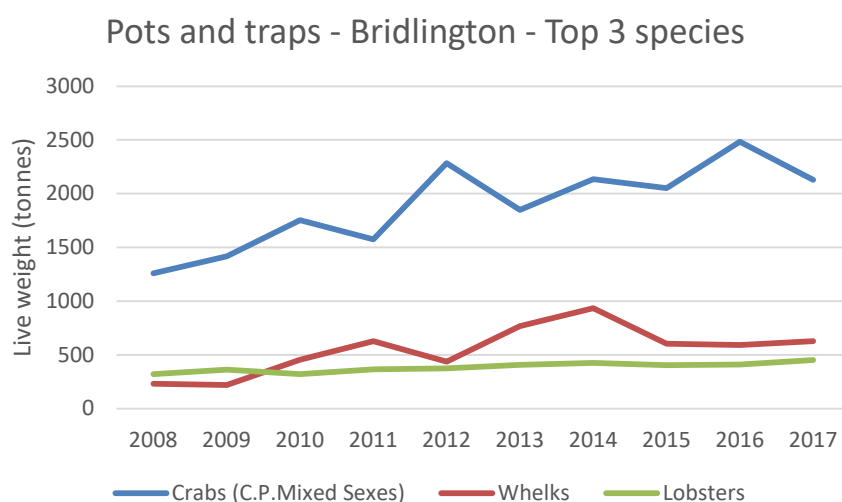


Figure 9. Landings of edible crabs, lobsters and whelks into Bridlington captured by pots and traps for the period 2008-2017.
N.B. Live weight for crabs in 2008 includes values for both edible (*Cancer pagurus*) and velvet (*Necora puber*) crabs. Velvet crab landings between 2009 and 2017 range between 12 and 47 tonnes.

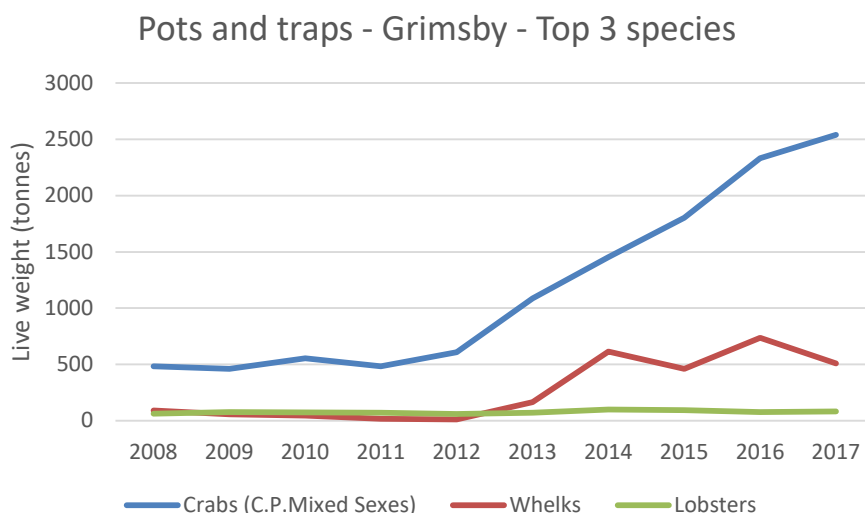


Figure 10. Landings of edible crabs, lobsters and whelks into Grimsby captured by pots and traps for the period 2008-2017.

N.B. Live weight for crabs in 2008 includes values for both edible (*Cancer pagurus*) and velvet (*Necora puber*) crabs. Velvet crab landings between 2009 and 2017 range between 1 and 37 tonnes.

Landings of crab into Scarborough rose significantly between 2012 and 2014, before a sharp decrease in 2015 (Figure 11) coinciding with the influx of scallop dredgers in North Yorkshire (see Figure 14, Section 4). Crab landings recovered somewhat in 2016 and have stabilised since then. Lobster landings also decreased in 2015, although to a lesser extent than crab. There has been an overall increasing trend in the volume of lobster landings, which have increased by 209% since 2008. Whelks were not a feature of the landings in to Scarborough during the study period until 2017 when 125 tonnes were landed. Periodic landings have been observed by Officers on the quayside since then and it is believed that an offshore fishery may be developing.

Whitby crab landings peaked in 2013 at 674 tonnes, but have since demonstrated a decreasing trend with landings of 417 tonnes in 2017 (Figure 12). Lobster landings follow the same increasing trend as other ports with a 58% increase since 2008.

Data for landings by ICES rectangles highlights the growth in the offshore fisheries, particularly crab, off Flamborough Head (37F0) and the Holderness offshore grounds (36F0 and 36F1) (Figure 13).

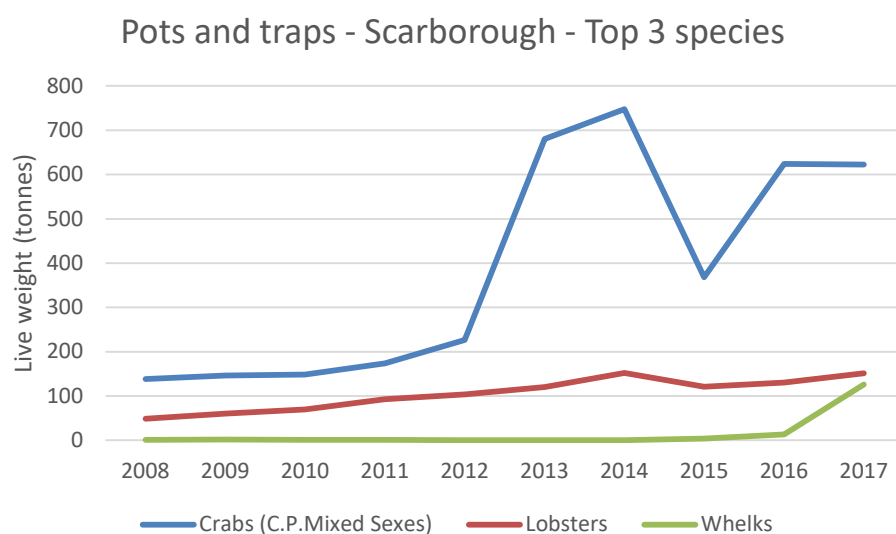


Figure 11. Landings of edible crabs, lobsters and whelks into Scarborough captured by pots and traps for the period 2008-2017.

N.B. Live weight for crabs in 2008 includes values for both edible (*Cancer pagurus*) and velvet (*Necora puber*) crabs. Velvet crab landings between 2009 and 2017 range between 0 and 0.4 tonnes.

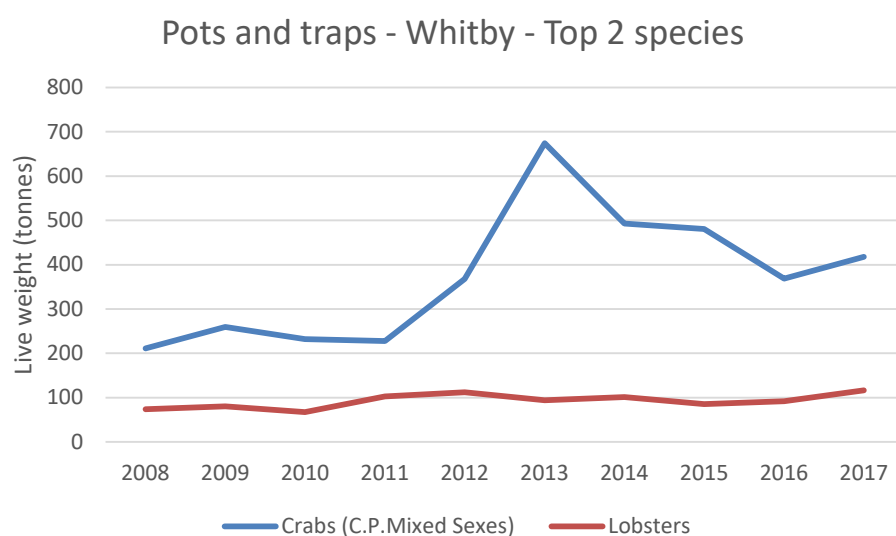
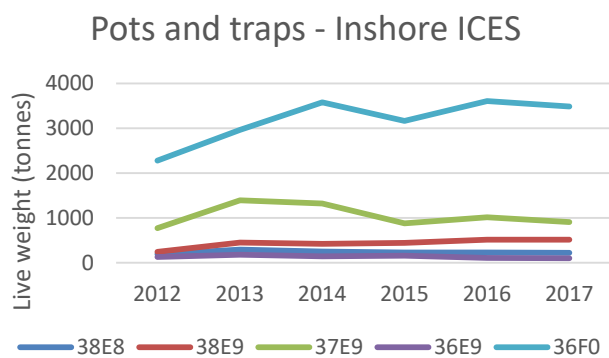


Figure 12. Landings of edible crabs and lobsters into Whitby captured by pots and traps for the period 2008-2017.

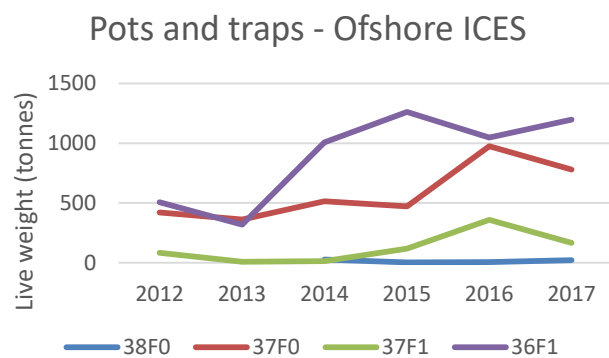
N.B. Live weight for crabs in 2008 includes values for both edible (*Cancer pagurus*) and velvet (*Necora puber*) crabs. Velvet crab landings between 2009 and 2017 range between 0 and 6.5 tonnes.

A

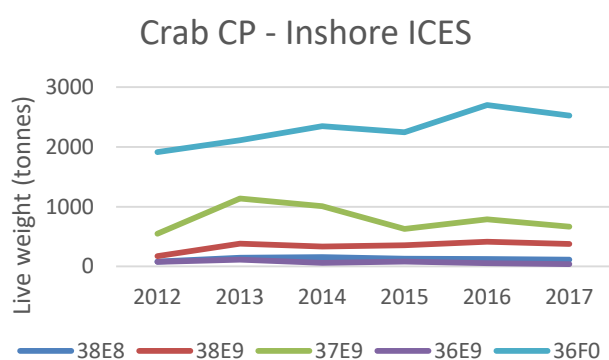
B



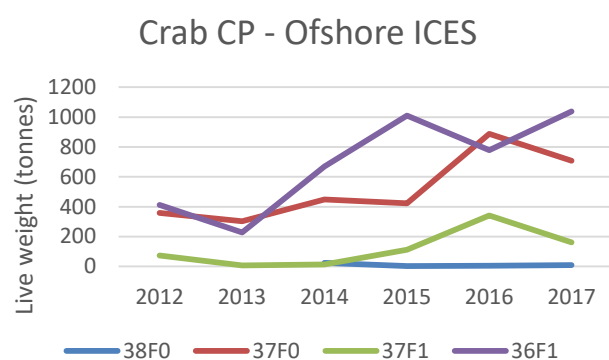
C



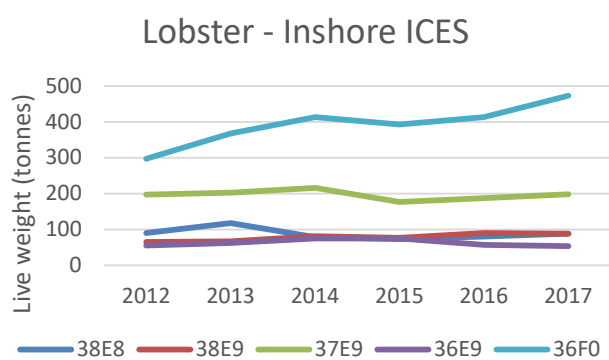
D



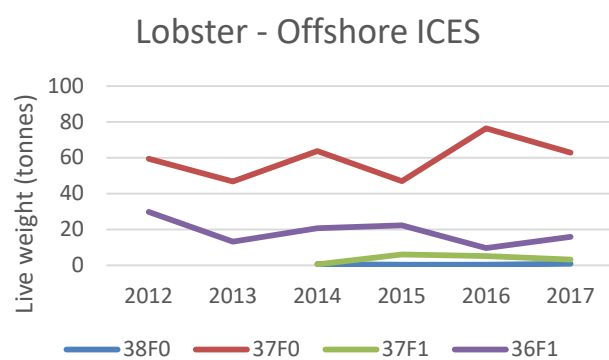
E



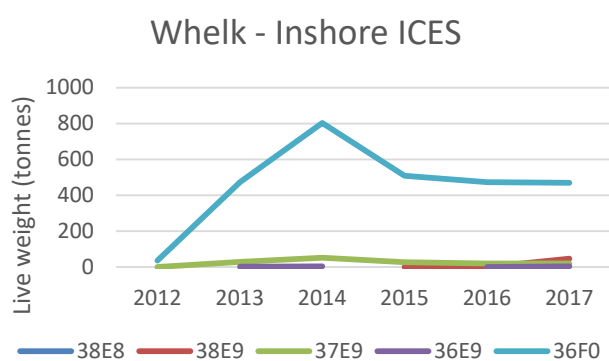
F



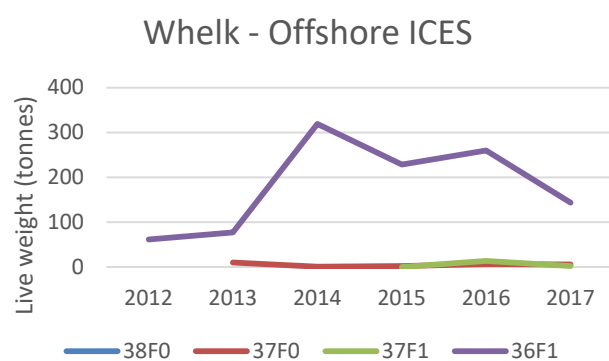
G



H



G



H

Figure 13. Landings from pots and traps by ICES rectangles included in the study for the period 2012-2017. Data is separated into inshore and offshore ICES including: aggregated landings (A & B), edible crab (C & D), lobsters (E & F) and whelks (G & H).

4. Dredge

A more detailed analysis of the development of the regional dredge fishery can be found in the 2018/19 Annual Research Report. Dredge landings peaked in 2012 with an increase in scalloping effort in the south of the District before the more significant expansion of the North Yorkshire fishery in 2014/15 (Figure 14). Landings into ports for 2017 represent a 652% increase compared to 2008 and were valued at £6.8 million. King scallops account for 99.5% of the landed species.

Scarborough landings peaked at 2,021 tonnes in 2015 before falling to 578 tonnes in 2016 (Figure 15). This fall was also reflected in the data for ICES rectangle 37E9 (Figure 16A), which encompasses the North Yorkshire grounds. It is believed that the introduction of dredge management measures within 6NM in 2015 is the driver behind the reduction in landings, highlighting the value of the grounds within NEIFCA jurisdiction.

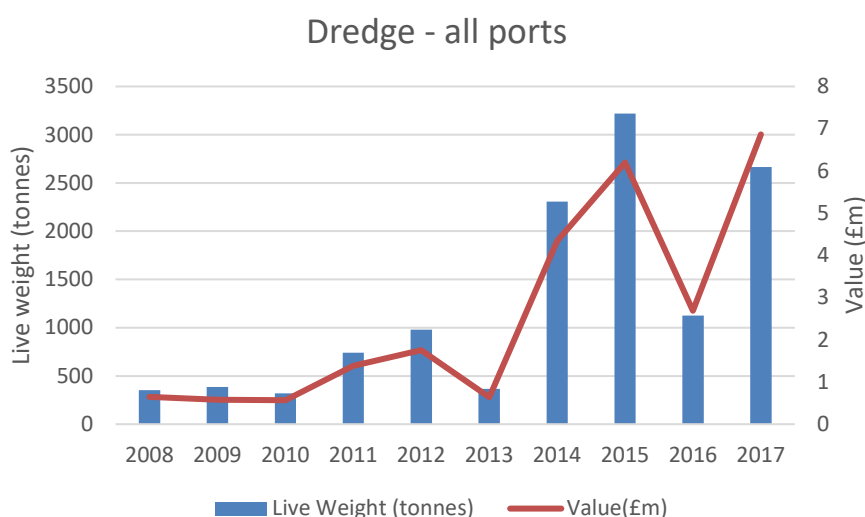


Figure 14. Landings into all ports captured by dredge for the period 2008-2017 and their first sale value.

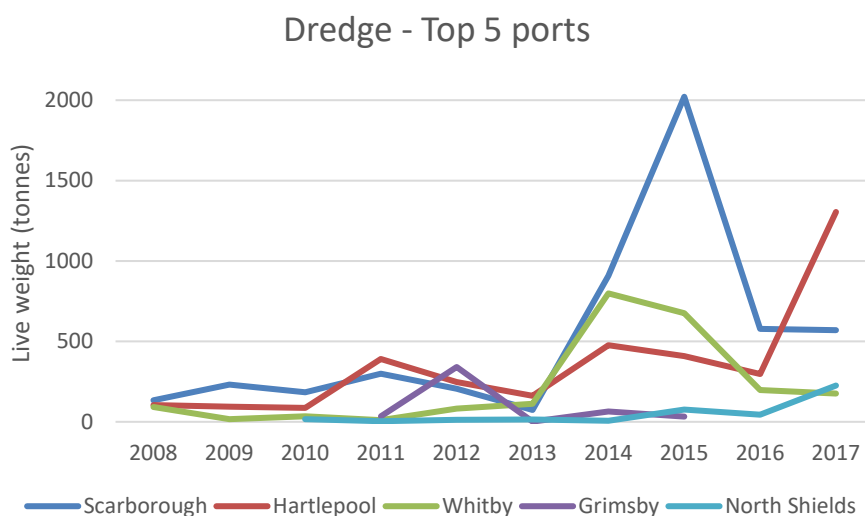


Figure 15. Landings into the top 5 ports captured by dredge for the period 2008-2017.

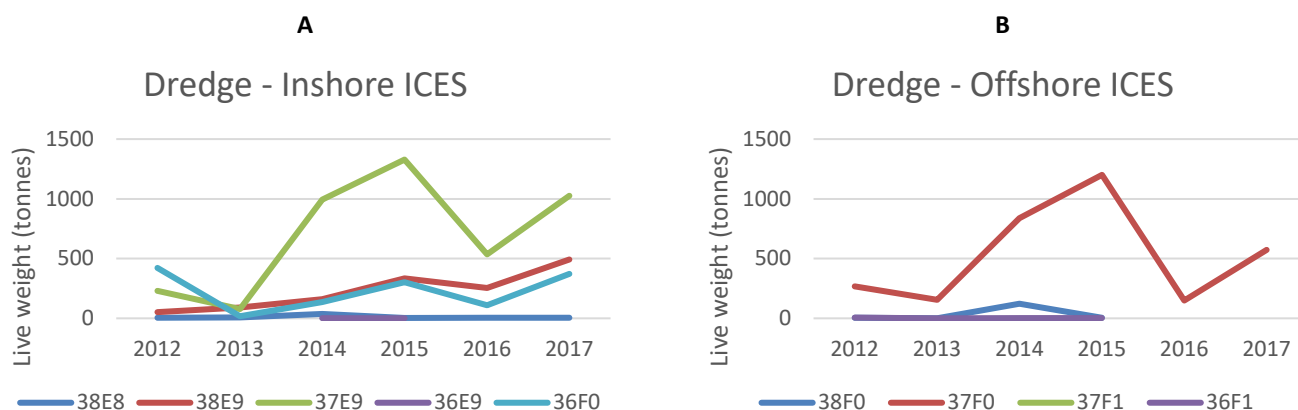


Figure 16. Dredge captured landings by both inshore (A) and offshore (B) ICES rectangles for the period 2012-2017.

5. Demersal trawl/seine

While landings reported under this category could be captured by either demersal (otter) trawl or seine nets, no significant seine net fishery is known to be operating. It is assumed that landings relate specifically to otter trawling. Landings have fluctuated year on year, with average annual landings of 5,000 tonnes (Figure 17). In 2017, the value of trawl landings made into ports was £12.5 million.

The two ports with the highest cumulative landings were North Shields and Grimsby (Figure 18), typically for *Nephrops* and cod respectively (Figure 18 and Figure 19). The increase in regional landings in 2016 can be attributed to cod landed into Grimsby in that year. Other species typically landed in the trawl fishery include whiting, plaice and haddock. There has been a decreasing trend in the volume of these species landed into the district by trawl since 2008 (Figure 21).

