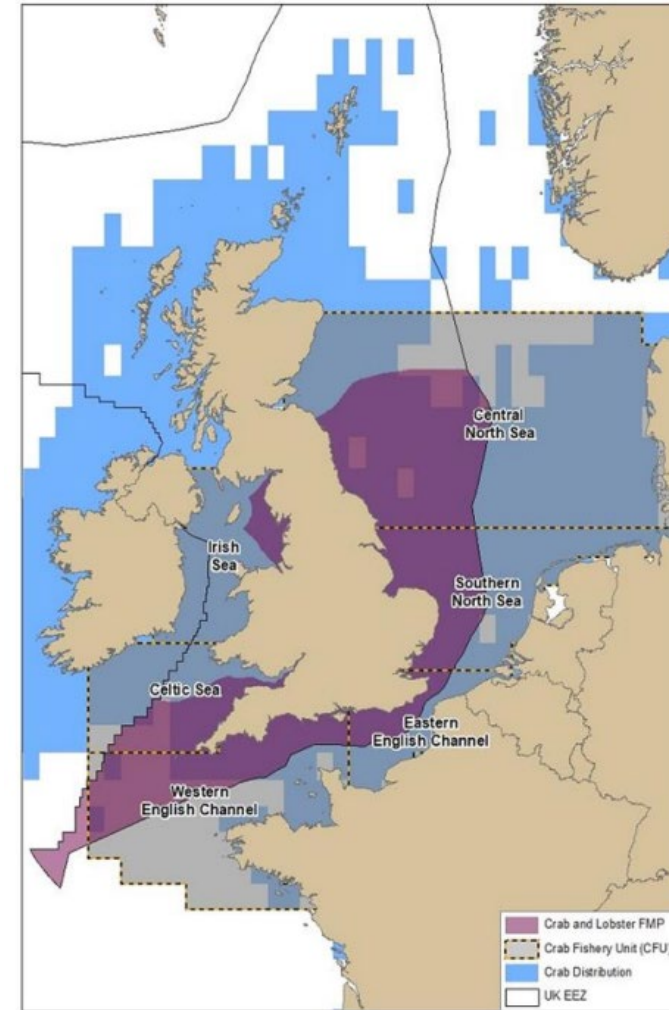


UK Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

The UK FMP and TCA

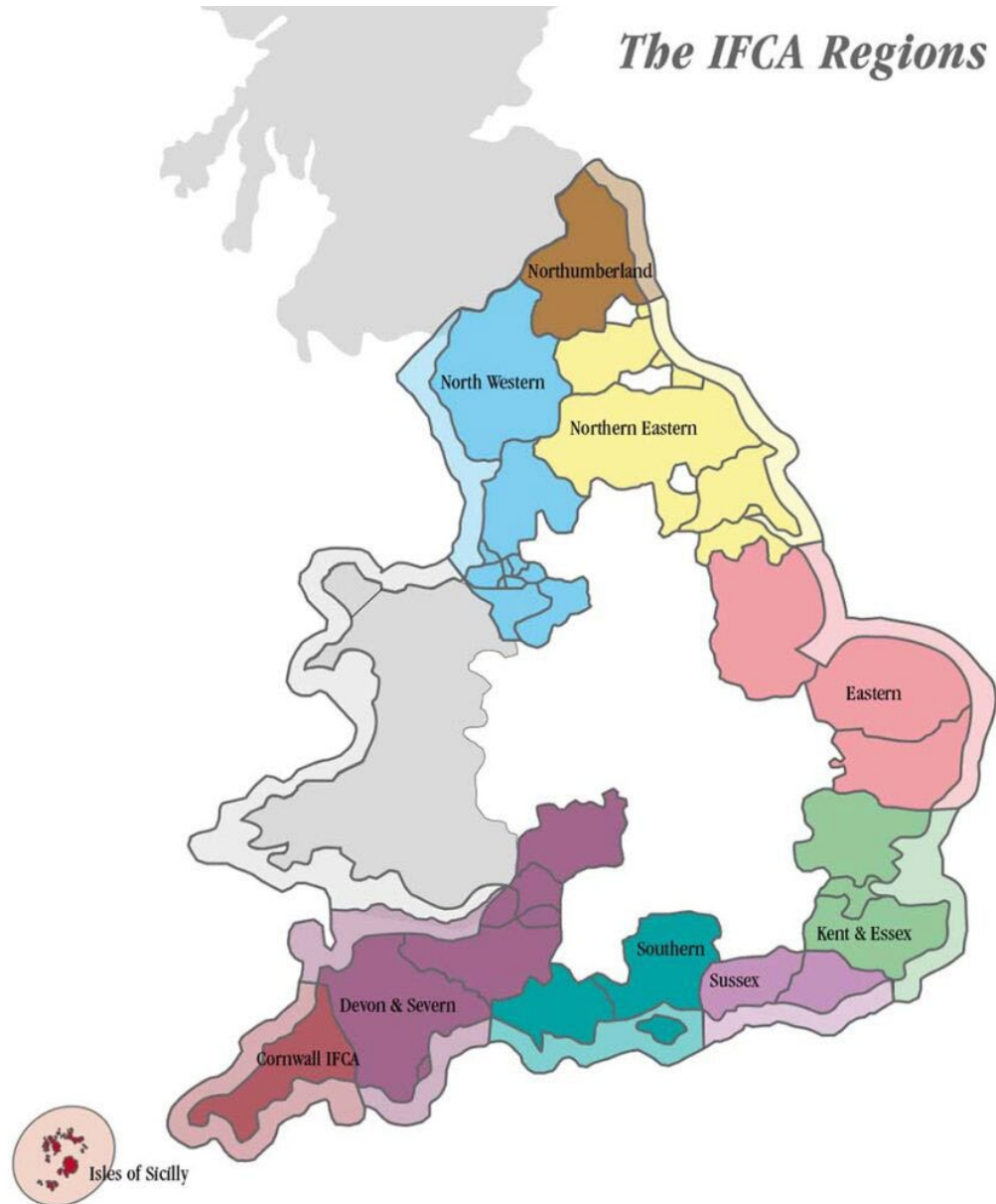
Article 496 of the TCA (Trade and co-operation agreement between EU and UK) requires that fisheries management interventions are evidenced based, are proportionate and are non-discriminatory to either party



