

Title: XXVIII Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2022 IA No: RPC Reference No: Lead department or agency: North Eastern IFCA Other departments or agencies:	Impact Assessment (IA)		
	Date: 14/08/2023		
	Stage: Development/Options		
	Source of intervention: Domestic		
	Type of measure: Primary legislation		
Contact for enquiries: David McCandless			

Summary: Intervention and Options	RPC Opinion: RPC Opinion Status
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Cost of Preferred (or more likely) Option (in 2019 prices)			
Total Net Present Social Value	Business Net Present Value	Net cost to business per year	Business Impact Target Status
£m	£m	£m	Qualifying provision

What is the problem under consideration? Why is government action or intervention necessary?

Government intervention is required to redress market failures in the marine environment by implementing appropriate management measures (this byelaw) to conserve features to ensure negative externalities are reduced or suitably mitigated. Implementing this byelaw will support continued provision of public goods and services in the marine environment. Specifically, this byelaw will support the long-term sustainability of shellfish in the NEIFCA district by regulating fishing effort upon shellfish stocks.

What are the policy objectives of the action or intervention and the intended effects?

To implement effort limitation as a precautionary approach to avoid over-exploitation of shellfish in the NEIFCA district.
 To introduce effort limitation as a management measure to regulate fishing effort within the NEIFCA district.
 To provide a flexible framework to ensure evidence-based management measure may be implemented in a time effective manner.
 To promote sustainable fisheries while conserving the marine environment.
 To reduce negative externalities and ensure continued provision of common goods.

What policy options have been considered, including any alternatives to regulation? Please justify preferred option (further details in Evidence Base)

Option 0. Do nothing
 Option 1. Replace the existing Shellfish Permit Byelaw regulation with a flexible byelaw model which introduces effort limitation.
 Option 2. Use of non-regulatory/voluntary measures.
 Option 3. Revoke the current Byelaw

Will the policy be reviewed? It will be reviewed. If applicable, set review date: 12/2027				
Is this measure likely to impact on international trade and investment?		No		
Are any of these organisations in scope?	Micro	Small	Medium	Large
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
What is the CO ₂ equivalent change in greenhouse gas emissions? (Million tonnes CO ₂ equivalent)	Traded:		Non-traded:	
	N/A		N/A	

I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that, given the available evidence, it represents a reasonable view of the likely costs, benefits and impact of the leading options.

Signed by the responsible SELECT SIGNATORY:  Date: 14/08/2023

Summary: Analysis & Evidence

Policy Option 1

Description:

FULL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

Price Base Year 2022	PV Base Year 2022	Time Period Years 5	Net Benefit (Present Value (PV)) (£m)		
			Low: Optional	High: Optional	Best Estimate:

COSTS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years	Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Total Cost (Present Value)
Low	Optional	Optional	Optional
High	Optional	Optional	Optional
Best Estimate	£79,340.14	£79,340.14	£396,700.70

Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

A total of £79,340.14 is estimated related to the cost of administration (£17,995.24), tags (£13,532.40) and scientific monitoring work (£47,812.50) required to support the management measures introduced. Estimated cumulative cost of £45,800 for Category One Permits (calculated based on current 216 permits) across a tiered permit fee scheme and £27,780 for Category Two Permits (calculated based on 2778 recreational permits). Potential loss of landings cannot be calculated due to lack data.

Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

Displacement of commercial fishing effort to outside of the NEIFCA district is anticipated due to the introduction of effort limitation capping the number of pots to 1000 within 6nm. Potential implications of this could be gear conflict between potting vessels and scallop vessels beyond 6nm which could result in a loss of gear for the potting fleet.

BENEFITS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years	Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Total Benefit (Present Value)
Low	Optional	Optional	Optional
High	Optional	Optional	Optional
Best Estimate			

Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

No monetised figures are available for the benefits of the recommended introduction of effort limitation and introduction of a flexible byelaw model. However, significant and potential benefits are described below.

Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

Ensuring sustainability of stocks by regulating fishing effort through the introduction of effort limitation. Implementation of a flexible byelaw model will benefit the shellfish fishery by allowing for changes to be made to the byelaw conditions based on new evidence. This will improve NEIFCA's ability to implement effective measures in a proactive manner.