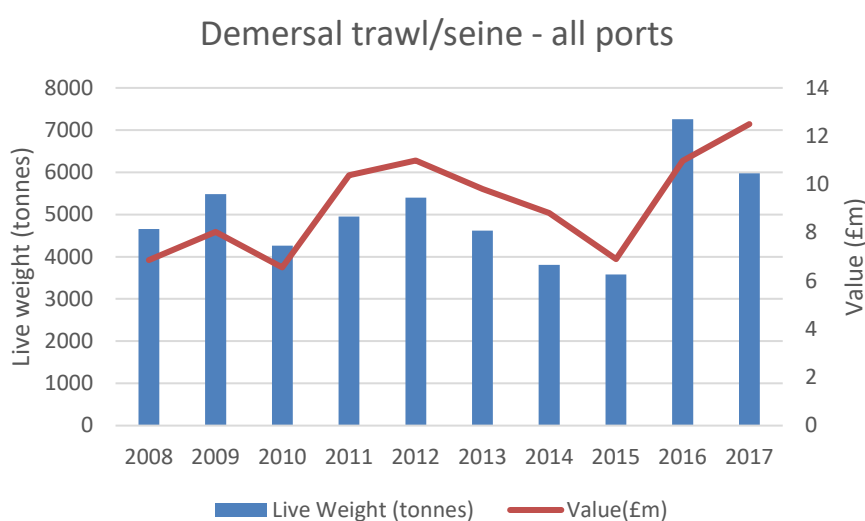


Figure 17. Landings into all ports captured by dredge for the period 2008-2017 and their first sale value.

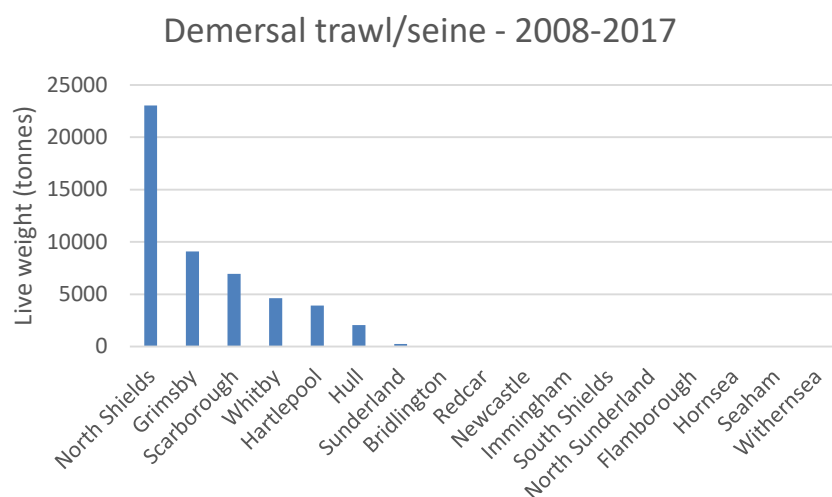


Figure 18. Combined landings into ports captured by demersal trawl/seine during the period 2008-2017.

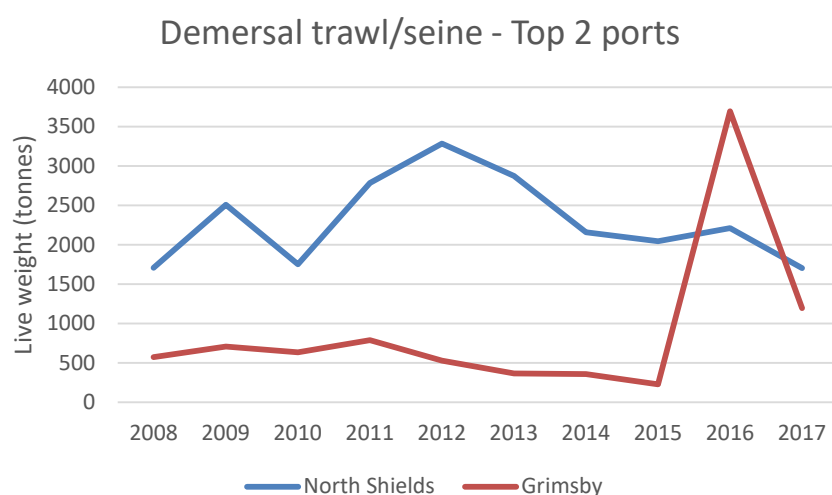


Figure 19. Landings into North Shields and Grimsby captured by demersal trawl/seine for the period 2008-2017.

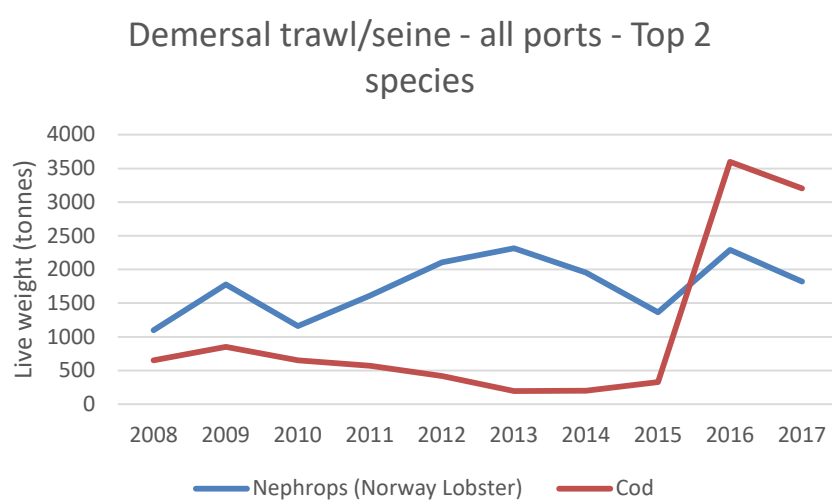


Figure 20. Landings of *Nephrops* and cod into all ports captured by demersal trawl/seine for the period 2008-2017.

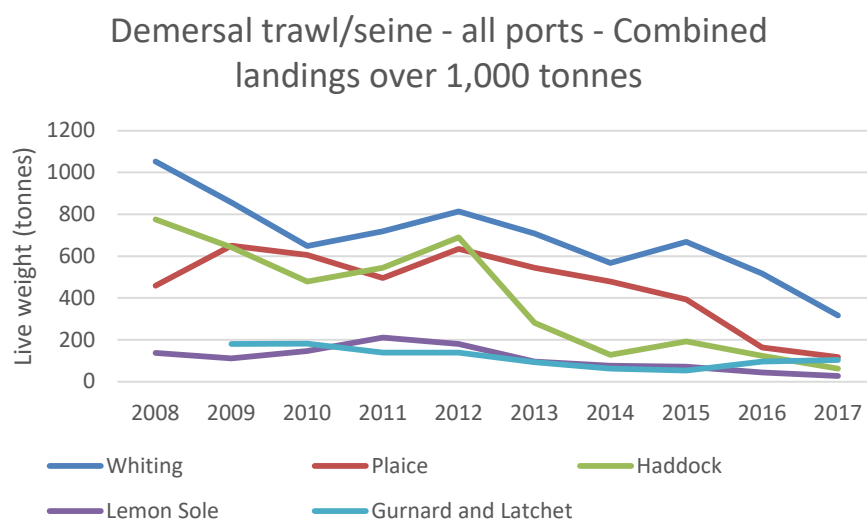


Figure 21. Significant landings into all ports (combined landings of over 1,000 tonnes) of species captured by demersal trawl/seine for the period 2008-2017. Excludes *Nephrops* and cod which are displayed in Figure 18.

Landings into the other main ports highlight the decline of the Whitby trawl fleet, with landings falling from 1,324 tonnes in 2008 to only 23 tonnes in 2017 (Figure 22). Hartlepool landings have remained relatively stable over the study period and now consist almost entirely of *Nephrops* and whiting (Figure 23). Landings into Scarborough have been bolstered by an increase in *Nephrops* landings in recent years, despite a decreasing trend for other species (Figure 24).

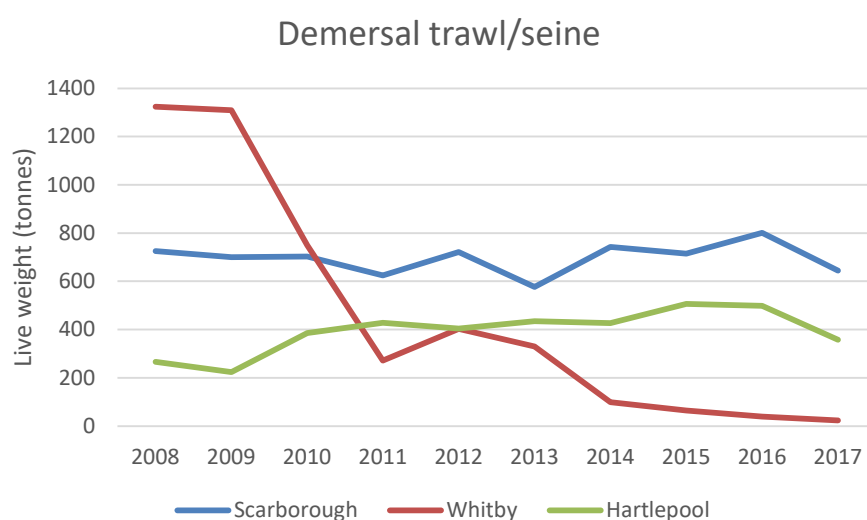


Figure 22. Landings into Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool captured by demersal trawl/seine for the period 2008-2017.

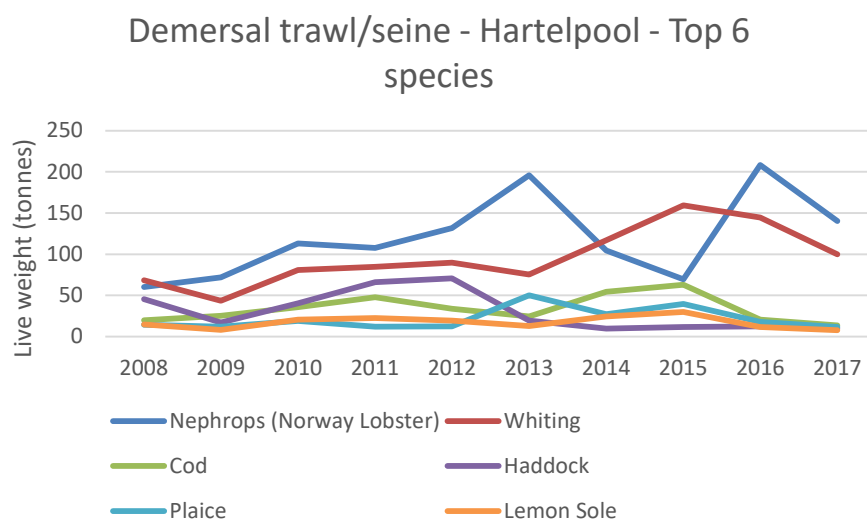


Figure 23. Top six species captured by demersal trawl/seine landed into Hartlepool for the period 2008-2017.

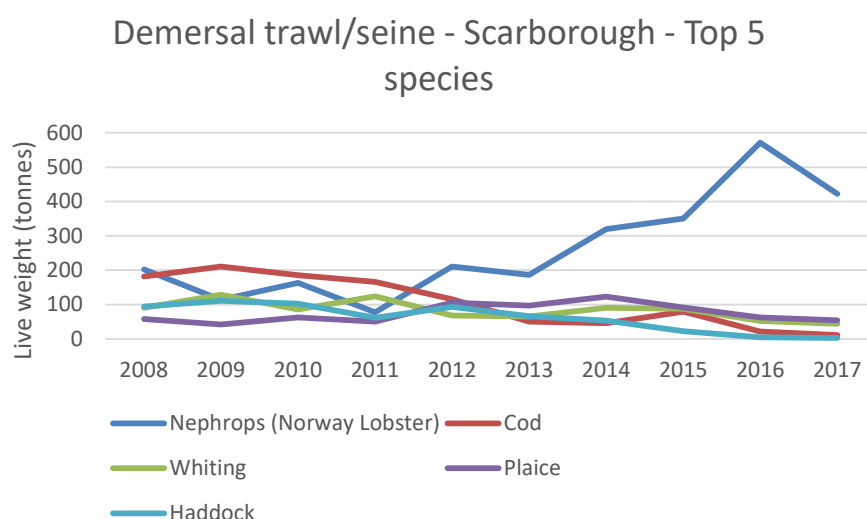


Figure 24. Top five species captured by demersal trawl/seine landed into Scarborough for the period 2008-2017

Data for the inshore ICES rectangles highlight declines in landings for 38E8 and 38E9 (Figure 25). Catches here consist almost entirely of *Nephrops* and whiting (Figure 26 & Figure 27). A significant peak in landings in 2013 from 37E9 can be seen in the data for the offshore ICES (Figure 28). This is attributed to significant landings of herring (1,343 tonnes) and sand eels (1,212 tonnes). While these were captured by UK vessels, it is not reflected in the port data and must therefore have been landed elsewhere.

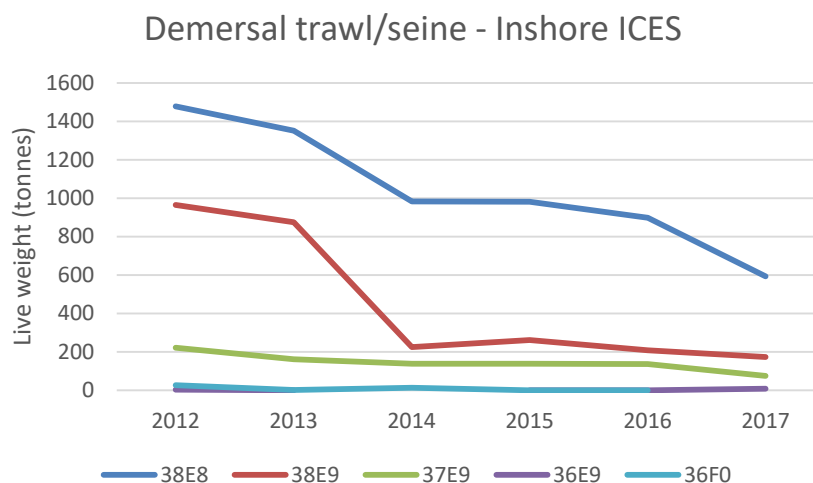


Figure 25. Landings from inshore ICES rectangles captured by demersal trawl/seine for the period 2012-2017.

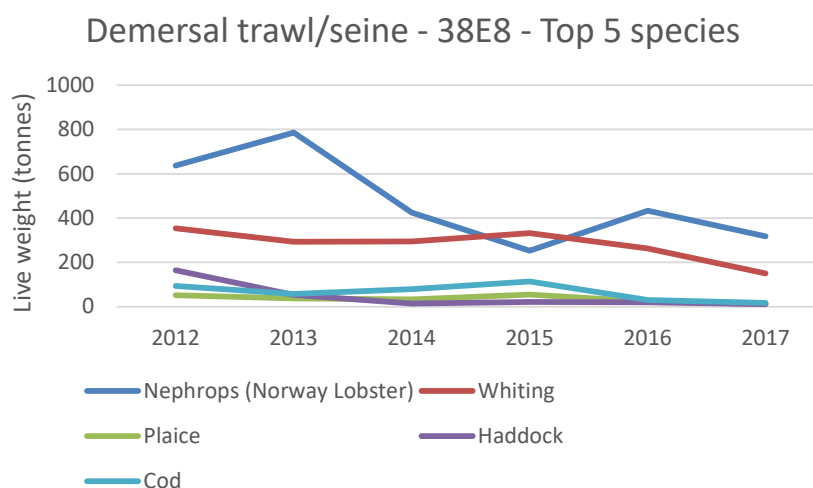


Figure 26. Top five species captured by demersal trawl/seine and landed from ICES rectangle 38E8 for the period 2012-2017.

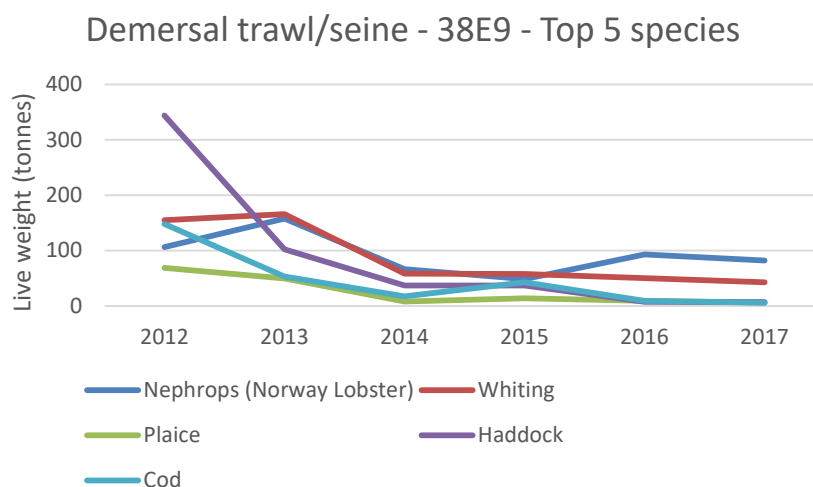


Figure 27. Top five species captured by demersal trawl/seine and landed from ICES rectangle 38E9 for the period 2012-2017.

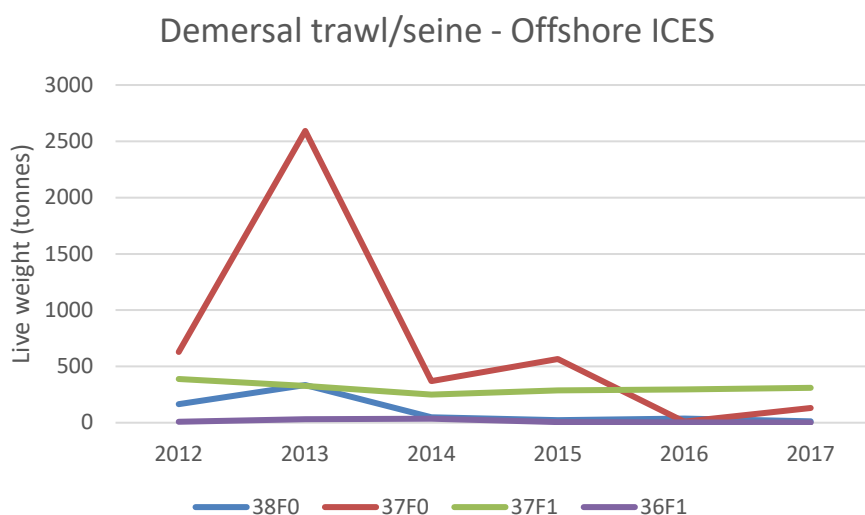


Figure 28. Landings from offshore ICES rectangles captured by demersal trawl/seine for the period 2012-2017.

6. Drift and fixed nets

Landings from nets peaked in 2010 at 170 tonnes but has since reduced to less than 16 tonnes in 2017 (Figure 29). The net fishery is primarily targeted at cod, which accounts for over 55% of landings. Other fin fish species landed include whiting, pollack, turbot, bass, sole and ling. While the data contains landings for edible crab, lobsters and whelks, this is thought to be a reporting anomaly where landings have been attributed to nets rather than pots (Figure 30).

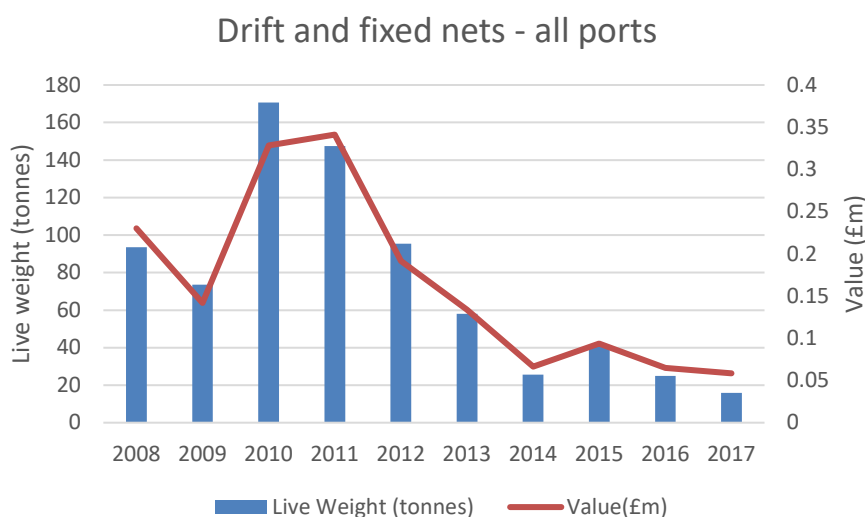


Figure 29. Landings into all ports captured by drift and fixed nets for the period 2008-2017 and their first sale value.

