



DEFA

Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bee as Eiryns
The Department of Environment, Food
And Agriculture

THE ISLE OF MAN FISHERIES STATEMENT

*A strategic framework for the sustainable management of sea fisheries
in the Isle of Man territorial sea*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Why an Isle of Man Fisheries Statement?

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (**'the Department'**, **'DEFA'**) has previously produced *strategies* to set out the aim and objectives of the Department in relation to sea fisheries in the Island's territorial sea.

However, the United Kingdom's Fisheries Act 2020 (**'UK Act'**) requires the UK fisheries authorities¹ to publish a Joint Fisheries Statement (**'JFS'**), which sets out the policies of those fisheries authorities that aim to achieve, or contribute to the achievement of, the objectives of that Act.

Therefore, in light of the UK's approach to producing a JFS, the Department has considered it to be appropriate to produce a 'statement' rather than a 'strategy' for the Island's sea fisheries, although they will be used and applied in very similar ways.

The intention of this Isle of Man Fisheries Statement (**'IOMFS'**) is to set out a comparable document to the UK, which highlights the similarities and differences between the Isle of Man and the United Kingdom's strategic approach to sea fisheries post-Brexit.

The IOMFS sets out how the Department will adapt and modify the UK's own statutory objectives, and how these 'Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives' will be interpreted and applied by the Department in relation to fishing activity within the Isle of Man territorial sea.

The UK Act also sets out a commitment to produce Fisheries Management Plans (**'FMPs'**) for various stocks and fisheries within UK waters. The UK's FMPs, like the UK Act and the JFS, do not directly apply to the Isle of Man. Therefore, within the IOMFS, the Department has set out its own approach to the strategic management of fisheries in the Isle of Man territorial sea under Long-Term Management Plans (**'LTMPs'**), a concept that pre-dates that of UK FMPs.

Why are Manx fisheries important?

The Manx fishing industry forms the foundation of, and contributes significantly to, the continued prosperity of businesses and communities around the Isle of Man. The industry prides itself on delivering valuable employment opportunities in a primary-production sector, in an Island economy that is otherwise dominated by the services industry, as well as providing healthy, sustainable food locally, and to markets throughout the world.

The fish stocks within the Isle of Man territorial sea are a Manx public resource and national asset of the Island, and the IOMFS sets out how the Department will ensure they continue to benefit Manx fishing communities and the Island as a whole, now and into the future.

The IOMFS recognises the importance of fishing to the Island's economy and our Island community, as well as the need to work with industry on training, access to labour, and fair opportunities to encourage new entrants. The Department commits to promoting the consumption of locally sourced seafood as a healthy, low-carbon protein source, and to supporting prosperous and resilient local and export markets. The IOMFS also commits the Isle of Man Government to supporting the health, safety, and wellbeing of those working in the seafood sector.

The IOMFS sets out the Department's approach to implementing the Isle of Man Government's net-zero commitment by identifying and seeking additional support to make changes to mitigate and reduce emissions across the fishing industry to support decarbonisation. It also recognises the importance of protecting and restoring blue carbon habitats to support resilience to climate change, whilst ensuring a commitment to work with the industry and scientific community to develop the evidence base that

¹ This means the UK Secretary of State, the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

underpins our decision-making, to ensure that a balanced, pragmatic and optimised approach is adopted.

The IOMFS recognises a healthy and resilient marine environment is the foundation for a prosperous seafood sector and thriving fishing communities, and sustainable use and conservation of the sea is central to the fisheries management approach. It commits the Isle of Man Government to working with industry to reduce and, where possible, eliminate bycatch and entanglement of sensitive species.

The IOMFS will also inform the Department's future position to working with the UK. The Isle of Man Government commits to ensuring that we are recognised as an independent and autonomous British fisheries authority that works in *partnership* with the UK Fisheries Authorities, to ensure a sustainable and cohesive approach to the management of fish resources throughout British fisheries limits.

Why Long-term Management Plans?

LTMPs will play a key role in the Department's commitment to sustainable fishing and strategic fisheries management. There is already an LTMP in place for one of the Island's most valuable fishery – the Manx king scallop fishery. The IOMFS sets out the overall purpose of LTMPs, including their link to the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives, together with a list of LTMPs that the Department intends to develop, publish and implement.

The Department will prioritise developing, publishing and implementing LTMPs for those stocks of key commercial interest. The Department will consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether to integrate LTMPs for fisheries in the Isle of Man territorial sea with regional UK FMPs, or collaborate with a UK Fisheries Authority on the development of UK FMPs where appropriate.

