

FMAC Inshore - Commercial Fishing Industry Wednesday 02 July 2025



IFMI – Interim measures (IMs) for crab and lobster



IFMI – Interim Measures – Overview

- Initially implemented in May 2024
- Reviewed from May 2024 – April 2025
- Updated scientific advice
- Reinstated with changes from May 2025
- The Solway Trial
- Emerging themes

New landing controls for crab & lobster fisheries in Scotland

With effect from 12 May 2024

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



Restriction on vessels landing more than 200t of brown crab and lobster

- Controls are being applied to restrict creel fishing activity within 6 nautical miles of Scotland's coastline.
- 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.
- Vessels falling into this category will be notified by Marine Directorate

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



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

IFMI – Framework



IFMI – Framework – Overview

**Throughout
2024**

Need for new
inshore
management
framework
became
apparent

**Nov 2024- Feb
2025**

Call for
evidence

**Summer/
autumn 2025**

Pre-
consultation
engagement

Early 2026

Formal
consultation on
IFMI
framework
proposal

**Q3 2026
onwards**

Implementation
of new IFMI
framework

Significant interest in policy

- RAI session on 05 February 2025
- Excellent response to call for evidence
- Has potential to help us meet a wide range of commitments/aspirations

IFMI – Call for evidence (CfE)

- 100 responses from 52 individuals and 48 organisations
- Questions sought input on four key themes:
 - Current inshore fisheries management
 - What does success look like?
 - Regional management
 - Governance and co-management

IFMI – CfE – Main messages

Current inshore management

- Asked what works well and what doesn't work well with current framework
- Voluminous responses!
- Some themes appeared in both “works well” and “doesn't work well”, usually with some nuance.

CfE – Main messages

What does success look like?

- We asked about successful management with regards to environmental, social and economic outcomes.
- Responses to different outcomes were often linked due to interdependencies
 - **Economic outcomes** – Increased sustainability and viability.
 - **Environmental outcomes** – Wider ecosystem benefits.
 - **Social outcomes** – Feed back to supporting local community and ecosystem.

CfE – Main messages

Regional management

- Asked about regionality; whether you were supportive of this approach; what regions might be most appropriate; and what we should be mindful of if transitioning to a regional approach
 - 76% favour regional approach
 - 20/54 respondents (37%) favoured SMRs

CfE – Main messages

Governance and co-management

- Asked who should be involved and how, and what checks should be in place to ensure transparency/ fairness/ accountability.
- Some polarised views regarding co-management
- Will consider appropriate checks and balances to support effective governance & accountability.
- Must ensure it complements existing structures.

IFMI Framework – What comes next?

Reviewing evidence & building framework

- Responses to call for evidence & analysis report
- Evidence linked within call for evidence
- MAU literature review
- Wider sources as appropriate

Framework – What comes next?

Engagement

- Engagement with subject matter specialists to help inform nuances of policy.
- Engagement with Cabinet Secretary to inform direction of policy development.
- Consultation early 2026.