Drift and fixed nets - all ports - 2008-2017 - Cumulative total over 5 tonne

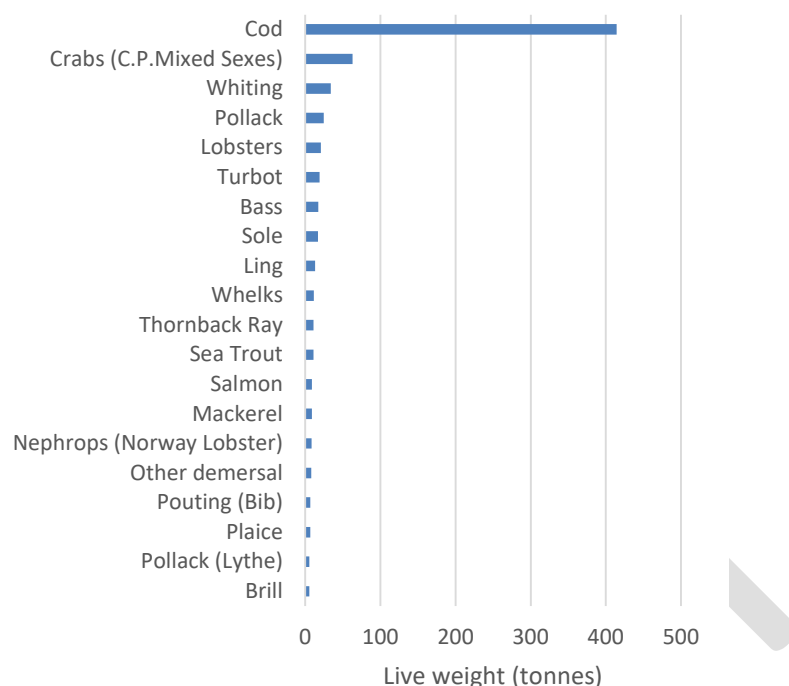


Figure 30. Landings of species with a cumulative total over 5 tonnes captured by drift and fixed nets for the period 2008-2017.

The ports with the highest cumulative landings over the study period were Whitby and Scarborough (Figure 31). Both ports follow the same decreasing trend in landings over time with a modest uplift in 2015/2016 (Figure 32). Effort is restricted to the inshore ICES rectangles, primarily 37E9 and 38E8 (Figure 33). It is likely that the availability of cod quota for small vessels who normally fish with pots is the limiting factor controlling netting effort.

Drift and fixed nets - 2008-2017

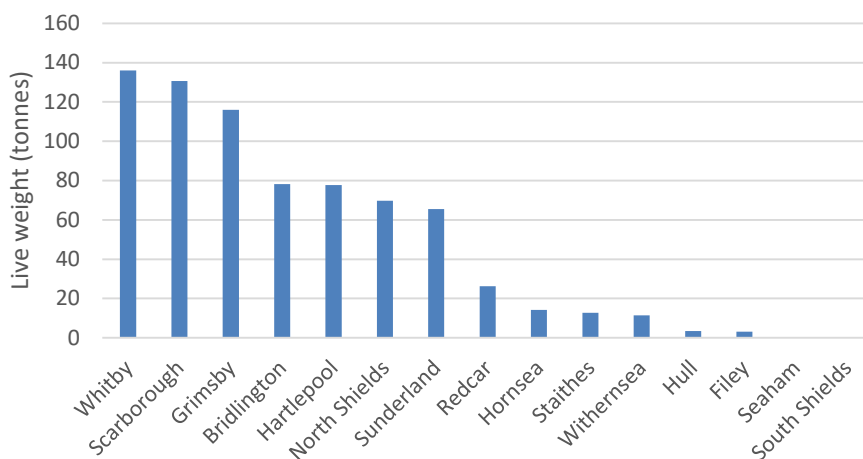


Figure 31. Combined landings into ports captured by drift and fixed nets for the period 2008-2017.

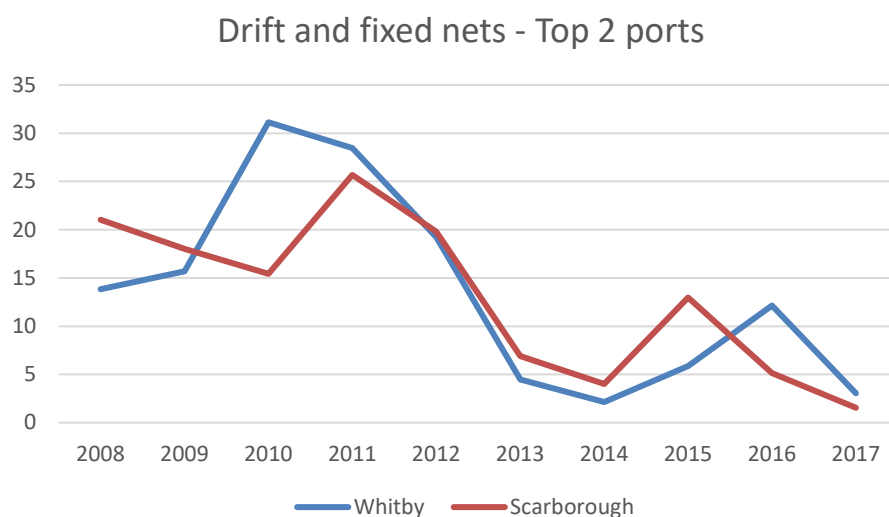


Figure 32. Landings into Whitby and Scarborough captured by drift and fixed nets for the period 2008-2017.

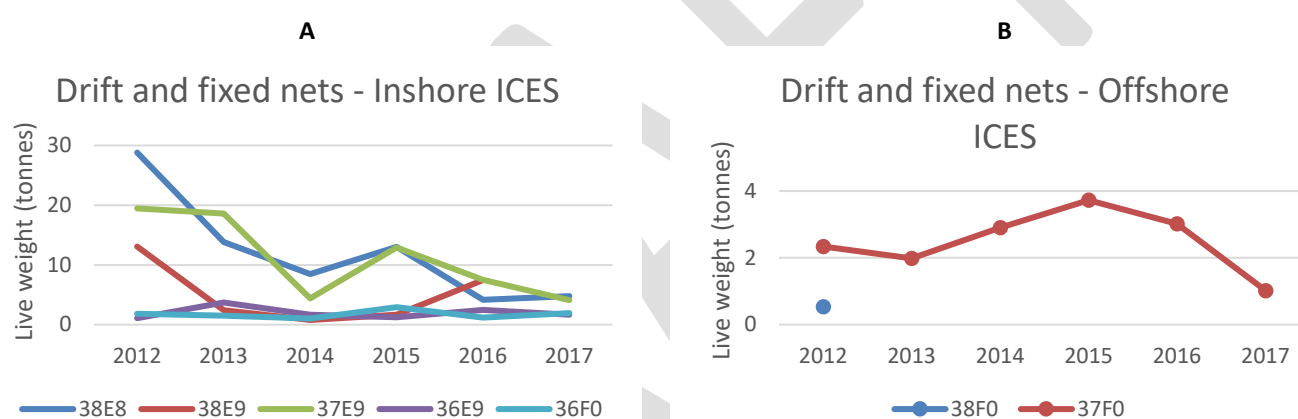


Figure 33. Landings from inshore (A) and offshore (B) ICES rectangles captured by drift and fixed nets for the period 2012-2017.

7. Beam trawl

Beam trawl landings were sporadic over the study period (Figure 34). Landings of brown shrimps into Grimsby between 2008 and 2011 account for almost 73% of all beam trawl landings into ports over the study period (Figure 35). The only other significant landings consisted of *Nephrops* and plaice into Scarborough and Hartlepool in 2012.

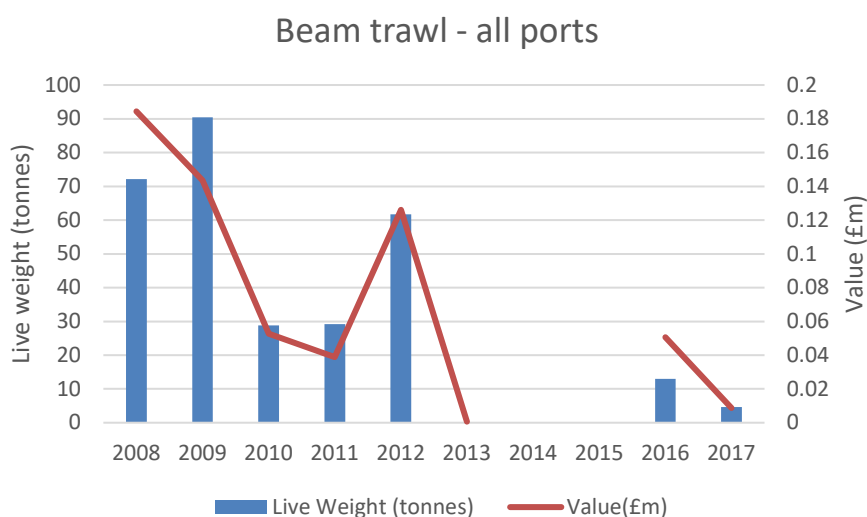


Figure 34. Landings into all ports captured by beam trawl for the period 2008-2017 and their first sale value.

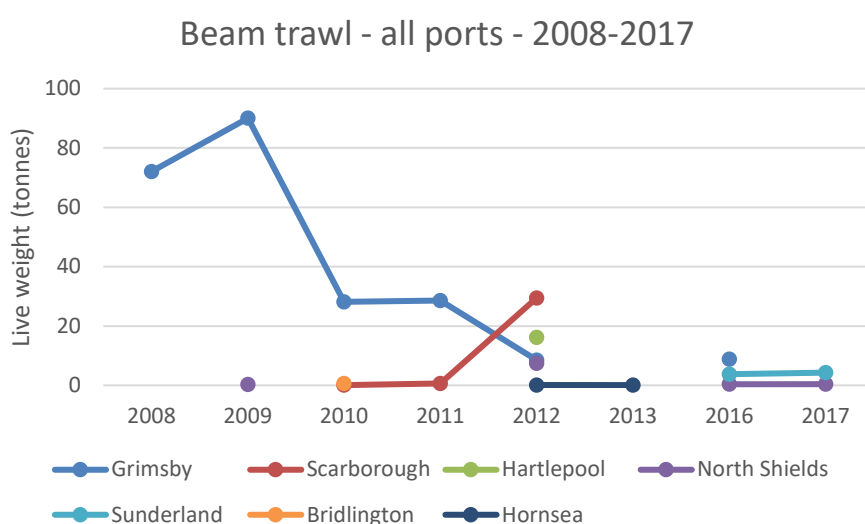


Figure 35. Landings by port captured by beam trawl for the period 2008-2017

8. Gears using hooks

The primary method employed for capture with hooks is thought to be long lining. Landings into the district are sporadic and typically range between 10 and 40 tonnes (Figure 36). Species captured include cod, mackerel and whiting (Figure 37) with incidental capture of other species. Grimsby had the highest cumulative landings (Figure 38) correlating with cod captures from 36F0 (Figure 39), likely to have originated from within the Humber Estuary. Landings into Scarborough and Whitby consist almost exclusively of cod. There have been no significant landings into Scarborough since 2012. As with nets, the availability of quota is likely inhibiting the use of this gear type.

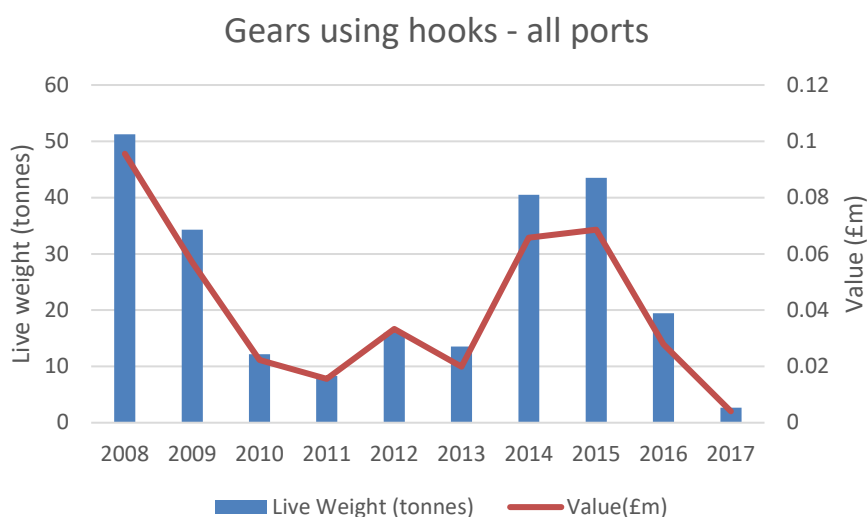


Figure 36. Landings into all ports captured by gears using hooks for the period 2008-2017 and their first sale value.

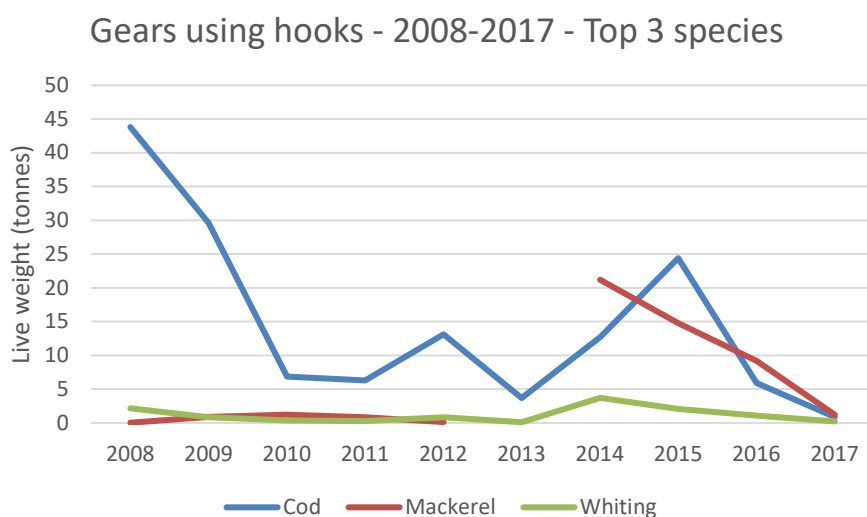


Figure 37. Landings of the top three species landed into ports captured by gears using hooks for the period 2008-2017.

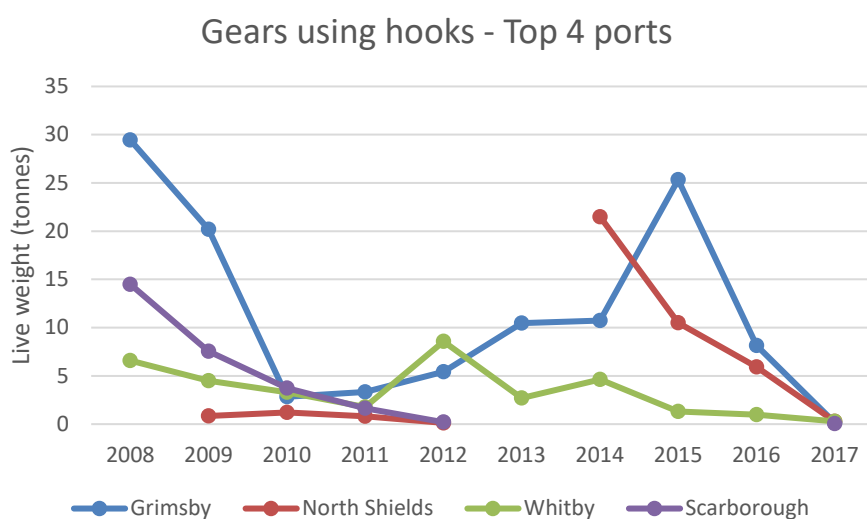


Figure 38. Landings captured by gears using hooks into the top four ports for the period 2008-2017.

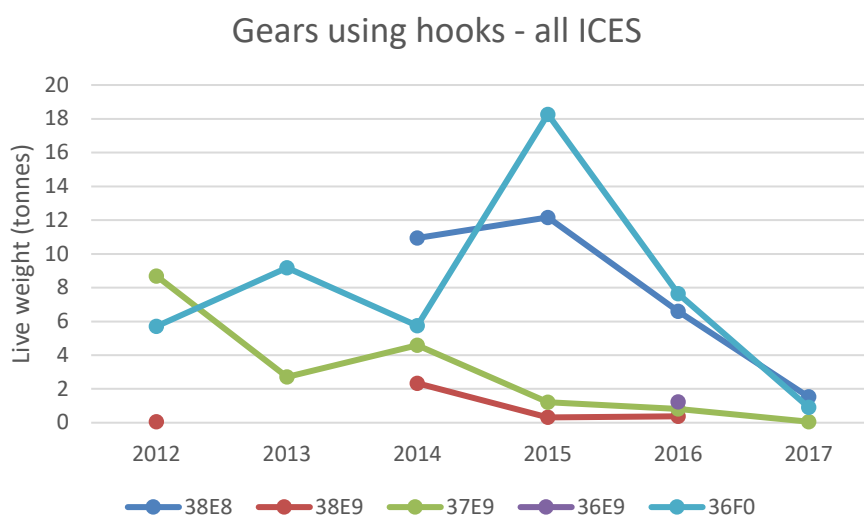


Figure 39. Landings captured by gears using hooks by ICES rectangle for the period 2012-2017.

9. State of the Fisheries

Research and evidence priorities for NEIFCA continue to be lobsters, edible crabs and scallops. The most recent assessments of these fisheries are presented in the 2018/19 Annual Research Report and 2018/19 Scallop Dredge Fishery Report.

Both NEIFCA and Cefas assessments consider the status of the lobster stock to be low and not reaching targets for MSY. NEIFCA data for 2017 suggests that the introduction of mandatory escape gaps in all pots is having a positive impact, reversing the long term trend of increasing harvest rate and reducing mortality estimates towards sustainable levels.

Both NEIFCA and Cefas assessments consider the status of the Edible crab stock to be fairly low. Mortality rates are considered to be high, around the maximum reference point limit for both males and females. It is thought that the increase in the landings size to 140mm and the introduction of escape gaps has contributed to the stabilisation of harvest rates within the district and the impact of these measures will continue to be monitored.

In addition to research on the local scallop fishery, Cefas have begun data collection in order to carry out the first stock assessment of scallops in the North Sea. NEIFCA has benefitted from ongoing dialogue and support from Cefas during the development of the dredge fishery and its assessment. Data collected is shared with Cefas to help improve the evidence base for any future assessments.

The status of the whelk and velvet crab fisheries are not currently assessed. Officers sit on the recently formed Whelk Working Group which consists of regulators, researchers and stakeholders and aims to address key data deficiencies and identify potential management.

The majority of stocks exploited in the district are assessed at the regional seas level. NEIFCA is situated within ICES subarea 4, division b (central North Sea, IVb, Figure 40), which

extends from the south of the district to near Peterhead in northeast Scotland, and across the North Sea to Denmark.

The Greater North Sea is one of the most productive areas in European waters, with 1,762 Ktonnes of total landings in 2015 (Figure 41). Under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, Descriptor 3 – Commercial fish and shellfish) stocks are assessed against targets for Good Environmental Status (GES). For 54 stocks assessed in 2015, 23 had adequate information available in order to determine GES (Figure 42). For a detailed assessment of marine fish stock status under MSFD see <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/status-of-marine-fish-stocks-3/assessment-1>.

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) publishes its advice in November each year to inform annual fisheries negotiations in December. Relevant species information for the North Sea has been provided in Table 1. Links to the original data sources is provided for Members information¹².