Key assumptions/sensitivities/risks

Discount rate (%)

Based on CEFAS 2019 lobster stock assessment exploitation in the region is high and above the level required for maximum sustainable yield (both sexes). Based on CEFAS 2019 edible crab stock assessment exploitation is moderate (females) to high (males) and above the level required for maximum sustainable yield. Key monetised costs to industry for permit fees is based on the assumption that permit holders will request for pot tiers which correspond with their current estimated total number of pots.

BUSINESS ASSESSMENT (Option 1)

Direct impact on business (Equivalent Annual) £m:			Score for Business Impact Target (qualifying provisions only) £m:
Costs:	Benefits:	Net:	

Evidence Base

1. Problem under consideration and rationale for intervention

- 1.1 Current NEIFCA regulations allows any UK registered vessel with a shellfish entitlement to obtain a shellfish permit for fishing within the NEIFCA district. According to the 2019 CEFAS stock assessment the exploitation of the lobster stock is already over the Maximum Sustainable Yield threshold and additional pressure on the local stocks could potentially lead to a collapse. This would affect all levels of the supply chain and the lack of any effort limitation cannot support any sustainable fisheries for crabs and lobsters.
- 1.2 The lobster and crab fisheries has been deemed as data poor. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition in the catch return systems over the past 2 years, have increased this data deficiency. Therefore, a precautionary approach is required until more data is available to suitably assess the local crab and lobster stock and to ensure a sustainable fisheries management is in place.
- 1.3 The current shellfish byelaw does not allow any proactive and time efficient implementation of new management measures. Any changes to the current byelaws will have to go through a up to 2-year process before it can be implemented. The new flexible byelaw will allow a more proactive and efficient management of the shellfish fisheries as the conditions in the byelaw can be amended without having to replace the whole byelaw.

2. Rationale and evidence to justify the level of analysis used in the IA (proportionality approach)

2.1 Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have duties to ensure that fish stocks are exploited in a sustainable manner, and that any impacts from that exploitation on designated features in the marine environment are reduced or suitably mitigated, by implementing appropriate management measures (e.g. this byelaw). Implementing this byelaw will ensure that fishing activities are conducted in a sustainable manner and that the marine environment is suitably protected.

2.2 Fishing activities can potentially cause negative outcomes as a result of 'market failures'. These failures can be described as:

- Public goods and services – A number of goods and services provided by the marine environment such as biological diversity are 'public goods' (no-one can be excluded from benefiting from them, but use of the goods does not diminish the goods being available to others). The characteristics of public goods, being available to all but belonging to no-one, mean that individuals do not necessarily have an incentive to voluntarily ensure the continued existence of these goods which can lead to under-protection/provision.
- Negative externalities – Negative externalities occur when the cost of damage to the marine environment is not fully borne by the users causing the damage. In many cases no monetary value is attached to the goods and services provided by the marine environment and this can lead to more damage occurring than would occur if the users had to pay the price of damage. Even for those marine harvestable goods that are traded (such as wild fish), market prices often do not reflect the full economic cost of the exploitation or of any damage caused to the environment by that exploitation.
- Common goods - A number of goods and services provided by the marine environment such as populations of wild fish are 'common goods' (no-one can be excluded from benefiting from those goods however consumption of the goods *does* diminish that

available to others). The characteristics of common goods (being available but belonging to no-one, and of a diminishing quantity), mean that individuals do not necessarily have an individual economic incentive to ensure the long term existence of these goods which can lead, in fisheries terms, to potential overfishing. Furthermore, it is in the interest of each individual to catch as much as possible as quickly as possible so that competitors do not take all the benefits. This can lead to an inefficient amount of effort and unsustainable exploitation.

2.3 IFCA byelaws aim to redress these sources of market failure in the marine environment through the following ways:

- Management measures to conserve designated features of European marine site will ensure negative externalities are reduced or suitably mitigated.
- Management measures will support continued existence of public goods in the marine environment, for example conserving the range of biodiversity in the sea of the IFCA District.
- Management measures will also support continued existence of common goods in the marine environment, for example ensuring the long term sustainability of fish stocks in the IFCA District.

