

New landing controls for crab & lobster fisheries in Scotland

With effect from 31 May 2025

Lobster

(*Homarus gammarus*)

Prohibition on retention, landing, offering for sale or consigning berried (egg bearing) lobster



Brown / Edible Crab

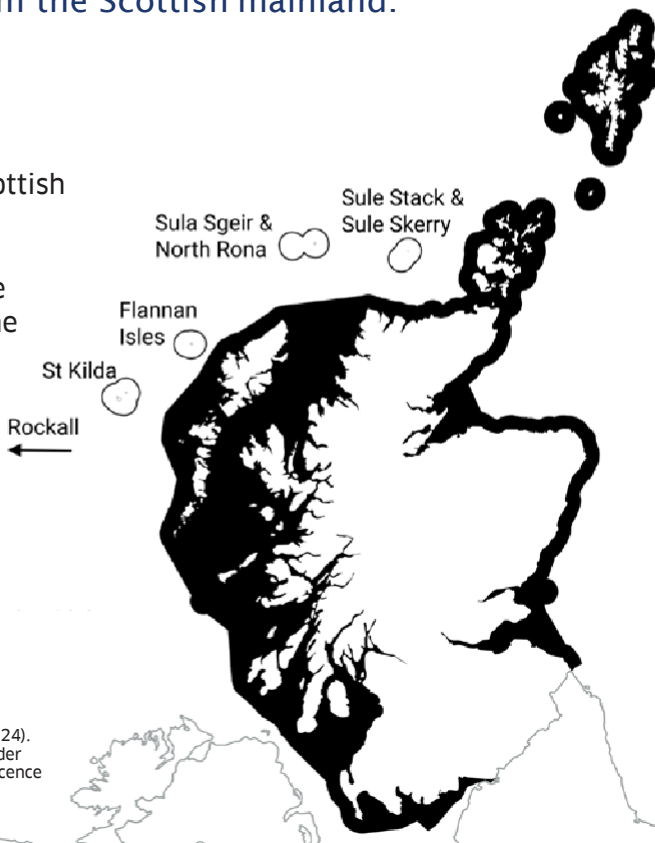
(*Cancer pagurus*)

Prohibition on retention, landing, offering for sale or consigning berried (egg bearing) brown crab



- Controls are being applied to restrict creel fishing activity within Scotland's inshore waters (0-6 nautical miles from the baseline).
- Vessels over 14m are not permitted to deploy crab and lobster creels, pots or traps inside Scottish inshore waters.
- If your vessel is over 12 metres in length and you have recorded catches over 200 tonnes of crab and lobster in any 12 month period since 2020 you must work outside of 6 nautical miles from the Scottish mainland.

Any part of Scottish inshore waters (0-6 nautical miles), with the exception of the inshore waters surrounding St Kilda (Hirta and Boreray), Flannan Isles, Rockall, Sula Sgeir, North Rona, Sule Stack, and Sule Skerry



Scottish Government (2024).
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Existing controls

Berried velvet crab

It is prohibited to land a berried (egg bearing) velvet crab.

V Notched lobster / crawfish

It is prohibited to fish for or land a lobster or crawfish that bears a v notch, or that has been mutilated to obscure a v notch.

'Crippled' female lobster

It is prohibited to land a 'crippled' female lobster (missing one or both claws) caught in the inshore waters of the Outer Hebrides.

Further information

More information can be found on the Scottish Government website:
www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Sea-Fisheries/InshoreFisheries/crab-lobster-landing-controls

If you have any questions about these controls, please contact your local Fishery Office:
www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Compliance/fishoffices



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba