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Development of the Nephrops FMP for the North Sea

North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership

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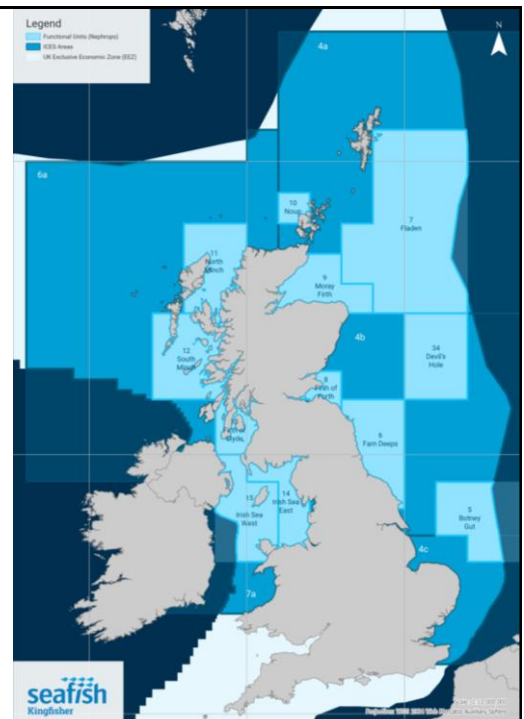
What is the Nephrops FMP?

- Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) are evidence-based action plans, developed in collaboration with the fishing sector and other stakeholders.
- Their purpose is to deliver sustainable fisheries for current and future generations, aligned with the Fisheries Act 2020.

Scope:

- The North Sea Nephrops FMPs will set out objectives and management proposals that will apply to all commercially harvested Nephrops in ICES area 4 (n.b. being developed alongside the area 6 West of Scotland FMP)
- Both FMPs will apply to all vessels, of all sizes, and nationalities operating in these regions.

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Seafish approach for drafting the FMP



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Phased approach in four steps:

1. **Evidence gathering** – what do we already know? Covering biology, socio-economics, environment, and legislative landscape
2. **Collaborative development** – using existing fora and new steering groups to develop fisheries management objectives
3. **Stakeholder engagement** – involves a) developing a stakeholder map and engagement strategy, b) delivering focused events, and c) using feedback to refine the draft FMP
4. **Delivery** – drafting the FMP and associated supporting documents / annexes

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Expected outputs

The development project will deliver the following outputs to the Scottish Marine Directorate:

- a. **Draft FMP** – which meets the requirements laid out in the FA2020, JFS, and meets MD requirements
- b. **Evidence statement** – covering legislative, biological, social, economic, and environmental information relating to Nephrops fisheries
- c. **Stakeholder engagement report** – detailing stakeholder involvement in the process (who, when, why, and how was feedback used)

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Stakeholder engagement

Steering Groups

Aim: bring together stakeholders with an interest in Nephrops fisheries and provide a platform for open discussion on future management.

Seafish has set up four sector-specific steering groups:

- East coast catching
- West coast catching
- Processors and retailers
- Wider stakeholders

Steering groups will focus on:

- Shaping management objectives
- Identifying Nephrops fisheries management issues
- Evaluating the key opportunities for both FMPs

In-person events

To ensure the diverse range of perspectives and viewpoints are heard, Seafish will be delivering in-person events around the coast to:

- Raise awareness of the development of FMPs in Scotland
- Gather feedback from stakeholders on current management approaches in Scotland
- Gather insights from stakeholders on their aspirations for the management of these fisheries in the future
- Understand stakeholder expectations for future involvement in the development of Nephrop FMPs by the Marine Directorate.



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FMP priorities

Initial scoping of challenges, and alignment with objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020, has led to initial focus on:

- **Functional unit level management** – exploring ways of managing Nephrops FUs individually
- **Improving scientific evidence** – setting appropriate biomass reference points to trigger management action
- **Benthic impacts of fishing activity** – reducing impact of fishing on seabed habitats
- **Interactions with ETP species** (more focus in area 6) – avoiding interactions with protected species like cetaceans
- **Reducing bycatch of unwanted or undersize fish and shellfish** – using gear technology, innovation, and other management tools to reduce bycatch



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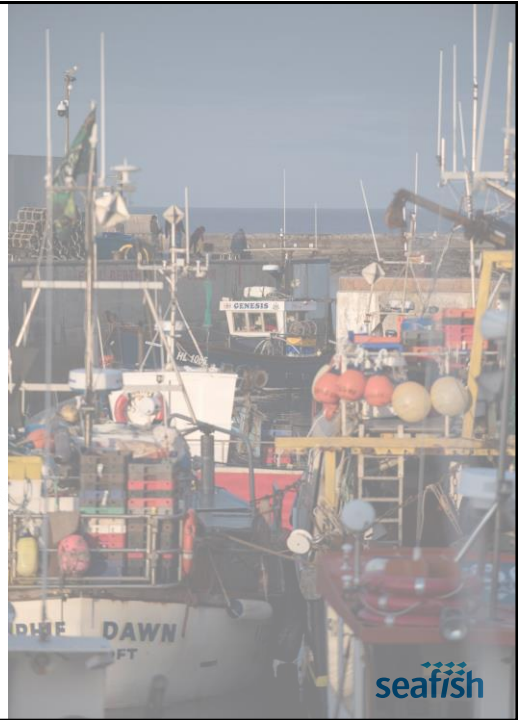
Timelines and next steps

Final drafts will be delivered to the Marine Directorate by the **31st May**. The FMP is expected to be published before the end of 2024.

Next steps:

- Drafting objectives with input from the sector-specific stakeholder groups
- Delivery of in-person engagement events around the coast
- Finalise drafts based on feedback from stakeholders
- Deliver the draft FMPs to the Marine Directorate

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Thank you

Further information contact:
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