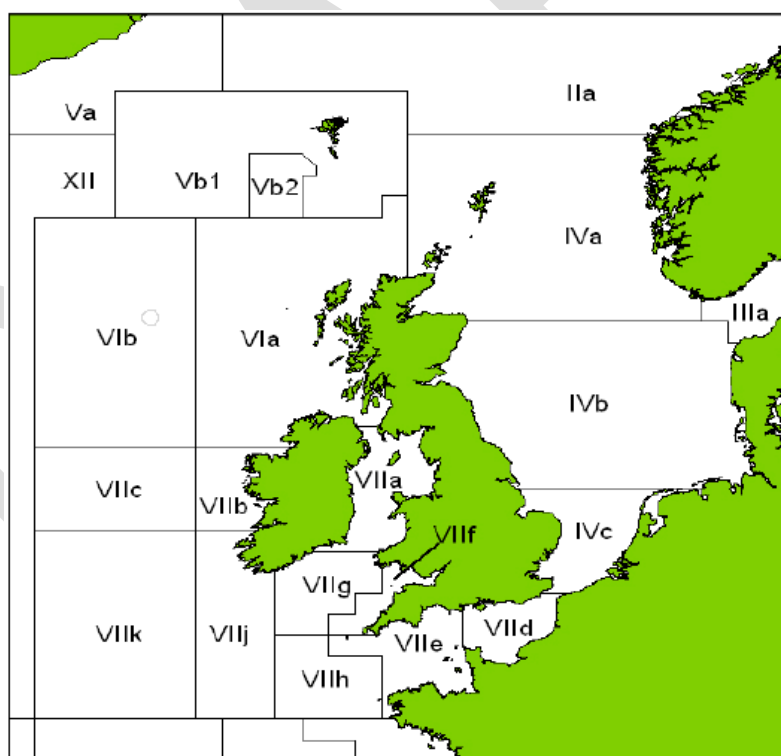
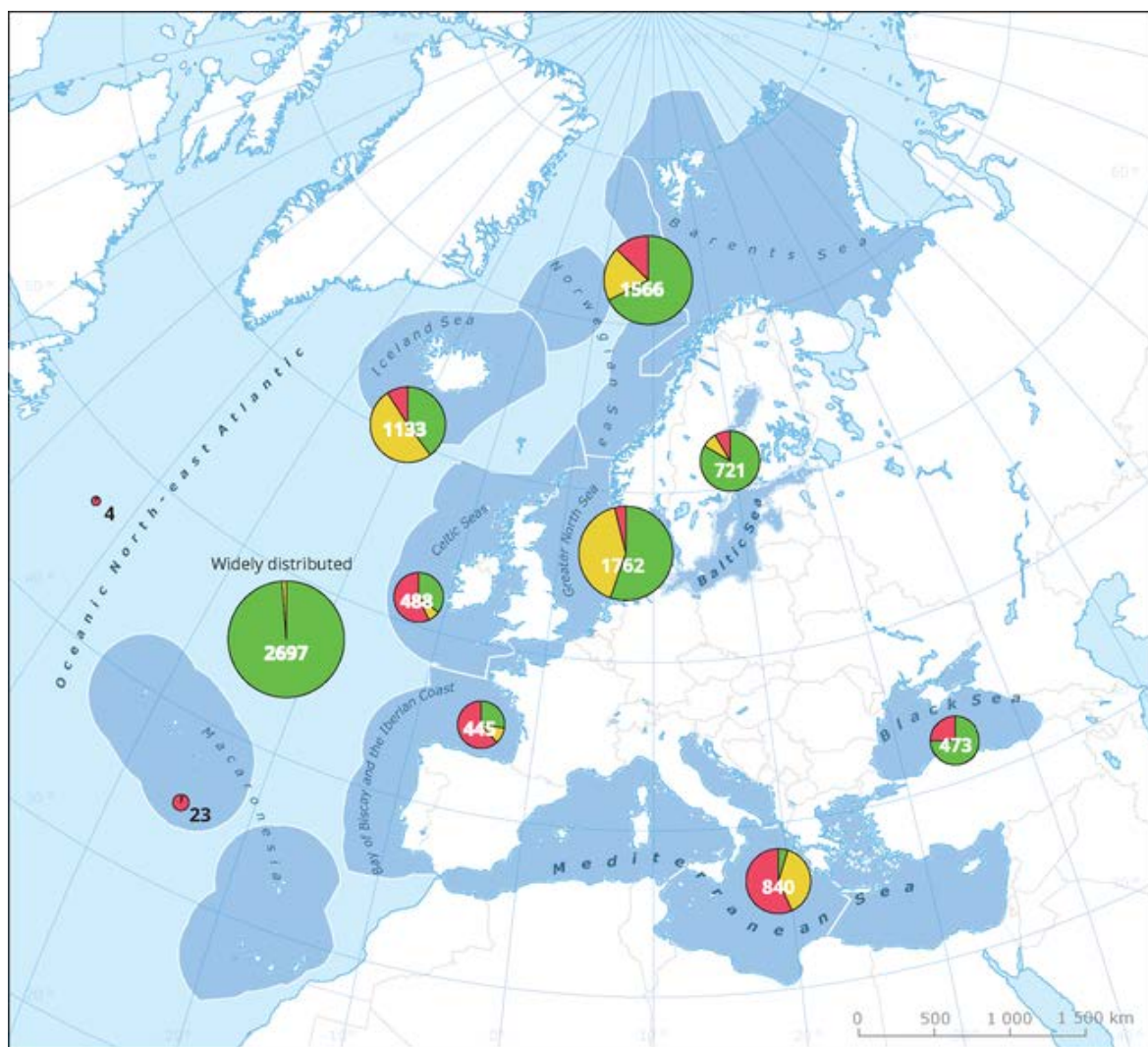


Figure 40. ICES subarea and divisions for waters around the UK.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-sea-fisheries-statistics-2006/pages/52/>

¹http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2018/2018/GreaterNorthSeaEcoregion_FisheriesOverview.pdf

² <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2018/2018/nep.fu.6.pdf>



Landings of fish and shellfish per regional seas, and proportion of landings for which stock assessments were conducted in 2015

Stock information status

- Assessed stocks for which adequate information is available to determine GES for F and/or SSB
- Assessed stocks for which insufficient information is available to determine GES for F and/or SSB
- Unassessed stocks

Note:

"Widely distributed" includes stocks that cover more than 3 ecoregions
 "F": fishing mortality
 "SSB": Spawning Stock Biomass

Total landings (X Ktonnes)

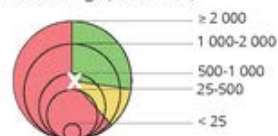
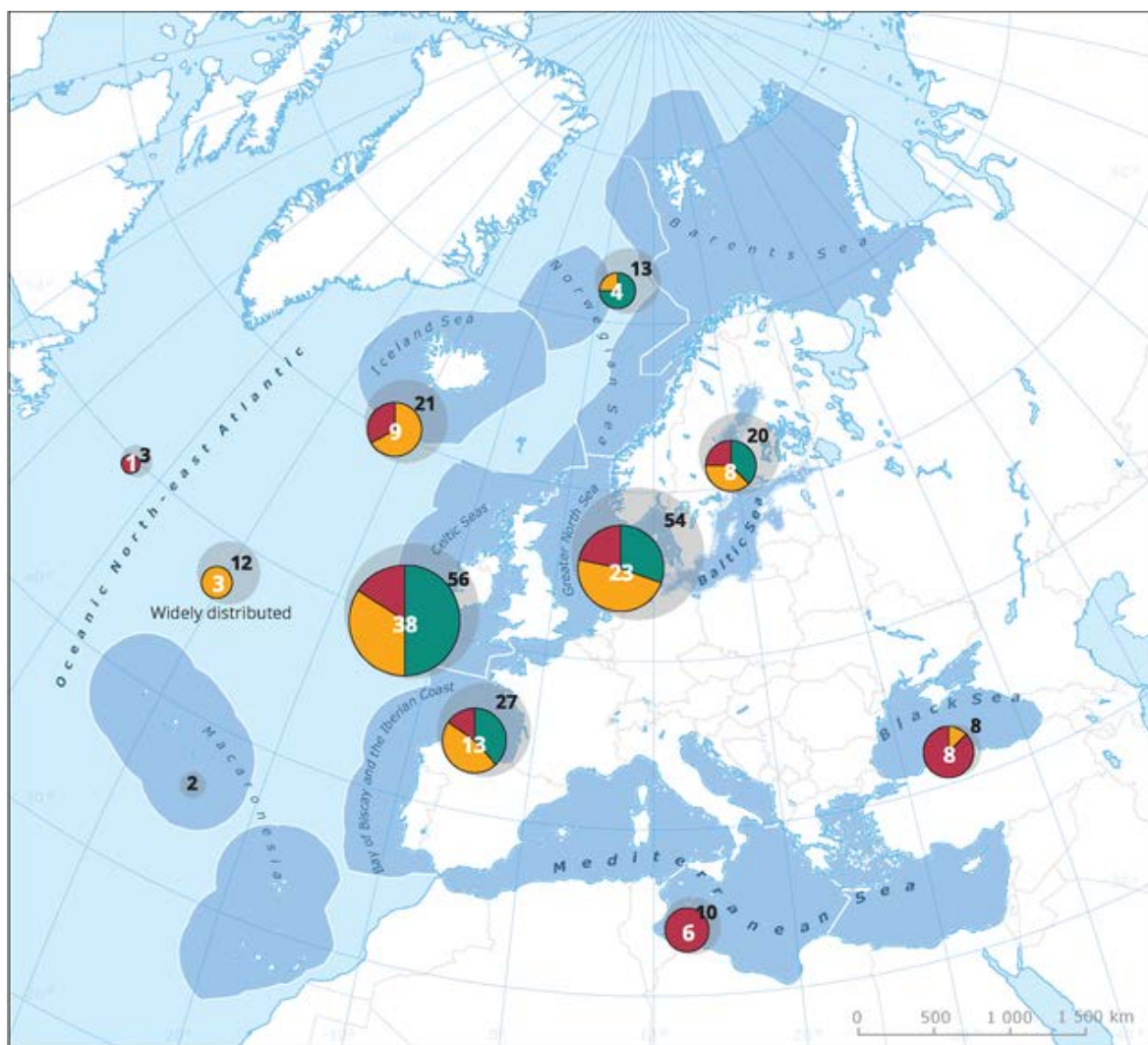


Figure 41. Landings of fish and shellfish per regional sea, and proportion of landings for which stock assessments are available.

This figure shows landings of commercial fish and shellfish per regional sea, and the proportions of landings for which stock assessments were conducted in 2015. A distinction is made between the landings for (1) assessed stocks for which adequate information is available to determine good environmental status (GES) for fishing mortality (F) and/or reproductive capacity (spawning stock biomass (SSB)); (2) assessed stocks for which insufficient information is available to determine GES for F and/or SSB; and (3) unassessed stocks (for further information see EEA CSI032, 2018, Methodology section, on how this distinction is made, and European Commission Decision 2017/848/EU on criteria and methodological standards on GES of marine waters).

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/total-catch-in-ices-and-gfcm-fishing-regions-of-europe-in-4>



Status of the assessed European fish and shellfish stocks in relation to Good Environmental Status (GES) per regional sea in 2015

Stocks for which information to determine GES is available

- Stocks in GES based on both fishing mortality and reproductive capacity
- Stocks in GES based on either fishing mortality or reproductive capacity
- Stocks not in GES based on fishing mortality and/or reproductive capacity

Notes:

"Widely distributed" includes stocks that cover more than 3 ecoregions

GES could not be calculated for the Macaronesia as it only concerns assessed stocks for which inadequate information is available to determine GES

Total number (Y) of assessed stocks and number of assessed stocks (X) for which adequate information is available to determine GES

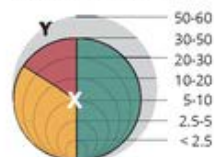


Figure 42. Status of the assessed European fish stocks in relation to Good Environmental Status per regional sea.

This figure shows the status of the assessed European fish stocks in relation to 'Good Environmental Status' (GES) per regional sea in 2015. Stocks for which adequate information is available to determine GES for fishing mortality (F) and/or reproductive capacity (spawning stock biomass (SSB)) are included in this figure (i.e. total number of assessed stocks). A distinction is made between stocks (1) in GES, based on both fishing mortality and reproductive capacity; (2) in GES, based on either fishing mortality or reproductive capacity; and (3) not in GES, based on fishing mortality and/or reproductive capacity (see the Methodology section for further information on how GES is determined). As assessments are carried out in a multiannual cycle within the Mediterranean, the number of stocks included for the Mediterranean depends on the period covered.

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/status-of-fish-stocks-in-5>

Table 1. Status summary of Greater North Sea stocks in 2018 relative to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and the ICES precautionary approach (PA).
Grey represents unknown reference points. For MSY: green represents a stock that is fished below FMSY or the stock size is above MSY Btrigger; red represents a stock that is fished above FMSY or the stock size is lower than MSY Btrigger. For PA: green represents a stock that is fished below Fpa or the stock size is above Bpa; yellow represents a stock that is fished between Fpa and Flim or the stock size is between Blim and Bpa; red represents a stock that is fished above Flim or the stock size is below Blim. Stocks having a fishing mortality rate at or below Fpa and a stock size above Bpa are defined as being inside safe biological limits. Grey represents stocks for which reference points are unknown. SBL = safe biological limits; MSFD = Marine Strategy Framework Directive; D3C1 = MSFD indicator for fishing mortality; D3C2 = MSFD indicator for spawning-stock biomass; GES = good environmental status.

Stock code and name	Fish category	Reference point	SBL	Fishing pressure			Stock size			MSFD descriptor		
				2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
bll.27.3a47de Brill in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d-e (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, English Channel)	benthic	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
bss.27.4bc7ad-h Seabass in divisions 4.b-c, 7.a, and 7.d-h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea)	demersal	PA	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
cod.27.47d20 Cod in Subarea 4, division 7.d, and subdivision 20 (North Sea, eastern English Channel, Skagerrak)	demersal	MSY	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
dab.27.3a4 Dab in Subarea 4 and division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	benthic	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
dgs-nea Spurdog in Subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	elasmobranch	MSY	?	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
ele.2737.nea European eel throughout its natural range	demersal	PA	?	?	?	?	✗	✗	✗	?	✗	?
fle.27.3a4 Flounder in Subarea 4 and division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	benthic	MSY	?	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	?	?

Stock code and name	Fish category	Reference point	SBL	Fishing pressure			Stock size			MSFD descriptor		
				2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
had.27.46a20 Haddock in Subarea 4, division 6.a and subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak)	demersal	MSY	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
her.27.3a47d Herring in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d, autumn spawners (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	pelagic	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
hke.27.3a46-8abd Hake in Subareas 4, 6 and 7 and divisions 3.a, 8.a-b and 8.d, Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, and the northern Bay of Biscay)	demersal	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
hom.27.3a4bc7d Horse mackerel in divisions 3.a, 4.b-c, and 7.d (Skagerrak and Kattegat, southern and central North Sea, eastern English Channel)	pelagic	MSY	?	?	✗	✗	?	?	?	✗	?	?
lem.27.3a47d Lemon sole in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	benthic	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
mac.27.nea Mackerel in Subareas 1-8 and 14 and division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	pelagic	MSY	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
mur.27.3a47d Striped red mullet in Subarea 4 and divisions 7.d and 3.a (North Sea, eastern English Channel, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	demersal	MSY	?	✗	✗	✗	?	?	?	✗	?	?

Stock code and name	Fish category	Reference point	SBL	Fishing pressure			Stock size			MSFD descriptor		
				2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
*nep.fu.6 Nephrops in division 4.b, Functional Unit 6 (central North Sea, Farn Deep)	crustacean	MSY	?	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	?	?	?
ple.27.420 Plaice in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and subdivision 20 (Skagerrak)	benthic	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
pok.27.3a46 Saithe in Subareas 4, 6, and division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	demersal	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
san.sa.1r Sandeel in divisions 4.b and 4.c, Sandeel Area 1r (central and southern North Sea, Dogger Bank)	demersal	MSY	?	?	?	?	✗	✓	✓	?	✓	?
sol.27.4 Sole in Subarea 4 (North Sea)	benthic	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
spr.27.4 Sprat in Subarea 4 (North Sea)	pelagic	MSY	?	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	?
tur.27.4 Turbot in Subarea 4 (North Sea)	benthic	PA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
usk.27.3a45b6a7-912b Tusk in Subareas 4 and 7-9, and divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic)	demersal	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
whb.27.1-91214 Blue whiting in Subareas 1-9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	pelagic	MSY	✓	?	✗	✗	?	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
whg.27.47d Whiting in Subarea 4 and division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel)	demersal	MSY	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
wit.27.3a47d Witch in Subarea 4 and divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	benthic	MSY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Data incorporated from <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2018/2018/nep.fu.6.pdf>

DRAFT

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
27 June 2019

Chief Officer's Operational Report

Report of the Chief Officer

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members with a comprehensive and detailed operational report covering the period December to May 2019.

B. Recommendation

That Members note the report.

1. Overview

1.1 NEIFCA

Fishing Activity

Since December weather patterns have been reasonably settled and the area hasn't experienced the severe conditions which took hold this time last year and the industry has been able to operate with only sporadic limited interruption.

Those vessels working pots typically landed between 10 and 20 kg of lobster and up to 80 kg of edible crab per day. First sale prices peaked through the period at £28 per kg for lobster and £2.30 per kg for edible crab. One Whitby based vessel worked lines periodically during the period with average landings of 200 kg of codling per trip. The three permitted scallop dredgers operated throughout the period until the end of April reporting total landings of 287.5 tonnes of king scallops between December and January, an increase of 89 tonnes when compared with the same period last year. Reports from recreational sea anglers indicated some good fishing for codling throughout the District particularly during December and January.

Gear Conflict

During the last four months there has been a marked increase in nomadic scallop dredging activity surrounding the Authority's district, particularly on grounds six to nine miles off Whitby and Scarborough. A number of illegal incursions inside the six mile limit of the Authority's district have also been reported and detected. This activity has invariably led to the loss and damage of lobster pots owned and operated by the local fishing industry causing significant impact on their businesses. Authority officers have been working very hard to counter this activity through the monitoring of both VMS and AIS transmissions

from the vessels involved, varying patrol times and using the Northumberland IFCA patrol vessel in partnership with colleagues to the North. The main issues have centred around one particular fishing company based in the West of Scotland who own and operate four vessels and six cases are pending against them for a range of offences from fishing illegally inside the Authority's district to failure to maintain a full functioning AIS and landing undersize king scallops. In the main these vessels have been working out of Hartlepool. Aside from maintaining a 24/7 presence at sea, which cannot be resourced, the Authority's officers can offer little more and have been working as hard as they possibly can to manage the situation.

In the short to medium term achieving some additional marine enforcement powers from the MMO could significantly assist the Officers efforts in tackling the issues more effectively. Sign off of the five outstanding byelaw regulations would also help, particularly extending mandatory AIS across all operators. In the long term a much more effective solution would be an extension to the Authority's district to 12 nautical miles. This, over time, would enable application of the Authority's dredging byelaw regulations beyond 6 nautical miles and stronger spatial management of the opposing activities. Representation supporting such measures has already been made in writing to the Fisheries Minister, Robert Goodwill MP, who is also the local MP for Scarborough.

'Berried' Lobster Prohibition

Widespread breaches of legislation protecting egg bearing lobsters continue to present officers with significant issues. Two cases have been successfully prosecuted in Court attracting fines and costs totalling £2,462, multiple formal warning letters, cautions and fixed penalty notices have also been issued. A further eleven cases remain under investigation. Officers are continuing to develop testing techniques to identify lobsters which have been manually scrubbed to remove eggs.

Seabass Netting

During the last two years new European fisheries regulations which prohibit the commercial exploitation of sea bass from the shore have conflicted with the Authority's intertidal sea bass permit scheme. Prior to the introduction of the regulations significant representations were made to both Defra and the EU regarding the serious impact that the measures would have on the fishery. These representations included active lobbying for some form of dispensation to enable the intertidal fishery to continue. This lobbying also received strong support from local MPs, MEPs and Councillors and with the expectation that a dispensation might be agreed, permits were issued for the 2017/2018 season. Unfortunately a dispensation was not forthcoming and in light of the continuation of the prohibition on commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore and based on legal advice, permits were withheld for the 2018/2019 season otherwise, in effect, the Authority would be permitting a prohibited activity. Members have been kept updated on the situation via email bulletins and a further report on the issue has been included on the agenda of this meeting for further consideration. No formal change to the current European wide prohibition on commercial fishing for sea bass from the shore is anticipated until January 2020.

NEIFCA Organisational Review

An extensive amount of work has now been completed to inform the NEIFCA internal organisational review. Comparative assessments have been completed with eight of the ten

IFCA's and a range of external organisations. One to one consultations with NEIFCA staff have also been completed. Work on drafting a summary report has also commenced and it is expected that this will be presented to the September Executive for consideration.

Replacement Patrol Vessel Project

Alongside the internal review this is also a major piece of ongoing work. A final draft version of an outline drawing covering a replacement for the main vessel has now been completed and shared with some potential manufacturers. This aspect of the work will continue during the next few months with targeted visits planned to main shipyards in the UK, Spain, the Netherlands, Norway and Finland. Officers attending those visits will make a detailed assessment of the facilities and capabilities of the respective yards and seek indicative quotations for the build and commissioning of the main replacement vessel. Alongside the build and supply of the main vessel parallel work has also continued on two supporting daughter craft which also form part of the overall project. This aspect of the project has now been completed. Officers have visited five manufacturers based throughout the UK and Northern Ireland and are still awaiting receipt of one indicative quotation. At this stage officers anticipate being in a position to share the findings of this work to the September Executive meeting for consideration.

1.2 National

Almost all national work continues to be focused on preparations for the future exit of the European Union with primary involvement through the IFCA Chief Officers Group and the national Association of IFCAs.

A further independent review into the role and functioning of IFCA's was recently commissioned by Defra. The consultants leading the review, Risk and Policy Analysts (RPA) and ABPmer, have largely completed the work which has involved telephone interviews with all the Chief Officers followed by more involved engagement with North Western IFCA, Eastern IFCA, Cornwall IFCA and Devon and Severn IFCA. The four IFCA areas were chosen as being representative of large, medium and small sized IFCAs in terms of their membership, budgets and functionality. The final report is expected to be completed during July 2019 and will inform future considerations.

