

Fisheries Management Plan Progress - 1st April to 31st August 2025

Objective Name	Current Status
Crab and Lobster FMP - Management & Science Groups	D&S IFCA is the overall IFCA lead and point of contact for the Crab and Lobster FMP. Attended meetings of the CMG in March and June 2025. Discussed impacts of UK/EU trade deal on Crab & lobster fisheries, and the outcome of sandeels arbitration; provided input into updates on C&L implementation group, SW crab trials and roadshows. Discussed the proposed increase in MCRS for lobster and Soft-shelled crab prohibition. Provided updates on workstreams and inputted into discussions. D&S IFAC supervised the research assistant as part of the Soft-shelled crab FISP project and delivered at sea sampling on board potting vessels in 2024/2025. D&S IFCA reviewed the policy and stakeholder briefs that were outputs of the project. Liaised with other IFCAs on the CMG discussions and provided updates including the discussion on a national increase in lobster MCRS and its roll out. Reviewed the FMP R&D Project outputs and evidence plans as part of the Science group work. D&S IFCA also reviewed and responded to the crawfish consultation. D&S IFCA shared C&L FMP information with Daera. D&S IFCA provided updates on FMP to Authority Members and to the South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen. D&S IFCA has communicated directly with the fishing industry relating to FMP engagement and port meetings and developed news items published on D&S IFCA's website. At a Science Group meeting in November 2025 discussions were had on the Defra draft options paper to look at effort management of the English Crab and Lobster fleet, understanding catch and landings per unit effort, how to validate the stock assessments undertaken by Cefas so that potential advice could be given (cf. ICES advice for finfish)
South West Crab Trial Working Group	D&S IFCA is the overall IFCA lead and point of contact for this group. Attended three meetings of the South West Crab Trial Group. Inputted into the draft options paper. Provided expertise into the development of the regional increase in MCRS for brown crab - from SW IFCAs' knowledge and fishing industry comments. Undertook QGIS work on behalf of Defra to provide charts of the SW regional area where an increase in brown Crab MCRS would be implemented. Attended several meetings relating to the octopus bloom and its impact on SW crab, lobster, whelk and scallops fisheries providing IFCA knowledge and information gathered from the fishing industry and D&S IFCA clarification on permit conditions for inshore potters. D&S IFCA has inputted into the octopus survey being undertaken by MBA and disseminated the surveys to all its permit holders. Engaged with other IFCAs relating to SW crab trial work. D&S IFCA provided updates on FMP to Authority Members and to the South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen.

Crab and Lobster Implementation Group	D&S IFCA is the overall IFCA lead and point of contact for this group. Attended four meetings of the CLIG this year. D&S IFCA inputted into the development and review of the Terms of Reference and objectives of the group. Discussions were held on the tasks for the group and the short-, medium- and long-term FMP objectives were reviewed and D&S IFCA provided advice. D&S IFCA inputted into discussion on the increase in Lobster MCRS both in the SW and across the country and also on the prohibition on soft shelled brown crab to be used as bait. Other potential management measures were discussed such as a Max MCRS for lobsters. D&S IFCA reviewed and made comments on the Cefas Input and output control for crab/lobster/scallop/whelk document. D&S IFCA collated information from all IFCAs on recreational fishing for crab, lobster, crawfish, king scallop and whelk, as a task set by the CLIG. The spreadsheet of information was shared with Defra. D&S IFCA also shared information and outputs of the CLIG with other IFCAs. D&S IFCA provided updates on FMP to Authority Members and to the South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen.
Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal FMP .	Overall IFCA lead and point of contact responsible for Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal FMP . Attended CS&WCD FMP workshop, part of working group that considered management measure for FMP . Engaged with Defra, Commercial and Recreational sector on implementing additional management measures to support the recovery of pollack (species covered by the FMP)
Celtic Sea and Western Channel Pelagic FMP .	Deputy lead for CS&WC Pelagic FMP. D&S IFCA has attend meetings both in person and online to aid development of the FMP. Feedback has been provided on the FMP documents including agreeing policies, goals and actions and indicators for monitoring.
Whelk FMP	D&S IFCA attended meetings on the Whelk FMP although is not regularly included in the invites. The meetings attended were on the Whelk Permit scheme and IFCA/MMO meetings to discuss the work the IFCA has undertaken and information that can help develop the management interventions of the FMP. This included provided data on spawning and size of sexual maturity, MRCS increases and importance whelk fishing in the D&S IFCA district. D&S IFCA also attended meetings of the IFCAs' whelk working groups and share information on current workstreams. In October 2025 D&S IFCA attended a meeting of the Whelk Science Group
Bass FMP	Participated in the Working Group reviewing Bass Authorisation Administration and report documents. Provided data and advice on the FMP actions. Shared outputs with other IFCAs.
Skates and Rays FMP	Overall IFCA lead and point of contact responsible for Skates and Rays FMP. Supported creation of the FMP and anticipating supporting delivery of the agreed management measures
Wrasse & Bream FMP	D&S IFCA has been a key member of the of the Wrasse Complex FMP. D&S IFCA has participated in all meetings relating to this FMP and has contributed expert knowledge relating to the live wrasse fishery from D&S IFCA experience in managing a live wrasse fishery in its District. D&S IGCA has provide advice nd data to inform the development of the FMP..
Channel NQS FMP	Overall IFCA lead and point of contact responsible for Channel NQS FMP. Part of the Working Group that drafted the initial management measure for the FMP

Scallop FMP	Support delivery of FMP by providing information and data relating to D&S IFCA's management of the scallop fishery. D&S IFCA has deputised for the main IFCA point of contact at FMPs meetings the meeting of the Scallop implementation group and provided knowledge and advice on the output/input control project document and other agenda items. D&S IFCA has shared information and outputs with other IFCAs. Although D&S IFCA has a significant scallop fishery it is not regularly invited to meetings and to input expertise.
Sprat FMP	D&S IFCA attended the initial FMP meetings. No further involvement to date