

Consultation on proposed West Coast of Scotland Nephrops and North Sea Nephrops Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)

March 2026



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs



DAERA

Department of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs

An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Comhshaoil agus Gnóthair
Tuaithe

Department o' Fairmin,
Environment an' Kintra
Matthers

www.daera-ni.gov.uk



Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas
na h-Alba

Marine Directorate

Email: FMPs@gov.scot

Consultation on proposed West Coast of Scotland Nephrops and North Sea Nephrops Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)

25 March 2026

Dear Consultee,

The [Joint Fisheries Statement \(JFS\)](#) as amended, as required by the Fisheries Act 2020 (the Act), sets out how the UK fisheries authorities (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland) will prepare and publish 43 Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) by 2028. The Scottish Government is the coordinating authority for 21 FMPs with a delivery date of end of 2026. Of the 21 FMPs, 11 are for demersal fish stocks, two are for Nephrops stocks and a further eight are for pelagic fish stocks.

The two Nephrops FMPs are the subject of this consultation, and they bring together evidence on the state of the relevant stocks and identify policies and actions necessary to manage our fisheries in an effective and sustainable way. They set out both the vision for the management of the Nephrops fisheries as well as relevant policies and actions intended to help realise that vision.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to help shape and influence the future of Nephrops fisheries management policy in the UK and builds upon previous engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK. The consultation survey has three parts:

1. Personal details and confidentiality (required)
2. Questions on the two Nephrops FMPs, Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment
3. Consultee feedback on the Online Survey (required)

You only need to respond to the questions that you wish to answer. There is a mixture of general and specific questions. However, all respondents must complete the required 'Consultee Feedback on the Online Survey' and 'Personal Details and Confidentiality' sections before they are able to submit your response to the online survey. We welcome any further information and evidence to support this work. You can supply that directly via FMPs@gov.scot.

The following documents can be found on [Citizen Space](#):

- Consultation document
- Proposed West Coast of Scotland Nephrops FMP

- Proposed North Sea Nephrops FMP
- Strategic Environment Report (SEA)
- Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)
- Nature Conservation Advice from NatureScot and JNCC for Nephrops FMPs
- Executive Summary of Nature Conservation Advice from Natural England and JNCC (English waters only)

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through [Citizen Space](#) (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool). If you require a copy of the consultation, please contact us at FMPs@gov.scot.

Responses, additional information, or documents can be sent to:

Consultation on Proposed West Coast of Scotland Nephrops and North Sea Nephrops Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)

Scottish Government
Victoria Quay
Area 1 B North
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Responses should be received by 23:55 on 17 June 2026.

Yours faithfully,

The FMP Team
Marine Directorate
Scottish Government
FMPs@gov.scot

Contents

Introduction	5
UK Fisheries Management Plans for Nephrops	5
Background: Fisheries Management Plans	7
Why are we publishing FMPs?	7
What are FMPs?	7
How FMPs work	7
FMPs and other coastal States	8
Approach to the development of the FMPs	8
Why an FMP for Nephrops?	8
Summary of the Scottish-led Nephrops FMPs	9
Status of the stocks covered by the joint Nephrops FMPs	10
Policies and actions for the management of UK Nephrops fisheries	12
Implementation and review	14
General considerations	14
Impact Assessments	15
Environmental Report	15
Respond to this consultation	22
Nephrops Fisheries Management Plans Privacy Notice	17
Duration of the consultation	21
Next steps in the process	21
Comments and complaints	21
Scottish Government consultation process	21

Introduction

The United Kingdom has some of the best wild seafood resources in the world. Our sea fish and shellfish stocks are an important natural resource and are a public asset which generate food and create jobs, as well as providing recreational opportunities in a sector with a strong sense of identity and pride for their communities. These stocks also form a vital part of our marine ecosystems.

Many of our sea fish and shellfish stocks are under a range of pressures such as fishing and climate change. Whilst fishing can bring many socio-economic benefits, it also impacts on our marine environment, for example through accidental bycatch or the effect of fishing gears on the seabed. It is therefore important to consider both the positive and negative effects of fishing as part of overall management of our fisheries and the marine environment.

The [Joint Fisheries Statement \(JFS\)](#) as amended, as required by the [Fisheries Act 2020](#) (the Act), sets out how the UK fisheries authorities (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland) will prepare and publish 43 Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) by 2028.

The plans bring together evidence on the state of the relevant sea fish and shellfish stocks and identify policies and actions necessary to manage our fisheries in an effective and sustainable way. FMPs set out both the vision for the management of the relevant fishery as well as relevant policies and actions intended to help realise that vision. The plans must also consider relevant wider legal obligations.

There are opportunities for growth if our fishing and seafood industries are managed sustainably, to ensure fishing opportunities are safeguarded for future generations. We are keen to continue to work closely with our stakeholders as we develop and deliver our plans for managing fisheries in the UK.

The complete list of FMPs that are being prepared by each of the fisheries authorities is set out in [Annex A of the JFS \(amended December 2024\)](#).

UK Fisheries Management Plans for Nephrops

This consultation document invites views on the following Nephrops FMPs:

- Proposed North Sea Nephrops FMP; and
- Proposed West Coast of Scotland Nephrops FMP

The Act requires the relevant authority or authorities to prepare and publish FMPs in accordance with the list and timetable included in the JFS. The Scottish Government

is the coordinating authority for these two Nephrops FMPs and has coordinated the preparation of these plans on behalf of the other relevant authorities.¹

The relevant authorities for the two Nephrops FMPs which are subject of this consultation, are the Scottish Government, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). The plans have been prepared in collaboration with the Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) with input from industry, scientists, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCB) and published jointly by the relevant authorities for the purposes of the Act.

In addition to the requirements of the Act, FMPs are subject to legal duties and requirements relating to the protection of the natural environment arising from legislation such as the Habitats Regulations², the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010³, and the UK Marine Policy Statement⁴, the Environment Act 2021⁵, the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009⁶, and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010⁷.

Alongside these requirements, FMPs seek to support a range of other existing environmental policies that focus on, enhancing the health of our seas for future generations, restoring marine biodiversity, and tackling the causes and impacts of climate change.

To support the development of policies aimed at protecting the natural environment, SNCBs provided conservation advice for the North Sea Nephrops and the West Coast of Scotland Nephrops FMPs. The advice encompasses English, Northern Irish and Scottish waters where Nephrops stocks are targeted.

An Environmental Report which describes the likely environmental impacts of implementing the policies and actions in the two Nephrops FMPs, has been produced, as required under the [Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004](#).

A partial business regulatory impact assessment (BRIA) has also been developed, which describes the anticipated economic impact of these FMPs on the fishing sector and associated businesses. We would welcome additional economic evidence to update our assessment.

This consultation is particularly relevant to:

- Individuals, groups, or businesses who are engaged in the fishing, seafood, or aquaculture sectors, including individuals, groups or businesses from the UK or from outside the UK who fish in UK waters,

¹ The definition for a “co-ordinating authority” is given in Annex A (p. 55) of the JFS, which is: - **“Coordinating Authority:** The fisheries policy authority which will coordinate the preparation and management of the plan on behalf of the other fisheries policy authorities acting jointly”.

² [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017](#)

³ [The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010](#)

⁴ [UK marine policy statement - GOV.UK](#)

⁵ [Environment Act 2021](#)

⁶ [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#)

⁷ [Marine \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#)

- Other individuals, groups or businesses who are sea users, for example, marine industries such as offshore renewables and sailing bodies, and
- National and local interest groups such as environmental and recreational non-governmental organisations, and industry federations.

Background: Fisheries Management Plans

Why are we publishing FMPs?

The Act sets out the legal framework to manage fisheries in the UK, including the provision to prepare and publish FMPs. FMPs are intended to support the protection of fish stocks and, where necessary, the recovery of fish stocks, which in turn will support a sustainable fishing industry and safeguard the environment.

What are FMPs?

FMPs are documents prepared and published under the Act that set out policies designed to restore or maintain relevant stocks of sea fish and shellfish at sustainable levels. They are evidence-based action plans that support delivery of sustainable fisheries for current and future generations. The FMPs are long-term plans that must be reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least once every six years. Where appropriate, FMPs may identify actions to address wider issues identified during their development such as environmental, social and economic considerations.

How FMPs work

The management of fisheries is a devolved competency, currently managed through regulation, byelaws, licence conditions and voluntary measures. FMPs may lead to changes to these management measures.

National Fisheries Authorities (in this case the Scottish Government, Defra, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and DAERA) are legally required to act in accordance with the policies set out in these plans and will work with a range of organisations and relevant stakeholders on implementation of the actions contained within the plans.

FMPs identify a range of policies and actions. Plans are intended to be adaptive and develop over time as further evidence is gathered, and measures are implemented. Whilst each FMP focuses on specific stock(s), they will often need to be considered in a holistic manner, particularly where there are strong stock interactions and connections between different fisheries.

FMP actions are intended to be implemented over their lifetime to have an impact on how fisheries are managed. It may therefore take some time to show benefits in terms of improving the sustainability of stocks and fisheries.

FMPs and other coastal States

FMPs provide a long-term framework for managing fishing activity, with the policies and actions focused on ensuring stock sustainability and a healthy marine environment. The policies and actions within the FMPs reflect and respect the international management arrangements that are in place for each of the FMPs covered by this consultation.

The UK, whilst having regulatory autonomy over its fisheries, is committed to working with other coastal States, building on our strong and constructive relationships, to ensure sustainable management of shared fisheries resources. In order to achieve or contribute to achieving the objectives of the Act, the policies and actions in current and future FMPs will be implemented, and iterated where necessary, to reflect commitments made through annual consultations with the EU and other coastal States as well as negotiations in multilateral and bilateral forums.

These plans may inform multi-year strategies for conservation and management of shared stocks, including those proposed by the UK and EU under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA).

Regulatory measures to implement FMPs will apply to all vessels fishing in UK waters. The UK will notify the EU and other coastal States of changes affecting any vessels.

Approach to the development of the FMPs

Developed in a collaborative and transparent way, our aim is to ensure that FMPs are relevant to the fishery or fisheries in question and support a practical and flexible approach to fisheries management tailored to species, locations, and fishing activities.

FMPs are being developed across the UK in different ways, allowing us to try new approaches and test how best to develop the plans and engage with stakeholders.

Why an FMP for Nephrops?

Nephrops are the most valuable of the shellfish fisheries in the UK with the total value of the species covered by the two FMPs landed by the UK fleet totalling £83.4 million in 2024⁸.

There are two UK Nephrops FMPs, covering the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) subarea 4 (North Sea) and ICES subarea 6 (West

⁸ Weblink to [UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2024](#)

Coast of Scotland). The areas covered by the FMPs have distinct issues and challenges that warrant separate consideration. Whilst each area has its differences, there are also similarities across FMPs to ensure consistency in management approaches.

The West Coast of Scotland Nephrops FMP has also taken account of the policies in those FMPs covering Nephrops stocks in ICES area 7 (Irish Sea demersal FMP, Celtic Sea demersal FMP currently being developed by DAERA and Defra respectively), to further ensure a consistent management approach.

Summary of the Scottish-led Nephrops FMPs

All of our sea fish and shellfish stocks are complex to manage. The vision for all 43 UK FMPs is that the fisheries they cover are managed sustainably, to help ensure that stocks are maintained above biomass levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and highlights areas that could lead to refinements to management approaches in the future.

The Nephrops FMPs have been developed by the Scottish Government, Defra and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in collaboration with the Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) with input from industry, scientists, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs).

These FMPs sets out policies and actions to continue to maintain the North Sea Nephrops and the West Coast of Scotland Nephrops stocks at sustainable levels, ensuring that they can continue to play a key role in providing positive socio-economic benefits to the UK, whilst also setting out a number of actions to improve management where this is needed. The FMPs have been developed in line with the fisheries objectives of the Act, as required by the JFS.

