

DSIFCA 01_26 – Landing of Undersized Lobster

On 8th January 2026, officers attended Brixham Fish Market. During the inspection, officers identified one European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*), that, when measured along the centre of the carapace from the eye socket to the distal edge, measured 83mm in length. This was below the national Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) for lobster of 87mm.

The undersized lobster was seized, photographed for evidential purposes, and subsequently returned alive to the sea adjacent to the market premises.

Relevant checks established that the vessel did not hold a D&S IFCA permit for commercial fishing at the time of landing. Officers also confirmed, via open-source records, that the vessel held a valid national Category A fishing licence with a shellfish entitlement.

Relevant Legislation

Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 – Section 1(1):

Provides the power for conservation orders to be made regulating the landing of sea fish, including minimum size requirements.

The Undersized Lobsters Order 2000 – Article 3(1):

Prohibits the landing in England of a lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) with a carapace length of less than 87 millimetres.

Offences to Consider

- Landing of one undersized lobster contrary to Section 1(1) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 and Article 3(1) of the Undersized Lobsters Order 2000.

Outcome

The Authority review the case and determined the evidential threshold had not been met. In line with the Authority's Compliance and Enforcement Strategy, No Further Action was taken.