Seafish are also leading on engagement at a national level which is examining the future of UK inshore fisheries. IFCA's are currently involved through the Chief Officers Group and the national Association of IFCAs.

1.3 Summary of meetings and events attended

National Association of IFCAs, London	4 th December 2018
Seascapes project meeting, Durham	11 th December 2018
Annual NEIFCA training event, York	12 th to 14 th December 2018
IFCA Chief Officers Group, London	15 th to 16 th January 2019

Flamborough Head Regional Advisory Group	22 nd January 2019
Coastal Futures Conference, London	24 th January 2019
IFCA Officer Training Course, Torquay	5 th to 8 th February 2019
MMO NMA TT&CG, dial in	6 th February 2019
MMO EMA TT&CG, dial in	11 th February 2019
IFCA MPA Management Event, Houses of Parliament	12 th February 2019
Seascapes project engagement	15 th February 2019
IFCA TAG Conference, Lancaster	19 th to 21 st February 2019
Meeting Defra, York	1 st March 2019
National Association of IFCA review workshop, London	4 th March 2019
National Association of IFCA, London	5 th March 2019
MMO NMA TT&CG, dial in	6 th March 2019
Seascapes project engagement	12 th March 2019
Defra Review of IFCAs, dial in	18 th March 2019
Northern Ireland Daera exchange visit, Whitby	20 th to 22 nd March 2019
MMO NMA TT&CG, dial in	3 April 2019
IFCA Chief Officers group, London	10 th April 2019
North Yorkshire Police, Whitby	16 th April 2019
Hull University, Bridlington	24 th April 2019
Flamborough Head Regional Advisory Group	30 th April 2019
Humber Estuary Regional Advisory Group, Barton	1 st May 2019
MMO NMA TT&CG, dial in	1 st May 2019
Holderness Fisheries Local Action Group, Bridlington	1 st May 2019
National whelk working group, dial in	2 nd May 2019
University of Hull meeting, Hull	7 th May 2019
Boulby Potash Mine annual monitoring workshop, Boulby	8 th May 2019
Yorkshire Marine Coastal Biodiversity Group, York	9 th May 2019

Northern Ireland Daera exchange visit, Belfast

15th to 17th May 2019

York University Wentworth College post-graduate presentation 4th June 2019

Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA designation media event 5th June 2019

1.4 **Priority Work streams for the next six months**

- Implementation of new byelaw regulations.
- Continue ongoing marine protected area work streams, monitoring and enforcement of regulations.
- Continue specification and procurement work on new fisheries vessel, clarify the required budget and finalise, funding support.
- Draft and presentation of recommendations from the 2019 NEIFCA staffing and organisational review.
- Commence work on a new NEIFCA website.

2.0 **NEIFCA Operational Reports**

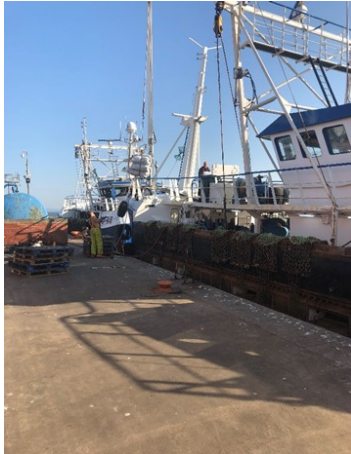
2.1 **Land-based Work streams**

2.1.1 **Enforcement**

As weather conditions began to improve across the summer months, becoming more favourable for vessels to proceed to sea, activity across the NEIFCA district increased. The shore enforcement team maintained an intensive schedule of patrols and inspections on land and at sea utilising the authority's two RIB's to undertake boarding's at sea across the NEIFCA district. In addition to enforcement matters officers have been actively engaging with fishermen at all NEIFCA ports ensuring that the industry across the NEIFCA district are fully aware of current legislation. Officers have been actively publishing posters around the ports and harbours of the NEIFCA district reminding the industry of current legislation and that they fully understand NEIFCA Byelaws

At the start of the reporting period 3 large vivier crab fishing vessels arrived at Hartlepool one of the NEIFCA Ports. All 3 vessels were fishing outside the NEIFCA district at around 9-30 Nautical miles offshore. NEIFCA officer engaged with the 3 vessels and inspected landings the ranges of 9-30 tonnes of Edible crab.

A large number of nomadic scallop vessels remained fishing beyond the NEIFCA district and landing at the district's harbours and ports such as Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarborough and Officers engaged with these vessels, some of which were returning whilst others were new to the area. Officers stressed the importance that vessels which are fishing in the area are made aware of the NEIFCA AIS legislation that affects them when transiting through the NEIFCA district. Officers have been routinely boarding all scallop dredgers and inspecting catches of king scallops



Officers have patrolled the Holderness coast using the authority's John Deere 4x4 Gator which enables officers to reach remote areas of the Holderness coast where inter tidal netting is conducted. Sole permits were issued on the 1st May to 30th June 2019 enabling the 5 permitted fishermen to target a different species other than sea bass.

While out on patrol officers have engaged with recreational anglers and handed out useful educational leaflets notifying them of certain species they are not allowed to land and the correct fish sizes.

Bridlington and the Holderness coast have a large fishing fleet. Lost fishing equipment is often found along this stretch of this remote coast line. While officers are out on patrol of the Holderness coast. Officers frequently come across plastic litter or lost fishing equipment and remove and dispose of this litter with the use of the authority's John Deere 4x4 Gator.



Shore Officers have continued full engagement with the Intelligence reporting procedure, reporting in any information and prioritising work around key targets. Intelligence gathering and reporting has led to a number of successful operations targeting illegal fishing activity.

During the reporting period, 199 inspections have been undertaken by the shore team covering the following fishing activities:

- Potting
- Angling
- Scallop Dredging

- Netting
- Limited Shellfish Permits
- Unattended inspections
- Prawn Trawlers
- Premises Inspections

2.1.2 **Training**

During the reporting period officers have undergone courses to allow them to perform in their role to their full potential. Over the reporting period, officers have been involved in the following courses:

- Two day VHF short wave radio course
- RYA Advanced Powerboat- To improve officer's knowledge of RIB handling and operation.
- National, residential IFCA training course in Torquay.

2.1.3 **Outreach & Joint Working**

Enforcement Officers work alongside a number of organisations and agencies on a regular basis and it is important that links with these groups are maintained on a regular basis. NEIFCA shore officers assisted with joint patrols with Northumberland IFCA during the months of May carrying out routine enforcement work at sea inspecting nomadic scallop vessels

- Northumberland IFCA
- North East Maritime Trust, South Shields
- Environment agency
- Marine Management Organisation
- Whitby and Scarborough harbour staff
- Grimsby Fish Market

2.1.4 **Recreational Angling Report** **IFCO Daniel Bennett**

The fishing all around the district through December has been excellent with a higher than average size of codling being caught. Anglers are regularly catching fish over 2.5kg on most occasions. The bigger specimens are now being seen as with fish up to 6kg coming from all around the district as the fish begin to roe up ready for spawning in the spring.

Whiting failed to make a show in the large numbers that are usually expected in the northern half of the district. Anglers are putting this down to the mild winter we've had at present.

The River Tyne and Wear has seen a large influx of fingerling codlings around 6 to 8 inches in size which shows good signs for the coming years. The estuaries are also seeing flounders to 1kg to the match anglers.

Roker pier has now opened after a long period of repairs and anglers have seen good sport with lots of codlings and coalfish getting caught.

Seaham north pier and the area at the base of the south pier known as the 'green wall' have been fishing very well with codlings averaging 1.5kg.

2.2 Offshore Work streams

2.2.1 General Review of Offshore Fishing Activity

Trawling

Trawling inshore has been very limited within the Authority's district. During the reporting period only a couple of vessels from Scarborough have actively been fishing around Scarborough and Filey bay with good landings of dover and lemon soles and whiting.

The Nephrop fishery off the Hartlepool and Durham Coast line started well, showing earlier than expected. Local prawn vessels were landing on average 4-6 boxes and a selection of mixed species of fish per day.

Potting

Potting activity has been high this reporting period supported by good sea conditions. At the start of the reporting period lobster prices remained high averaging £29 kg and edible crab £5.50 kg at some NEIFCA ports

Netting

Netting activity observed throughout the reporting period was very limited throughout the reporting period

Scalloping

3 permitted scallop dredges based in Scarborough commenced scallop dredging activity, under the Authority's permitting scheme, all producing good landings of king scallops closely. Throughout the duration of the season activities were closely monitored by the North Eastern Guardian III and the scientific and environmental team

2.2.2 Research & Survey Work

Offshore research & survey work included static baited cameras and bottom towed camera work to observe the condition of the sea bed.

NEG III continued with the monitoring of sea temperature, salinity and turbidity throughout the Authority's district and has started its annual potting survey.

2.2.3 Joint Operations

Joint operations continue as a priority with shore staff and offshore staff aiding each other with enforcement duties making optimal use of sometimes very limited resources. NEIFCA Officers have also conducted a number of night time sea patrols with Northumberland IFCA resulting in one offence being detected involving a scallop vessel fishing illegally within the NEIFCA district.

2.2.4 Offshore Enforcement Summary

Between December and May 2019 NEG III completed 39 sea patrols, 280 vessel inspections covering over 1,982.88 nautical miles. 52 fishing vessels were boarded and inspected. 6 offences were reported and 1 verbal warning was issued. There has been a large number of scallop vessel working just outside the district which has resulted in fishing gear conflict with the local potting industry. NEGIII has assisted potting vessels in retrieving some static fishing gear that had been towed away.

2.2.5 Staffing and Training

North Eastern Guardian III crew have also assisted the land based enforcement team with patrols on the ground. This has given offshore crew a better understanding of what enforcement duties are undertaken and also a better knowledge of geographical locations throughout the district. The NEG III offshore crew also delivered some in house training on boat handling techniques, launching and recovery and basic engine maintenance to enhance the experience and capabilities of the land based team when conducting sea patrols.

2.2.6 Maintenance Summary

All routine maintenance programmes were maintained throughout the reporting period

2.2.7 Outreach

On the 18th-19th May the fishing festival “Fish & Ships commenced at Whitby with the opening of the North Eastern Guardian III for the public to have a tour of the vessel and to learn more about the work of NEIFCA. During the two day event over 331 people visited the vessel and local radio media also attended.

2.3 Environmental/Science Work streams

2.3.1 Consents and Licensing

The NEIFCA district is of great interest to many commercial parties and operators. The list of activities includes, but is not limited to, offshore renewables (wind and tidal), gas cavern development, harbour works, maintenance and capital dredge activities, pipeline and cable corridors/landfall and mine discharge. As a relevant authority, NEIFCA is consulted on all developments within and abounding the district, including the issuing of marine consents or licenses relating to any form of discharge or abstraction.

Applications relating to marine developments can be numerous and each one is considered both independently and cumulatively with any other neighbouring activities. Authority Officers also often play an active role in working groups established for the monitoring and surveillance of developments. The following applications were reviewed between December and May 2019:

Reference	Date responded
General works: Hessle foreshore	11/12/2018
Lower Steenberg's Yard	17/12/2018
Dunston Staiths	09/01/2019
Eels Regs compliance Hempholme Lock	10/01/2019

North Sunderland Harbour steps construction, Seahouses	04/03/2019
River Hull+: Crown Dock North Bridge	04/03/2019
Hull River Defence	05/04/2019
Grand sluice, Boston	05/04/2019
South Withernsea coastal defences	05/04/2019
Teesside AMP	10/05/2019
River Hull scheme, Corsair, angling platforms	10/05/2019
Withernsea Long Sea Outfall	10/05/2019
Tees inter terminals jetty upgrade	10/05/2019
Marsden lifeguard station and Redwell steps	21/05/2019
Neptune deep water test tank	21/05/2019
Grimsby river terminal expansion	21/05/2019
Welwick to Skeffling MRS	07/06/2019
Outstrays MRS	07/06/2019
Scott Street Bridge dismantlement and replacement	07/06/2019

In addition, Orsted (formerly Dong energy) have begun early phase consultation regarding Hornsea 4 Offshore Wind Farm. While the windfarm itself is situated outside NEIFCA jurisdiction, the planned export cable route will make landfall on the East Yorkshire coast requiring works within the district. Officers will update members as more information becomes available.

2.3.2 Marine Protected Areas

A total of 28 draft assessment documents have been submitted to Natural England for Holderness Inshore and Runswick Bay Marine Conservation Zones. The need for additional management measures within these two sites are not anticipated. A further 17 assessment documents are in progress for the Greater Wash Special Protection Area and the Southern North Sea SAC.

A draft bait digging and shore collection risk assessment document has also been submitted to Natural England for comment. It was hoped that this document would have included the outputs of the student project which undertook survey work during the 2017/18 winter period. The project has been significantly delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and the final report is now being completed by academic staff from the University of Hull. The risk assessment may be updated once the final report is made available.

2.3.3 Survey Programme Update 2018

Significant effort between November 2018 and April 2019 was focussed on monitoring trips aboard the permitted scallop dredging vessels. In total, 37 days were spent aboard in order to collect scallop stock data and to monitor bycatch of lobsters and edible crabs. Further dredge and video surveys were undertaken from North Eastern Guardian III during April and May. Preliminary monitoring outputs are available in the scallop dredge fishery report.

Offshore scallop monitoring has impacted on planned quayside data collection for lobsters and edible crabs. However, due to traditionally lower landings of lobsters and crabs over these months, this should not significantly impact stock assessments for these species. Quayside targets were met in May and will continue over the summer months.

The annual survey of the blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) bed in the No Take Zone at Flamborough was carried out on the 20th of May 2019. It is with regret that Officers have to report the almost complete loss of the bed. It is not thought that the bed has been targeted by collectors, but instead it is believed that natural environmental factors are the cause of the loss. Other beds around the headland have been recorded as being ephemeral at the decadal time frame. An increase in coverage of the sediment binding algae *Rhodothamniella floridula* was also noted.



2.3.4 **Berried lobster testing**

Significant concerns exist regarding the landing of ‘scrubbed’ female lobsters at multiple local ports. In order to address this, NEIFCA has developed its own knowledge and capability in the detection of scrubbed lobsters utilising microscopic analysis of lobster pleopods. The analytical and enforcement aspect of the work undertaken by the Environmental and Scientific team includes both targeted and random sampling of all female lobsters from a catch when possible

3.0 **National Update**

3.1 **National Association of IFCA's Meetings – 5 March 2019 & 4 June 2019**

The national Association of IFCA's was formally established on 17 March 2011 following resolution and adoption of draft Articles by majority vote. The Authority was represented at this meeting by the Chairman, Deputy Clerk and Chief Officer.

The national Association is structured as a Company by Limited Guarantee with listed Directors and members and its Articles reflect that structure and governance. This enables the Association to employ its own staff (currently Chief Executive and one part-time administrative support position) and conduct its business within a properly structured legal framework. One Director is appointed by each of the member IFCA's currently the Chief Officer and the wider membership of the Association or forum comprises of three representatives from each member IFCA, currently the Chairman, Clerk and Chief Officer. The board of Directors meet after the forum to consider business and actions resulting from it. The Chief Executive is a Director of the Association as are the elected Chairman and Vice Chairman of the wider members Forum.

A copy of the minutes of the forum meetings held on 5 March 2019 and 4 June 2019 are attached to Appendix A of this report.

3.2 **National IFCA Chief Officers Meetings – 15 & 16 January 2019 and 10 April 2019**

The Chief Officers group meets on a Quarterly basis and is made up of the most senior IFC Officers in the U.K. Group membership also includes Officers from Fisheries Departments located in the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey.

The group provides an extremely valuable mechanism for the discussion and exchange of information relating to operational and legislative matters affecting ‘day to day’ activities within IFCA's.

A copy of the draft notes of the most recent meetings of the group, held on 15 & 16 January and 10 April 2019 are attached to Appendix B of this report.

Contact Officer: David McCandless
Chief Officer
Ext 3690

The Association of IFCAs
Members Forum Meeting
5th March 2018 – 10:30
Followed by Directors Meeting

Fishmongers Hall, London Bridge, EC4R 9EL

Minutes

Attendance for the Meeting:

Chair: Les Weller
CEO: Stephen Bolt

Attendance: Andy Guy, Tom Hooper, John Lamb, Will Wright, Tim Dapling, Mike Hardy, Paul Williams, Robert Clark, Samantha Davis, David McCandless, Stephen Axford, Stewart Harper, Paul Skinner, Julian Gregory, Stephen Atkins

Apologies for absence: Tony Tomlinson, John Humphreys, Tony Goldson, Councillor Matthews

Minutes: Sally Standring

2. Updates from external organisations:

a: Defra Updates – Anne Freeman and Martina Di Fonzo

Anne gave a full and comprehensive update of where Defra is at present. Touching briefly on EU Exit and the resignation of George Eustice, it's still business as usual, although we are moving into challenging and uncertain times. The system for catch certificates for all export of fish has gone live today (5th March). She will send details of this to SB. As well as catch certificates, fisheries will have to hold export health certificates for all fish landed in EU waters. Day one licensing for foreign fishing vessels has not yet been agreed – these are ongoing discussions. Discussions are also starting on how additional quotas will continue. Economic link conditions are being reviewed on whether they should change.

The EU-Exit project is continuing and looking at future in marine within Defra; in particular in the longer term of how this will affect management of marines. UK fishing vessels will have to give notice if they want to land in EU waters; this also means that they will need an IMO number. Anne confirmed that there will be an announcement in Fishing News, regarding catch certificates and IMO numbers and will follow up with coastal briefings. **Action 1: AF to send SB details of the catch certificate system that went live today.**

Martina Di Fonzo – Update

SB asked Martina for an update on the following:

EU Exit update

Spending review of 2019

MPA designation

Progress of byelaws and SI's

Future Funding of IFCAs

Review of IFCAs

Any Defra update in personnel

SB mentioned that progress of byelaws was of increasing concern to the IFCA's as some important byelaws have become 'stuck in the system'. MDF enquired about this and it was explained that in some cases there are delays due to inappropriate or sometimes illegal provisions being included in proposed byelaws. As a result, Defra have to spend time to correct these issues before a byelaw can be signed off. We would therefore ask that the IFCA's follow legal advice closely when formulating byelaws in the first instance. There are currently delays to the NWIFCA Crustacea byelaw and the KEIFCA byelaw as a result of extra checks Defra is having to make. However, both byelaws are being progressed as quickly as possible under the circumstances and are not being ignored due to other priorities. The other four NEIFCA byelaws are being progressed. Defra have agreed a 1-month period with which to sign off byelaws when submitted for final approval and these four byelaws are still within the period. You may be aware that there was a recent independent review of the byelaw process and Defra's sign off process was considered to be sufficient. The report also recommended that IFCA's took more responsibility in the process of formulating the byelaws.

With the recent resignation of the Fisheries Minister we are currently unable to give a full update on how this may affect the timing of the iVMS SI. Work on drafting the SI is continuing and we are still working towards the end of March completion.

IFCO Powers – Defra is amending the IFCO Powers SI under the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Miscellaneous Amendments and Revocations) Regulations 2019 which will replace the reference in the schedule to bass measures in Council Regulation (EU) 2018/20, which fixes the TAC and quota for certain fish stocks for 2018, with a reference to the replacement bass measures in the EU TAC and Quota Regulations for 2019 which came into force on 31 January 2019. The Miscellaneous Provisions SI will be laid on 8th March 2019 and come into force on 29th March 2019. A stakeholder advisory note will be published on 8th March.

Defra commissioned evaluation of the IFCA's – MDF stated this is not a review – it is a research project which will be looking at the structures and capacities with which IFCA's have to deliver their vision. The consultants will be considering the opportunities IFCA's provide for participation in marine and fisheries management, understanding how IFCA byelaws support environment, economic and social sustainability. They will also be looking at how IFCA's deliver fisheries research, management and enforcement, and understanding the collaborative and knowledge sharing partnerships IFCA's have entered into. The contractors are currently drafting the interview questions and deciding on the four IFCA case studies. They expect to start their interviews next week. All IFCA Chief Officers will be interviewed.

Spending review and future funding of the IFCA's – there is no news regarding when SR19 will take place and we will only know about the future funding of the IFCA's following this review. However, it is unlikely to start before we leave the EU.

MPA designations update – Tranche 3 MCZs – In the third tranche it was proposed to designate 41 Marine Conservation Zones and add additional features to 12 existing sites. The site designations will be announced and in place by 7th June 2019. At this time, Defra will publish a full Government response to the consultation, outlining the evidence received and explaining the decisions taken on each site.