Nephrops are one of the limited number of shellfish species that are managed by quota in the UK. They can be found in burrowed mud and these specific areas of suitable habitat have been delineated into stock areas for assessment which are called Functional Units (FUs). There are 34 FUs for Nephrops in the Northeast Atlantic. The North Sea Nephrops FMP covers seven FUs in the North Sea area and the West of Scotland Nephrops FMP covers three FUs in the West of Scotland area. Both Nephrops FMPs should be read alongside each other.

Fishing for Nephrops in UK waters can take place as part of a targeted and also a mixed fishery. There are two distinct fisheries for Nephrops. Nephrops targeted in the West Coast of Scotland are caught using mobile gears, predominantly demersal trawls, and pots (creels). Nephrops fisheries in the North Sea are often mixed, with Nephrops caught alongside quota for whitefish such as cod, haddock, and whiting. The mixed nature of these fisheries is often critical to economic viability of individual vessels.

The UK sets the Total Allowable Catches (TAC) for the West of Scotland Nephrops and notifies it through the EU-UK bilateral. North Sea Nephrops are jointly managed stocks with quota opportunities determined through the bilateral Coastal States negotiations between the UK and the EU. The North Sea stocks are also covered by the North Sea Multi Annual Plan (MAP) (Regulation 2018/973)⁹. The policies and actions within these FMPs reflect and respect the international management arrangements that are in place for the two Nephrops FMPs covered by this consultation.

These FMPs therefore describe a vision with policies and actions which set out how management can continue to support an MSY approach¹⁰ for the North Sea and the West Coast of Scotland Nephrops fisheries, and highlights areas that could lead to refinements to management approaches in the future. Areas for action include those which support the wider delivery of policies within the JFS, and which contribute to the delivery of the fisheries objectives in the Act. These FMPs also set out actions to consider options around FU management.

Status of the stocks covered by the joint Nephrops FMPs

The health of sea fish and shellfish stocks can change over time, and the ICES provides new advice on an annual basis for most stocks. The fisheries policy authorities review stocks annually and the approach to setting fishing opportunities takes account of the principles laid out in the relevant Multi Annual Plans and the sustainability objective in the Act.

It is therefore important to note that these FMPs are produced with the available evidence at the time. As far as possible, the management approach set out in the draft FMPs provides flexibility for fisheries managers to adapt to changing circumstances. Should ICES advice significantly change, or other material circumstances change, following the publication of the draft FMPs within this consultation, steps will be taken as needed to adjust the FMPs prior to final publication. Under [section 8\(1\)](#) of the Act, as well as the six-year (or sooner if required) review of FMPs, an FMP can also be replaced or amended at any time following a consultation allowing the plan to be kept up to date. The decision to review earlier will be taken by the fisheries policy authorities.

Nephrops fisheries in both the West of Scotland and the North Sea are managed on the basis of FUs, each corresponding to distinct mud habitats which they inhabit, and their distribution directly correlates to these mud patches.

⁹ The MAP was part of the EU Common Fisheries Policy which was retained and now, as amended, forms part of assimilated law.

¹⁰ An explanation of a MSY approach to fishing is provided in [Advice published by ICES](#)

West of Scotland Nephrops

In the West of Scotland, three predominantly inshore FUs - North Minch (FU11), South Minch (FU12), and the Firth of Clyde (FU13) - support the majority of fishing activity, however some very small volumes are caught within the area outside FUs. The scope of the West Coast of Scotland FMP applies to activities undertaken within UK waters in ICES Subarea 6, while recognising that certain policy measures, including those relevant to international negotiations, may require a wider biological stock perspective.

Presently, the Nephrops stocks size of all FUs in the West of Scotland are above their biological reference points. However, these stocks and fisheries are still vulnerable to over-exploitation because of the high dependency on Nephrops as high-value stocks of remote coastal communities/economies.

West Coast of Scotland stocks have a high level of available data, providing sufficient scientific evidence for the relevant fisheries policy authorities to make annual MSY assessments covering all West of Scotland stocks.

North Sea Nephrops

A similar management approach operates in the North Sea, where there are seven FUs that are targeted by fishers, although it should be noted that for these stocks, management takes place at an overarching North Sea level.