LTMPs will set out high-level long-term objectives specifically for each fishery. The move towards these long-term objectives, the LTMPs will set out a series of short-term objectives to be developed and implemented within five years.

How will we evaluate progress?

The IOMFS will remain in place until such time as the Department considers it necessary to amend or revise the statement, and in any event, no more than ten years.

The Department will publish a report every five years on the extent to which the IOMFS has resulted in effective policies and initiatives that achieve or contributed to the achievement of the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives.

Separately, any LTMPs established will also be subject to review every five-years, before being re-launched with a set of amended or new short-term (five-year) objectives. This should allow for constant, consistent and strategic improvements to our fisheries.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Island's seafood sector is an important part of the Island's primary-production economy and has a rich cultural heritage from which the Island's community draws a sense of place and identity. The Island's identity with the sea is rightly celebrated. In every coastal town on the Island, the fishing community take pride in delivering high-quality, sustainably caught produce, which contributes to the Island's food security.

In addition, the Isle of Man is recognised for its long history in marine and fisheries science, and in recent years, its investment and promotion of collaborative science with the fishing industry itself. This includes the assessment of fish stocks and the marine ecosystem, but also in developing and adapting fishing gear, using new technologies, and trialling innovative approaches to management.

Manx fisheries face a range of challenges and opportunities on which the Department and the sector will need to work together during the lifetime of the IOMFS. Rebuilding fish stocks that are below optimum levels, reducing environmental effects of fishing, as well as minimising the emissions of fishing activity will be vital to ensuring a vibrant seafood sector which is fit for the future. Delivering sustainable fisheries is essential to achieving the Our Island Plan vision of *an environment we can be proud of*.

Sea fish are a Manx public resource. The Isle of Man, as an autonomous fisheries jurisdiction within British fishery limits, has a responsibility to manage its fisheries so as to ensure their sustainable stewardship in a way that recognises the specific needs of the Manx seafood industry and the marine environment.

The UK Act sets out eight fisheries objectives that provide the basis against which the UK will manage fishing activity in its waters. The Department sees value in this approach, where high-level objectives guide more specific and targeted initiatives. However, the UK's objectives do not extend to the Isle of Man. This IOMFS therefore sets out a series of similar Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives, which will guide our own decision-making and management approach.

1.1 Importance of fishing to the Isle of Man

As an Island nation, it is right that the living resources in our seas bring about benefits to the people of the Island – whether that is commercial fishing, conservation, or marine tourism / recreational fishing, or cultural identity.

Fisheries have provided food security to the Island's community for millennia. Although the majority of Manx seafood is now exported to the European continent, it is still a key element of the Island's ability to contribute to local food-security, and indeed, contributes significantly to *regional* food security in a period of geopolitical and economic uncertainty. The Manx fishing industry are among the most skilled, experienced and sustainable food producers in our economy, and their role in this important economic sector is recognised and valued.

It is important that the fishing industry continues to support our coastal towns and villages. The Manx economy is dominated by the financial and services industries; however, although fishing may contribute a relatively low-level of Gross Domestic Product by comparison to the large multi-national companies that are based on the Island, the socio-economic value of the fishing sector is considerable.

Statistics show that in 2022 there were 60 fishing vessels registered in the Island. Landings of sea fish into the Island during the period 2011-2021 totalled 62,769 tonnes, with value of £80.4 million (landed value).

The value of sea fisheries to the Island's economy is much wider than the 'landed value' paid to fishermen and women on the quayside. The *downstream* economic benefits support employment and economic production in processing, retail, and auxiliary maritime services such as mechanical/electrical engineering, fabricators, communication systems, etc. Studies have shown that the economic multipliers associated with fisheries is greater than that for the average economy, which means that the fishing industry is a vital component of a much wider array of economic activity on the Island. It is estimated that around 300 full-time equivalent jobs are currently created by the Island's fishing industry.

Maintaining and growing the fishing industry in a sustainable way is aligned with the Isle of Man Government's economic strategy objective to build a resilient economy, and to protect, nurture and grow key sectors of the economy.

Isle of Man Government - Strategic Context

Our marine environment is a national asset and our role as fisheries managers is to manage and preserve that asset for the optimum benefit of the Island both now and for future generations. Stocks of fish and shellfish, that are present or transient within the Island's territorial sea, contribute to the Island's natural capital, as well as being a shared resource within the north Irish Sea. This means shared responsibilities, and the need for cooperation, collaboration, and a coherent approach from a regional and international perspective.

