

# King Scallop FMP in English & Welsh Waters – Introductory notes and opportunities for engagement

The purpose of this document is to provide a high-level overview of Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) development in the UK – with a specific focus on the king scallop FMP for English and Welsh waters – and provides information on **how you can contribute to this vital work** to manage our king scallop fisheries.

## What is an FMP?

A Fisheries Management Plan sets out policies and objectives to manage fishing activities to either restore or maintain fish stocks at a sustainable level. In the UK, FMPs will help us achieve the objectives of the [Fisheries Act 2020](#) to make sure that UK fisheries are managed in a way which ensures biological, social, and economic sustainability and that our fisheries continue to support a thriving seafood sector.

## Why are FMPs being developed?

Leaving the EU means the UK can change the way our fisheries are managed. The creation of FMPs for key stocks of commercial interest is a new approach to fisheries management in the UK and needs stakeholders to be actively involved in developing management plans. We have a unique opportunity to change the way we manage our fisheries as we can design bespoke, flexible, and transparent approaches which are appropriate to certain species, fisheries, or locations.

## What is the king scallop FMP?

The king scallop FMP will set out aims and objectives and management proposals that will apply to all commercially harvested scallops (dredged and hand-dived) from all English and Welsh waters. The FMP will apply to all vessels, of all sizes, and from all nations which operate in English and Welsh waters (UK and non-UK).

King scallop fisheries were prioritised for FMP delivery in 2023 based on environmental, social, and economic factors, and in recognition of the work that has already been done by the Scallop Industry Consultation Group (SICG) to develop future scallop fisheries management. The FMP is the next step to ensuring good management of king scallop fisheries.

## What does this mean for me?

The king scallop FMP will change the way your king scallop fisheries are managed and will set the direction of travel for fisheries research and improvement over the next six years. It is important that all stakeholders who will be affected by the FMP – i.e. those who fish, dive for, purchase, or process king scallops caught in English and Welsh waters – are actively involved in developing the plan.

This is a major step forward in UK fisheries management and that is why it is so important that as many people as possible are involved in the work to ensure that different views, interests, and aspirations are captured.

## How is the king scallop FMP being developed?

All FMPs are being developed with a co-management approach, this means they will be developed **collaboratively** between industry and government. The king scallop FMP work is being led by the SICG Working Group (SICGWG); this is an industry-led co-management group which brings together

scallop catchers, processors, and UK administrations. FMPs are designed to be long-term and will change and evolve to reflect the changing needs of the fishery. Industry and wider stakeholders will play a central part of this process.

The SICGWG has developed a first draft of FMP content including high level aims, objectives, actions which should be taken to achieve these, and proposed initial management measures for the king scallop fisheries in English and Welsh waters. The SICGWG will be carrying out a stakeholder engagement phase to update stakeholders on progress made to date and to gather views, feedback, and comments to help refine the draft FMP before submitting it to Defra in January 2023. The FMP will then go through public consultation and the SICGWG will work with Defra to refine the plan before publishing in September 2023.

### How should you get involved?

So that all stakeholders can make their voices heard and contribute to the development of the king scallop FMP, the SICGWG is hosting a series of in-person events at key harbours and ports around the UK to speak to anyone with an interest in king scallop fisheries and their management.

Online events will also be held to gather feedback from stakeholders who were unable to attend an in-person event. You can find up to date information on in-person and online events for the king scallop FMP by visiting the Seafish FMP landing page.

These events are open to any stakeholder, and we want to encourage as many people to come along to each meeting as possible. For more information or to register your interest in an event please contact [fisheriesmanagementplans@seafish.co.uk](mailto:fisheriesmanagementplans@seafish.co.uk). No prior registration is required to attend an in-person event, just come along! For online events you will need to contact Seafish to get a link to the meeting before you can attend.

### Where can I get more information on FMPs?

You can find more information on FMPs by visiting the [GOV.uk page on Fisheries Management Plans](#); for more information on shellfish (king scallop, brown crab, lobster, and whelk) FMPs please visit the Seafish page on Shellfish FMPs.

### What happens next?

Key dates for the king scallop FMP are listed below:

- Stakeholder engagement activities to gather feedback on draft FMP aims and objectives and proposed management interventions – **September to November 2022**
- Further development of draft FMP based on stakeholder engagement – **September to January 2023**
- Delivery of the final draft FMP to Defra – **January 2023**
- Formal public consultation on draft FMP by Defra – **April to June 2023**
- Publication of the king scallop in English & Welsh waters FMP – **Autumn 2023**

For more information on any aspect of the king scallop FMP please contact [fisheriesmanagementplans@seafish.co.uk](mailto:fisheriesmanagementplans@seafish.co.uk) and your enquiry will be directed to the person best placed to provide an answer.

## King scallop FMP engagement events

The Scallop Industry Consultation Group WG is hosting a series of in-person and online events to discuss the King Scallop in English and Welsh waters Fisheries Management Plan.

Engagement events will serve two purposes:

- **Raising awareness about the upcoming king scallop FMP**, the development timeline, and what the management plan will mean for you, and;
- **Encouraging stakeholder engagement and feedback** through open discussion of proposed king scallop FMP aims, objectives, and suggested management measures.

Events are open to any stakeholder with an interest in English and Welsh king scallop fisheries. We want to encourage as many people to come along to each meeting as possible. For more information or to register your interest in an event please contact [fisheriesmanagementplans@seafish.co.uk](mailto:fisheriesmanagementplans@seafish.co.uk)

Date and time	Location
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September, 1700-1900	<b>Shoreham-by-Sea</b> The Gather Inn, 330 Kingsway, Brighton and Hove, East Sussex BN3 4LW
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 1400-1530	<b>Eastern Channel online engagement event</b> Online via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October, 1000-1200	<b>Brixham</b> BTA Training Room, New Fish Quay, Brixham TQ5 8AW
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October, 1000-1200	<b>Plymouth</b> Auction Room, Fish Quay, Plymouth PL4 0LH
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October, 1400-1530	<b>Western Channel online engagement event</b> Online via Microsoft Teams
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October, 1700-1900	<b>Hartlepool</b> Hodgsonfish, The Fish Quay Southgate, Headland, Hartlepool TS24 0JH
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> October, 1400-1530	<b>North Sea online engagement event</b> Online via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October, 1700-1900	<b>Bangor</b> Ssestiniog Room, Bangor University, LL57 2DG
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November, 1400-1530	<b>Irish Sea / Celtic Sea online engagement event</b> Online via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November, 1700-1900	<b>Kirkcudbright</b> The Selkirk Arms, High St, Kirkcudbright DG6 4JG
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 1700 - 1900	<b>Peterhead</b> The Palace Hotel, Prince St, Peterhead AB42 1PL