The seven FUs include the Farn Deep, Firth of Forth, Moray Firth, Fladen Ground and, to a lesser extent, the Noup, Devil's Hole and Botney Cut-Silver Pit. Some FUs such as the Fladen grounds are found offshore, unlike the FUs on the West Coast which are generally inshore fisheries. Ports in northeast Scotland and northeast England are economically dependent on these fisheries, which contribute substantially to the value of landings.

North Sea Nephrops generally have a high level of data available, although some individual Nephrops stocks in the North Sea are data limited. Overall, there is sufficient available scientific evidence for the relevant fisheries policy authorities to make annual MSY assessments for the most economically and socially critical FUs. Overall, the North Sea Nephrops fisheries covered by this FMP are currently being fished sustainably, with assessed FUs showing stock health above MSY biomass reference points and fishing pressure mostly below MSY fishing mortality reference points.

Although there is sufficient available evidence to assess MSY for economically and socially critical FUs in the North Sea, it should be noted that for some FUs, and Nephrops outside of FUs in the North Sea, data is limited and MSY cannot be estimated. There are no current plans to improve data for these areas given that they do not contain the most significant economically and socially critical Nephrops stocks.

There is sufficient evidence to assess MSY for FUs 6, 7, 8 and 9 contained within the North Sea Nephrops FMP. Therefore, this FMP is required to set out policies

designed to restore or maintain fish stocks to sustainable levels or contribute to the restoration or maintenance at sustainable levels. This is in line with section 6(3)(a) of the 2020 Act.

There is an insufficient evidence base for North Sea Nephrops outside FUs, and Nephrops within FUs 10, 34, and 5. Therefore, for those specific areas, this FMP falls under section 6(3)(b) of the 2020 Act. That section of the Act requires the Fisheries Policy Authorities to specify policies for maintaining or increasing levels of the stock, and to specify steps to improve the scientific evidence (or provide reasons why no steps are proposed).

As already set out within the proposed North Sea Nephrops FMP, the Fisheries Policy Authorities manage North Sea Nephrops on an overarching basis, and actions to ensure overall sustainable management across the North Sea are in place. This is generally achieved through the setting of a TAC alongside appropriate technical management measures. There are no current plans in place to improve the evidence base for those areas where current evidence is poor, rather scientific resources are concentrated on those Nephrops FUs of most importance commercially and socially.

Policies and actions for the management of UK Nephrops fisheries

The proposed FMPs, including their policies and actions which are subject to the consideration of this [Consultation](#) will be prioritised appropriately following publication to ensure realistic and measurable outputs. They were drafted with stakeholder input to meet the requirements of section 6(3) of the Act (policies 1) and the broader policies set out in the JFS (policies 2, 3,4, 5 and 6).

For each policy, the FMP sets out:

- a rationale;
- ongoing, short and longer-term actions; and
- how the actions support delivery of the fisheries objectives.

Each policy describes the outcome that is being worked towards, and the actions are intended to support the delivery of those outcomes.

As there is sufficient available evidence to assess MSY for North Sea Nephrops and the West Coast of Scotland Nephrops, the FMPs must contain policies which will at least contribute to restoring or maintaining the stock at MSY. In addition, in accordance with section 5.4 of the JFS, the design and structure of FMPs directly relate to the fisheries objectives identified in section 5.4.2 and may also address wider issues in fisheries management depending upon the specific goals or targets of each plan and may contribute to one or more of the remaining fisheries objectives.

In developing the policies and actions for this FMP, the relevant fisheries policy authorities have considered the current policy landscape including applicable international agreements and declarations, conservation advice and wider policy

development underway, in addition to considering what additional evidence, measures or policies may be needed to support both the vision of this FMP and delivery of the fisheries objectives. FMPs are one of the tools that support the achievement of the fisheries objectives, although they are not the only policy vehicle available to do this. The fisheries policy authorities have also considered the conservation advice received from the SNCBs and included the outputs from that work in considering where policy action may be needed.

The FMPs will be monitored and assessed against a set of indicators to ensure the overarching outcomes and actions are effective in achieving the FMP policy goals and the requirements of the Act.

