

## North Eastern IFCA European Lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) Fishery Status Report 2025

### Landings

Landings data information is collected from monthly NEIFCA shellfish catch returns submitted by permitted vessels and for comparison of landings, MMO iFish2 data are included as well. The monthly NEIFCA catch returns include landed weight, the number of active days, fishing effort (pots set and hauled) and the area fished (sub-rectangles & bands). A breakdown of key statistics for the European lobster fishery within the NEIFCA district can be found in the Multiple Indicator Framework (Table 1).

Landings per unit effort (LPUE) and catch per unit effort (CPUE) are key metrics used to analyse trends in the fishery, allowing seasonal variations in catch rates to be observed. LPUE is expressed in kilograms per 100 pots hauled (kg/100 pots), while CPUE is expressed as the number of individual lobsters caught per 100 pots hauled (lobsters/100 pots). Seasonal variation likely accounts for the fluctuations observed in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

Total landings across the NEIFCA district fell from 591 tonnes in 2024 to 564 tonnes in 2025. Trends varied by port: Whitby and Hartlepool experienced steady increases, Scarborough saw a slight decline followed by partial recovery, and Redcar recorded a sharp drop in 2024 before improving in 2025. Bridlington reached a peak of 210.6 tonnes in 2024 but declined to 146.42 tonnes in 2025, while Hornsea showed a gradual downward trend throughout the period (Figure 1). The reduction in landings particular for Bridlington is likely linked to larger vessels operating further offshore and not reporting catches to NEIFCA, combined with some smaller vessels leaving the fishery due to retirement. This pattern is also reflected in the reduced total number of pots hauled in 2025 compared to 2024 (Table 1).

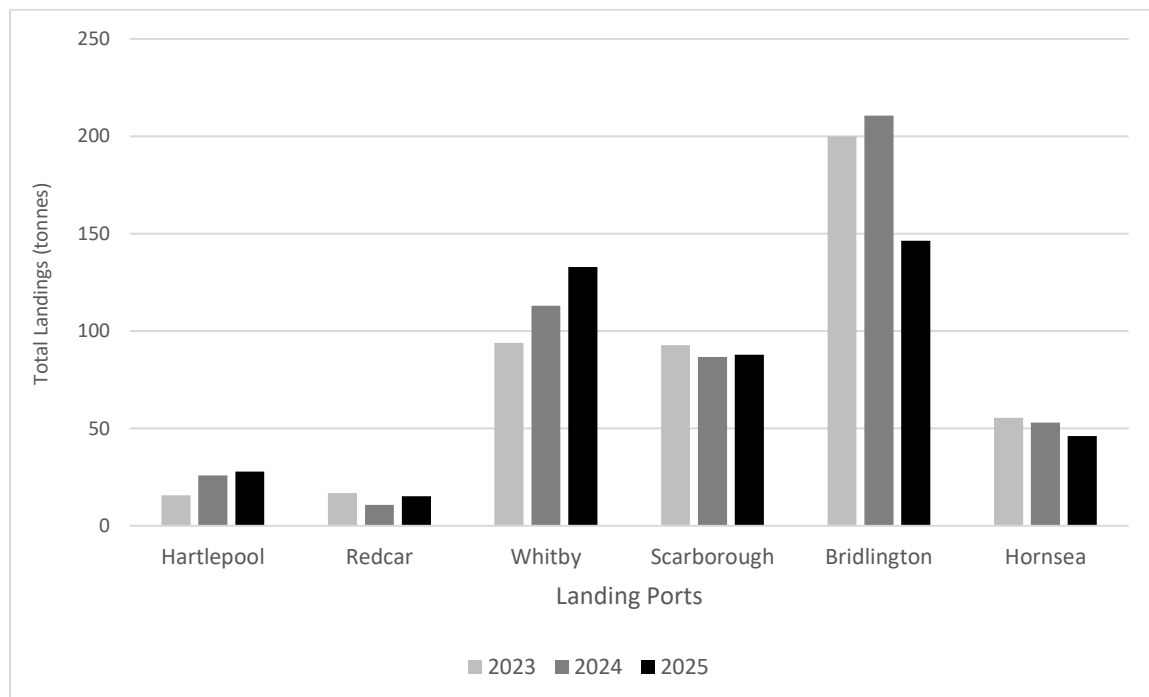


Figure 1. NEIFCA catch return landings of *H. gammarus* in 2023, 2024 and 2025 by main landing ports in the NEIFCA district.