Our overall approach to fisheries management in the Isle of Man is framed within the delivery of wider Isle of Man Government strategies, and helps support a range of national priorities including those related to supporting a strong and diverse economy, building great communities, and lifelong learning and development opportunities.

Fishing also makes a full and vital contribution to UNESCO Biosphere status of the Island and the Government focus on *an environment we can be proud of*, and helping to achieve a sustainable Island for the future. During the current parliamentary term, Our Island Plan will drive many of the decisions we take at a strategic and operational level in order to ensure that the overarching aims and objectives of the Isle of Man Government are achieved.

Our management of the Island's commercial fisheries sits within a broader framework of Government strategic commitments and statutory responsibilities that relate to the Island's territorial sea, including:

- the **Food Security Strategy**;
- the **Climate Change Action Plan**;
- the **Biodiversity Strategy**;
- the **Offshore Energy Strategy**;
- the **Environmental Marine Monitoring Strategy**;
- the **Food Matters Strategy**;
- the **Economic Strategy**;
- the **Our Island Plan**.

Together, these strategies set out the Government's broad approach to monitoring, managing, and maximising the environmental and socio-economic benefits of the Island's territorial sea.

There is no doubt that there will be interactions between different sectors and users of the Island's territorial sea, and those sectors will have cumulative impacts on the marine environment. Understanding, mapping, managing, and mitigating the various effects and impacts will influence our decision making, and our engagement across Government, including within the **Territorial Seas Committee**.

Managing the co-existence of different marine interests in the same shared space will be a challenge, and we can see the difficulties for the fishing industry elsewhere facing the '**spatial squeeze**' of the marine space. We will use the IOMFS to develop policies that support the concept that fishermen are **custodians of the marine environment** and must be appropriately considered as an integral stakeholder in the Isle of Man territorial sea.

We do not manage our fisheries in isolation and joining up our approach across the marine environment, for example by considering competing marine sectors and priorities in our decision making, and also onshore interests, is vital to success. Through delivery of the IOMFS, we will have a renewed focus on integrating fisheries interests into the wider marine planning process and, linked to this, ensuring that fishing impacts are considered as part of our wider ecosystem-based approach.

The objectives which we take forward under the IOMFS will directly support the wider strategic context set out by the Isle of Man Government.

1.2 Importance of the Isle of Man territorial sea to neighbouring jurisdictions

“Fair access” to sea fishery resources in the Island’s territorial sea by UK vessels has been a principle component of the Department’s policies enacted under the pre-existing Fisheries Management Agreements, and we maintain that our policies and fisheries management regimes have maintained a non-discriminatory approach under those Agreements.

However, it is important to recognise that, whilst the Department has applied its policies in a “fair way”, for example by applying *identical* catch limits and *identical* pot-limits to vessels within the Manx and UK fleets in respect of the Island’s shellfish fisheries, some of the UK’s own fisheries management policies that were extended to the Island under those previous Fisheries Management Agreements have led to a significant imbalance in the distribution of fishing opportunities for some stocks. Most notably, access to those stocks that are subject to international agreements between the UK and EU have become concentrated outside the Isle of Man, and has impeded the Manx industries ability to diversify into sustainable, abundant and local fisheries.

The Department recognises that fishery resources within the Island’s territorial sea are important to neighbouring jurisdictions in the Irish Sea, and support coastal communities in the UK. However, under this IOMFS, we will commit to a new fisheries objective – a “fair access” objective. Under this objective, we will continue to work with the UK and will also be independently reviewing our policies to ensure that access to Manx fishery resources as a whole is “fair”.

1.3 The Isle of Man’s role in the UK Fisheries Framework

To date, the Department has had limited opportunity to engage with the UK Government and the devolved UK Fisheries Authorities in order to shape the UK’s JFS post-Brexit, except for public consultations held by the UK Government.

These limited opportunities have also extended to some policy areas that have been established between the UK Fisheries Authorities that explicitly refer to the Crown Dependencies, for example the commitment to establish a formal arrangement between the UK and the Isle of Man as set out within UK’s Common Support Framework.

However, the Department has been engaged with the UK at various levels in order to inform technical policy development, and maintain operational practices, for example by entering into Data Sharing Agreements and being part to working groups on Vessel Monitoring Systems.

1.4 The UK’s role in the Isle of Man’s Fisheries Framework

The Isle of Man’s role in the UK Fisheries Framework has shaped our position with respect to the IOMFS, which independently sets out the Isle of Man’s objectives, principles, and approach.

