

# Proposals for amendments to the fees payable in respect of an Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence



**Isle of Man  
Government**

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**Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture**  
Rheynn Chymmiltaght, Bee as Eirinys  
**Consultation Paper**  
**February 2018**

# Proposals for amendments to fees payable in respect of the Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence

## Part 1 Introduction

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 History

Any vessel fishing within the territorial sea must currently hold a valid UK licence and a valid Isle of Man fishing licence. The Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence is a consolidated licence made up of an underpinning licence to fish within the territorial sea and additional species specific licences e.g. scallops, whelks etc. In line with other UK Fisheries Administrations, the Department (DEFA) has never charged a fee for the administration of the UK Fishing Licence. However, since 2013 DEFA has charged a fee for the Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence. When first introduced, the fee was based purely on cost recovery of officer time, materials associated with the licence and a contribution towards costs associated with the electronic licensing systems. To date the fee has been charged at a flat rate applied equally to all vessels irrespective of capacity or target species, with the cost of the licence increasing over time in line with RPI. While this may have been appropriate in the past DEFA feels that it is time to review both the fees and the way in which they are applied.

#### 1.2 Legal framework

Section 73 of Part 5 of the Fisheries Act 2012 enables DEFA to charge a fee for the Sea Fishing Licence and, additionally, different fees for licences of a specified description.

##### *73 Licence fees*

*(1) The Department may by regulations specify the fees payable for the grant or renewal of —*

- (a) fishing licences,*
- (b) sea fishing licences,*
- (c) recreational sea fishing licences, and*
- (d) permits under section 29(5).*

*(2) Regulations under subsection (1) may specify different fees to be payable on the grant or renewal of —*

- (a) licences or permits of a specified description, or*
  - (b) licences or permits granted to persons of a specified description;*
- and may in specified cases provide for the grant or renewal of a licence or permit without payment.*

Before introducing such regulations DEFA must comply with section 83 of the Fisheries Act 2012.

##### *83 Orders and regulations — general*

*(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply to —*

- (a) orders under section 4(1); and*
- (b) regulations under any provision of this Act.*

*(2) Before making any instrument to which this subsection applies the Department shall consult —*

- (a) such organisations in the Island as appear to it to be representative of interests substantially affected by the regulations; and*
  - (b) such scientific authorities as it thinks fit.*
- (3) An instrument to which this subsection applies shall be laid before Tynwald as soon as practicable after it is made, and if Tynwald at the sitting at which it is laid or at the next following sitting resolves that it shall be annulled, the instrument shall cease to have effect.*
- (4) An order under section 46 or 58 shall not have effect unless it is approved by Tynwald.*

*(5) Before making any regulations under Part 5 or an order under section 46 or 58 the Department shall —*

*(a) consult the Secretary of State (except in the case of regulations under section 45);*

*(b) satisfy itself that the regulations will not operate so as to contravene —*

*(i) any Community instrument which applies as part of the law of the Island (whether under section 2(1) of the European Communities (Island) Act 1973, under section 46 or otherwise);*

*(ii) any international agreement which extends to the Island, or*

*(iii) any agreement between the Government of the Island and the sea-fisheries administration of any part of the United Kingdom.*

Prior to the introduction of the Sea Fisheries (Licensing Etc.) (Amendment) Byelaws 2013 DEFA consulted with the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the United Kingdom in 2012. These discussions concluded that, as the charging of a licence fee was an administrative matter rather than a management or conservation measure, it was not within the scope of the Fisheries Management Agreement 2012.

### **1.3 Drivers**

There are a number of drivers for the proposals as follows:

Legal responsibility: Under the Section 5 of the Isle of Man Fisheries Act 2012 DEFA is responsible for the supervision and protection of inland and sea fisheries and for fostering the establishment and development of such fisheries. In meeting these responsibilities DEFA shall be mindful of the need to preserve natural beauty and amenity, to conserve marine flora and fauna and the marine environment and to conserve features of geological or geomorphological interest.

DEFA meets these obligations through careful management of the marine environment and, in the case of fishing, by means of regulations and by restricting certain activities other than under the authority of a licence.

Future Fisheries Strategy: In 2015, the Isle of Man Government approved a five-year strategy (Future Fisheries) for the sustainable development of the Isle of Man's sea fisheries and marine environment which identified a number of key themes, including:

- Managing sea fisheries
- Safeguarding the environment
- Developing sea fisheries
- Managing resources
- Working with customers

Within the above, the development of a Sea Fishing Licence which represented good value was identified as a priority action area. In 2016 the Fisheries and Marine Management sub-group of the Sea Fisheries Strategy Steering Group recommended that a Licensing Working Group, consisting of officers of the Department, officers from Treasury and Industry representation, be established in order to investigate this priority action area. The working group was tasked with developing a licence fee which was fair and non-discriminatory, and which better reflected the Department's costs as well as the value of the licence to the holder.

Additional considerations: Since the approval of the Future Fisheries Strategy DEFA has been working towards addressing the priority action areas within the key themes. In relation to the theme of "Managing sea fisheries" DEFA has sought to ensure appropriate levels of fishing effort and to achieve sustainable stocks with regionally relevant management. For example in both the king and queen scallop fisheries, the number of licences issued has been reduced in order to balance fishing effort with the available stock, as determined by scientific stock assessment; creating a situation where the benefits of a highly managed resource are available to only a limited number of individuals. Therefore, there is increasing validity to the argument

that the user should pay and that those who benefit most from the managed resource should contribute most towards it.

Looking forward: The Future Fisheries Strategy identifies many priority action areas within the key themes, including the need for scientific data, effective enforcement, market development and training and education. There is much work to do and in order to achieve these aims DEFA needs adequate resource and funding.

### 1.4 The Fisheries

The Isle of Man Territorial Sea produces some of the most productive fishing grounds for shell fish species such as king and queen scallops, crab, lobster, nephrops and whelk as well as for pelagic species such as herring.

Figure 1: Quantity of landings of shellfish species by ICES rectangle  
 (© Copyright Marine Management Organisation UK fisheries Statistics Report 2016)

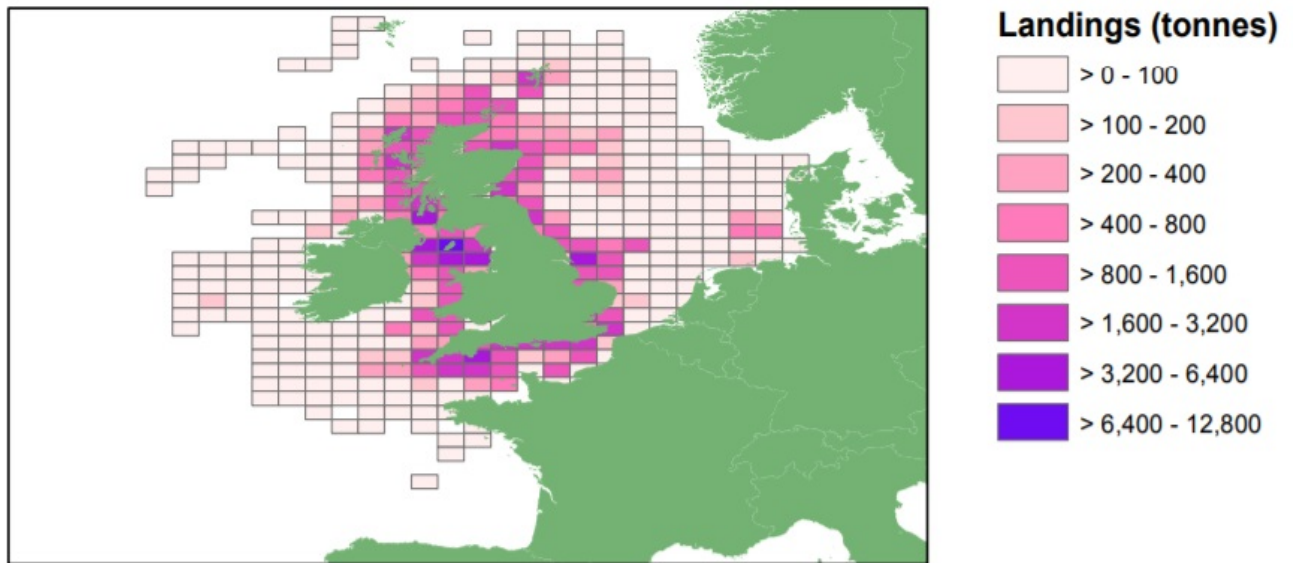


Figure 2: Value of landings of shellfish species by ICES rectangle  
 (© Copyright Marine Management Organisation UK fisheries Statistics Report 2016)

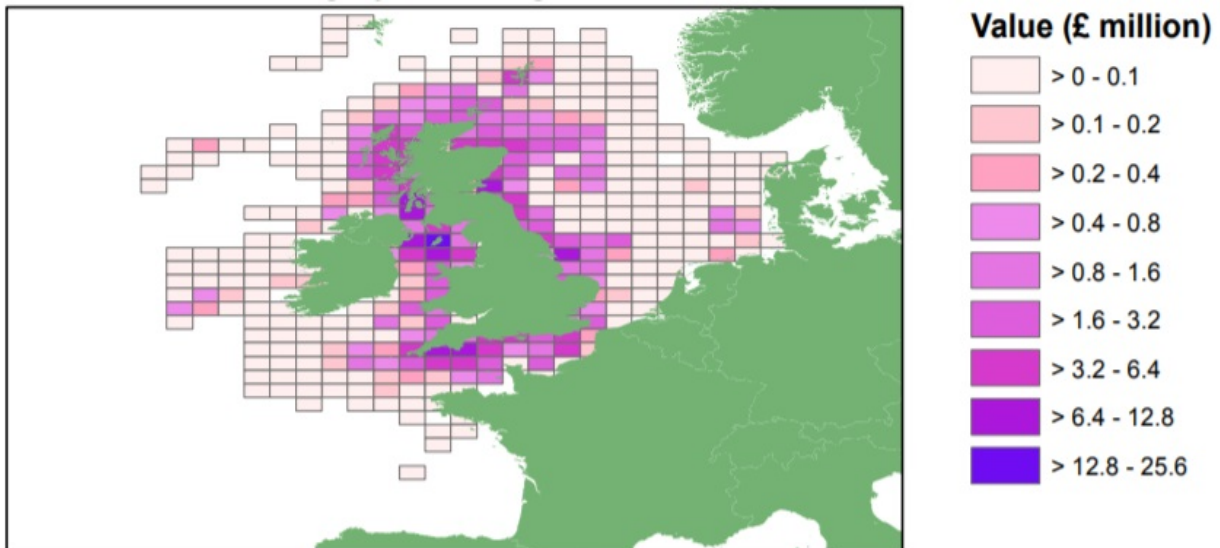


Figure 3: Quantity of landings of pelagic species by ICES rectangle  
 (© Copyright Marine Management Organisation UK fisheries Statistics Report 2016)