Any Defra update in personnel – MDF shared the Directorate organogram with 'TT' a few weeks ago to enable the IFCA's to better identify who leads on what area of work. The Arm's Length Body team will be moving under Simon Brockington's management (from Anne Freeman). Simon is Deputy Director for Marine Science and Analysis. Martina will be moving to Stephanie Ockenden's team in this part of the Directorate. Rachel Hanbury (Control and Enforcement Business As Usual) split her job with Jess Keedy – Control and Enforcement Day One Readiness. Emma Boyd works within Rachel Hanbury's team on byelaws. Rob Matthews team leads on the replacement EMFF fund. Nigel Gooding is Deputy Director for EU Fisheries Policy and Negotiations, Jane Barton is G6. Chris Pirie leads the technical conservation team.

Action 2: All IFCA's to follow legal advice closely when formulating byelaws in the first instance

b: Antony Firth, Robert Yorke and Stuart Churchley – Sussex IFCA Marine Archaeological Project.

An interesting presentation was given by Antony regarding the project to find wrecks off the Sussex Coast, which is being funded by Historic England. Anthony will distribute his slides.

c: Alison Freeman – Fishmongers Hall

Alison is the Fisheries Programmer Manager of Fishmongers Hall and introduced herself to the members. She briefly ran through her role which is specifically the involvement in inshore fishing projects. She will send a list of all ongoing projects to SB/SS once these have been approved. She is welcome to suggestions from the IFCA's as she is very encouraged for business collaboration and events like this one. **Alison will send to SB/SS a list of ongoing projects once approved.**

1: Minutes of the last meeting (4th December 2018).

Accepted as read

Actions from last meeting

1. RC – Done
2. Done
3. Pippa Eames has now moved on. Martin Adams has taken over
4. Done
5. TT & SB have a meeting in June. SB confirmed there never has been a national contact in EA.
6. Surplus of £6k which will be sent to K & E tomorrow
7. On agenda
8. On agenda

As a footnote to this SB confirmed that the Association does send out the minutes in the required time but going forward, a timescale for responses will be requested by the Association. If no one responds the minutes will be taken as read and accepted.

3. Finances and Resources

SB wanted to draw attention to the overspend on reserves. In particular, there have been various contributors to this overspend. Quite rightly, the Chair and Vice Chair have been claiming expenses for their role in the Association and to the ever-increasing cost of venue hire, contribution to the cost of the MPA launch, and to the review of the Association which has all had an impact on reserves, resulting in a £10k overspend. SB will implement an interim plan, but it will result in being down by approximately £5k. **Action 4: SB to implement an interim plan**

4. Items for Decision

Future Funding

SB confirmed that a detailed narrative was sent to all members via email for continued and increased central funding beyond 2020. This bid also recognises the importance of maintaining the IFCA fleet of vessels. However, it does not include this in the central funding bid. As a separate workstream, COG and the Association are seeking to include a detailed bid regarding vessels to the EMFF replacement fund. If this is unsuccessful, the narrative flags the future funding of the IFCA fleet of vessels as a significant issue. The members were asked to support the narrative paper which has had strong input from Chairs and Chiefs. **Option 1a: Send the paper out to Defra in advance of SR19, copied to Thérèse Coffey.** As far as this option is concerned, there were various degrees of concern. JL stated that our duties are now being called upon to carry out additional duties and if government want us to continue to carry out additional duties they should pay for the upkeep. The Association should have it noted that we will send a copy of this to the Secretary of State and Minister. Option 1 carried – majority agreed. The members were also asked to note difference of opinion as to the value of completing the Defra request for metrics. Following discussions **option 2b: Members agree that all IFCAs will complete the metrics by the end of March deadline.** Option 2b carried – majority agreed.

Ian Jones – Update on National Training

Ian Jones presented to the members the training project through K&EIFCA for the 1-3-year training package. He ran through his first slide for his vision for the next 2 or 3 years if the position continues.

- 3-year 3T approach
- Award for level 1
- Next level up is the advanced course (level 2 award)
- Level 3 award is expected to be completed in year 2 or 3 if the position continues
- Overview of LMS or Learning Management System
- Directed lessons and presentations
- Knowledge assessments
- Breakout and problem-solving exercise
- Practical exercise
- Continually refine through feedback
- All linked to trainers – this year was Ian Jones and Dom Bailey together with Mike Hardy for the first couple of days and then Sam Dell from Southern IFCA
- Guest speakers – Solicitor Andrew Oliver, Barrister David Richards and Nigel Blazeby. Average pass mark was 88.5%
- Final report
- Opportunities for officers to go through the course.

Ian also ran through the focus and priorities for 2019 and 2020 where everyone was asked to think about short courses that he could introduce. MH suggested that there are some other agencies that could benefit from the training courses and Ian should have a discussion with Al Brown next week. Ian also asked the members if they would have an idea of how many delegates they would send on an advance course. He suggested 1 or 2 from each IFCA costing £950 each. All IFCAs agreed.

5. Matters for noting

a. Update on the Association Review by 3KQ – Les Weller

Following the meeting held by 3KQ on Monday 4th March, Les asked everyone to reflect on the points raised and the views expressed. He said that he had had a very lengthy discussion with the Chair of the Association, and we are all agreed change needs to happen. He explained that if we wish 3KQ to attend a final task group meeting the potential spend would be a further £2k. He asked if we had seen value in the review that 3KQ had carried out? Discussions followed with concerns raised. WW has resigned from his position on the task group as he doesn't have the same vision as others. JG has replaced WW. LW asked SD to sit on the group; she kindly agreed. The tasking group, going forward is JG, SD, Mat Mander, TT and LW. A recommendation has to be made by the next meeting in June.

b. Update on MPA project including extension of project Launch

LW gave thanks to the MPA project team – Simon Pengelly, Jamie Small and SB for the spectacular event held at the House of Commons in February. SB confirmed that Defra will continue to fund the role, however, has not heard from Jamie as to whether she will accept. RC is working through the salary and job spec. It is looking likely that Jamie will be London based, namely working at Nobel House, which will come at a cost to the Association of approximately £5k, for hot desking.

c. Annual Report – For noting / comment

SB asked the members for more guidance on an annual plan. He said that he could present an interim plan to include budgets and priorities and would like the assistance of the tasking group. RC offered his help and guidance but voiced his concern that a plan hasn't been produced. SB also confirmed that following this meeting he will be sending out 9 invoices for the membership fees along with 7 invoices for Science Direct. He is waiting for Science Direct to respond to his request for a reduction in costs.

d. IVMS Update – Julian Gregory

The Defra response to the SI Consultation was due to be published last Friday (1st March), however this did not happen due to the resignation of the Minister. It is hoped that it will be published shortly (update since the meeting is that it may be published on Friday 15th March 2019). The SI is now in it's second draft form and JG will forward this when it's received. There are issues surrounding potential revenue costs for IFCAs moving forward in connection with Mobile Working, VMS hub, data reporting tool and iVMS support contracts. It has been proposed that there is zero cost for IFCAs, but this may not be accepted. **Action 5: JG will forward an email received regarding revenue funding that he read to members.**

e. CEO Log

f. Directors Minutes – Noted

6. AOB

MMO appointees – 'TT' wanted to inform the members that it is no longer Mr. Tuckett who heads up the appointee process. 'TT' had written to him by mistake – this was due to go yesterday (4th March). It is now Richard Boyer.

As an early heads up SB informed members that Defra have asked Seafish to head up a project to look at IFCA in the UK. He confirmed that it is likely that we will be invited. The MMO (Nick Greenwood) are doing an inshore management review. SB will try to get information of this to see if we are heavily involved. SD confirmed that she had been contacted. SB asked everyone to let him know if any other directors have been approached.

MPA advisory group meeting – In previous meetings Defra had asked SB to chair but they are now taking back control as this is being seen as a conflict of interest. Dale Rodmell has asked if there will be protocol on iVMS and SB quoted D&S.

COG meeting – Was planned for two days in April but has been reduced to one day. The meeting room at Jersey office has been booked for Wednesday 10th April.

Close of meeting – 15:50

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 4th June – Fishmongers Hall, London Bridge EC4R 9EL

Actions from this meeting

Action Number	Action	By Whom
Action 1	AF to send SB details of the catch certificate system that went live today.	AF from Defra
Action 2	All IFCA's to follow legal advice closely when formulating byelaws in the first instance	ALL
Action 3	Alison Freeman will send to SB/SS a list of ongoing projects once approved.	AF
Action 4	SB to implement an interim plan	SB

Matters for Noting

Action Number	Action	By Whom
Action 5	Action 5: JG will forward an email received regarding revenue funding that he read to members.	JG - Done

The Association of IFCA's
Members Forum Meeting
4th June 2019 – 10:30
Followed by Directors Meeting

Fishmongers Hall, London, London Bridge, EC4R 9EL

Attendance for the Meeting:

Chair: Tony Tomlinson
CEO: Stephen Bolt

Attendance: Andy Guy, Tim Dapling, Mike Hardy, Paul Williams, Robert Clark, Samantha Davis, David McCandless, Paul Skinner, Les Weller, Stephen Atkins

Minutes: Sally Standring

Apologies for absence: Councillor Chris Matthews, Will Wright, Julian Gregory, Tom Hopper, Stewart Harper, John Lamb, John Humphreys, Stephen Axford

TT formally welcomed PS as the new Chairman of EIFCA and wanted to give congratulations to JL for becoming Mayor of Southend. He also wanted to extend his appreciation and thanks to LW for standing in as Chairman at the last members meeting in TT's absence.

1. Minutes of the last meeting (5th March 2019) – taken as read

a. Matters arising

SB's note of EU Exit

SB confirmed that SR19, the comprehensive spending review, is likely to be delayed with the change of Prime Minister and the cabinet. The probability of 2020/21 budget will be a one-year budget possibly with a simple roll over of our new burdens funding with a comprehensive funding review likely to follow once the new government has been formed. We have supplied Defra with matrix and narrative and have submitted a bid to increase from £3m to £6m. If we receive £4/5m that will be an appreciated improvement.

SB also confirmed that Defra will be testing the no deal readiness prepared for 31st March between now and October and strengthening plans.

MH asked if any one had met the new fisheries minister as NIFCA have a launch next week for which it would be nice for him to attend. In the meantime, SB is happy to arrange a meeting with Michael Gove.

Discussions followed regarding new burdens. TD voiced his concerns as he said that in the new burdens narrative it said in 2020 it may come to an end. SB suggested TD makes this point to with Sylvia Blake from Defra, however, SB said in every new burden spending review, Ministers have always put this as a red risk. It had been suggested at this time it may need AIFCA to obtain a legal opinion of where we are with this issue, but TT suggested we take it one step at a time.

3. Finance & Resources

SB has prepared the end of year accounts and has estimated a £34k overspend which includes the rising costs of venues and travel and subsistence. The accounts are now with the accountants for which they have prepared a final draft. When SB has received them, he will send to the Directors for sign off. Paul Williams (PW) has offered to look at the accounts on behalf of the Directors. SB confirmed that he has asked for confirmation from the accountant as to how to roll over money, received from Defra – circa £20k for various projects. TD has suggested that we add income as well as expenditure to the finance and resources report, and add the total spent. He said we could try and separate it out with specific projects for exceptional items. All agreed this would be more helpful. **Action 1: SS to liaise with Paul Williams in order to make the finance and resources report more specific for the Members and Directors.**

4.

a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair were received. Nominations for Tony Tomlinson (TT) to continue as chair were unanimous. Nominations received for Les Weller (LW) to continue as Vice Chair were also unanimous. LW wanted it noted that, although he's very happy to continue as Vice Chair, this may very well be his final year and quite possibly TT's too due to the MMO 10-year issue. SB asked all members to let him know how many people they will lose through the 10-year issue. **Action 2: All to liaise with SB on how many people will be affected by the MMO's 10-year issue.**

2.

b. Defra Update – Martina Di Fonza

Updates on Defra structures and roles

- Sylvia Blake is the new IFCA relationship manager, Natalie Bown is leading on SR19, Martina Di Fonza is working on both of these projects.

SR19 updates

- There is no formal commission from HM Treasury to instigate the spending review (SR). Defra is agreeing priorities and themes for the SR.
- Timing on when the SR will be commissioned and length of the spending period remains uncertain; we are planning for a commission for completion over the summer.
- Internal commissions have been initiated for Capital spend and Resource spend.
- Marine and Fisheries have identified spending proposal themes such as 'Future Funding', 'Science and Monitoring', and 'Control and Enforcement'. IFCA funding is an element of Domestic Fisheries Management. Martina will further investigate under which themes the IFCAs will be assessed in SR19.
- A spending proposal for IFCA funding will be developed, drawing on useful information previously received and considering the Public Value Framework set out in the Barber Review.
- Treasury narrative remains strong on 'find efficiencies and expect to reduce budgets' and a narrative about Reform is beginning to gain significant ground. This is particularly

important for functions repatriated from the EU – how will these be undertaken more efficiently and innovatively to reduce financial burdens.

- All cases for investment will need to be very strong on benefits to business and society.

Marine updates

Third Tranche of Marine Conservation Zones Designated

Friday 31st May, Defra announced the designation of the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). All 41 new sites and the addition of new features to 12 existing MCZs proposed during last summer's consultation are now designated. This third tranche builds on the 50 MCZs already in place and essentially completes our contribution to the ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas in terms of species and habitat representation. In total we now have 175 Marine Protected Areas of different types, conserving 40% of English seas and providing vital protection for a diverse array of wildlife.

MPA project

Defra are pleased with the progress on this so far. We are aware that a project plan has now been developed and the AIFCA is considering how best to make the system adaptable so that MMO byelaws and future management can be added later. Funding will be provided via Hampshire CC to support this year's work.

Marine Strategy consultation now live

On May 9th Defra launched a consultation on the updated UK Marine Strategy Part 1, which implements the UK Marine Strategy Regulations 2010. The consultation is seeking views on the UK's updated assessment of progress towards the achievement of Good Environmental Status for our seas. This is based on 60 indicators and sets out revised targets and indicators that England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will use over the next 6 years. The consultation is open on gov.uk until 20th June.

Defra commissioned evaluation of the IFCAs.

Fieldwork getting close to entering the final phase, including the four chosen IFCA districts. Defra has received interim results for the national level work encompassing all of the IFCAs, but we will wait for the final report before these results are shared. We have had many reports of people happy to be engaged in the evaluation, which is great to see. Project is on track to complete this summer so we are hopeful we will be able to report soon afterward.

Updates on the IFCA related Sis

Amendment to the North-Western IFCA and amendment to the Southern IFCA

Having worked to successfully lay a number of EU Exit statutory instruments, Defra are now looking more closely at the business-as-usual programme, including these minor amendments to two IFCA orders – one correcting an error in the coordinates of the NWIFCA and one updating local authorities associated with the Southern IFCA as a result of local government restructure. Two separate statutory instruments with suggested laying dates of 17th September. Defra will be sending two separate consultation letters (to fulfill the statutory requirement to consult on any amendments to these Sis) in June. This will go to the stakeholders specified in the Marine and

Costal Access Act 2009. Statutory instruments are currently being drafted and will be attached alongside the consultation letter.

Amendments to the Sea Fishing (Enforcement) Regulations 2018

Defra are currently monitoring the ongoing suite of EU Regulations coming into force between now and Exit day, including the new Technical Conservation measures regime. Some of these Regulations have consequences for the UK's domestic legislation. Defra are aware of the impacts of the new Technical Conservation Regulations on the UK's Sea Fishing (Enforcement) Regulations 2018, and the urgency of making the necessary amendments.

Defra have received legal analysis comparing the previous powers given to IFCOs with the powers contained in the new Technical Conservation Regulation. Defra legal is currently working through the analysis and regulations. It's looking likely that the EU's new measures will come into force in July.

Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (iVMS) progress

Defra ran a public consultation from 14th November 2018 to 14th February 2019. They received 181 responses to this consultation. A Government response to the consultation was published on 2nd April. Following the consultation, the MMO is changing the approach to the introduction of iVMS. The new procurement approach will not affect the project overall as implementation of iVMS nationally was not expected before 2021. An iVMS solution offered will still be offered free of charge, as originally planned. The policy has not changed but the timetable for introduction will change. Vessel owners and skippers will receive full details of the operational roll-out later this year. The Government's intention is to introduce the Statutory Instrument (SI) prior to the start of the operational roll-out of iVMS, and our indicative timescales are to do this in the Autumn of this year. The SI must undergo a scrutiny process which includes ministerial sign off and consideration by both Houses of Parliament before coming into law. The intent is to introduce the SI prior to the operational roll-out of an iVMS solution. This timescale is subject to change based on the scrutiny process and parliamentary business planning. The principle behind the introduction of iVMS remains the same; working with Defra, the MMO is committed to providing a more accurate picture of fishing location and activity, which will inform sustainable fisheries and support the viability of the fishing business in the future.

EU Exit Update

In the lead up to 31st October, Defra is continuing to make preparations for a range of possible outcomes for the UK's exit from the EU. This includes leaving without a deal on 31st October, as well as making longer term preparations for our departure after an implementation period which is due to end on 31st December 2020. Please refer to the gov.uk for guidance on what business need to do to prepare.

Discussions followed regarding Byelaws, IFCO powers and SI issues for which Martina answered as much as possible. TT has asked Martina for clarity on the structure of the Defra team. She will send an organigram. **Action 3: All to liaise with SB on how many people will be affected by the MMO's 10-year issue.**

2.

- b. Elizabeth Daly – Risk and Policy Analysis – update on IFCA evaluation

Elizabeth ran through her presentation and confirmed that the structure of the final draft will go to Defra at the end of this week. She explained that the update on overall progress had been split into 3 parts; the scoping report included the four case studies. Stage 2 included high level evaluations, chief officers, staff and committee members, national stakeholders. The third stage included local level evaluations from local stakeholders. The draft final report will consist of Aims and Objectives, Report the findings, Lessons learnt and best practice and implications for the future. Whilst ED was discussing the implications for the future she did ask if anyone had any suggestions for change for the future to please let her know. SB has asked ED if AIFCA can have insight into the draft report where, hopefully we can input positively. ED will confirm that and let SB know. **Action 4: SS will send Elizabeth's presentation to all members – done**

4. Matters for decision

B. Paper on the review of the Association

Due to JG being unable to attend the AIFCA meeting, a conference call was held in support of work that the Task Group has been involved with. Firstly, JG wanted to say that he is fully supportive of the recommendations as set out in SD's report. He also confirmed that he understands SA's point about the mission statement but suggested that the statement should be seen in the context that the AIFCA is not a separate autonomous body and that it actually comprises all of us and it clearly has a role in providing a focal point in dealing with national issues with our collective agreement. Whether particular issues are dealt with by the AIFCA, CEO or an IFCA officer doesn't really matter, the point is that it is done on our collective behalf under the banner of AIFCA. It is important that Defra and other partners see that there is a central point and that we are able to reach consensus on national issues because they really don't want to have to engage with 10 separate IFCA's. It was agreed to change the Mission Statement to; *'The Association aims to actively represent the IFCA's perspective at a national level, communicate effectively and drive information both internally and externally, to help deliver collaboration with partner organisations and support it's members to fulfil their statutory duties'*.

SD continued to go through the report which included high, medium and low-level priorities. Discussions followed with thanks going to the Task Group for their input into the review. LW wanted to thank D&S IFCA and in particular Mat Mander for his part in this review. He was a reluctant member of the Task Group, but has been extremely helpful with the review and D&S. Following the discussion and endorsement of the approach proposed, Task Group members will continue to use a mixture of teleconferences and face to face meetings to drive forwards the next phase of the review. A further report will be presented to the AIFCA forum at its next quarterly meeting in September. An additional expenditure may be incurred if external advice for other work is required which cannot be completed by the task group. Recommendation was approved that any additional expenditure should be capped at £5k. RC proposed that the working group should proceed with the next phase of implementation. This was unanimously accepted.

5. Matters for noting

a. MPA project update

SB gave a brief update on the MPA project and confirmed that he has heard from Defra who are very happy with the project so far and is now awaiting confirmation that we can use £9k for extra funding. The project aims to attend the next COG and TAG meetings to present developments on databases and request feedback alongside providing information on MPA assessments and case studies. Further work needs to be done but SB extended thanks to Jamie Small and RC. SD confirmed that she will support this and has suggested that this will be an option paper for COG in July.

b. National Training officer update

SB confirmed that the proposal is for Ian Jones to attend the next quarterly meeting in September so that a decision can be made on what we do with this project into 20/21. SB asked for this to be minuted that Ian Jones is doing a good job. LW also commented that this is a fantastic report and the AIFCA should seriously consider employing Ian on a full-time basis. MH also agreed that this position should certainly be made permanent. However, Paul Williams (PW) asked for confirmation as there is no item for pension costs. RC will investigate this issue. Questions on whether we extend or expand Ian's role were asked. There is an ongoing demand for his skills which would also increase our value with Defra. SB and MH will discuss further. SB will raise this with the training subgroup and report back. **Action 5: SB and MH will further discuss the national training officer role. SB will raise this with the training subgroup and report back.**

c. iVMS update

Martina gave a brief update from Defra. She confirmed that we are still working to the original timescale, however, JG is now not leading on this project.

d. CEO Meeting log

RC thanked SB for attending the NFFO meeting. There will be another chance to meet them again on 26th June. RC stated that the English Fisheries group was suggested at our last meeting and confirmed that this would be good for us to be seated at the table. RC Will look into this and report back. **Action 6: RC to investigate the request for AIFCA to be invited to the English Fisheries group and will report back.**

e. Directors minutes

All agreed the training plan – minutes approved.