3. Policy objective

3.1 The policy objective pertinent to this IA is to ensure that stocks are exploited in a sustainable manner, that the regulations are easier to navigate for resource users and to increase the levels of compliance. It will limit potting levels in the NEIFCA District in the interest of conservation of the marine environment and allow a flexible more proactive fisheries management.

4. Evidence Base

4.1 Stock Status – Lobster (*Hommarus gammarus*)

4.1.1 The Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science produce stock status reports for European lobster and edible crab across five stock fisheries units biennially. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic the most recent stock status reports for these species were published in 2020 reporting on the previous year. The NIEFCA district crosses two stock fisheries units; Northumberland and Durham, and Yorkshire Humber for lobster.

4.1.2 The exploitation status of lobster across both stock units were reported as high, above the level required for maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for both sexes for the Yorkshire Humber stock unit and at the limit reference point for males and above for females for the Northumberland and Durham stock unit¹. Biomass status is generally reported to be low for the two stock assessment units, below the minimum reference point for females and close to the minimum reference point for males in the Northumberland and Durham stock unit¹. Whereas, biomass status for females in the Yorkshire Humber stock unit were reported to be stable albeit close to the minimum reference point¹. CEFAS reported no change in the status of stock within both stock units since 2017.

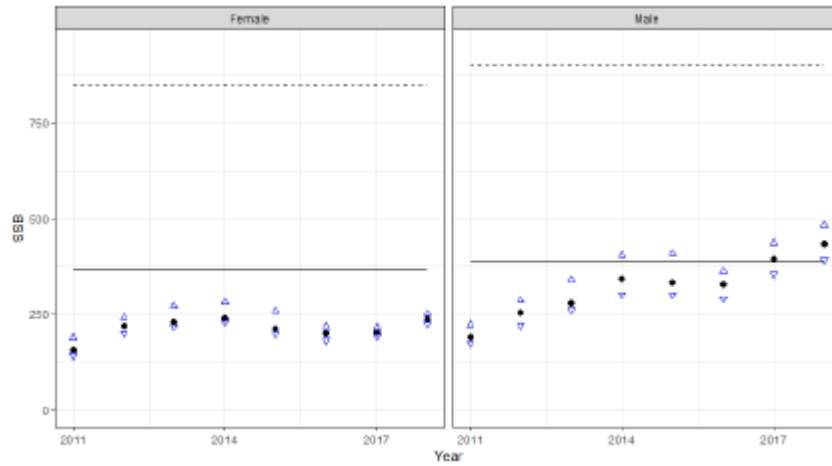


Figure 1. Time series of biomass estimates and MSY target (dashed) and minimum reference point limit (solid)¹ for lobster.

4.1.3 A NEIFCA stock summary report published in 2018, noted a steady increase in annual exploitation rates ranging from 40-55% for male lobsters and 45-65% for females². Between 2016 and 2017 a reduction was seen in exploitation rates of ~9%, attributed to the introduction of a new management measure for the inclusion of escape gaps implemented at the end of 2016 by the NEIFCA byelaw XXVIII.² Conclusions drawn within this report highlighted the vulnerability of stock and suggested that a significant increase in spawning stock biomass (SSB) and/or a reduction in fishing mortality would be required to achieve maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