Nonetheless, the Department recognises that cohesion, partnership working, and open communication with the UK is important in how we manage our fisheries. Our operational agreements with the UK ensure that vessels maintain reciprocal access and that there is a coordinated approach to fisheries management, for example regarding licensing transactions.

Therefore, whilst the Department’s objectives, principles and approach may differ from that of the UK, we will continue to embed our operational systems and practices within those of the UK where appropriate.

Where there is a reasonable cause to depart from UK policy or procedure, we will consider doing so, in particular where such a departure would otherwise be considered a ‘devolved’ matter under the UK’s own Fisheries Framework, for example in relation to technical conservation measures and economic-link policy.

Pre-existing Fisheries Management Agreements (FMAs)

A Fisheries Management Agreement (**FMA**) between the Isle of Man and the United Kingdom Fisheries Authorities was first entered into in 1991 (**Appendix 1**) following the extension of the Island's territorial sea *for all purposes* from the three-mile-area to the territorial sea as it is today under the Territorial Sea Act 1987 (Isle of Man) Order 1991 (of Parliament) and the Territorial Sea (Consequential Provisions) Act 1991 (of Tynwald).

Notwithstanding that the extension of the territorial sea of the Isle of Man was for all purposes (including fisheries), and that, therefore, powers to manage fisheries has always been vested exclusively within the Department, the primary purpose of the **FMA 1991** was to ensure that there was policy agreement to ensure that:-

- the management of fisheries in the *extended territorial sea* should be consistent with UK and EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) legislation and procedures;
- any measures applied by the Isle of Man in the *extended territorial sea* was first "agreed" by the UK Secretary of State;
- the "rights" of fishermen from the UK generally, and the particular rights of fishermen from Belgium, France and the Republic of Ireland under the London Fisheries Convention 1964 (**LFC 1964**), in relation to access was maintained;
- technical conservation measures should not discriminate between fishermen by reason of nationality;
- the restrictive licensing regime operated by the Isle of Man would be operated in parallel with that operated in the UK; and
- fish caught by UK or Isle of Man vessels within the territorial sea were counted against quota allocated to the UK under the EU CFP, and the licences issued by the Isle of Man would contain conditions and limitations equivalent to those contained in comparable UK licences (i.e. 'quota limits').

The FMA was renegotiated in 2010/11 whilst the Isle of Man Fisheries Bill (2010) was being drafted and prepared for passage through Tynwald. The resulting **FMA 2012** came into effect on the day upon which the Fisheries Act 2012 (of Tynwald) received Royal Assent.

The most fundamental changes to the FMA at this time included:

- the reference to "rights" of fishermen was removed, and replaced with a requirement to maintain "fair access" for UK vessels in the Isle of Man territorial sea, and vice versa;
- the requirement for 'approval' from the UK for new measures in the *extended territorial sea* was replaced with a requirement to "consult" with the UK Fisheries Administrations through a specific engagement and evidence process.

Whilst the FMA 2012 was considered an improvement compared to FMA 1991 in some areas, it remained, principally, a document that ensured the Isle of Man "agreed to keep the rules and laws relating to the regulation of fishing and the management and conservation of sea-fish and shellfish in the territorial sea consistent with the UK's obligations under the EU CFP", including the imposition of UK Quota-limits on vessels fishing in the Isle of Man territorial sea.

The FMA 2012 also required that the Isle of Man "shall ensure at all times that fishing vessel licences issued by it contain conditions and limitations equivalent to those contained in relevant UK licences", which was primarily in relation to quota-limits for stocks subject to international agreements.

The post-Brexit arrangement

The FMA 2012 became critically out-of-date and incoherent when the UK left the EU and withdrew from the EU CFP.

The Department continued to operate under pre-existing arrangements in good faith during the years that followed Brexit, mindful of the unforeseen difficulties for all concerned arising from the negotiation and implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, which was compounded by the coronavirus pandemic.

However, the view of the Department, even before Brexit, was that the FMA 2012 would need to be revoked or replaced once the UK became an independent coastal state. This was also recognised by the UK Government, which acknowledged that Brexit would have impacts upon the Crown Dependencies in relation to fisheries.

The Department gave formal notice to the UK Government and the UK Fisheries Authorities that it would suspend its participation in the FMA 2012 with effect from 23 November 2023 – 12 months after the intended publication of the UK JFS.

In the view of the Department, the JFS signals the end of the establishment of the UKs post-Brexit fisheries framework, and it would be inappropriate to continue operating under the FMA 2012, which was EU-centric and therefore obsolete.

