

UK Orkney brown crab - pot

Overview

FIP Description

The Orkney Crab fishery targets brown crab (*Cancer pagarus*) and is located where the North Sea and the North Atlantic Sea meet. There is approximately 1500 tons landed into Orkney in 2022. The fishing fleet is made up of small inshore vessels which are generally under 10m in length, and they tend to work as day vessels landing crab every day. The fishing tends to occur within 12 nautical miles from the coastline. The Orkney Crab fishery is regulated by licence conditions which are the vessels having a valid fishing licence which has shellfish entitlement. Licences are issued and regulated by the Scottish Government. The fishery is also regulated by Minimum Landing Sizes (MLS) which is 150mm CW and other technical measures which are regulated by the Scottish Government and through Marine Scotland Compliance. The fishing method for the target species is creels (pots/traps) and is considered a passive method of fishing. There is very little interaction with the fishery and vulnerable species or habitats. Scotland has a network of MPAs and SACs which protect the most vulnerable habitats from being disturbed by fishing activities. Orkney Crab has a code of practice for fishers which outline the high standard of fishing practices and quality of crab that is expected to be landed by the fishery. This also outlines who a fisher should contact if they should become entangled with marine mammals. Orkney Crab is in the process of establishing a sampling program for the fishery which will address the issues of data limitations which are currently an issue for the fishery. Marine Scotland Science are the current body who collect market sampling data, and this is used in their stock assessment. These stock assessments are published but they are not currently used to inform management decisions for the fishery. The Orkney Crab data will enhance this data set and over time allow for a local stock assessment to be done which could support management decisions at a local level.

The local management body the Orkney RIFG is established and tasked with developing a regional management plan, this is inline with a regional marine special plan that is also in the process of being developed. The outputs of this FIP will be used to address the areas currently not meeting the standards. This will primarily through the development of a sampling program which will have an onshore market sampling component, an offshore sampling component and a crab tagging component. In addition to this Orkney crab will be looking to support areas in P3 where it currently does not meet the standard through engagement with the local RIFG and engagement with national consultations where appropriate.

How is this FIP Doing?

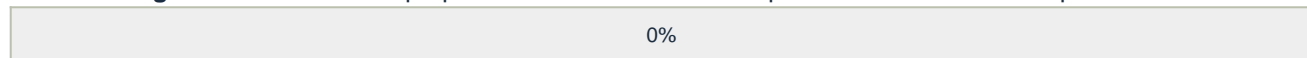
Current Status:



% of Indicators Tracked Basic FIPs may focus their workplans on a subset of the indicators. This shows the proportion of total indicators the FIP is working on.



Actions Progress This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.



Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
63%	38%	0%	0%

FIP Progress Rating



FIP Objective(s)

The FIP will implement a sampling program which will address data limitations currently seen in the fishery. This will involve an onshore market sampling component, an offshore sampling component and a crab tagging component. The market sampling component will be in place by the end of April 2025, the offshore sampling component by the end of August 2025 and the crab tagging component by September 2025. Each component will continue to collect data until the end of the FIP. These sampling programs will address issues with stock definition that are currently seen in P1 as this data will enhance national data sets on the fishery and allow for a local stock assessment to be done.

The FIP will actively engage with the Regional Inshore Fishery Group and support through taking part in national consultations the development of a Harvest Strategy for the fishery.

In addition to this Orkney Crab will review its Code of Practice for the fishery and distribute to fishers landing into the FIP. This will be done by January 2029.

The FIP are currently involved in the beta trial of the Community Catch Standard. The Community Catch Standard is a global initiative that aims to support small-scale fisheries acquire sustainability recognition through their newly developed certification scheme that will fill a much needed gap over other existing programs. The Orkney Crab trial will be testing three species; brown crab, velvet crabs and European lobster against the required standards towards certification. Following the trial workplans to be produced that will give Orkney Crab

an improvement pathway to continue with sustainability work on the 3 species and a potentially certified fishery. The objectives of the Community Catch trial will be to produce a workplan including creating a sampling programme to allow for localised stock assessment to be carried out.

FIP Type

Basic

FIP Stage

Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

Start and Projected End Dates

July, 2021 -

January, 2029

Species**Common Name**

Brown Crab

Scientific Name

Cancer pagurus

Gear Type

[Pot/Trap](#)

Location**FAO Major Fishing Area**

[Area 27 \(Atlantic, Northeast\)](#)

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)

Geographic Scope

Subarea 27.4a Northern North Sea, ICES Division Iva

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)

NEAFC

Estimated Total FIP Landings

1000 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

Orkney Crab Limited

Organization Type

Industry

Primary Contact

Kate Rydzkowski

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Phone

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Website Name

[Orkney Crab](#)

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