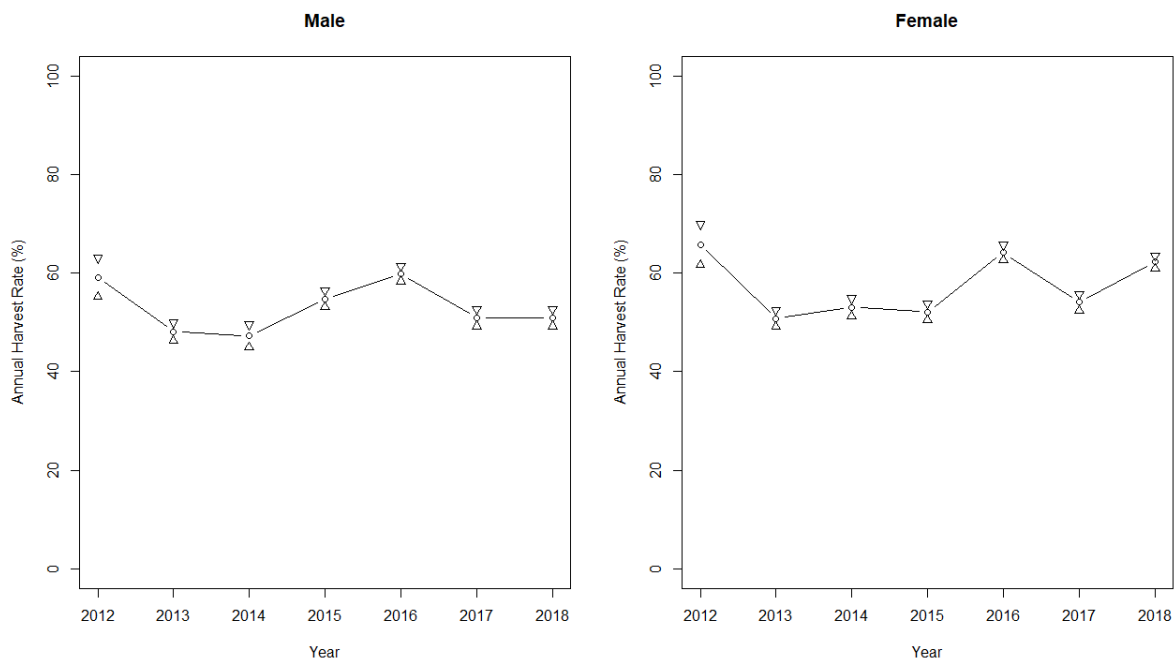


Figure 2. Figure 1. Chapman-Robson derived estimates of annual harvest rate for lobster from quayside sampling for the period 2012-2018. Includes 95% confidence intervals².

4.2 Stock Status – Edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*)

4.2.1 Assessment of edible crab stock status within the NEIFCA district is predominantly covered within the CEFAS stock fishery unit Central North Sea, however, the southern extent of the NEIFCA district extends into the Southern North Sea stock unit.³ In 2019, the exploitation of edible crab was considered high for males and sits at the maximum reference point limit. Whereas, for females exploitation was reported to be moderate, with rates that were likely to be sustainable yet still above the MSY³. Estimates

of SSB were reported to be at and approaching the target level for females and males respectively, with the status of the stock noted to remain unchanged since the last CEFAS assessment in 2017. However, the report also highlighted the importance of treating reported spawning stock status with caution due to the potential for the stock assessment model to interpret large increases in landings as an increase in spawning stock³. Anecdotal information on increased fishing activity in both pot numbers and distribution was suggested as likely factors resulting in the increased landings of crab reported for that year³.

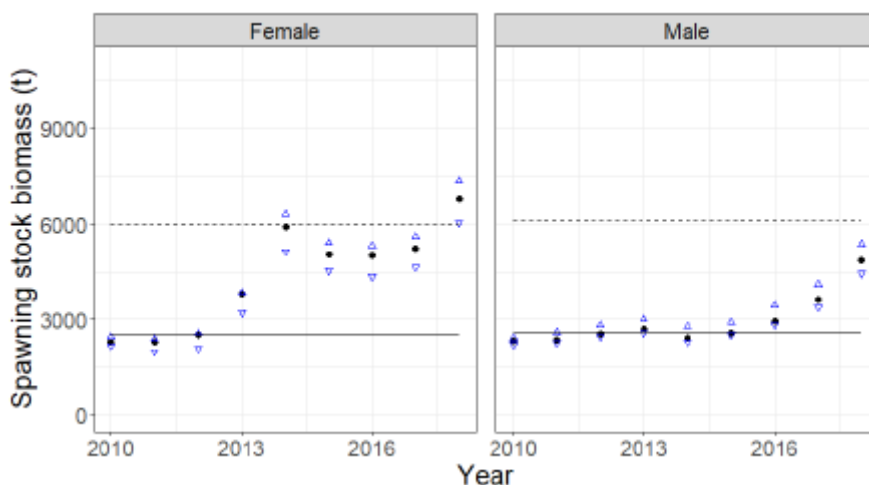


Figure 3. Time series of biomass estimates and MSY target (dashed) and minimum reference point limit (solid)³ for edible crab.