6. AOB

a. Recreational Sea Angling National Strategy – Les Weller

LW confirmed that he is no longer a member of the Angling trust and said that Fish Legal are the people we need to be made aware of. LW explained that you join the Angling Trust and you automatically become a member of Fish Legal, who are incredibly successful. Tom Sherwood from the Environment Agency sits on the National Angling Strategy Board and has asked the IFCAs to be involved. SB stated that we are going to be asked more about sea anglers, but it is prudent that we have a seat at the table. If it gets funded nationally it makes sense of us to be there. Adam Brown has asked if we will endorse or support this strategy. Discussions followed; some in support, some voicing concerns. RC said that he's happy in supporting this in principle, but it comes down to communication. DMC would like more information. All agreed that SB circulates the confidential information received from Tom and Adam and will make a decision over the next few days. **Action 7: SB to circulate the confidential information sent by Adam and Tom in order for IFCAs to make a decision.**

RC gave a brief outline of the meeting between himself and Martina regarding statutory instrument EC85098 which has been removed and replaced. A law which relates to the relevant

sizes of recreational and sea angling. The EC85098 was going to be amended. The drafts that have been shared does not contain much text. However, at the beginning of May, they were supplied with an amended text and it was picked up in the first line that it repeals EC80598 rather than amends it; which means that in the next four weeks we might lose our powers again. RC continued to confirm that he has now received the latest version of the text and these regulations are very explicit in the sense that he could lose the power to enforce. Therefore, he has asked Martina to put this to the amending lawyers. In summary, in 2018 IFCA enforcement powers were to apply to all fishers. The suggestion has been to seek Defra review. TD suggested to do a draft letter between all CO's to agree to ask for Defra support. TT also said that the Association should delegate it through COG; build this into the letter that some IFCA's will have to go down the emergency byelaw route. **Action 8: RC to draft a letter and keep chiefs involved. SS will then circulate to chairs and chiefs.**

Close of meeting 16:20

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 24th September 2019 – The Passage, St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1NL

Actions from this meeting

Action Number	Action	By Whom
Action 1	SS to liaise with Paul Williams in order to make the finance and resources report more specific for the Members and Directors.	SS
Action 2	All to liaise with SB on how many people will be affected by the MMO's 10-year issue.	All
Action 3	All to liaise with SB on how many people will be affected by the MMO's 10-year issue.	Martina Di Fonzo -Defra
Action 4	SS will send Elizabeth's presentation to all members	SS - Done

Matters for noting

Action Number	Action	By Whom
Action 5	SB and MH will further discuss the national training officer role. SB will raise this with the training subgroup and report back.	SB/MH
Action 6	RC to investigate the request for AIFCA to be invited to	RC

	the English Fisheries group and will report back.	
Action 7	SB to circulate the confidential information sent by Adam and Tom in order for IFCA's to make a decision.	SB
Action 8	RC to draft a letter and keep chiefs involved. SS will then circulate to chairs and chiefs.	RC / SS



**IFCA COG Meeting
15th January 2019**

Government of Jersey, 4th Floor, 2 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, London, SW1H 9BP

Minutes

Start: 10:30

Attending: Will Wright (WW), Tim Dapling (TD), Stephen Bolt (SB), Robert Clark (RC), Stephen Atkins (SA), David McCandless (DM), Samantha Davis (SD), Mat Mander (MM), Julian Gregory (JG), Alastair Browne (AB)

Natural England: Roger Covey (RC)

Defra: Rob Matthews (RM), George Rutledge (GR), Thomas Pryke (TP), Rachel Hanbury (RH)

MMO: Nick Greenwood (NH), Victoria Morgan (VM)

- 1. Apologies:** Mike Hardy (MH), Greg Morel (GM) Jersey, Grant Fulton (GF) Isle of Man, Tom Hooper (TH), Mark Stafford (Wales)

Will Wright (WW) took the Chair and welcomed all those attending across the two days. WW reviewed the planned agenda and agreed to prioritise business to maximise the time available. WW moved immediately to item 4 on the agenda 'MPA Whole Site Approach' and invited Roger Covey (RC) from Natural England to update the group.

2. MPA Whole Site Approach

Following introductions RC advised the group that it was the government's intention, as outlined within its 25 year environment plan, to move to a 'whole site' approach when managing activities within marine protected areas. Although the current feature based approach had worked well it carried the potential risk of reducing biodiversity benefits across the full extent of sites. RC stressed that the whole site approach was not yet enshrined in official policy and there was no intention to apply the strategy across the entire MPA network. Work had commenced on the identification of the most suitable sites with uniform management already in place, progressing down through the more complex sites with multiple management provisions. RC advised that the work was also examining the matter of Highly Protected Marine Areas but stressed that the two strategies were distinctly different. Conservation advice would be developed for non-feature habitat. SA advised that this new approach risked 'shutting down' large areas to the fishing industry. SD advised that Cornwall had already made a second version of a byelaw to manage activity within an MPA site and this revised approach could mean a

third revision could be required. MM highlighted the importance of ‘balance’ within the IFCA statutory remit and the ‘whole site approach’ risked unravelling the MPA management work delivered to date. DM echoed those concerns. TD advised that there remained fundamental issues with the quality of evidencing underpinning management decisions. SD queried whether the approach would take non-fishing activities into account, RC advised that it would. RC advised that IFCAs would play a key role in steering the potential delivery of the whole site approach. DM queried whether the delivery of the whole site approach would include any assessment of risk against feature. RC to seek clarification. WW queried how the status of sites could be adequately quantified from recovering through to healthy. MPA management was also very heavily weighted inshore to offshore which placed significant burden on IFCAs. Potential changes in national policy such as the management of English wide inshore bottom trawling could significantly support IFCAs in delivering national strategy. JG thanked RC for attending the meeting and briefing the group and felt more reassured by the intentions of the whole site approach which appeared more robust in terms of evidencing.

RC then covered some general questions on national policy delivery. SD sought advice on the apparent development of an inshore fisheries management group between Natural England reps and some senior scientific leads within IFCAs. Cornwall IFCA had been asked to participate but SD had declined advising that it should fall under the guidance of TAG or the IFCA Chief Officers Group. RC to seek guidance from Mike Quigley. Discussions then moved to national considerations surrounding bait digging/collection and there was general disagreement with Mike’s approach. WW suggested the possibility of a future IFCA/NE workshop to discuss the various strands of national policy delivery in more detail.

3. JMOCC Update

DM and AB provided an update on a recent teleconference with JMOCC members which included the MMO, Navy, Border Force, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and others. JMOCC was still developing but the role of IFCAs remained unclear. SA advised that any issues surrounding the operational effectiveness of JMOCC should not be shouldered by IFCAs. The group agreed that IFCAs should maintain an active ‘watching brief’ and provide support when requested. IFCA contact to be maintained through Sean Ashworth, Chair of NIMEG.

4. MMO/IFCA vessel charter pilot update

SD and JG provided an update on the MMO/IFCA vessel charter pilot with a further update expected from Michael Coyle tomorrow. The pilot had highlighted some issues surrounding levels and standards of offshore training, certification and insurance cover and a lack of suitably trained staff to participate. MMO internal policies appeared at times over restrictive and often there was a lack of flexibility surrounding availability.

5. Review of the National Association

SB provided an update on the independent review of the Association of IFCAs. The questionnaire based survey had been open since December and to date over 70 responses had been received from the 10 IFCAs. The second phase of telephone interviews with Chief Officers and Chairs had also commenced. A small task group would be established comprising of the Chair, Vice Chair, Chair of COG and one other Chief Officer leading to a review summit scheduled for 4 March 2019. MM advised the group that Devon and Severn IFCA had agreed to contribute towards the costs of the review and would be deferring a decision on whether they would formally rejoin following its conclusion.

6. National IVMS project

JG updated the group on the national IVMS project and advised that it was now operating much more effectively under the new MMO project team led by Leanne Stockdale. The stakeholder group was meeting weekly or as required. Feedback on the national SI consultation was expected sometime mid-February 2019. No information would be circulated to the industry until the SI consultation had been completed. Work on developing systems for unpowered or low powered vessels was continuing although some issues could be managed within the supporting compliance direction. MM provided an update on the Devon and Severn IFCA IVMS pilot. 84 units had now been installed across the fleet and so far 6 had been recalled due to malfunctioning. One vessel, a demersal trawler, was currently testing 'gear in gear out' technology. JG updated on ongoing IVMS work in the Eastern IFCA area which included trials with smaller vessels using units supported by rechargeable batteries. JG and WW also highlighted the development of and need for, software solutions enabling GIS interrogation of IVMS data.

7. Defra Future Fisheries Grant Scheme

Rob Matthews (RM), George Rutledge (GR) and Thomas Pryke (TP) attended from Defra to update the group on the development of a new UK fisheries funding programme to replace the current European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The UK would not be participating in the next EMFF programme but all projects agreed under the current scheme would be covered by a treasury guarantee. Clause 28 of the Fisheries Bill which had now completed the Committee stage covered future UK grant schemes. In the future grant making would become a devolved matter with four separate schemes. Each fisheries administration would have a scheme. A new scheme would be established in 2021 which would be comparable with the EMFF programme. A current evaluation of the EMFF programme would assist in informing the development of the new scheme. This presented an opportunity for change but would have to support existing plans and strategies and deliver positive outcomes. Four main areas included the provision of grants, data collection and control and enforcement. Jess Keady was leading the control and enforcement work supported by the MMO. In considering the new scheme four main questions were posed. The structure of the new England scheme and delivery, What would we change about EMFF? What are the needs of the fishing industry and seafood sector? What are the potential challenges and barriers in accessing the scheme? MM queried the inclusion of the recreational sector. The group also discussed the effectiveness of Fisheries Local action Groups (FLAGS) in terms of delivering the EMFF programme. Whilst considerations of future control and enforcement needs remained separate to the new England fisheries fund, TD and DM highlighted the importance of IFCAs accessing funding to support their control and

enforcement needs particularly in terms of replacing and maintaining assets such as patrol vessels. The funding arrangements needed to provide some security in planning the maintenance of existing assets. DM highlighted the need for early and active IFCA involvement in developing the enforcement and control component of the future funding scheme. RM advised that the future scheme would be comparable across the UK devolved administrations although finer detail such as intervention rates had yet to be considered. RM offered to circulate notes of the discussions. **Action RM.**

8. IFCA MPA Launch

SB updated the group on arrangements for the future IFCA MPA launch event in the Houses of Parliament scheduled for 12 February 2019. A maximum of 100 invitees could be hosted at the event although 130 invitations had gone out with the expectation that there would be a number of apologies. SB also advised that funding had been approved to continue the IFCA MPA project for a further year.

9. MMO IFCA Byelaw Process Review

Nick Greenwood (NG) and Victoria Morgan (VM) from the MMO byelaws team and Rachel Hanbury (RH) from Defra attended to update the group on the outcome of the IFCA Byelaw process review and proposed next steps. NG updated the group on the completion of the review by MRAG and the publication of the report with the summary recommendations. NG invited initial feedback from the group. DM advised that despite extensive experience of the byelaw making process he had never felt more disillusioned and welcomed the timing of the review from that perspective. RH said that it had been a challenging year for Defra in keeping the IFCA byelaw process review going and thanked everyone for both their input and patience. There was now an opportunity to come together to improve the process going forward. WW welcomed the review but the byelaw making process itself was still developing and evolving to accommodate new processes. The group then discussed some key aspects of the process such as advertising in newspaper publications which was both costly and dated. NG advised that the review supported more flexibility in terms of advertising with greater use of email contacts, social media and websites although IFCA's would still have to satisfy themselves that every effort had been made to engage as widely as possible across all affected stakeholders. Often byelaws were restricted geographically so advertising could be limited accordingly to a target audience. Another key area related to the provision of legal advice and issues surrounding conflicting advice between the MMO and Defra. NG advised that it was the intention that the MMO would act as the sole provider of legal advice throughout the process and Defra would only intervene at the final stage of there appeared to be a notable issue. NG also advised that it was the intention to remove the informal advice stage of the process which had caused significant delays and responsibility would be placed on IFCA's to obtain their own independent legal advice through the drafting and formal making stages and the MMO would only review following the completion of formal consultation. The group sought clarification on the roles of the MMO and Defra in the process. Was the MMO role simply quality assurance? NG advised it was but highlighted the importance of early notification of the intention to make a byelaw so preliminary advice could be given. SD sought clarification on economist input during the process and at what stage that took place. Issues surrounding the complexity of Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) was also discussed and the group welcomed moves to simplify the structure of the current RIA template and the detail of information required. DM felt that often pressure was exerted by the MMO byelaw team to include fine detail in terms of financial impacts when very often the supporting evidence and information was extremely limited. Discussions then moved to the order of stages in the process and when formal advice should be sought from the MMO, either prior to formal consultation and making or following. There was a

consensus that the provision of formal legal advice would be ideally welcomed prior to making and formal consultation. NG advised that the MMO would be prepared to re-examine the structure of the process prior to agreement and it was suggested that IFCA's should develop their own byelaw making guidance going forward. The group agreed that it would be valuable to run a workshop sometime during June 2019 to agree the final process supported by the circulation of a byelaw process 'flow' diagram and collation of IFCA comments on the MRAG document. **Action WW/DM/NG**

Meeting Closed at 17:30



IFCA COG Meeting

16th January 2019

Government of Jersey, 4th Floor, 2 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, London, SW1H 9BP

Minutes

Start: 09:30

Attending: Will Wright (WW), Tim Dapling, Stephen Bolt (SB), David McCandless (DM), Samantha Davis (SD), Julian Gregory (JG).

Defra: Anne Freeman (AF), Rachel Hanbury (RH), Pippa Eames (PE)

MMO: Michael Coyle (MC)

1. **Apologies:** Mike Hardy (MH), Stephen Atkins (SA), Rob Clark (RC), Mat Mander (MM), Greg Morel (GM) Jersey, Grant Fulton (GF) Isle of Man, Tom Hooper (TH), Mark Stafford (Wales), Lt Com Joanne Black (Navy/JMOCC).

2. Defra Operational Update

Anne Freeman (AF) updated the group on UK exit related work. The meaningful vote held on 15 January 2019 had resulted in a defeat for the current exit deal and planning for a 'no deal' scenario remained the priority for all departments including Defra and fisheries. Contingency planning for a 'no deal' included testing within the fisheries exit project across catch certifications and export health certifications and managing delays at ports and borders. Government departments were considering civil emergency contingency options and the potential need to implement shift systems to support 24/7 coverage. The MMO would be playing a key role in that delivery and resourcing in consultation and partnership with IFCAs. There were now 72 days left prior to formal exit with 6 major Bills passing through Parliament although the London Fisheries Convention would remain in place until July 2019. TD queried whether the IFCA legislative framework could be used to extend jurisdictions to 12 nautical miles and the supporting fisheries regulatory framework to cover any potential 'loop holes' in the event of a 'no deal' scenario and a hard EU exit. AF advised that such an option was not being considered and the Defra priority was to ensure that the existing legal framework continued to function through the exiting process and transition period. That functioning framework remained the CFP and the Fisheries Bill would enable any future policy change. AF felt that communications and managing the expectations of the UK fishing industry remained the biggest current challenge.

3. MMO Operational Update

Michael Coyle (MC) provided a summary operational update from the MMO and offered to send a more detailed written brief. The MMO were increasing their control and enforcement capabilities having recruited 16 additional MEOs and 10 support staff. The MEOs were currently undergoing a 'fast track' warranting process to be fully operational by end March 2019. Those recruits added to a pool of 47 core frontline staff who would be deployed in accordance with a location and resourcing plan with a priority to enhance the number of boarding officers available for offshore duties. The offshore pilot had identified a number of areas to develop including a standard memorandum of understanding and STCW offshore training for all MMO officers. The MMO were still looking to utilise the full matrix of offshore assets from the Navy, through to Border Force and the IFCAs but had just opened an expression of interest process inviting other private companies and operators with capable vessel assets to make contact. This would be followed by a tendering process for the provision of 'at sea' services. MC advised the group that it was a 'mixed economy' and the MMO needed to utilise as many potential offshore platforms as were available.

4. Defra International Trade Team and Communications

Rachel Hanbury (RH) and Pippa Eames (PE) updated the group on Defra led work supporting fisheries trade and exports and associated communication strategies. RH advised that supporting IT systems were expected to be in place by the end March 2019 with a manual 'back up' system and call centre. This would facilitate the completion and submission of catch certificates from the UK to Europe but live exports would also require additional health certification which was more complex to manage. All exports would then move through a Border Inspection Post (BIP) and current trade routes would have to adjust accordingly through existing BIPs. Ideally transport companies would 'back fill' i.e. a French lorry would bring French produce over and return with UK goods. In terms of fisheries, RH advised that Defra needed to fully understand existing supply chains and the type and nature of live and processed fisheries products being exported to ensure all eventualities were planned for. PE updated the group on the developing communications strategy surrounding fisheries and the EU exit planning work. This work was being delivered by the 'Business Communication team'. Defra were planning to run events during early February 2019 to inform the industry of everything they needed to know regarding catch certificates, environmental health certifications, transport and trade. These events would be 'backed up' by information posted on the gov.uk website. PE offered to circulate a schedule and plan, via SB, for the events which would be advised through the MMO. **Action PE/SB**

The Group suggested that targeted dissemination of written briefs and information might prove more productive than utilising open public meeting events. Single point of contact for IFCA's agreed through SB and the Chief Officers group. The group welcomed the briefings provided by RH and PE and offered their full support.

5. Comprehensive Spending Review 2019

The group discussed the current draft of the future funding submission. The IFCA matrix needed further review and additional detail from some IFCAs including the

voluntary input provided by members in terms of 'man hours' which was not salaried. The group discussed the potential inclusion of vessel costs although concerns were expressed that they should not be included within the CSR 19 bid. TD highlighted a need to be realistic in terms of the level of bid to enable meaningful business planning particularly surrounding vessel replacement/maintenance. The group agreed that SB should circulate a revised version of the submission and a teleconference should be held at the beginning of February 2019 to discuss and agree the final document. **Action SB**

6. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 October 2018 & matters arising

The group reviewed and agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2018. Outside discussions already held, no pressing matters arising were noted and date of next meetings agreed 9 and 10 April 2019 to be held in London.

7. AOB

MMO Appointees

Several attendees highlighted the fact that some of their IFCA MMO appointments would soon be expiring and there was a pressing need to write and advise them of such. SB to seek advice and guidance from the MMO. **Action: SB**

Defra led review of IFCAs

The group discussed the new review of IFCAs being conducted by ABPmer on behalf of Defra. SB to invite a representative from the review team to attend and provide an update at the next Association meeting. **Action: SB**

ACTIONS

1. Circulate notes on discussions surrounding the future fisheries grant scheme – **RM**
2. Plan an MMO/IFCA/Defra byelaw workshop for June 2019 – **NG/WW/DM**
3. Circulate Defra communication plan and strategy for EU exit fisheries – **PE/SB**
4. Arrange teleconference to agree final draft and content of IFCA SR19 submission – **SB**
5. Seek guidance from the MMO on expiring IFCA MMO appointments – **SB**
6. Invite representatives of ABPmer leading the Defra review of IFCAs to attend the next meeting of the AIFCA - **SB**



IFCA COG Meeting

Wednesday 10th April 2019 @ 10:30 hours

Government of Jersey, 4th Floor, 2 Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, London, SW1H 9BP

Minutes

Start: 10:30

Attending: Will Wright (WW), Tim Dapling (TD) Mike Hardy (MH), Julian Gregory (JG), Mat Mander (MM), Samantha Davis (SD), Rob Clark (RC), David McCandless (DM), Tom Hooper (TH).

MMO: Michael Coyle (MC)

RPA Ltd: Elizabeth Daly (ED)

1. **Apologies:** Dr Stephen Atkins, Mark Stafford (Welsh government), Island representatives.

Will Wright (WW) took the chair and welcomed all those in attendance. WW reviewed the planned agenda and agreed to prioritise business to maximise the time available. WW moved immediately to item 3 on the agenda – MMO Update and invited Michael Coyle to update the group.

2. MMO Update – Michael Coyle

Michael Coyle (MC) provided the group with a summary operational update from the MMO and confirmed that they are still planning for a 'crash out' scenario for Friday (12th April).