The six policies of this FMP are to:

1. Harvest Nephrops stocks sustainably, with biomass maintained above the level capable of producing MSY.
2. Understand and minimise the benthic impact of Nephrops fisheries.
3. Minimise the impact of Nephrops fishing activities on sensitive marine species by reducing bycatch and entanglement of these species.
4. Address discarding issues in the Nephrops fisheries and ensure that where possible all catches are accounted for against quotas.
5. Support fishing businesses to continue to deliver socio-economic benefits to coastal communities and the wider UK economy.
6. Reduce the impact of Nephrops fishing on climate change and support the fishing industry to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

There is significant overlap in policies between the North Sea and West of Scotland (Area 6) Nephrops FMPs; this is intentional to ensure that there is harmonisation in management approaches and delivery as far as practicable. Area specific considerations, which do not span both FMPs, are denoted in the individual FMP.

Q. 1 For the North Sea Nephrops FMP, do you agree with the proposed policies?

Q. 2: What are your views on the proposed actions for each policy in the North Sea Nephrops FMP?

Q. 3 For the West Coast of Scotland Nephrops FMP, do you agree with the proposed policies?

Q. 4: What are your views on the proposed actions for each policy in the West Coast of Scotland FMP?

Implementation and review

Once published, the actions and policies within the FMPs will need to be implemented. This will be an iterative process, and the Scottish Government will be working closely with the other relevant authorities, the fishing sector and wider stakeholders to develop implementation plans.

Publishing the FMPs is the start of a multi-year cycle, and we will ensure that they strike the balance between building momentum for short-term actions and setting direction for the longer term. This can be further iterated as the evidence base is improved.

FMPs must be reviewed at least every six years. This formal review will assess how the FMP has performed in terms of meeting the objectives of the Act. An earlier review may take place if relevant evidence, international obligations, or wider events require a change in the policies set out in the FMPs. The decision to review earlier will be taken by the fisheries policy authorities.

The effectiveness of the FMPs will be regularly assessed, and the results reported at least every three years as part of the JFS report, as required by the Act.

Cross regulator, government and industry groups have been central to the development of the draft FMPs. Stakeholder involvement and ongoing collaboration underpins successful delivery of the FMPs and will continue beyond their publication.

General considerations

In summary, the Nephrops FMPs describe existing management measures and regulations, and the available science and evidence to assess the status of the stocks covered by them in UK waters. The FMPs will ensure that the stocks continue to be sustainably managed above biomass levels consistent with an MSY approach. The links to related policies have been identified and discussed in the appropriate sections of the FMPs.

Q. 5 Do you have any comments on the specific sections in any of the proposed Nephrops FMPs? For example, on the:

- **Stock assessment and MSY section** which provides information on available stock assessments, MSY and stock biology for the individual stocks covered by the Nephrops FMPs.
- **Fisheries management section** which outlines proposals to maintain the sustainable management of Nephrops fisheries in UK waters for the long-term. It also covers the current technical measures, as well as monitoring, control and enforcement.

- **Environmental considerations section** which covers legal duties and requirements relating to the protection of the natural environment arising from legislation. It provides details of the conservation advice developed by the SNCBs which describes the risks arising from the Nephrops fisheries contained within the two Nephrops FMPs.
- **Implementation and monitoring section** which describes the process for implementation and states that the FMPs will be reviewed and improved over time as more evidence becomes available. The delivery of the policies and actions in the Nephrops FMPs will be monitored and assessed against a set of indicators to ensure the overarching outcomes and actions are effective in achieving the FMP policies and the requirements of the Act.

Q. 6 Do you have any other additional comments on the two proposed Nephrops FMPs?

Impact Assessments

Through this public consultation we are also seeking views on the following supporting impact assessments.

The two Nephrops FMPs are joint plans between Defra, DAERA and the Scottish Government. Fisheries management is devolved, and the implementation of new legislation, voluntary regulation, codes of practice, guidance or policy changes will be taken forward and assessed by respective national fisheries authorities as appropriate. Any assessment of impacts will be in line with each authority's individual assessment processes.

A partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) is also subject to this consultation. A full BRIA is not required at the consultation stage because the plans do not introduce new legislation, voluntary regulation, codes of practice, guidance or policy changes. If any of the above are implemented in the future as a result of the FMP, a full BRIA and appropriate assessments from each authority will be completed on specific interventions.

Q. 7 Do you have any comments on the partial Business Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)?

Environmental Report

The Scottish Government is legally required to consider the environmental impact of its policies, plans and programmes. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for any qualifying public plans, programmes, and strategies during their preparation and prior to publication if they are likely to have a significant effect on a European marine site (either positively or negatively).

Both the North Sea Nephrops FMP and the West Coast of Scotland Nephrops FMP fall within the scope of the [Environmental Assessment of plans and programmes Regulations 2004](#) because for some of the plans, the geographical coverage extends beyond Scotland. The Scottish Government has undertaken the assessments required in line with the Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, known as the Habitats Regulations, and determined that the Nephrops FMPs may have a likely significant effect (either positive or negative) on European sites or on European offshore marine sites and, therefore, have completed a SEA which can be accessed via the Consultation link [here](#).

The scope and level of detail was informed through early consultation with UK SNCBs and conservation advice. We drew on published information on the state of the environment and the potential impact of fishing on environmental features.

Q. 8 Do you have any comments on the assessment of the environmental effects of the North Sea Nephrops FMP and the West Coast of Scotland Nephrops FMP, as set out in the environmental report?

Around the UK, and particularly in Scotland there are a lot of different island communities which have a strong fishing presence. As required under the [Islands \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#) an Island Community Impact Assessment (ICIA) will be considered prior to the final publication of the FMPs. Fisheries management measures tend to be applied on a consistent basis and will not generally have a different or unbalanced impact on island communities. We will consider whether an ICIA is needed prior to finalising the FMPs and taking into account any feedback from this consultation.

Q. 9 Do you have any comments on any potential islands impacts arising from the draft FMPs?

Nephrops Fisheries Management Plans Privacy Notice

This is a joint consultation between Scottish Government, Defra and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA).

This privacy notice explains how the fisheries policy authorities (FPAs) listed above will use your data when processing consultation responses. If you have any queries about the content of this privacy notice, please email FMPs@gov.scot.

Who collects your personal data

The FPAs are joint controllers for the personal data we collect.

If you need further information about how the Scottish Government uses your personal data and your associated rights, you can contact DataProtectionOfficer@gov.scot.

The data protection officer for Defra is responsible for checking that Defra complies with legislation. You can contact them at DefraGroupDataProtectionOfficer@defra.gov.uk, or you can contact the Defra data protection manager at data.protection@defra.gov.uk as well as the address below:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

You can contact the Welsh Government at DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales and DAERA at dataprotectionofficer@daera-ni.gov.uk for more information on how each FPA uses your personal data.

What personal data we collect and how it is used

We collect your:

- Name
- Contact details
- Opinions
- Organisation

The FPAs use your personal data when they consult you and receive your comments and views on proposed legislation or policy on subject matters that you have indicated are of interest to you. The FPAs may contact you directly inviting you

to give your comments and views in reply to a consultation exercise or you may decide to reply to a consultation exercise that you have seen on GOV.UK or elsewhere.

If you reply to a consultation exercise, your personal data will consist of your name and contact details and the opinions that you give in your reply. The FPAs will use your personal data to record your opinions and take your reply into account – as far as possible with all other replies – when decisions are being made as a result of the consultation.

Lawful basis for processing your personal data

Your consent is the lawful basis for the use of your personal data for the purpose of this consultation exercise. If the FPAs have contacted you directly to inform you of a consultation exercise, it's because you have previously informed them that you would like to receive communications in relation to the subject matter of the consultation. Whether you received the consultation exercise directly from the FPAs or any other way, if you reply to the consultation exercise, you do so freely and voluntarily after having the opportunity to be fully informed by the consultation documents.

Withdrawing your consent

The processing of your personal data is based on consent. You can withdraw consent at any time by emailing FMPs@gov.scot. If you withdraw your consent, The FPAs will not be able to contact you about this consultation, other related consultations or the published Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). We may still use your response to update the FMPs, but this will be anonymised and won't be associated with your personal data.

