

Brown Crab Working Group

Terms of Reference



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Có-mhaoinithe ag an
Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Brown Crab Working Group

Having regard to legal and policy Frameworks governing fisheries in Ireland, the BCWG will:

- Examine effectiveness of current monitoring programmes for brown crab stocks;
- Analyse current scientific assessments of brown crab stocks in the Irish EEZ and in adjoining jurisdictions;
- Develop proposed management options that will support the future sustainability of brown crab fisheries in Ireland;
- Consider the impacts of proposed management options on related crustacean and whelk fisheries;
- Take account of potential constraints (legal, scientific, policy, enforcement, administrative, etc.) on the implementation of proposed management options.

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In developing its recommendations for management options, the BCWG will need to:

- Consider the practicalities of implementing the options under consideration;
- Ensure that the options recommended:
 - Are compatible with the current legal and policy frameworks for managing sea fisheries in Ireland;
 - Can be managed and administered, where necessary, by DAFM within existing resources;
 - Can be monitored, assessed and enforced effectively by the marine agencies and control authorities within existing resources.

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- The BCWG may consult with the Brown Crab Fishery Improvement Project or others with relevant expertise
- The BCWG will strive for consensus in developing recommendations
- If consensus cannot be achieved dissenting views will be noted in any recommendations made
- The BCWG will report to the Minister providing recommendations for management options that will aim to support sustainable crab fisheries in Ireland
- The report of the BCWG will be submitted to the Minister no later than the 31st of December 2024
- Once submitted, the Minister will determine which of the recommendations, if any, will be implemented.
- Depending on the nature of the recommendations, the Minister may choose to hold a public consultation prior to making his determination

