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# Control Considerations

## Brown Crab WG

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A “good” legal framework



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## What makes for a good legal framework?

- **Clarity and stability**
- **Known and understood widely**
- **By agreement with society**
- **Applied fairly**
- **Can be reviewed and revised**
- **Enforceable**



- **To be enforceable the impact of a control measure should be observable- by recorded Data and/or Inspection (ideally both)**



**1) Input controls e.g. effort restrictions, fishing by authorisation, gear restriction**

**2) Output controls- e.g. closed seasons, “quota” type management**

**-Species specific restrictions,e.g. minimum size**

**Measures within both these types vary in enforceability with species specific controls likely requiring the highest degree of inspection-based enforcement.**



- **Main data sources**
  - **Logs: electronic and paper (10-12m)**
  - **Sales notes**
  - **VMS may be relevant**
- **Log data can be used to measure effort (kw days), weight (outtake), monitor closed/restricted areas (also VMS if >12m)**
- **No log or VMS for <10m vessels, we rely on sales notes as a data source**
- **Timeliness can be an issue with paper logs and sales notes which affects monitoring of smaller vessels**



- **Key control tool, important to validate data and ensure compliance with measures not captured by the main data sources**
- **May occur at sea or on land including during transport**
- **Inspections at or after sale may detect species specific control breaches e.g below minimum size crab. For example:**

**<https://www.sfpa.ie/Who-We-Are/News/Details/sea-fisheries-protection-authority-seizes-large-quantity-of-undersize-lobster-in-limerick-city-casual-trader>**



- **Widely dispersed small ports -resourcing a large area with finite resources**
- **Lack of notification of landings**



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**Many challenges are surmountable and the new control regulation will make enforcement of some measures easier:**

- **A phone-based app is timetabled to roll out in 2027 and go live in 2028, this will include VMS and logging of catches.**