F1001 – Export Catch certificates – The MMO are working on a digital system and are now talking about estimates of over 200,000 certificates per year. The digital service is ready so if the UK does leave the EU on Friday the industry has been made aware of the situation and that they need to formally register their businesses. The MMO do have a manual solution based in Rotherham in case the digital system fails. He confirmed the IT system has had its first testing.

F1002 – Control and Enforcement - The MMO have been increasing their control and enforcement capabilities following a request to the Home Secretary for more funding. Planning for 29 March included two Royal Naval vessels, aircraft and the 'Ocean Spray' a privately chartered vessel operating under a three-month agreement and manned by four MMO boarding officers. The MMO are also working closely with the IFCA's with weekly 'dial ins' established and were fully appreciative of flexibility being offered. The MMO have recruited 16 new officers who are going through training to be fully operational to meet any 'crash out' scenario. MC confirmed that the conditions of the London Convention would stand until July 2019. He said that other member states would not be allowed into UK waters if the UK leaves the EU on Friday without a deal in place. MC clarified the 'chain of command' the MMO were leading on fisheries related risk within JMOCC, coordinated through MMO ops in Newcastle, supported by morning calls to all assets followed by a daily update to the Defra/Cobra cell. TD voiced some

concern over the frequency of operational 'dial ins' when there was often little to update. It was agreed that whilst the daily 'dial ins' had been established IFCAs only needed to actively participate when there was something to update on.

Mat Mander (MM) highlighted the importance of free data exchange between the MMO and IFCAs through the EU exit process. RC identified that the supporting MOA's and risk assessments needed to formalize the joint patrols were outstanding and with the MMO following the codevelopment of the draft MoAs. These needed to be finalised to enable the IFCAs to effectively support the MMO. The MoAs are not in place and IFCAs have been waiting on the response from MMO for some time and this remained a key issue. The group confirmed that they were broadly happy with the MoA's and that it would be necessary for the MMO to share their risk assessments which have been requested. Discussions followed regarding Sat phones and the development of an all-encompassing data sharing agreement which could facilitate full exchange between the MMO and IFCAs across a wide range of working areas. DM suggested that the agreement, developed previously by Isabelle Johnstone to support the joint intelligence project, could form the basis of such. DM agreed to recirculate the document to MC. RC identified issues with regards to the extent of legal protection for IFCAs when operating outside their respective 6 nm jurisdictions in the absence of the MoA and or available MMO officers to join tasked patrols in the 6nm to 12nm area. RC also suggested that additional powers could be considered via cross-warranting process if there were resourcing issues with the MMO. WW emphasized the potential for negative political 'fallout' if IFCAs were empowered to deal with issues as and when they arose. **Action – DM to circulate the draft data sharing agreement, MC to circulate MMO risk assessments. MC to consider a revised joint data sharing agreement, MOAs, Sat phones and the potential for further cross warranting.**

MMO appointee process – MH voiced his concerns that since the AIFCA meeting in September 2018 nothing has been forthcoming from the MMO regarding the possibility of extending appointee members 10 year term. He is also worried that some members may leave their posts because they have been asked to pay for further DBS check. RC also stated that the 10-year tenures doesn't appear to be a statutory provision nor defined in IFCA guidance as it is for Ministers to decide on length of tenure. However, he noted that there is a strong presumption that no individual should serve more than two terms or serve in any one post for more than ten years, as it is detailed in the Governance Code on Public Appointment. Extending the duration of membership would ensure continuity of expertise given the limited pool of potential candidates. The group agreed that this was an urgently pressing matter. It was confirmed that Tony Tomlinson had written previously to John Tuckett in September 2018, following the AIFCA meeting, regarding IFCA concerns relating to membership. JG highlighted the fact that the role of the MMO was much more than simply an administrator of appointments onto IFCA committees. MC agreed to take the collective concerns back to the MMO. **Action – MC**

3. RPA & ABPmer Evaluation of IFCAs – Elizabeth Daly

Elizabeth introduced herself to the group and explained that RPA and ABPmer were contracted by Defra to evaluate the activities, operations and actions of the IFCAs. This was to enhance understanding of the effectiveness of the design and implementation of IFCAs. Assess and understand the benefits and impacts IFCAs have provided through their activities and identify lessons learnt and best practice. The framework for the evaluation included a logic model which sets out the inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts resulting from an intervention. There were 12 research questions based on the study objectives. The evidence gathering included desk-based review which included annual plans and reports, engagement with IFCAs i.e. documents published by others e.g. AIFCA, Defra, telephone interviews with every chief officer and a focus group with senior officials. Engagement with wider stakeholders which included telephone interviews with national stakeholders and a focus group in four case study districts, which were Cornwall, Devon and Severn, North Western and Eastern.

The selection of case studies was to identify where there were differences between IFCA's so the evaluation can follow a realist approach – what works, for whom and in what circumstances. Collected information against a set of criteria for each IFCA, grouped IFCA's that appeared similar for several criteria and selected four IFCA's from different groups. The analysis was mainly qualitative, but some quantitative data e.g. budgets, sea area etc. would also be utilized. This was a three-stage project, scoping, high level evaluation and local level evaluation. The final report should be submitted by the start of July 2019.

MH asked ED if the group could have a copy of her presentation. She will send to all. Various questions were asked of ED. RC pointed out that it's a resource and capabilities issue but would like to explore this. He asked if IFCA is funded adequately and if there were legal implications. TD also asked if ED were looking in terms of comparisons to other systems and it would be interesting to compare outside the UK in other systems that appear to be working. MM & MH suggested that they will send a link to ED from the Welsh and Scottish governments including for the Orkney's, Shetlands; (and Channel Islands). **Action: ED, MH and MM.** It was also agreed that an invitation should be sent to ED to attend the next AIFCA meeting scheduled for June to provide an update on the evaluation process. **Action: AIFCA to invite Elizabeth Daly to the next AIFCA meeting in June**

Following lunch WW invited reflection on the discussions with MC and agreed to follow the confirmed actions up with him after the meeting. **Action: WW.** TD thanked WW for establishing the IFCA centric asset tasking and coordination process. WW suggested it could be run more centrally across the IFCA's. MH requested that any specific IFCA training needs be taken up with Ian Jones as soon as possible. **Action: All.**

4. iVMS project Update

JG gave a brief update on the issues surrounding procurement of iVMS units and the development of the supporting SI. In terms of procurement, the decision is to go out to tender on a multi supplier framework basis. To support the delivery of the project the potential use of mobile telephone apps for smaller low powered vessels was now being considered which would also link to the catch reporting app under development. However, there are three elements to this – 1. Technical 2. Legal and 3 policy which all have to be considered. The tender for supply of iVMS units is expected to go out in early June 2019 and iVMS 'rolled out' by 2021. The outcome of the SI consultation had now been published and Defra had announced their intention to progress it. There will be an article in Fishing News week after next. Defra have asked for feedback on the following: Would COG be happy if IFCA's didn't have the powers to enforce?

Options are:

- No IFCA enforcement
- We wait until post EU Exit and write it into IFCO powers SI – Not sure if they can do this
- IFCA introduce a byelaw to give themselves the powers
- Encompass IFCA powers in the iVMS SI which would be a smoother option but will delay by five months.

All agreed that IFCA powers should be encompassed into the iVMS SI. **Action: JG to feedback to Defra**

5. **Minutes of last meetings – 15th & 16th January.**

Agreed

6. **Matters arising & actions from minutes.**

COG ran through the minutes from last meeting. MH asked about Item 2 – Defra operational update, which DM confirmed that Anne Freeman had been very clear on this point. DM also confirmed one other issue raised by MH regarding the MMO IFCA byelaw process review.

7. **Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary**

Nominations for Chair of COG – Robert Clark, Samantha Davis and David McCandless. All agreed that Robert Clark would take over the role of COG Chair, Samantha Davies as Vice Chair and David McCandless would continue as Secretary supported by Sally Strandring AIFCA.

The group expressed their thanks to Will Wright for all his work and commitment as the outgoing COG Chair in the most challenging of times across UK EU exit work.

8. **UK Inshore Fisheries Steering Group**

SD confirmed that she would still like to be involved in this but will take direction from Stephen Bolt. WW confirmed that if we have chief support with SB, SD will be quite happy to continue to support SB.

9. **Enforcement of MCRS update**

The group agreed that whilst there was a wide consensus amongst IFCA's that MCRS could be enforced across the recreational sector, Andrew Oliver's advice should be shared with Joe Miller of MMO legal team for further review and consideration.

10. **UK Fisheries Audit**

The group discussed Defra's recent call to IFCA's for enforcement data in support of the annual EU UK fisheries audit return. Several IFCA's had responded with information whilst others felt most information was accessible via the MCSS system.

11. **Future UK Fisheries Grant Scheme**

WW suggested creating a workshop for this. MH confirmed that North of the Tyne FLAG are very keen to be involved in any UK future funding scheme. TD advised that the paper he had drafted and circulated previously still required some work but felt that completed elements could already be submitted to Defra before the commencement of public consultation. He felt that the section covering vessel assets was relatively complete and he had discussed the training component with Ian Jones, the research component with Kat Nelson ex TAG chair and compliance with Sean and Dom of NIMEG. Management innovation had as yet been left as unresolved in terms of a collective view and all about supporting IFCA's. TH felt that it needed to cover long-term research and monitoring of trends and provide support for wider collaborative work. SB has suggested that he will put that together feeding in ideas and have

workshop type events. **Action: TD to communicate with Tom Pryke at Defra on completed vessel element, SB to lead on this with a questions paper and receive feedback from that.**

12. AOB

IFCA Enforcement and Compliance

Following a letter that was received by Stephen Bolt from Dale Rodmell of the NFFO – seemingly questioning potential legal conflict of interest within IFCA compliance decision making. MH felt that it had arisen over a general misunderstanding of process. The group agreed that a short response should be sent to Dale.

Tech Con

TD confirmed that he had been reviewing the new draft tech con regulations 2016/0074 which would be replacing EC 850/98. TD felt that elements of the new regulations were much simpler since much of the catch composition for mesh sizes had been removed. The group considered whether a single response to the new proposed regulations should be sent via AIFCA but in the first instance it was agreed that it should be passed onto NIMEG for consideration. **Action: Review of new Tech con regs to be undertaken by NIMEG with any COG observations fed in.**

Cornwall IFCA Wrasse Byelaw

SD advised that she had received some interest in the Cornwall IFCA wrasse byelaw and anyone wanting additional information should contact her directly.

Actions

1. MMO appointee process – MC
2. Circulate final draft MMO/IFCA data sharing agreement covering intelligence to MC - DM
3. Risk assessments, Data sharing, MOAs, Sat phones and Warrant issues – MMO MC
4. MM & MH suggested that they will send a link to ED from the Welsh Government and Scottish government including Islands i.e. Orkney's, Shetlands, Channel Islands. ED, MH and MM. WW will also make best efforts to contact Michael Coyle about the issues raised in this meeting.
5. JG to feed back the group's views on enforcement powers for I-VMS.
6. MH asked if anyone hasn't contacted Ian Jones about course specifics please do so as a matter of urgency.
7. AIFCA to invite Elizabeth Daly to the next AIFCA meeting in June
8. Future UK Fisheries Grant Scheme - SB to lead on this with a questions paper and receive feedback from that. TD to communicate with Tom Pryke at Defra on completed vessel element.
9. Tech Con – To NIMEG with any CO observations - All

Close of meeting – 14:50

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
27 June 2019

Fisheries Statutes and Regulations Prosecutions

Report of the Clerk of the Authority.

A. Purpose of Report

To provide information on prosecutions taken by the Authority during the period January to June 2019

B. Recommendation

That Members note the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 Information on prosecutions taken on behalf of the Authority, or pending cases are submitted to each meeting of the Authority.
- 1.2 Attached is a schedule of prosecutions and sanctions covering the period since December 2018.
- 1.3 As an alternative to a prosecution, the Authority can also offer a Financial Administrative Penalty or FAP. The 2011 'Sea Fishing (Penalty Notices) England Order provides the mechanism for the Authority to issue fixed penalties for a range of infringements including breaches of byelaw regulations and national legislation relating to minimum landing sizes. Each offence is categorised to a fixed penalty which can be issued to the skipper and or owner of the respective vessel. The level of penalty issued must exceed the value of the respective catch.

Contact Officer

David McCandless
Chief Officer
Ext. 3690

Name(s)	Offence	Court	Date	Fined	Costs Awarded	Costs Requested
Mr J Chadwick	Landing 2 egg bearing lobsters	N/A	8 November 2018	FAP	£500	N/A
Mr M Wake	Landing 2 egg bearing lobsters	N/A	19 November 2018	FAP	£500	N/A
Mr A Green	Landing 29 undersize k scallops	N/A	17 December 2018	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr N D Lang	Landing 24 undersize k Scallops	N/A	17 December 2018	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr D Marshall	Retaining 1 egg bearing lobster & Shellfish permit breaches	N/A	18 December 2018	FAP	£500	N/A
Mr S Leaf	2 undersize edible crabs no permit	N/A	18 December 2018	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr K Williamson	4 undersize edible crabs	N/A	18 December 2018	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr K Crowe	Landing 11 undersize k scallops	N/A	9 January 2019	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr W Cauwood	Landing 1 egg bearing & 1 mutilated lobster	N/A	13 January 2019	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr C Messruther	Landing 2 egg bearing lobsters declined FAP	Scarborough	22 January 2019	£500	£745	£745
Mr R Cooper	Obstruction	Beverley	23 January 2019	Absolute Discharge	£100	£700
Mr R Trotter	Landing 1 egg bearing lobster and 6 crab claws	N/A	30 January 2019	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr K Trotter	Landing 2 egg bearing lobsters	N/A	5 February 2019	FAP	£500	N/A
Mr S Little	Retaining 2 undersize and 2 mutilated lobsters	N/A	1 February 2019	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr R Trotter	Landing 2 mutilated lobsters	N/A	8 February 2019	FAP	£500	N/A
Mr K Thompson	Retaining 4 undersize lobsters	N/A	27 February 2019	FAP	£500	N/A
Mr R Lindsey	Retaining and storing 1 'V' notched lobster	N/A	27 February 2019	FAP	£500	N/A
Mr S Featherstone	Landing 2 egg bearing lobsters	N/A	27 February 2019	FAP	£1000	N/A
Mr A Malinowski	Landing 3 undersize crabs and 1 egg bearing lobster	N/A	14 March 2019	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr K Gray	Landing 16 undersize lobsters, 2 egg bearing lobsters and breaches of shellfish permit regs	South Tyneside	12 March 2019	£100	£1200	£1200
Mr C English	Retaining 5 undersize lobsters, 7 undersize crabs and 4 egg bearing lobsters	South Tyneside	12 March 2019	£225	£1100	£1100
Mr D Walsh	Landing 44 undersize k scallops	N/A	19 March 2019	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr J Middleton	Landing 2 undersize lobsters	N/A	14 March 2019	HOC	N/A	N/A
Mr K Wilson	Landing 1 'v' notch & 1 mutilated lobster	N/A	22 March 2019	HOC	N/A	N/A

NORTH EASTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Report to: Authority Meeting
27 June 2019

Partner Reports

Report of the Chief IFC Officer.

A. Purpose of Report

To provide members information on partner organisations activities.

B. Recommendation

That Members note the report.

C. Background

The Deputy Clerk at the quarterly meeting held in June 2011, suggested that reports are submitted quarterly from partner organisations from the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England and the Environment Agency for consideration at quarterly meetings.

Please note the Environment Agency report was not available at the time of printing

Contact Officer

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Ext. 3690



Marine Management Organisation

MMO Scarborough



MMO Scarborough

For a national overview of activities please refer to the MMO website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation>

Enforcement:

This reporting period has seen a number of changes in our enforcement activities as the MMO prepares for the potential outcomes of Brexit. We have an additional enforcement officer based in the Scarborough office along with some staff changes and a boost to numbers in the Beverley office. We have also seen an increase in offshore capability with the chartering of the “Ocean Osprey” which has been working as a dedicated at sea platform for the MMO since April. The vessel has been present off the north east coast with officers boarding vessels and conducting inspections. This period has also seen a number of visits from Royal Navy fishery protection vessels to the area. The MMO has also been operating flights to help enforce fisheries regulations including some flights down the Yorkshire coast. Officers have been busy undertaking a range of inspections shore side in the local area which have included checks on premises selling seafood to ensure they are complying with registered buyers and sellers’ legislation, checks of transportation carrying catches away from the quayside and inspecting vessels as they land.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund:

Officers are continuing to appraise a large number of grant applications for pots in the area. We are also seeing a number of applications for safety equipment such as AIS units, life rafts, safety rails and fire fighting equipment.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund-emff-apply-for-funding>

Look Forward:

Looking forward we expect to see vessels arrive in the area to exploit the Silver Pit Nephrop fishery, historically this fishery brings vessel landings into Scarborough and an increased number of markets.

The MMO continues to work jointly with a number of organizations where we share interest and hopes to continue conducting joint work with NEIFCA where possible.

Prosecutions:

Willem de Boer, skipper of the Ansgar (E104) appeared at North Tyneside Magistrates Court on 24 May 2019 in a prosecution brought by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

The court heard how Royal Navy boarding officers performed a routine sea boarding on behalf of the MMO on 5 July 2018. The vessel was twin rig trawling in a section of the North Sea known as Dogger Bank.

When the boarding team approached the Angsar a boarding ladder was not provided. During the inspection both port and starboard cod end nets failed twine thickness regulations. A total of 40 failures were found on both nets.

There was also no square mesh panel on either net. As the vessel is British registered it is required to have a square mesh panel fitted to nets of mesh size 70-199 mm in ICES IV (North Sea).

Mr de Boer and Buchan (E104) Limited pleaded guilty to all charges. The owners were fined £66,455 and Mr de Boer was fined £8,147. They were jointly ordered to pay £1,830.50 in costs and a £340 victim surcharge.

Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries:

Natural England continue to support NEIFCA as they progress their MCZ assessments, and bait collection assessment work.

Designation Update:

Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA and Flamborough Head SAC

In November 2018, Defra confirmed the classification of the Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA, and the extension of the Flamborough Head SAC.

Further information is available on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flamborough-and-filey-coast-potential-special-protection-area-pspa-and-flamborough-head-possible-special-area-of-conservation-psac>

Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast

In April 2019, Natural England confirmed the notification of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest in the area. There were previously 7 SSSIs in the Tees Estuary area, which have now been merged and expanded into a single, landscape-scale SSSI, totaling nearly 30 square kilometres (or 12 square miles). Additional areas of sand-dune, saltmarsh, mudflat, grassland, lagoons and estuarial waters are protected, along with the populations of breeding and wintering birds, the iconic population of harbour seals and sand-dune invertebrates.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england-marine/teesmouth-and-cleveland-coast-potential-sp/>

Marine Conservation Zones

On 3rd June 2019, the Secretary of State designated 41 new MCZs along with the addition of new features to 12 existing (Tranche 1 & 2) sites.

In total, this extends the protection of our seas by 1.2 million hectares.

Although there are no new sites within the NEIFCA district, this announcement represents a significant milestone in the MCZ designation programme, which the IFCA (and formerly the Sea Fisheries Committee) have actively supported over the past 10 years.

All of the information on the newly-designated sites & features in Tranche 3, including the Factsheets and Designation Orders, is available at the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/marine-conservation-zone-designations-in-england>

Conservation Advice:

In March 2019, Natural England published draft Conservation Advice for Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA.

Full details can be found by searching for the site name at :

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>, along with our draft advice for Flamborough Head SAC, Humber Estuary SAC and SPA, Holderness Inshore MCZ and Runswick Bay MCZ.

Natural England is currently working on formalising these draft packages, with the Humber Estuary sites due to be formalised in September.

Marine Monitoring:

Natural England are currently working on producing monitoring plans for Flamborough and Humber Estuary designated sites to enable more effective collection of data and information across the sites. These plans will support the reporting process which is undertaken to determine the conservation status of designated sites. This work will progress over the course of the year and will comprise workshops and meetings with external partners.

Natural England and NEIFCA continue to hold regular discussions to look more closely at the evidence requirements of both organisations and to discuss future collaboration on survey work and monitoring projects.

Natural England are undertaking 3 key monitoring projects this year. The projects aim to update our understanding of our site features and will inform casework, allow a condition assessment and feed in to the update of the Humber and Flamborough SAC Conservation Advice packages.

Key Projects:

Survey of Humber Estuary Saline Lagoons survey

The aim of this project is to survey the Humber SAC Coastal Lagoons Feature and bring our information on the site up to date. Survey will be carried out of the species and vegetation, including PSA cores and faunal sampling.

Survey of the Humber Estuary Sand Dunes

Natural England's field unit will be undertaking a full survey of the Humber sand dunes feature in June.

Flamborough intertidal survey

A phase 2 survey will be carried in August and September to expand upon the intertidal survey that was carried out in 2018.