Post-Brexit, there is an opportunity to have a formal mutually acceptable arrangement with the UK on fisheries matters. The Department has made concerted and proactive efforts to engage with the UK Government on developing a new arrangement, and it is the Department's preference to have an arrangement in place before the 23 November 2023.

However, the Department is clear that the UK's departure from the CFP is so significant that any new arrangements must also reflect a fundamental move away from the FMA 2012. More specifically, any new arrangement should:

- Respect the jurisdictional and statutory autonomy of the Island;
- Have regard to the desire for overall coherence, but recognise and respect divergence of policy in pursuit of national priorities;
- Note the common and overlapping initiatives and objectives between the Isle of Man and the UK, and facilitate collaboration, communication, and cooperation;
- Expect reciprocity between all participants;
- Commit to a fair allocation of fishing opportunities for stocks subject to international agreements in the Island's territorial sea based upon the concept of 'zonal attachment'²;
- Promote an ecosystem-based approach, and the precautionary approach where appropriate; and,
- Facilitate the delivery of wider strategic objectives of Isle of Man Government.

Fisheries Arrangements with the UK should not inhibit our ambition to deliver against the IOMFS and wider Isle of Man Government strategic aims, but should maintain a high-level overall coherence in pursuit of shared goals.

1.5 International Agreements

Departure from the EU has changed the international context in which we operate, but we are determined to continue to play a full and key role in supporting and delivering regional fisheries management, whether it be through our contribution to science and technology, through our international compliance contribution which sees us sharing intelligence and best working practices, or through taking decisions on the management of stocks that require a regional co-ordination of efforts.

² Zonal attachment is a general term and there is no single agreed definition of how zonal attachment should be measured, but it generally means that quota allocations reflect the stock biomass in a specific management area.

There are a number of international obligations that apply to the Isle of Man, including:

- the EU/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) (in part);
- the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
- the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); and
- the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR).

The Isle of Man is not Party to any of these agreements in its own right (it cannot be as it is not an independent sovereign State); rather the UK's ratification of these agreements has been extended to the Island with the consent, and at the request, of the Isle of Man Government. The Isle of Man Government will at all times comply with international obligations that have been freely accepted and apply to the Island.

In respect of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), the potential for EU vessel access to the Island's 6-12 NM zone is included within this Agreement, negotiated on behalf of all the Crown Dependencies by the UK Government.

Obligations around fisheries access are described under Article 502 of the TCA, which replaces the arrangements under the LFC 1964. The Department will continue to engage with the UK Government in relation to the TCA, and will seek to implement the terms of the Agreement with a robust and fair interpretation. We will seek to ensure reasonable demands for evidence relating to extent and nature of historic activity are neither undermined by international political pressures nor any precedent set outside of the Isle of Man.

Following the UK's exit from the EU CFP, the Department is now responsible for ensuring that the regulatory regime in the Island's territorial sea keeps pace with the UK Control Regulations, as well as the requirements for 'third country' access to the EU Single Market. The increasing complexity of fisheries regulation means that compliance checks on the Island's seafood sector are more important than ever, and we will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure that compliance requirements are clear and understood.

Where the UK is subject to international obligations that we see benefit in being extended to the Isle of Man territorial sea, we will engage with the UK Government to prepare legislation and policies that would allow for the UK Government to agree to extend those commitments to the Island's jurisdiction.

Our international commitment includes continuing to play an active role in the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas, where the Department's Independent Fisheries Science Contractors continue to make significant contributions to the ICES Working Groups for non-quota stocks in the Island's territorial sea.

We will be a responsible management partner, and will not be afraid to challenge others to increase standards where this will help support our fish stocks, our industries, and the communities they support.

1.6 Effect of LTMPs

The IOMFS sets out the high-level policy aims and objectives of the Department in relation to sea fisheries. The IOMFS will guide our approach and decisions, and inform how we collaborate and work with other areas of the Isle of Man Government, as well as the UK Fisheries Authorities, and the Manx fishing industry. Taken as a whole, the IOMFS will set out the "why's" in our approach to fisheries management.

The LTMPs, however, are specific strategic documents for key commercial fisheries in the Isle of Man territorial sea. LTMPs will tackle the "how's" in relation to our approach to fisheries management and will refer to the IOMFS and the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives.

The LTMPs will be developed in collaboration with the relevant sectors and stakeholders, and will be subject to consultation to gather the views of the wider public.