Mean LPUE rose from 18.58 kg per 100 pots in 2024 to 19.41 kg per 100 pots in 2025. Seasonal patterns were evident, with the lowest values recorded in winter and early spring (8–11 kg/100 pots) and clear peaks each July—24.17 in 2023, 26.87 in 2024, and 30.54 in 2025 (Figure 2). Catch rates stayed relatively high through August and September before declining towards December. The elevated LPUE in 2025 indicates favourable fishing conditions and strong stock availability.

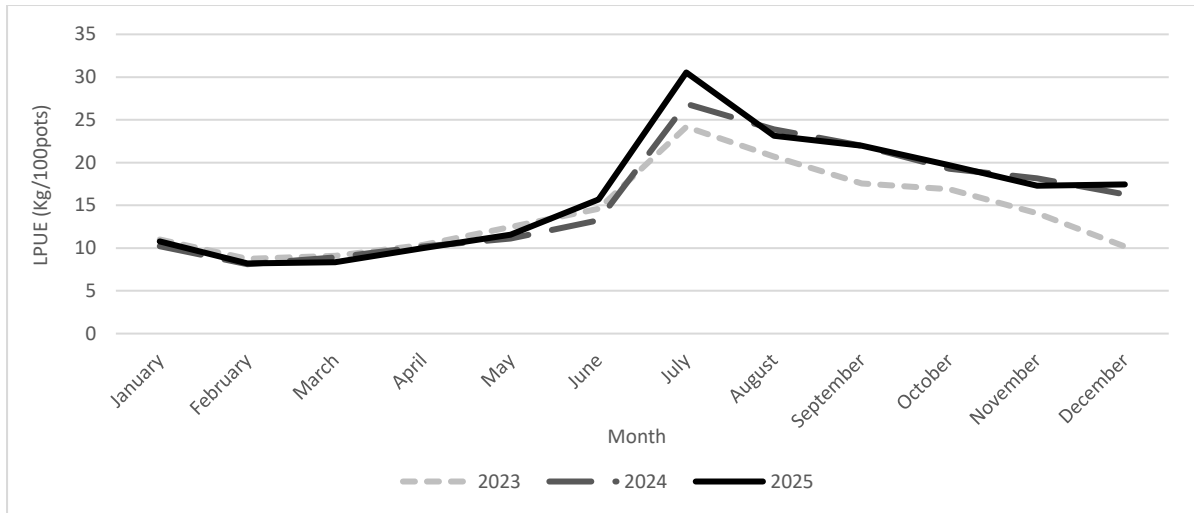


Figure 2. LPUE per month of *H.gammarus* in 2023, 2024 and 2025. Data: NEIFCA catch returns.

CPUE data were collected during observer trips aboard fishing vessels. In 2023, CPUE peaked in September (171 lobsters per 100 pots) and July (161 lobsters), with lower values in June (78 lobsters). CPUE declined overall in 2024, including a sharp drop in July (27 lobsters), although catches recovered in August (92 lobsters) (Figure 3), suggesting the July decline was likely due to short-term environmental conditions or localized lobster movement rather than reduced stock abundance. In 2025, CPUE increased across most months, peaking in June (108 lobsters) July (156 lobsters), August (126 lobsters). Limited data were available for November, with only a single value recorded in 2024 (24 lobsters). Overall, CPUE in 2025 indicates a recovery in catch rates compared with 2024 and 2023.