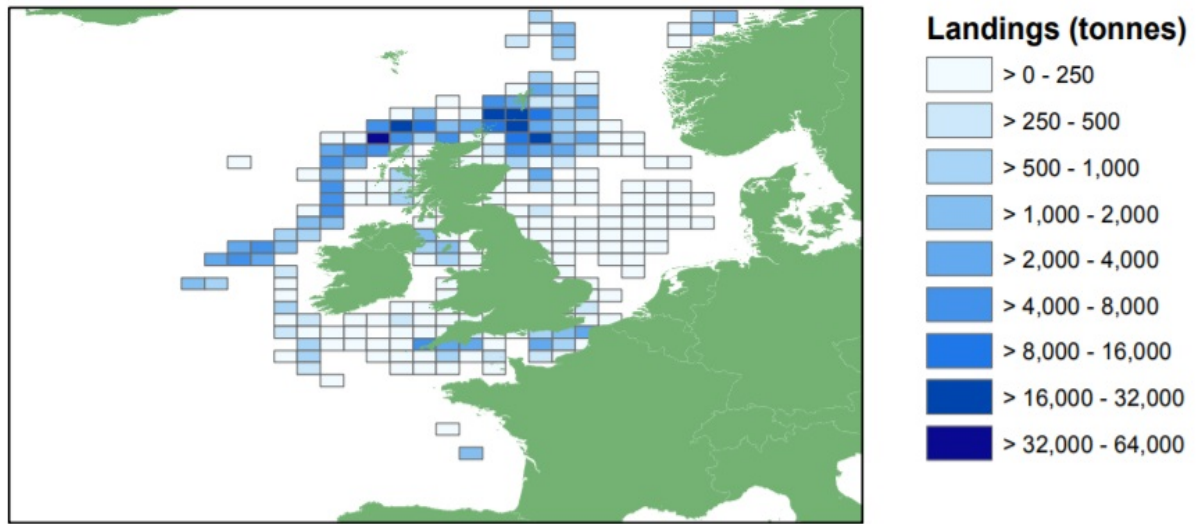
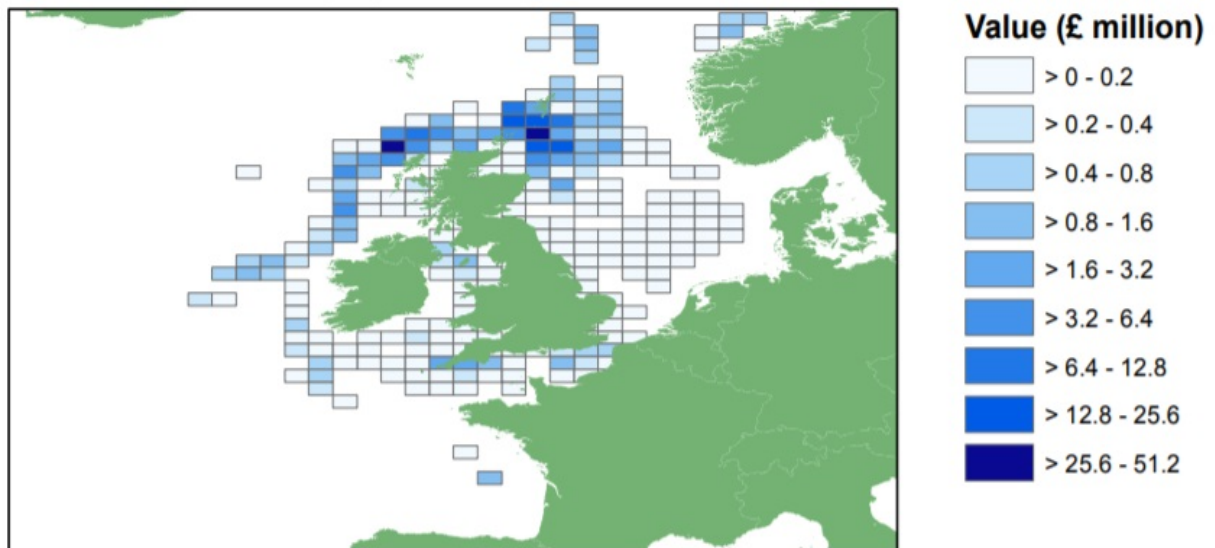
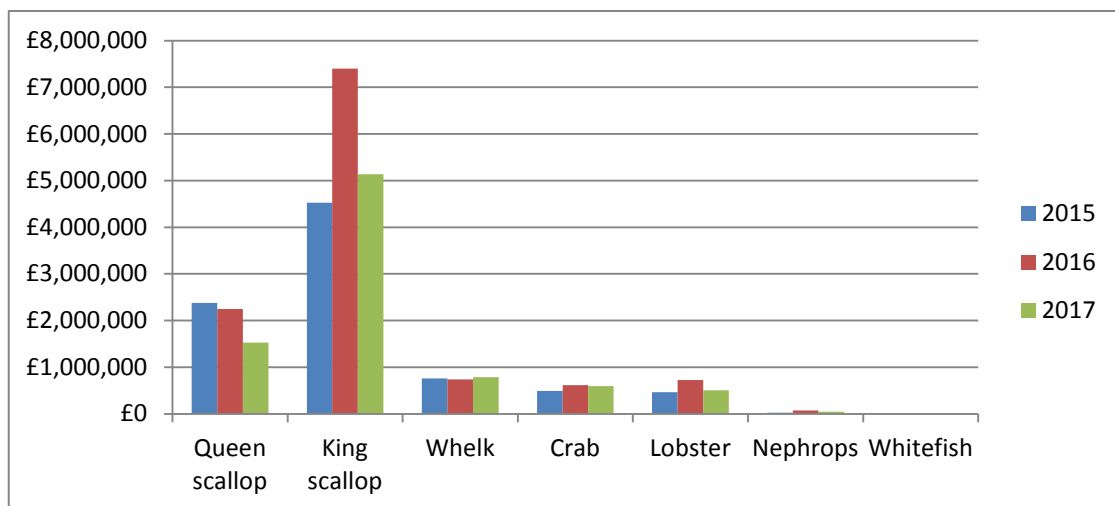