4.2.2 Additionally, annual harvest rates of 49% and 47% for male and female edible crabs respectively were published in a NEIFCA stock summary report in 2018⁴. The findings of which are comparable to that of CEFAS’ 2019 stock status report, as NEIFCA (2018)⁴ described the general status of crab stocks within the district as fairly low and noted that fishing mortality rates are above that required to achieved MSY.

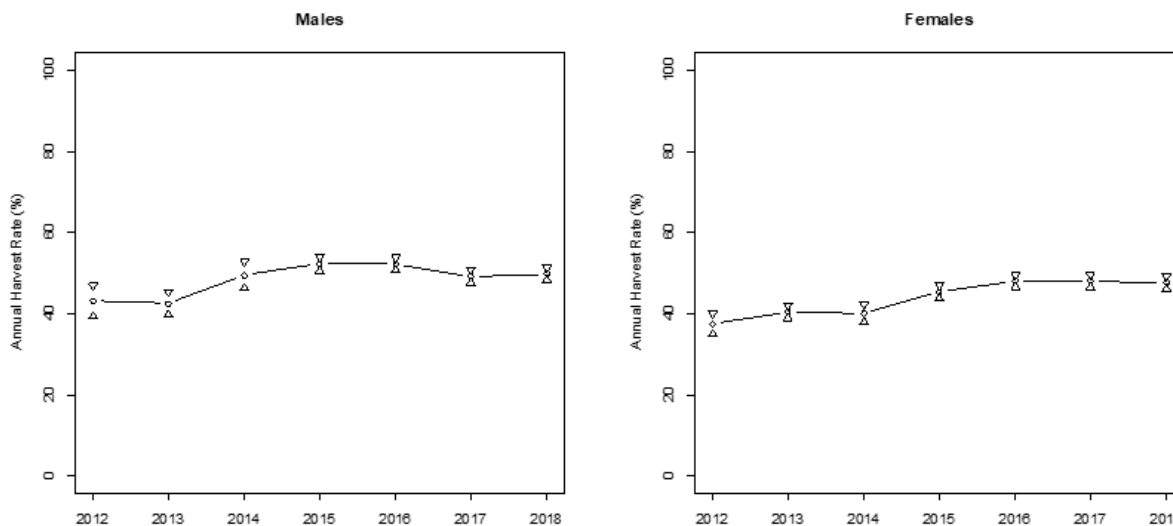


Figure 4. Chapman-Robson derived estimates of annual harvest rate for edible crab from quayside sampling for the period 2012-2018. Includes 95% confidence intervals.

4.2.3 A NEIFCA landings assessment report published in July 2023 indicated across the district a decline of around 51% in landings for edible crabs in 2022 for under 10m vessels compared to previous years. A decline in effort (number of recorded landings) for most ports has also been noted for 2022 within the under 10m fleet alongside a decline in active fishing vessels North of Bridlington. The assessment of the landings for lobsters in 2022 however described two different trends, with declines in landings for Scarborough, Staithes, Redcar and Hartlepool but an increase in landings for Bridlington and Whitby. This report is not a direct assessment of the lobster and edible crab stock status and

although fishing efforts were reduced in 2022 for most areas when compared to previous years, a decline in lobster landings across the district has not been seen. Therefore, the reduced landings for edible crabs is still an indication of a decline in inshore stocks and remains a concern. A similar trend has been described nationally for inshore edible crab stocks.

4.3 Findings of the CEFAS stock assessment must be placed into a wider context when applied to the status of shellfish stocks within the NEIFCA district due to the spatial disparity between CEFAS stock fisheries units and the NEIFCA boundary. There are additional challenges in assessing the status of edible crab stocks due to their migratory behaviour between inshore and offshore areas. Whilst, the most recent CEFAS stock status report (2019) suggests that edible crab stocks in the Central North Sea stock unit are above the minimum reference point, anecdotal information from the industry this year reports a decline in crab landings across the NEIFCA district. In comparison, anecdotal reports from industry this year have noted that lobster landings have been as expected if not better. However, to ensure the health of shellfish stocks and the future economic viability of the shellfish fisheries a precautionary approach is necessary.