The LTMPs will be iterative. We acknowledge that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to fisheries management, and it is a challenge to develop a fisheries framework that operates perfectly, at all times, for all concerned. The LTMPs will therefore be reviewed every five-years, in order to build upon success, address new or unresolved challenges, make the most of new opportunities, and integrate any lessons learned from the collective experience of managers, scientists, industry, and other stakeholders.

1.7 Accountability

Policies established under the IOMFS will be implemented and evaluated through the normal procedures of the Department, such as through the Department’s Policy and Strategy Committee and Environment Directorate meeting. Where appropriate, the Council of Ministers may also be informed of policy developments enacted under the IOMFS where those policies are considered to require collective responsibility, or a matter of national importance.

2. OUR AMBITION

Our ambition is to deliver responsible and sustainable management of our sea fisheries in the Isle of Man territorial sea, and to play our part in supporting the delivery of shared objectives in the UK and internationally.

As an independent and autonomous fisheries jurisdiction, the Department will work to support a vibrant, profitable, and sustainable Manx fishing industry, underpinned by a healthy marine environment.

We aim to deliver this ambition through four main aims and considerations:

Protecting and, where necessary, recovering our fish stocks

Sea fishery resources within the territorial sea are a Manx public good and provide significant benefits to the Island, as a source of food and employment, through the provision of ecosystem services, and social and well-being benefits. We will work to ensure fish stocks are well managed and, where necessary, recovered for the wider benefit of the Isle of Man, maximising the benefit to the Island's community.

Fish and shellfish are a renewable resource, provided that they are harvested sustainably. It is our responsibility to work with and support stakeholders to ensure that harvests are biologically, environmentally, and economically sustainable.

Reducing the effects of fishing on the marine environment

We recognise a thriving fishing industry is underpinned by a healthy marine environment and that healthy stocks are resilient, and provide resilience to the industry. The Department will ensure fisheries policy decisions take account of this dependency, including adopting an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management.

Using a range of approaches, such as spatial management and technical conservation measures, we will monitor, assess, and when necessary, reduce or remove the effect of fishing on the marine environment, including effects of fishing on other stocks as a result of bycatch, as well as stocks of marine carbon during the lifetime of the IOMFS.

We recognise that fishermen are an integral part of the Island's marine ecosystem, not apart from it.

Supporting a modern, resilient, and environmentally responsible fishing industry

The Department will work to support a profitable and resilient Manx fishing industry. We will work to communicate the opportunities and challenges facing the industry with the wider Isle of Man Government, and advocate for greater support in order to develop robust supply chains, improved food-security, a diverse, low emission and modern fleet, and a skilled workforce, which are collectively able to respond swiftly to changing market and environmental conditions and new opportunities, whilst ensuring sustainable fisheries and biodiverse marine ecosystems for future generations.

As the marine environment changes, we will advocate for greater support for the fishing industry to adapt as part of the 'Just Transition' commitment contained within the Island's Climate Change Act and the Climate Change Plan, and seek to identify potential funding to enable the sector to contribute positively to the Island's net-zero ambitions. We will also ensure that our management approach is responsive, flexible and adaptable, to allow the industry to operate sustainably within a dynamic environment.

The Island's seafood sector can, with the right support, make a positive contribution to the Island's national food security and net-zero ambitions.

An 'Inshore' Approach

The IOMFS fundamentally recognises that the Isle of Man territorial sea is an *inshore* marine space. The strategic management of the territorial sea shall therefore give consideration and primacy to the socio-economic requirements of the 'inshore sector'.

Previously, the 0-3 NM area was considered 'inshore', whilst the 3-12 NM area was defined as the 'extended territorial sea'. These definitions are now replaced by the consideration that the entire territorial sea is 'inshore', whilst the 0-3 NM area of the territorial sea is a 'coastal zone' that contains 'core' and 'care' marine areas under the Island's UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation.

The Isle of Man territorial sea is an inshore marine area. The coastal zone, within the three-mile area, is an integral component of our Island's UNESCO Biosphere designation.

3. ISLE OF MAN FISHERIES OBJECTIVES

The Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives provide the basis for the policies that will be implemented under the IOMFS. They collectively define sustainable fishing and are designed to help the Department, and stakeholders, balance the achievement of a thriving profitable seafood sector with a healthy and resilient marine environment in the long-term.

The Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives are designed to reflect the UK's own fisheries objectives, as set out in the UK Act, but are adapted and modified to suit the needs and aspirations of the Isle of Man as an independent and autonomous fisheries jurisdiction.

The Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives are complementary, and an individual policy may contribute to the achievement of one or more of the objectives.

3.1 Interpreting the Objectives

The Bioeconomic Objective

The '**bioeconomic objective**' is that:

- (a) fishing activity is managed to ensure biological and economic sustainability (together, 'bioeconomic sustainability'), meaning that activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term, and are managed so as to achieve economic, social and employment benefits; and
- (b) the fishing capacity of fleets is such that fleets are economically viable but do not overexploit fish stocks.

Bioeconomic sustainability means that fisheries management is concerned with the environmental, economic, and social aspects of fishing, which are appropriately balanced and optimised when managing our fisheries to benefit present and future generations.

It means ensuring that fish stocks can be fished both now and in the future. In doing so, the Department will consider both the short-term and the long-term impacts of decisions on fish stocks and the fishing industry before acting; short-term socio-economic decisions should not significantly compromise the long-term health of the marine environment. These decisions will need to recognise the cultural importance of fishing through maintaining and, where possible, strengthening the Island's fishing community and livelihoods alongside the requirement for fish stocks to reach and maintain sustainable levels.

The Precautionary Objective

The '**precautionary objective**' is that:

- (a) the precautionary approach to fisheries management is applied, and
- (b) exploitation of marine stocks restores and maintains populations of harvested species above biomass levels capable of producing Maximum Sustainable Yield.

The precautionary approach is defined as 'an approach in which the absence of sufficient scientific information is not used to justify postponing or failing to take management measures to conserve target species, associated or dependent species, non-target species or their environment.'

The Department will respect the precautionary approach, and will expect the precautionary approach to be respected by others, with a specific focus on ensuring that demands for additional evidence are not used to avoid taking difficult decisions.

Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is defined as ‘the highest theoretical equilibrium yield that can be continuously taken on average from a marine stock under existing environmental conditions without significantly affecting the reproduction process’.

The objective of maintaining biomass levels above levels capable of producing MSY provides the Department with a valuable tool to assess and manage fisheries based upon the status of fish stocks. However, MSY assessments require a data-rich approach which limits the number of stocks that can be assessed on this basis. Throughout the IOMFS, references made to MSY includes the use of *suitable proxies*. The use of suitable proxies, either alongside or in place of MSY, both to assess the state of stocks and inform management decisions, will help drive improved sustainability across a greater number of fisheries.

The Ecosystem Objective

The ‘**ecosystem objective**’ is that:

- (a) fishing activities are managed using an ecosystem-based approach so as to ensure that any negative impacts on marine ecosystems are minimised and, where possible, reversed;
- (b) incidental catches of sensitive species are minimised and, where possible, eliminated.

An ecosystem approach is defined as ‘an approach which i) ensures that the collective pressure of human activities is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) within the meaning of the Manx Marine Environmental Monitoring Strategy, and ii) does not compromise the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes’.

The fishing industry operates in, and depends upon, a high-quality marine environment, and the Department will have an awareness, and appreciation, of the varied interactions which occur between fishery resources, fishing activity, and the marine environment.

The Department will achieve, or contribute towards the achievement of, the ecosystems and GES through management approaches, which maintain or, where required, recover, protect, and improve the health of marine ecosystems by monitoring and minimising the impacts of fishing on the wider environment, while allowing appropriate human uses of our seas for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Evidence Objective

The ‘**evidence objective**’ is that:

- (a) scientific and socio-economic data relevant to the management of fishing activities is collected;
- (b) where appropriate, the Department works with the industry and other partners in the collection of data, and will ensure that data transparency and sharing enable co-management approaches;
- (c) the management of fishing activity is based on the best available evidence.

The evidence objective means that the Department will always take an evidence-based approach and make full use of the best available scientific and economic evidence and, where available, advice to support decision-making. This includes improving our collective understanding of the socio-economics of the fishing fleet, as well as the scientific data in relation to stock health and marine ecosystems.

The Bycatch Objective

The ‘**bycatch objective**’ is that:

- (a) the catching of fish that are below minimum size and other unwanted bycatch is avoided or reduced;
- (b) catches are recorded and accounted for;

(c) bycatch is landed, provided that this is appropriate and, in particular, does not create an incentive to catch fish below minimum size.

The bycatch objective looks to avoid or reduce the catching of fish that are unwanted or below minimum size. The Department is committed to ending the wasteful practice of discarding and to increasing the level of confidence we have in our seafood products.

