

# INACTIVE UK brown crab and European lobster - pot/trap

## Overview

### FIP Description

*Reason for Inactivity: The timeline for the UK Crab and Lobster FIP came to an end in April 2023. The final annual review of the FIP indicated that no performance indicator would be expected to fail in an MSC assessment, however there are still activities underway to ensure the fishery demonstrate best practice against the MSC Standard. Demonstrable progress against the majority of the remaining actions is reliant on the delivery of the national Crab and Lobster Fisheries Management Plan by Defra, which is due to be published by the end of 2023. These actions include the implementation of a harvest strategy and harvest control rules, fishery specific objectives and decision making processes.*

Project UK is working towards an environmentally sustainable future for UK fisheries by running Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) on 12 UK fisheries that have been selected by the UK seafood supply chain. They were selected due to their importance for the UK market.

Project UK has been developed in response to the demand from the supply chain, retailers, industry and NGOs. The project will commission an MSC pre-assessment to inform and develop an action plan for each fishery, which will identify improvements.

The UK Western Channel and Celtic Sea: Brown crab and European lobster pot and trap fisheries are comprised of both the inshore and offshore, whereby smaller vessels (mainly under 10m) operate closer to the coast and larger vessels split time between the two marine areas.

Fishery management jurisdiction is organised on two different scales around England. Beyond 6 nautical miles, DEFRA and the MMO are responsible for managing crab fisheries whereas from the coast out to 6 nautical miles, responsibility lies with the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs).

No TACs are set for the Western Channel & Celtic Sea edible crab fishery or the Southwest lobster fishery.

Total landings of crab were around 8,000t for the areas covered by the Western Channel stock assessment for each of the years 2013-2015, comprising 5,000t from the UK, 2,000t from France, and 1,000t from the Channel Islands. Landings for the Celtic Sea stock assessment area are estimated at 3,000t, comprising 2,000t from the

UK, and 1,000t from Ireland.

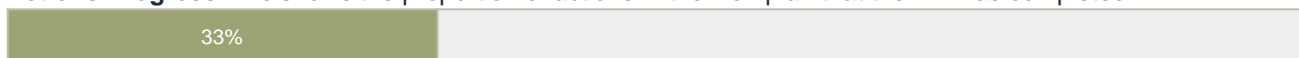
Total landings of lobster have been at between 200t and 300t for the area covered by the Southwest lobster stock unit for each of the years from 2006-2013.

## How is this FIP Doing?

### Current Status:



**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
67%	0%	33%	0%

### FIP Objective(s)

By April 2023, the FIP aims to address the following:

- Meet the 80+ score for each MSC performance indicator within 5 years (April 2017- 2022) and be able to enter MSC full assessment.
- Support fisheries with the tools to implement changes and ensure their sustainable future as they move towards MSC certification
- Follow the step by step definition of a credible FIP involving four key stages, each with associated tools & support mechanisms:
  1. Undertake MSC pre-assessment
  2. Develop an action plan for improvement
  3. Implement actions & track progress
  4. Enter full MSC assessment
- Address and aim to improve all principle indicators scoring below 80 across the MSC as determined in the pre-assessments
- Use the model to establish a 'FIP conveyor belt' to identify, improve and certify UK fisheries
- Track progress consistently and transparently, producing review reports on an annual basis using a consultant body

**FIP Type**

Comprehensive

**FIP Stage**

Stage 5: Improvements on the Water

**Start and Projected End Dates**

April, 2017 -

April, 2023

**Species****Common Name**

European Lobster

**Scientific Name**

Homarus gammarus

**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**

Western Channel (VIIe) (Crabs & lobster), VIIf and part of VIIg (Lobster only)

**Country Flag of Vessel**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)

**Estimated Total FIP Landings**

2257 metric tons

**FIP Leads****Organization Name**

Facilitated by the Marine Stewardship Council

**Primary Contact**

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**Website Name**

[Project UK Fisheries Improvements](#)

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