4.4 NEIFCA officers are reporting an increase in organised hand gathering activities in the intertidal since 2020. Specific areas are regularly targeted by groups exceeding 20 people at times, gathering barnacles, limpets, whelk, cockles, surf clams, mussels, sea urchins, edible and green shore crabs, and juvenile lobsters. Although exploitation levels and impacts on the habitat are not known to date, concerns remain about the amount removed by each individual with buckets filled with over 10kg of shellfish and bivalves when inspected by NEIFCA officers. The only current provision for enforcing these activities relies on a minimum conservation reference size of certain species. Therefore, introducing more species to the proposed byelaw will enable the NEIFCA to implement additional management measures as and when required.

5. Summary of 2022 informal consultation responses

5.1 The consultation did not ask specific questions, but instead outlined the approach NEIFCA intended to take with the new byelaw. As such, interpretation of statistics that are presented as percentage of respondents must be treated cautiously and used as an indication of general support or opposition only. Future formal consultation will include standardised questions to allow full quantification of responses.

5.2 A total of 56 consultation responses were received, however out of these only 6 respondents were from Bridlington. 64% of respondents agreed there was a need for effort limitation, while 57% agreed with a cap of 800 pots per permit. The use of track record data to inform final pot allocations, however, was broadly rejected with 37.5% opposing the proposal and only 8.9% supporting it. Two respondents voiced the opinion that pot allocation should be based on vessel size rather than track record

5.3 Common themes on the subject of track record were:

- Raising that there is a lack of clarity over the process of transferring permits upon sale of a vessel, replacement of a vessel or retirement.
- Concern of the impact that the mass mortality events will have on the track record process.
- Concern over the track record scheme for new starters, many dislike the idea of a waiting list as it prohibits new fishers from being able to plan ahead for their future.
- Concern over lack of clarity on the grounds by which fishers can appeal an allocation or new entrants application.
- Concern over track record scheme preventing them from expanding their business.
- Shellfish permit potentially being de-valued if permit involves a lower pot allocation.

- Concerns track record scheme will discriminate against smaller vessels which are currently unable to work large numbers of pots but that does not mean they should be restricted from working more in the future.
- Concern over the impact that the track record scheme and pot limit would have on the growth of the industry.

5.4 12.5% raised concerns specifically regarding their ability to earn a living from 800 pots which would force them to fish outside of 6 NM. Comments suggested this would result in:

- Increased effort intensity outside 6 NM which could have adverse effects on the stocks there.
- Increased gear conflict with scallopers outside the 6 NM limit resulting in greater loss of gear.
- Poor weather increasing the risk of losing gear if fishing further offshore.
- An increased risk to safety of fishermen if smaller vessels are forced to fish outside 6 NM due to exposure to bad weather.

5.5 25% of respondents expressed concern over the potential impacts on livelihoods, with some suggesting that an 800 pot limit would reduce their earnings and may result in the loss of crew positions. There was additional concern over the current rising cost of living, including fuel costs, and opposed the introduction of a permit fee (30%).

5.6 26.7% of respondents opposed the use of tags, particularly given the proposed location of the tags directly attached to the enders. Responses cited that enders are frequently lost due to bad weather so replacement of tags would be high, costly to fishermen and inconvenient. 7% suggested tagging every pot as an alternative as it would be easier to enforce.

5.7 Further concern was raised over the IFCA's ability to enforce the proposed effort limitation. One response stated that NEGIII was unable to haul a large number of pots to ensure the correct number of pots per fleet. Another suggested that some fishers may try to place an ender midway through a fleet so if officers are only checking the enders they may have more pots in a fleet than they have disclosed/are allowed to have.

5.8 50% raised concerns over the permit being relinquished or queried the process for transferring the permit to another vessel upon sale, replacement or change of ownership due to retirement.