Figure 4: Value of landings of pelagic species by ICES rectangle  
 (© Copyright Marine Management Organisation UK fisheries Statistics Report 2016)



Over the past three years the average value of the fishing and seafood industry has been £9.5m per annum at first landing and approximately £20m per annum overall to the Manx economy. The industry directly employs around 400 people across the Island's towns.

Figure 5: Value of local landings at first sale (Data source: IFISH)



## 1.5 Benefits of fisheries management within the territorial sea

DEFA has a contract with the School of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University, under which DEFA receives independent detailed scientific analyses and advice which is used to inform fisheries policy and management. As an example the annual stock assessments for both king and queen scallops enable DEFA to set a Total Allowable Catch for each species and, within that, daily or weekly catch limits, to ensure the sustainability of these fisheries. Scientific advice and investigation has led to the number of licences issued in respect of the scallop and whelk fisheries being restricted to ensure that the amount of fishing effort does not exceed the available resource. Based on scientific research many species have a higher minimum landing size within the territorial sea which affords them the opportunity to produce more offspring before they reach a size at which they may be captured. Acting on scientific advice DEFA has implemented a number of seasonal spatial closures to protect juvenile scallops or areas of high density to aid recruitment.

DEFA operates a robust enforcement policy through a specialist enforcement team using the FPV Barrule, a 22m dedicated fisheries enforcement vessel, and the FPV Enbarr, a 6.5m standalone RIB, to undertake regular patrols within the territorial sea. Sea patrols are undertaken in conjunction with shore based enforcement, incorporating quayside and factory checks as well as checks on compliance at food retailers selling fish and electronic monitoring. In the past three years DEFA has brought a number of successful prosecutions which resulted in penalties including fines and confiscation of catch and gear.

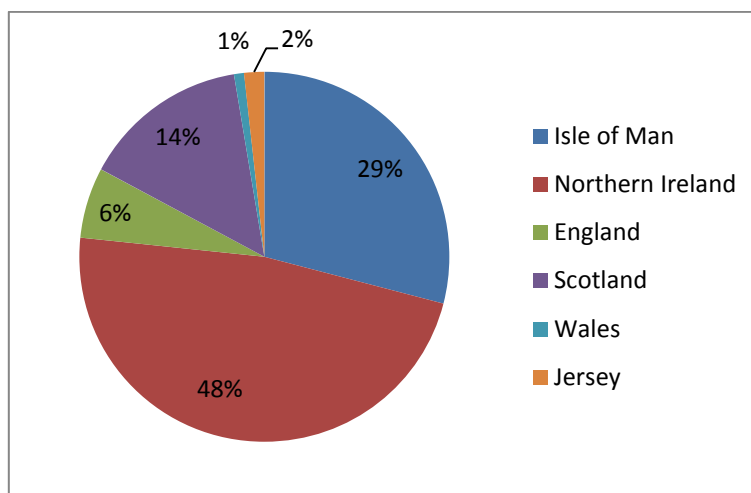
DEFA is required, under the Fisheries Management Agreement 2012, to maintain certain measures in line with the UK for the purposes of UK and EU fisheries management. These are administered by a small office based team who are responsible for a range of duties from data entry to the formation of policy. In the management of most of the key species within the territorial sea, DEFA goes above and beyond the requirements of UK and EU fisheries management, proactively implementing measures, based on sound independent scientific advice, which ensure the long term sustainability of the Island's fish stocks and the livelihoods of those that depend upon them.

Management of the fisheries in this way creates an environment which is home to some of the healthiest and best managed fish stocks and some of the most lucrative fishing grounds.

### 1.5 Licensing

Currently approximately 230 commercial fishing vessels are licenced by DEFA to fish within the territorial sea. As well as local vessels, vessels from Scotland, Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Jersey are licenced to fish within the territorial sea.

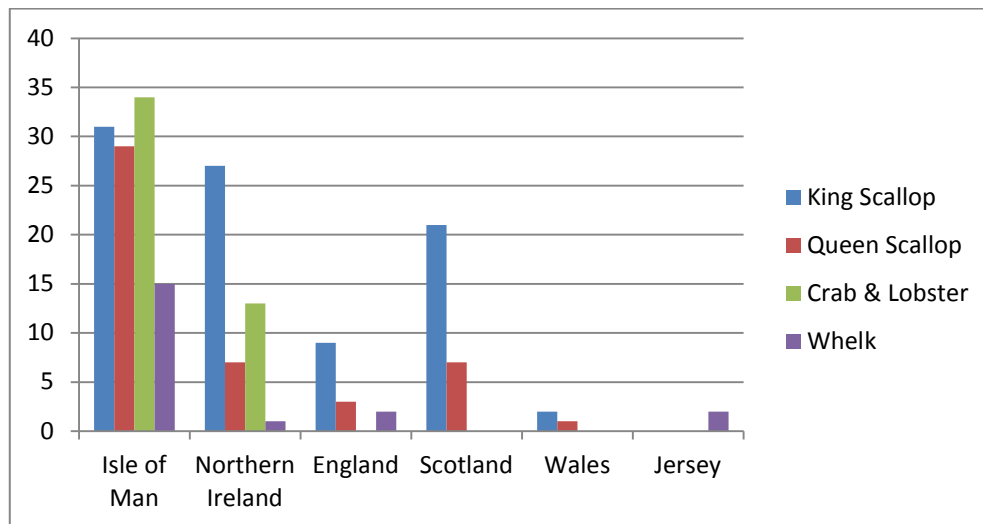
Figure 6: Percentage of Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licences held by nationality