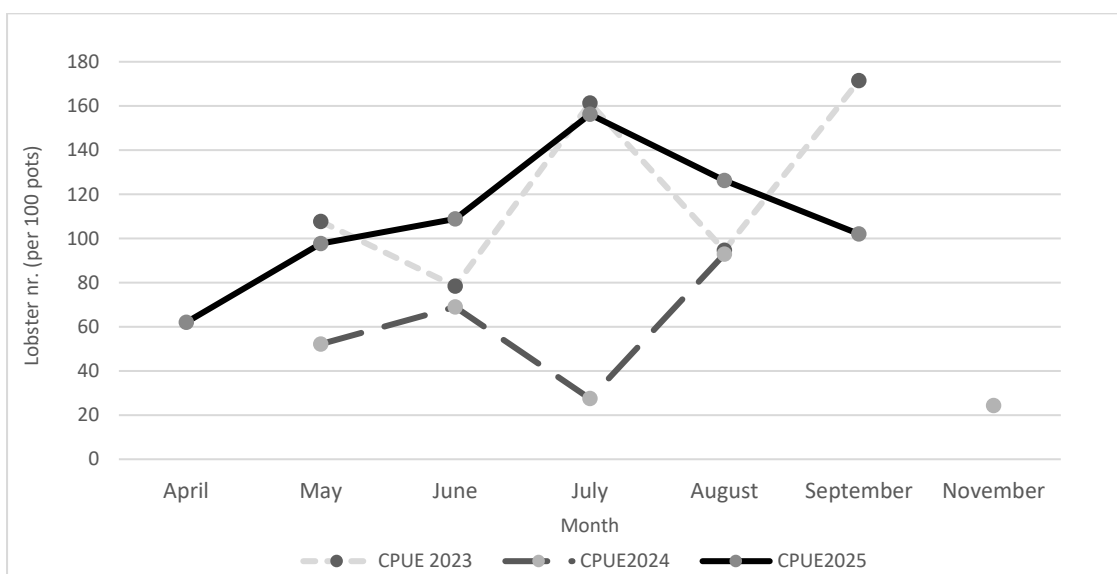


Figure 3. CPUE per survey months of *H.gammarus* in 2023, 2024 and 2025. Data: NEIFCA observer trips.

## Biometric Data

Size-frequency distributions from observer trip data collected between 2022 and 2025 show consistent patterns for both male and female lobsters (Figure 4). Median carapace length remained relatively stable across years, with males increasing slightly from 85 mm in 2022 to 91 mm in 2024 before returning to 90 mm in 2025. Males exhibited a broader size range ( $\approx 65\text{--}105$  mm), while females showed more narrowly peaked distributions around the mean carapace length. Interannual variation was modest, indicating a generally stable population size structure.