From UK fishery management plan:

(Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) are a requirement of the Fisheries Act 2020)

The current management landscape for brown crab and lobster in English waters is fragmented. There is a wide range of management measures in place, including minimum conservation reference sizes (with crab MCRS ranging from 115mm to 160mm), voluntary and regulatory closures, access restrictions, vessel length restrictions, gear regulations, and pot limits. This level of complexity makes it more difficult for fishers to abide by regulations, increases business costs and for regulators to effectively enforce regulations.



Inshore Fisheries Conservation
Authorities in England;
regional/local management with
bye-laws

UK Crab fishery management plan

Objective 1

Develop and pilot an improved data collection programme for crab fisheries, which supports a data rich future and results in the establishment of a reliable time series that facilitates robust, sustainable management

Objective 2

Establish methods to better assess stock status that reflect the life history of the target species and fishery exploitation patterns

Objective 3

Assess the impact of crab fishing activity on the wider marine environment

Objective 4

Improve understanding of interactions between the crab fishery and other fisheries

Objective 5.

Devise and implement a short- to medium-term management approach proposal that considers the external regulatory environment

Objective 6.

Establish a long-term management approach for crab fisheries in line with improvements in data collection and stock assessment

Objective 7

Explore trade-offs between access arrangements for crab fisheries that will ensure both long-term environmental sustainability and economic profitability

Objective 8

Monitor other key commercial crustacean species

Objective 9

Government and shellfish industry to work together to take collective responsibility to:

- mitigate or reduce emissions from the shellfish supply chain
- adapt to and reduce the environmental impacts of climate change

Proposed initial management interventions

Proposal 1: Harmonisation of lobster and crawfish MCRS

Proposal 2: Prohibiting the landing of soft brown crab for bait

(developing a durometer-based methodology for defining soft-shelled brown crab, which could compliment this proposal by improving the enforceability of any such restrictions)

Proposal 3: Pilot finer scale management for brown crab and lobster in selected fishery units. There are 3 pilot schemes

Proposal 4: Progress work to develop an effort management strategy for crab and lobster

Proposal 5: Implement measures to improve the information base on recreational crab and lobster fishing

What is an FMP?

An FMP is an evidence-based action plan that charts a course to sustainable fisheries for current and future generations. Once published, the FMP will last for six years. It will set out both a longer-term vision and goals for the fishery (or fisheries), together with the policies and management interventions necessary to achieve these goals in the shorter term. As well as focusing on sustainable stocks, Defra intends to use FMPs to help tackle environmental, social, and economic issues associated with our fisheries, significantly enhancing our ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and securing the economic and cultural benefits we gain from fish and from fishing. Plans will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they respond to new evidence and practical experience to remain effective

Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authorities byelaws

| NE IFCA | Type of measure | Conditions |
|---------|---|---|
| | Byelaw ' <u>Shellfish Entitlement Holder Permit</u> ' to fish for crab Vessels under 16m | Non transferable |
| | | Monthly report of landings if vessel is over 10m |
| | | Marking of gear with vessel ID |
| | 'Limited Shellfish Permit' | Use not more than 10 pots or 100 metres of net to fish for or take not more than 2 lobsters, a combined total of 10 crab of the species specified in paragraph (2) and 30 whelk |
| | | Marking of gear with vessel ID |
| | | Pots to be tagged |

| Northumberland IFCA | Type of crab | No soft shell crab |
|---------------------|---|---|
| | | No berried crab |
| | | No parts of crab (other than when <10% of the total weight of species on board) |
| | Use as bait | Crab not to be used as bait (other than for angling or cooked edible crab offal) |
| | MLS | 130mm |
| | Commercial Permits for crustaceans and molluscs | Vessels <12m, 800 pot tags (reissued in different colour every 3 years) £180 permit Issued to a named person and fishing vessel Non transferable to another person or vessel Monthly reporting of catch and effort |
| | Recreational permits | £10 5 pot tags, 5 pots Escape gap in pot Daily catch limits apply |

| Cornwall IFCA | Commercial Permit | Non transferable Monthly report of catch and effort |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | £20 Permits (with named alternative) Conditions may apply; catch, gear , spatial, time. |
| | MLS | Female crab 140mm Male crab 160mm |
| | Type of crab | No berried crab No soft shell crab |