Who we share your personal data with

As this is a joint consultation, all FPAs (the Marine Directorate in Scottish Government, Defra, the Welsh Government and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland) will have access to your response and your personal data.

The FPAs will publish a summary of responses; this will not include any personal data.

Within the FPAs, your personal and identifying data will be available to teams working on the consultation. These would include the following: the policy team named in the consultation documents, the Consultation Coordinator and the team analysing the consultation responses. Your personal data will be processed by 'Citizen Space' as the chosen third-party provider for this service.

We respect your personal privacy when responding to access to information requests. We only share information when necessary to meet the statutory requirements of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

How long we hold personal data

The FPAs will hold your personal data for up to 3 years after the end of the consultation period. Your personal data will then be redacted; the rest of the response will be kept for at least 7 years and will be appraised by our Information Appraisal team to decide if the information is of historical value. If so, it will be transferred to The National Archives for historical preservation. If not of historical value, it will be destroyed in accordance with retention schedules.

What happens if you do not provide the personal data

If you do not provide the personal data, the policy team will not be able to contact you about the Nephrops FMPs consultation or other related consultations.

Use of automated decision-making or profiling

The personal data you provide is not used for:

- automated decision making (making a decision by automated means without any human involvement)
- profiling (automated processing of personal data to evaluate certain things about an individual)

Transfer of your personal data outside of the UK

The FPAs will only transfer your personal data to another country that is deemed adequate for data protection purposes. Where necessary, the FPAs will seek assurances of appropriate safeguards where a restricted transfer is deemed essential.

Use of AI software for consultation analysis

Your responses might be processed by a third party. We may use artificial intelligence software to support our analysis process. Any external contractors employed by the Scottish Government to carry out the consultation analysis of responses, will have to demonstrate compliance at a high level with Scottish Government data protection and cyber security guidance. Any commissions using AI will go through the Scottish Government steps for due diligence around AI.

Your rights

Based on the lawful processing above, your individual rights are:

- The right to be informed
- The right of access
- The right to rectification
- The right to erasure
- The right to restrict processing
- The right to data portability

Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling More information about your individual rights under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), can be found [here](#).

Complaints

You have the right to [make a complaint](#) to the Information Commissioner's Office at any time.

Personal information charter

[Our personal information charter](#) explains more about your rights over your personal data.

Duration of the consultation

This consultation will run for 12 weeks, closing at 23:55 on 17 June 2026. Responses must be received by 23:55 on 17 June 2026.

At the end of the consultation period, we will summarise the responses and place the summary on the Scottish Government's FMPs webpage.

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at [Citizen Space](#). If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email. Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or email FMPs@gov.scot

If you have any general enquiries, please contact: FMPs@gov.scot

Scottish Government consultation process

Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: [Citizen Space](#). Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision-making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy

- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

Responding to this consultation

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space, which is available in English and Welsh. Access and respond to this consultation online at [Citizen Space](#).

You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date. If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, **please complete and send the Respondent Information Form to:**

**Fisheries Management Plans
Consultation – Proposed Joint UK Fisheries Management Plans for Nephrops
Scottish Government
Victoria Quay
Area 1B North
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ**

Additionally, you can email us your response to FMPs@gov.scot

Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form provided alongside this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data you can view the privacy policy here: [Privacy - gov.scot](#). A joint UK privacy notice is available below.

If responding via email, please structure your response around the questions in bold throughout this document.

The consultation questions are in bold in the Consultation questions section in this document and in the online survey.

Large print and braille versions of this document are available on request.

The online consultation survey has three parts:

1. Personal details and confidentiality (required)
2. Questions on the nephrops FMPs, the BRIA and the SEA (required)
3. Consultee feedback on the online survey (required)

You only need to respond to the questions that you wish to, for example, if you only have an interest in one FMP, you do not need to respond to questions on the others. However, all respondents must complete the required 'Consultee feedback on the online survey' and 'personal details and confidentiality' sections before you are able submit your response to the online survey.



© Crown copyright 2026



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80775-145-6 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, March 2026

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1717766 (03/26)

W W W . g o v . s c o t