



European Commission

# North Western Waters Advisory Council



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES SEPTENTRIONALES  
**NORTH WESTERN WATERS** Advisory Council  
CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA LAS AGUAS NOROCCIDENTALES

## 19 JUNE 2024

# Scallop management in the Channel



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# ***UK King Scallop Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)***

*Paulo Vasconcelos (Unit C5 - DG MARE)*

**Fisheries management plan for king scallops in English and Welsh waters**

Published 14 December 2023



# UK King Scallop FMP



- **Background and overview:**

- UK **FMPs** set management proposals to accomplish the main objectives of the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS): deliver sustainable **stocks**, ensure healthy **marine environment**, support a profitable **fishing sector**;
- UK FMPs comprise **43 plans**, including diverse species in different geographical scopes, covering mostly a wide variety of **non-quota stocks** (NQS);
- In July 2023, UK launched public consultations for **6 frontrunner FMPs**;
- Following public consultation (17 July - 01 October 2023), UK published on 14 December 2023 the **first 5 FMPs**, covering only English and Welsh waters;
- Initial plans include the **king scallop FMP**, whelk FMP, seabass FMP, crab and lobster FMP, and Channel demersal NQS FMP.

# UK King Scallop FMP



- **Workplan and timeline:**

- The first 5 FMPs, including **king scallop FMP**, comprise mainly **generic actions**, whose detailed measures will be implemented by the UK Government;
- The **expected timeline** for implementing FMPs concrete measures is the following:



- **Initial / short-term** measures: within **1-2 years** of publication;
- **Medium-term** measures: in the next **3-5 years**;
- **Long-term** measures: more than **5 years**.

The short-term measures will be developed alongside the review of existing management approaches and the development of long-term management measures.

# UK King Scallop FMP



- **Rationale and general objectives:**

- **King scallop FMP** was developed by Defra and Welsh Government, in partnership with the Scallop Industry Consultation Working Group (SICG);
- UK authorities prioritised king scallops due to the **economic value** of the fishery and **stock vulnerability** to over-exploitation;
- In addition, king scallops are **data limited** and require further data / information to **improve stock assessment**;
- UK authorities believe that **additional management measures** are needed to ensure the **sustainability of the fishery** and **conservation of the stock**;
- Further work is needed to avoid **gear conflicts** and **mitigate impacts** of king scallop dredging on the **marine environment**.

# UK King Scallop FMP



- **Roadmap and key management objectives:**

- **King scallop FMP** establishes a roadmap for future management of the stock / fishery based on the following management objectives:
  - **Improving the evidence base:** continue developing stock assessment methods, indicators and reference points for stocks;
  - **Initial management measures:** alignment of management measures (including gear requirements), mapping interactions with non-target species and impacts on seafloor;
  - **Long-term measures:** develop science-based input measures (i.e. limit fishing effort) and output controls (i.e. limit catches) and review days-at-sea limits regime (retained EU Regulation).



# UK King Scallop FMP



- **Specific management objectives:**



- Develop **science-based evidence** to propose harvest strategies and harvest control rules (HCRs);
- Avoid **overfishing risks** (while establishing further conditions);
- Seek opportunities for broad **alignment of measures** (e.g. gear requirements);
- Assess **scallop fisheries impacts** and develop an **action plan** with measures;
- Address **gear and other inefficiencies** in scallop fisheries;
- Explore changes in marine spatial use, including the impact of **nomadic larger UK scallop vessels**;
- Develop climate change mitigation and **adaptation measures** for UK scallop fisheries.

# UK King Scallop FMP



- **Main issues raised during consultation:**

- Prioritise a **management framework** based either on **input** or **output controls**;
- Mitigate **impacts** of scallop dredging and map scallop fishery **footprint**;
- **Technical measures** to increase **selectivity** and reduce **impacts** on the benthic environment;
- Develop a **co-management** approach to continue working closely with **stakeholders**.





# UK King Scallop FMP



- **Current management measures in UK waters:**

- **King scallops** are NQS not currently subject to catch limits in UK waters;
- King scallop fisheries in English and Welsh waters are already subject to diverse **management measures** applied at national, regional and local levels:
  - Fishing licences or permits with conditions;
  - Limits on days-at-sea for vessels  $\geq 15$  m LOA;
  - Technical gear specifications;
  - Minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS);
  - Closures to protect seabed and spawning stocks.



# UK King Scallop FMP



- **General features of king scallop FMP:**

- FMP describes existing management measures and **available science** to assess **king scallop stocks status** in English and Welsh waters;
- FMP aims to ensure that **king scallops stocks** above biomass levels capable of delivering **MSY**;
- FMP highlights existing **evidence gaps** to establish sustainable fisheries and proposes **actions** to fill those gaps;
- Management objectives, scientific evidence and research plans will establish **further actions**.



# UK King Scallop FMP



- **Final remarks:**

- FMP management objectives are accompanied with specific actions and possible management measures;
- However, those actions are mostly **generic and exploratory**, still without concrete management measures;
- Management framework and actions based on **input controls** (e.g. limitation of fishing effort, such as days at sea limits and area / time closures) and **output controls** (e.g. catch limits);
- Possible different approaches between **inshore** (SSF fleet) and **offshore** waters (nomadic larger scalloping fleet).



# UK King Scallop FMP



- **Final remarks:**

- FMP proposed approaches are still at **high-level**, but provide the basis for developing concrete management measures;
- Further developments and detailed management measures will follow a **co-management approach** (analysis / discussion by managers, researchers and industry);
- Nevertheless, the proposed management framework includes harvest control rules with **output controls** (i.e. **catch limits**);
- Some indications that UK might eventually seek **TAC setting** and quota management aiming to **achieve MSY** objectives.





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