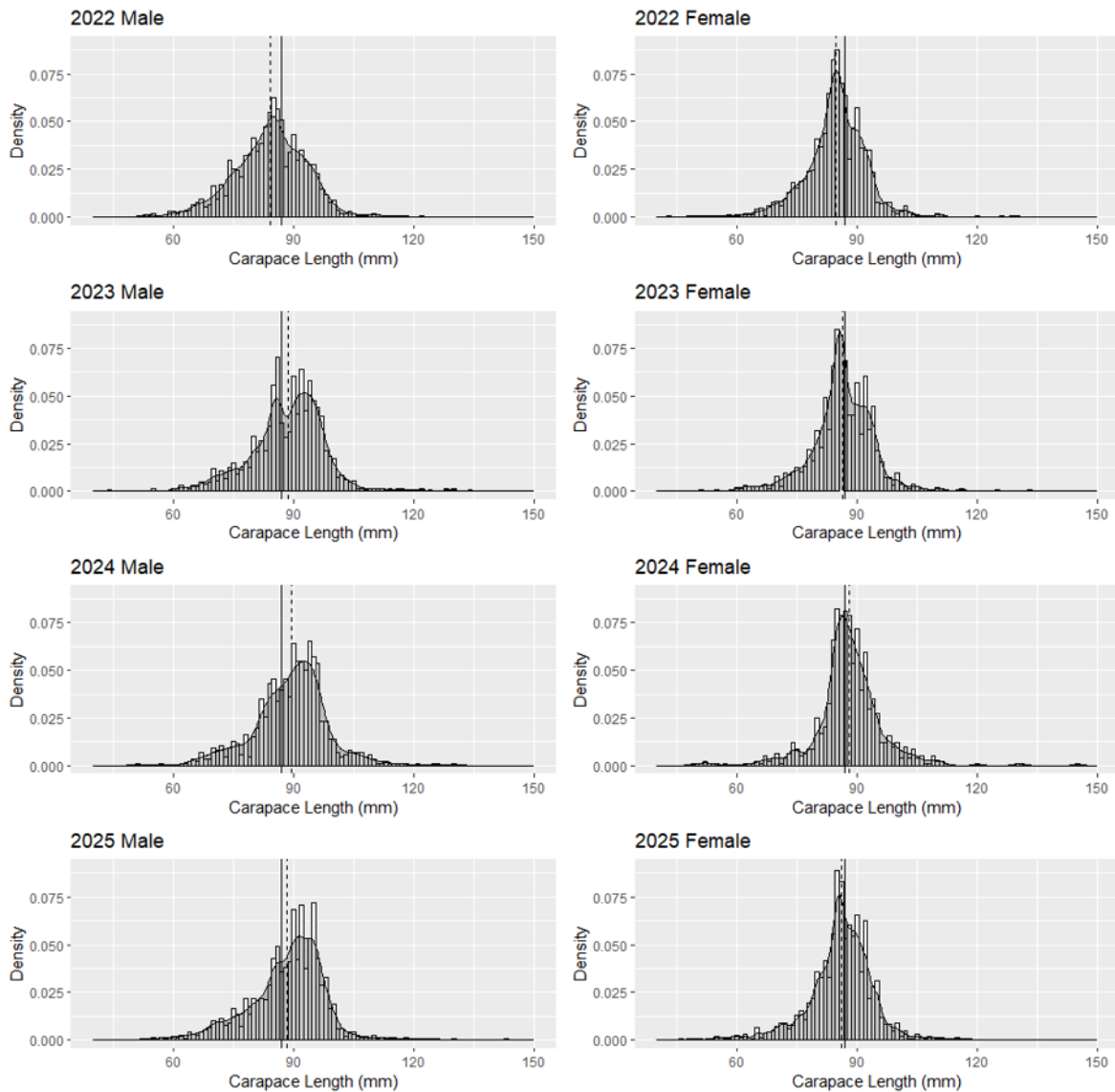


Figure 4. Size frequency of *H. gammarus* between 2022-2024. Black line is MLS (87mm) dashed line is mean. Data: NEIFCA observer trips.

Table 1. European Lobster (*Hommarus gammarus*) Multiple Indicator Framework.

Fishery Overview	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025**	Value Ref	Data Source
<b>Total Landings</b>	752.45	986.955	977.3	755.5013	921.23	963.06	Tonnes	MMO
<b>Total Landings</b>				<b>546</b>	<b>591</b>	564	Tonnes	NEIFCA Returns
Total Effort (Pots Hauled)				<b>3.32</b>	<b>3.21</b>	2.95	Million	NEIFCA Returns
Total Effort (Pots Set)	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	100	Thousand	NEIFCA Returns
<b>Primary Reference Points</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Value Ref</b>	
Mean LPUE	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.59	18.58	19.41	KG/100 pots hauled	NEIFCA Returns
<b>Economic</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Value Ref</b>	
Average Annual Price	13.6	16.4	15.9	16.3	19.1	18.7	£/kg	NEIFCA IFCO reports
Gross Catch Value	10.23	16.18	15.53	12.46/8.9	17.59/11.3	18.02/10.5	<b>£ Million</b>	<b>MMO/NEIFCA Returns</b>
No. Active Vessels	273	259	226	199	192	185	#	NEIFCA Returns
<b>Biometric Above 87mm (quayside)</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Value Ref</b>	
Average Carapace Length M (mm)	94	95	95	95	94	94	mm	NEIFCA Survey
Average Carapace Length F (mm)	95	93	93	93	92	92	mm	NEIFCA Survey
Max Carapace Length M (mm)	106	138	146	149	150	145	mm	NEIFCA Survey
Max Carapace Length F (mm)	114	148	142	128	133	154	mm	NEIFCA Survey
Sex Ratio (% Female)	55.3	59.6	61.1	53.1	60.1	59.2	%	NEIFCA Survey
<b>*Biometric all sizes</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Value Ref</b>	
Median Carapace Length M (mm)	N/A	N/A	85	90	91	90	mm	NEIFCA Survey
Median Carapace Length F (mm)	N/A	N/A	85	86	88	86	mm	NEIFCA Survey
Max Carapace Length M (mm)	N/A	N/A	118	159	149	166	mm	NEIFCA Survey
Max Carapace Length F (mm)	N/A	N/A	130	156	149	161	mm	NEIFCA Survey
Sex Ratio (% Female)	N/A	N/A	52.3	43.6	46.3	42.2	%	NEIFCA Survey
*This section includes all data from observer trips and NEIFCA surveys with sizes below and above 87mm.								
** The information provided is correct at the time of publishing.								