5.9 Further Considerations

NEIFCA conducted informal consultation with industry around the potential use of effort limitation in 2016. Consultation responses at that time showed 85% of respondents were in agreement that effort limitation was needed and should be implemented. Although, in this round of consultation only 86 responses were obtained from a total of 243 permit holders. The Fisheries Act 2020 requires the UK fisheries policy authorities to publish fisheries management plans (FMPs) to help deliver sustainable fisheries. While the final list of FMPs will be published in the Joint Fisheries Statement in November 2022, Defra is developing 6 'frontrunner' FMPs which includes one for crab and lobster. The crab and lobster FMP will cover stocks in English waters only. The Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) is working closely with the Crab and Lobster Management Group, an industry-led advisory group, to draft the FMP. Concern has been raised that the consultation is being conducted in isolation and is not taking into account these wider planned measures. NEIFCA involvement in the development of the draft crab and lobster FMP has been limited to date, with engagement in the science subgroup and stakeholder events.

6. Description of options considered

The following options have been considered:

6.1 Option 0: Do nothing - This option would involve allowing the existing NEIFCA management regime to continue unchanged. While this would allow continued fishing at the same levels there is a risk of an increase in effort within the district and potential stock collapse

6.2 Option 1. Replace the existing Shellfish Permit Byelaw regulation with a flexible byelaw model -This option introduces effort limitation as a management measure to regulate fishing effort and ensure sustainability of shellfish stocks.

6.3 Option 2. Use of non-regulatory/voluntary measures – A voluntary agreement would need a 100% compliance to be effective and ensure a sustainable fishery. We believe that this cannot be achieved across the NEIFCA district, due to the size of it and the number of licensed potting vessels. The tendency within the fishing sector is to exploit it to the maximum if there is an opportunity and financial reward, therefore fishermen would fish regardless of any voluntary agreements. With byelaws a high level of observance of regulation occurs, particularly as there are no ambiguities.

6.4 Option 3. Revoke the current Byelaw - This option would remove management regime and potentially lead to unrestricted fishing and potential stock collapse.

6.5 As options 0, 2 and 3 are not suitable in this instance, option 1 is therefore considered in the costs and benefits analysis.

7. Summary and preferred option with description of implementation plan

7.1 Option 1 was determined to be the preferred option to replace the existing shellfish byelaw with a flexible byelaw model and introducing effort limitation. This secondary legislation is expected to be implemented before the summer season of 2023 and resources are already in place to actively enforce its provisions. Although no additional implementation costs are expected the wider application of the revised regulations could increase the number of formal enforcement actions taken (but this cannot be estimated accurately at this stage). Any subsequent changes in compliance and enforcement actions will be monitored through the Post Implementation Review Plan. This plan will form part of the NEIFCA annual plan and will be published on the NEIFCA website.

8. Monetised and non-monetised costs and benefits of each option (including administrative burden)

8.1 Analysis of fisheries costs

8.1.1 The costs incurred by the commercial fishing industry are primarily due to the introduction of a permit charge. Under the proposed byelaw a tiered permit fee scheme would be implemented, with the cost of a permit related to the number of pots that a permit holder wished to operate within the NEIFCA district up to a maximum of 1000 pots (Table 1.). The costs presented in table 1 are calculated based on the best known estimates of total number of pots for each vessel with a current NEIFCA shellfish permit. There are currently five trawl vessels which hold a commercial shellfish permit to allow for them to land shellfish, as these vessels do not primarily target shellfish and are assumed not to be working pots the lowest permit fee tier will be applied of £50.

Table 1. Permit fee cost analysis for existing commercial shellfish permit holders in the NEIFCA district.

Pot numbers	Permit fee (£)	No. of Vessels	Cost (£)
0-250	50	42	2100
251 - 500	150	46	6900

501-750	250	17	4250
751-1000	350	22	7700
Other (unknown pot no.'s)	250	48	12000
Trawlers	50	5	250
>1000	350	36	12600
Total		216	45,800

8.1.2 Out of the current 216 commercial vessels with a shellfish permit in the district, 16% are estimated to work a total number of pots greater than 1000. However, there are no data to enable estimated pot numbers to be calculated for 14% of commercial shellfish permit holders. Therefore, although it is unlikely that all of the vessels which comprise the 14% of unknown pot numbers are fishing over 1000 pots, the introduction of effort limitation and capping the total number of pots fished to 1000, may have the potential to effect up to 31% of the fleet. For the 14% of vessels with unknown pot numbers, a fee of £250 was used in calculations as it corresponds with the average number of pots (733) worked by vessels in the NEIFCA district.