In addition to the basic Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence, DEFA also issues Species Specific Licences for some of the main species found within the territorial sea. In recent years, the number of these Species Specific Licences has been reduced, at times significantly, in response to scientific advice and in order to achieve some of the aims of the Future Fisheries Strategy e.g. appropriate levels of fishing effort and sustainable stocks.

Vessels above a certain length are not permitted to fish within three nautical miles (NM) of the Island and that part of the territorial sea between 0-3NM is subject to different regulatory requirements; therefore, different vessels may hold different licences based on a number of factors including eligibility, track record, length, target species etc., with some vessels holding licences for multiple species.

Figure 7: Number of Species Specific Licences currently held by nationality



## 1.6 Summary

- DEFA has charged a licence fee for the Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence Since 2013;
- The Fisheries Act 2012 provides the vires to charge a range of fees;
- Licences are issued in respect of fishing vessels from throughout the UK;
- The Future Fisheries Strategy provides a framework for conservation and development;
- Many of the key fisheries are restricted with limited numbers of licences issued;
- The Department devotes significant resources to the development of the fisheries within the territorial sea through scientific research, robust enforcement and proactive and precautionary management;
- The Isle of Man territorial sea holds some of the most productive fishing grounds;
- There are a number of key shellfish and pelagic fisheries within the territorial sea;
- These fisheries are worth £9.5m/annum to the local economy at first sale;
- Not all of the fish caught within the territorial sea are landed on the Island;
- DEFA is reviewing licence fees and structure to develop a fair and balanced charging policy.

## 2. Discussion

### 2.1 The fee

The fee was originally established in 2013 based on cost recovery of a very limited range of budgets associated with issuing the licence. However, recent legal advice from the Isle of Man Attorney General's Chambers is that DEFA can legitimately seek cost recovery against a much wider range of budgets which could include those relating to enforcement and science as well as many other administrative budgets. The fee for the current licence, which is valid from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, is £301. This is a flat fee and takes no account of the capacity of the vessel or the value of the fisheries that it is prosecuting.

The Licensing Working Group was tasked with investigating a licence fee which was fair and non-discriminatory, and which better reflected the Department's costs as well as the benefit of the licence to the holder. The existing modular structure of a base licence with additional species-specific licences was discussed and consideration given to how this structure might be adapted in an attempt to take account of vessel capacity.

## 2.2 Development of the proposals

The value of sea fisheries budgets considered within scope amount to £697,000. Using the current model of each vessel paying the same, the licence fee would increase from £301 per annum to approximately £3,168. However, this would take no consideration of the capacity of the vessel or its target species.

*Proposal 1: DEFA proposes to retain the current principle of a base Sea Fishing Licence and separate Species Specific Licences and to charge separate fees for each.*

The territorial sea falls within a number of ICES Statistical Rectangles; however, ICES Statistical Rectangle 37E5 is often used as a proxy for the territorial sea.

Figure 8: ICES Statistical Rectangles shown relative to the Isle of Man territorial sea. Dotted black line represents the Isle of Man 12 nm limit.



Using data obtained from the UK Fisheries Database hosted by Cefas, the average value of landings from ICES Statistical Rectangle 37E5 per vessel per annum (April 2015 – March 2017 inclusive) was determined; a number of fisheries were examined, including different target species or gears over a range of vessel length groups.

Within the current licensed fleet there are a number of vessels that are not licenced to fish for scallops, crab, lobster or whelk within the territorial sea. Little is known about their activities; however, they are assumed to be fishing for nephrops.

*Proposal 2: DEFA proposes to introduce a wider range of Species Specific Licences and to charge different fees for Species Specific Licences in relation to certain species, based on the average value of landings per vessel per annum.*

While proposals 1 and 2 address some of the issues regarding the Department's costs and the benefit of the licence to the holder, they do not address the fact that even within a single sector there may be considerable discrepancies between vessels, dependent upon capacity.

Analysis of data obtained from Seafish appeared to indicate an exponential correlation between vessel length and operating profit across various sectors. However, in recognition that current



management measures within the territorial sea, such as daily catch limits, gear restrictions, effort restrictions etc. take away some of the advantage of larger vessels, DEFA does not currently propose to pursue this exponential correlation.

However, fishing opportunities for larger vessels are less affected by poor weather and so such vessels may still have an advantage over smaller vessels with regard to the number of days that they can go to sea. Further analysis of data obtained from Seafish indicated a linear correlation between vessel length and the number of days spent at sea across various sectors, including both static and mobile gear fisheries.