8.1.3. The economic cost to vessels who currently operate over 1000 pots could not be calculated due to a lack of data. Likewise, it was intended as part of this impact assessment to assess how the introduction of effort limitation may impact the daily effort of vessels, however, due to insufficient data this was not achievable.

8.1.4 For recreational shellfish permit holders, the key monetised cost was the addition of a £10 permit fee. This results in a total incurred cost to the recreational sector of £27,780.

8.2 Analysis of administrative and scientific monitoring costs

8.2.1 The administrative cost of issuing of permits and tags is estimated at a total of £17,995.24. This is based on the staff time required to process a permit with associate with tags and the consumables used in producing the permit. The total cost of tags issued to each permit holder (commercial and recreational) is presented in table 2. The new byelaw regulation stipulates that 3 tags must be present on each fleet of commercial fishing pots. The calculations presented in table 2 are based on the assumption that all vessels work 1000 pots, composed of 20 fleets with 50 pots per fleet as well as, 5 tags issued for each recreational permit holder (2778 recreational permits).

Table 2. Cost of tags to be issued for commercial and recreational shellfish permits.

Number of tags per fleet	Number of fleets per vessel	No. of tags per vessel	Number of vessels	Total no. Commercial of tags	Total no. of Recreational tags	Total No. of Tags	Cost per tag	Total cost of tags
3	20	60	216	12,960	13,890	26,850	£0.504	£13,532.40

8.2.2. The cost associated with scientific monitoring work required to support the implementation of effort limitation and the means by which to measure its effectiveness in relieving fishing effort on shellfish stocks is estimated to be a total of £45,000 per annum. This is comprised of the operational costs for the *North Eastern Guardian III* vessel (£3,000 day rate) operating 15 potting survey days over the sampling season (May to September).

8.3 Non-monetised cost

The introduction of effort limitation within the NEIFCA district could result in the displacement and increase in effort outside the 6NM. This could potentially cause increased gear conflict between potting and scallop dredging vessels and an increase of pressure on the stock outside the NEIFCA district.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The existing NEIFCA's stock monitoring program will be enhanced through regular surveying of catches at sea and point of landing. Annual stock assessments will be analysing potential changes in size frequencies, biomass and population structure comparing with historical data to evaluate the impacts of the effort limitation. The outcome of annual stock assessment and an economic analysis will determine whether the management measures are effective enough or need to be amended in the flexible byelaw model. The exploitation of inshore shellfish stocks will also be monitored through the existing catch return system. Additionally, NEIFCA are currently developing a new online catch return system which will resolve some of the data quality issues experienced at present when it comes to analysing catch returns and will provide a more user friendly interface for permit holders to submit their catch data.

The success of the intervention relies on 100% compliance which will be ensured through regular enforcement activities.

10. Summary

Option 1, was determined as the most appropriate method for the sustainable management of the edible crab and lobster fisheries in the NEIFCA district. The new flexible byelaw model will enable the authority to implement or amend fisheries management measures more effectively, when new evidence becomes available. The purpose of this byelaw is to permit fishing for shellfish on a regulated basis to prevent overfishing and ensure the sustainable exploitation of the stock. This will be achieved by limiting effort, monitoring exploitation levels via permit returns and assessing the status of inshore stocks through dedicated scientific potting surveys.

References

1	Cefas (2019). European lobster (<i>Homarus gammarus</i>) Cefas. Stock Status Report 2019 18 pp.
2	NEIFCA (2018). North Eastern IFCA European Lobster (<i>Homarus gammarus</i>). Stock Summary 2018 7pp.
3	Cefas (2019). Edible crab (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>) Cefas. Stock Status Report 2019 18 pp.
4	NEIFCA (2018). North Eastern IFCA Edible crab (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>). Stock Summary 2018 7pp.