Figure 9: Average days at sea (2012-2016) per vessel per annum by length for scallop fisheries

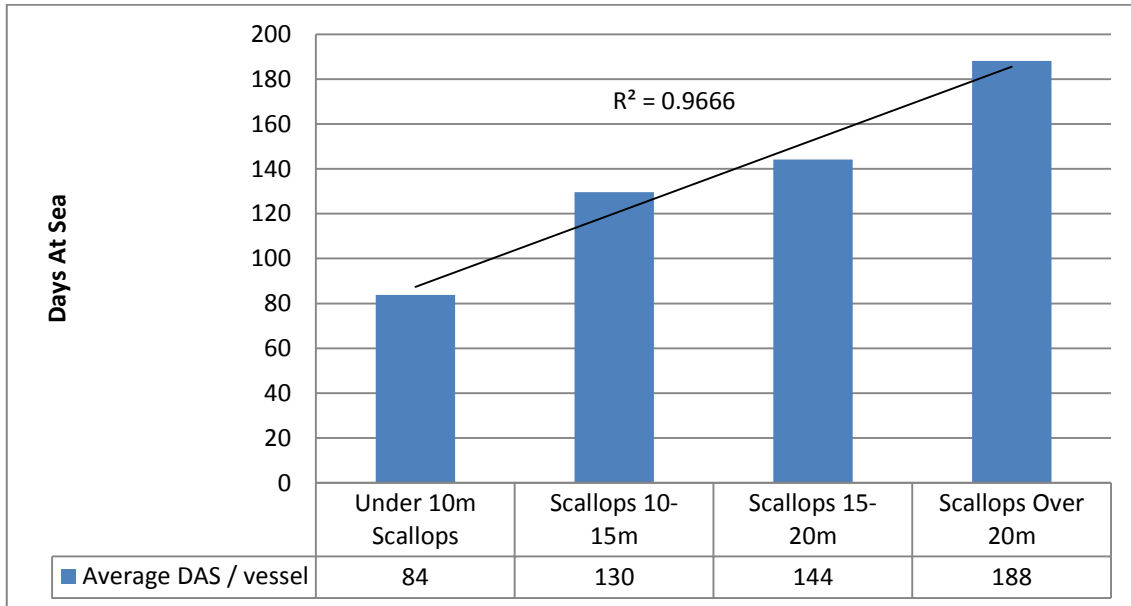
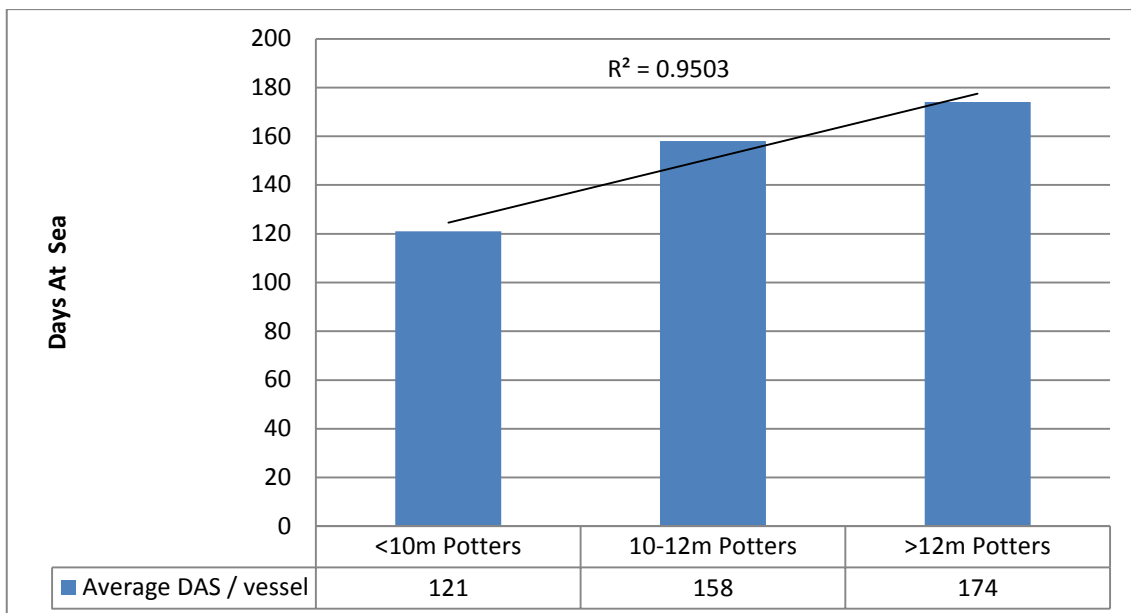


Figure 10: Average days at sea (2012-2016) per vessel per annum by length for pot fisheries



*Proposal 3: DEFA proposes to apply a tiered structure to both the base Sea Fishing Licence and to all Species Specific Licences based on vessel length (Overall Length) to reflect the relationship between vessel length and the number of days spent at sea.*

## 2.3 Extent of the proposals

At present DEFA is not seeking full cost recovery of the £697,000 of budgets considered within scope. Aiming for partial cost recovery at approximately 33% and implementing proposals 1 to 3, which take account of administrative costs, the value of landings and the effect of vessel size, would generate revenue of approximately £225,000, based on the current fleet.

Licence fees based on the above system are laid out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Table of proposed licence fees for base licences and species-specific licences by species and by vessel length

Vessel Length Group	Licence type and fee						
	Basic Sea Fishing Licence	Additional Species Specific Licences					
		Scallop	Queen Scallop	Crab & Lobster	Whelk	Nephrops	Herring
Less than or equal to 10m	£300	£430	£150	£150	£230	£70	-
Greater than 10m but less than or equal to 15m	£450	£650	£230	£230	£350	£110	-
Greater than 15m but less than or equal to 20m	£600	£870	£310	£310	£470	£140	£1,980
Greater than 20m	£750	£1,090	£390	£390	£590	£180	£2,640

An “other species” licence was considered but discounted due to the poor quality of the data and the possibility that it might serve as a barrier to diversification. Similarly, the Department has previously considered the development of an artisanal local herring fishery and so an exemption is proposed for vessels less than or equal to 15m fishing for herring.

*Proposal 4: DEFA proposes to set licence fees that aim to achieve cost recovery of approximately 33% against a range of budgets totalling £697,000.*

## 3. Objectives

This consultation document has the following objectives:

- To raise awareness of the Department’s responsibilities under the Fisheries Act 2012 and to demonstrate how this is achieved, the costs incurred and the benefits of doing so.
- To highlight the extent to which the fisheries within the territorial sea are managed and to show the benefit of this managed resource to those who are able to earn their livelihood from it.
- To raise awareness of the Department’s commitment to the key themes as identified within the Future Fisheries Strategy:
  - Managing sea fisheries
  - Safeguarding the environment
  - Developing sea fisheries
  - Managing resources
  - Working with customers
- To seek views on proposals designed to introduce a licence fee which is fair and balanced, and which better reflects the Department’s costs as well as the benefit of the licence to the holder

### 3. Proposals for consultation

The proposals are as follows:

- *DEFA proposes to retain the current principle of a base Sea Fishing Licence and separate Species Specific Licences and to charge separate fees for each.*
- *DEFA proposes to introduce a wider range of Species Specific Licences and to charge different fees for Species Specific Licences in relation to certain species, based on the average value of landings per vessel per annum.*
- *DEFA proposes to apply a tiered structure to both the base Sea Fishing Licence and to all Species Specific Licences based on vessel length (Overall Length) to reflect the relationship between vessel length and the number of days spent at sea.*
- *DEFA proposes to set licence fees that aim to achieve cost recovery of approximately 33% against a range of budgets totalling £697,000.*

Under these proposals licence holders would be required to pay a base licence fee and, for the main target species, a species-specific licence fee. The cost of a Species Specific Licence would reflect the average value of landings, per annum, from the territorial sea (37E5), per vessel, for that species. The cost of base licences and species-specific licences would be relative to vessel length and would be subject to annual review. DEFA believes that this represents a balanced approach that is non-discriminatory and that allocates costs fairly across all parts of the industry, according to their fishing opportunities.

As an interim measure and to facilitate this consultation, all current licences will be extended until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 at no additional cost.

All other licensing related policies will remain unaltered by the proposals and licences will remain the property of the Department and will therefore not be transferable or saleable.

#### **Glossary:**

Cefas: The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, an organisation which provides scientific and statistical data to the UK Government.

Fisheries Management Agreement 2012: An agreement between the Fisheries Administrations of the UK and the Isle of Man regarding fisheries management.

ICES: The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea is a global organisation that develops science and advice to support the sustainable use of the oceans.

ICES Statistical Rectangle: Geographic areas defined by ICES for the purposes of fisheries management.

Nephrops: A species of shellfish otherwise known as langoustine, Norway lobster or Dublin Bay prawn

Overall Length: The Overall Length of the vessel as stated on the Certificate of Registry relating to that vessel.

RPI: Retail Prices Index, used as a measure of inflation.

Seafish: A UK Non-Departmental Public Body set up to improve efficiency and raise standards across the UK seafood industry.

## Part 2 The Consultation

### Consultation on proposals for amendments to the fees payable in respect of the Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence

The Department of Environment Food and Agriculture is seeking views on proposals to amend the structure and fees payable in respect of the Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence from August 2018 onwards. The Department welcomes your responses to the following questions along with any additional comments on the proposals that you consider may be of relevance.

#### Section 1

##### Question 1

Tell us about yourself

##### **Name:**

To ensure that the process is open and honest responses can only be accepted if you provide your full name with your response.

##### **Email address:**

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Please tell us which sector you affiliate to:

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Catching</b>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Processing</b>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>NGO</b>                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Fisheries manager</b>           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Fisheries policy</b>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>UK Fisheries Administration</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Other</b>                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

May we publish your response?

- Yes, you can publish my response in full (your full name and organisation will be published)
- Yes, you may publish my response anonymously (your name, organisation and any identifying information will not be published)
- No, please do not publish my response (your response will only be part of a larger summary response document)

#### Section 2

DEFA wishes to secure the work being undertaken in relation to its responsibilities under the Fisheries Act 2012 and the aims of the Future Fisheries Strategy. DEFA believes that charging a licence fee for the Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence, issued to commercial fishing vessels, is a fair method of offsetting costs incurred in maintaining this highly managed and valuable resource. DEFA has considered other options; however, for example, DEFA does not have the vires to introduce levies on landings and such measures take no account of vessels that fish within the territorial sea but do not land to Manx ports.

*DEFA proposes to retain the current principle of a base Sea Fishing Licence and separate Species Specific Licences and to charge separate fees for each.*

## Question 2

Do you think that DEFA should continue to develop its policies and management for the benefit of sea fisheries and the marine environment? (Select one)

Yes

No

**Why do you say this?**

## Question 3

Do you support the continuation of charging a fee to commercial fishing vessels for the Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence? (Select one)

Yes

No

**Why do you say this?**

## Question 4

What other options do you feel DEFA could consider with regard to achieving cost recovery?

**Answer:**

**Why do you say this?**

## **Section 3**

DEFA believes that licence fees should be fair and balanced. However, DEFA also believes that, as the current fee structure takes no account of vessel capacity or target species, it could be developed further to create a fairer structure. DEFA recognises that management measures which restrict the number of licences issued in respect of certain fisheries, in order to ensure sustainability, have led to a situation where only a small number of individuals may fish for certain species within the territorial sea. DEFA believes that the fairest way to determine the value of species specific licences is to base the fee for such licences on the average value of landings per vessel for that species, using ICES Statistical Rectangle 37E5 as a proxy for the territorial sea.

*DEFA proposes to introduce a wider range of Species Specific Licences and to charge different fees for Species Specific Licences in relation to certain species, based on the average value of landings per vessel per annum.*

Question 5

Do you think that all vessels should be required to pay the same fee irrespective of capacity or target species? (Select one)

Yes

No

**Why do you say this?**

Question 6

Do you support the principle of issuing separate licences for different species? (Select one)

Yes

No

**Why do you say this?**

Question 7

Do you think that those who benefit from eligibility to fish for certain species should pay a fee for access to those fisheries? (Select one)

Yes

No

**Why do you say this?**

Question 8

Do you think that it is fair to base the fee for certain species specific licences on the average value of landings per vessel for that species? (Select one)

Yes

No

**Why do you say this?**

### Question 9

Given that there may be significant variation between the value of a licence for different species to the licence holder, what other methods could DEFA consider in order to determine an appropriate licence fee?

**Answer:**

**Why do you say this?**

### **Section 4**

In some fisheries managed by DEFA, measures such as catch limits or gear restrictions may reduce some of the advantages held by larger vessels. However, there is evidence to suggest that larger vessels are less affected by poor weather and so may still have an advantage over smaller vessels. For example, while a daily catch limit might apply equally to vessels irrespective of size, larger vessels have the capacity to spend a greater number of days at sea, and may therefore still catch more.

*DEFA proposes to apply a tiered structure to both the base Sea Fishing Licence and to all Species Specific Licences based on vessel length (Overall Length) to reflect the relationship between vessel length and the number of days spent at sea.*

### Question 10

Do you think that licence fees should take account of fishing opportunities, with larger vessels paying more than smaller vessels? (Select one)

Yes

No

**Why do you say this?**

### Question 11

Given that there may be significant variation in the amount of time different vessels may spend at sea, what other methods could DEFA consider in order to determine an appropriate licence fee?

**Answer:**

**Why do you say this?**

## Section 5

DEFA acknowledges its responsibilities under the Fisheries Act 2012 and the aims of the Future Fisheries Strategy and in trying to satisfy these, DEFA has designed a fee structure which is modular and tiered and takes account of both target species and vessel capacity.

*DEFA proposes to set licence fees that aim to achieve cost recovery of approximately 33% against a range of budgets totalling £697,000.*

### Question 12

Do you think that DEFA should consider a greater level of cost recovery at this time? (Select one)

Yes

No

**Why do you say this?**

## Section 6

Do you have any other comments to make on the proposals

## 4. Feedback to the consultation

### 4.1 Responses

**Responses should be sent in writing and preferably by email to:-**

Isle of Man Sea Fishing Licence Fees Consultation  
Fisheries Directorate  
Department of Environment Food and Agriculture  
The Slieau Whallian  
Foxdale Road  
St Johns  
Isle of Man  
IM4 3AS  
Email – [fisheries@gov.im](mailto:fisheries@gov.im)

Should you require a paper copy of the consultation document please contact the Fisheries Directorate at [fisheries@gov.im](mailto:fisheries@gov.im) or on 01624 685857.

Copies of this document may be downloaded from the Isle of Man Government website at <https://consult.gov.im>



It is important to note these proposals have been prepared for the purposes of consultation and that further refinement may take place in the light of responses received.

The closing date for the receipt of comments is **17.00 on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018**.

Unless specifically requested otherwise (see below), responses received may be published either in part or in their entirety, together with the name of the person or body submitting the response. If you are responding on behalf of a group, it would be helpful to make your position clear. To ensure that the process is open and honest responses can only be accepted if you provide your full name with your response.

It may be useful when giving your feedback to make reference to the specific proposal(s) set out in the document that you wish to comment on/discuss.

The purpose of consultation is not to be a referendum. It is an information, views and evidence gathering exercise from which to take an informed decision on the content of proposed legislation or policy. As with any consultation exercise, the responses received do not guarantee changes will be made to what has been proposed.

#### **4.2 Other information**

If you have any views or observations or there is some point of clarification you would like to receive in relation to the topics in this document or any other issue related to the subject of the consultation you are invited to submit these in writing to:

**Karen McHarg**

**Director of Fisheries**

Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture

This Slieau Whallian

Foxdale Road

St John's

IM4 3AS

Email: [karen.mcharg@gov.im](mailto:karen.mcharg@gov.im)

#### **4.3 Confidentiality**

In line with DEFA's policy of openness, at the end of the consultation period copies of the responses we receive may be published in a summary of the responses to this consultation. **If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated as confidential.** Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in email responses will not be treated as such a request. Respondents should also be aware that there may be circumstances in which DEFA will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2015.

#### **4.4 Handling Results**

A summary of responses will be posted on the Department's website within 3 months of the close of the consultation period and will also be available from the Tynwald library and the Department's head office. Information received will be dealt with in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Public Engagement and Consultation Principles and the Code of Practice on Access to Information.

This consultation follows the Isle of Man Government Public Engagement and Consultation Principles (October 2017). If you have any comments on how this consultation has been carried out, please contact Mr Richard Lole, Chief Executive of DEFA, at the Department's head offices in St Johns.