The Department is committed to ensuring that all catches of fish are accounted for with a preference that all catches of fish subject to international quota arrangements are landed unless:

- there is strong evidence fish will survive the capture process; or
- there are limits to the application of technical mitigations; or
- landing the fish will result in excessive disposal costs.

The Fair Access Objective

The **'fair access'** objective is that:

the extent and nature of access to the extended territorial sea by British fishing boats registered outside the Isle of Man is not affected solely by reason of -

- a) the location of the fishing boat's home port; or
- b) any other connection of the fishing boat, or any of its owners, to any place in the British Isles.

The Department recognises that vessels registered and licensed in the United Kingdom or the Channel Islands may apply for, and be granted, access to fish within the Isle of Man extended territorial sea. In return, we expect that vessels registered in the Isle of Man may also apply for, and be granted, access to other areas within British Fishery Limits (i.e. reciprocal access).

However, restrictions on a vessel's ability to undertake fishing activity are a key tool to deliver the Department's responsibility to ensure fisheries are managed in line with the bioeconomic objective.

The extent and nature access granted by the Department may vary to reflect the Department's approach to the management of sea fisheries, dependent upon the application of objective criteria that aim to ensure that fishing opportunities are distributed equitably. For example, the extent and nature of access to resources within the Island's territorial sea may vary depending upon –

- the description of the vessel;
- the category or type of sea fishing licence granted by the Department;
- the category or type of sea fishing licence granted by UK fisheries authorities;
- the track-record of fishing activity associated with the vessel and/or owner;
- the distribution of fishing opportunities for stocks subject to international agreements;
- the distribution of fishing opportunities for stocks not subject to international agreements, including those stocks where limits are unilaterally determined by the Department;
- the economic link between fishing activity and the Manx economy.

When implementing a policy that results in restrictions on fishing activity, the Department will seek to apply the policy in a way that is transparent and objective, and in a way that ensures fishing opportunities within the Isle of Man territorial sea are distributed in an equitable way.

In respect of EU vessels, access arrangements are prescribed under Article 502 of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

The Manx National Benefit Objective

The **'Manx national benefit'** objective is that fishing boats undertaking fishing activity within the territorial sea of the Island will –

- a) bring direct socio-economic benefits to the Manx economy; and/or

- b) make a proportionate contribution to the cost-recovery of the services provided by the Department's Sea Fisheries Division.

The Manx national benefit objective means that the Department will make conditions for British fishing vessels to bring economic and/or social benefit to the Isle of Man economy. Where economic-link conditions are considered inappropriate, or are unable to be achieved, the Department may consider revisions to the licence fee framework such that fishing vessels make a proportionate contribution to the cost-recovery of services provided by the Department's Fisheries Division.

The Net-Zero Objective

The '**net zero**' objective is that –

- a) the adverse effect of fishing activities on the Island's carbon stores are minimised where possible; and
- b) the Manx fishing industry is able to adapt to climate change and contribute to net-zero in a way that is compatible with the principle of a Just Transition.

As a relatively low-carbon activity, fishing as a source of food can make a valuable contribution to a sustainable net-zero future. However, the Department recognises that to maximise the positive contributions of the fishing industry in a low-carbon future, improvements can be made to minimise and mitigate the carbon emissions as part of the Isle of Man's path to net-zero.

To this end, the Department will explore ways to meet the Island's Climate Change Plan objective to "work with the fishing industry to reduce the carbon footprint of trawling and dredging, increase the efficiency of fishing effort and cut fuel costs", and to work across Government, with the fishing industry, and with partners in the UK and elsewhere to ensure that the fishing industry is not left behind in the Island's transition to net-zero.

The Displacement Objective

The '**displacement objective**' is that –

the displacement effects on the Island's fishing industry, arising from

- a) domestic or UK fisheries management measures; or
- b) other marine users or marine area designations;

are acknowledged and understood, and where possible avoided, mitigated, or managed under a strategic approach to marine spatial planning.

The Department acknowledges the 'spatial squeeze' being experienced by the fishing industry as the number of marine users increase, and access to historic fishing grounds becomes increasingly constrained.

Displacement may have unforeseen consequences, which can have negative impacts upon the wider approach to strategic fisheries management.

The ownership of the seabed within the Island's territorial sea is vested to the Department of Infrastructure. Therefore, the Department will work across Government, and with the Department of Infrastructure in particular, to contribute to a Marine Spatial Planning strategy, and ensure that the spatial interests of the Manx fishing industry are considered, recognised and incorporated into decision-making.

Wherever possible, the Department will work with the fishing industry and others to ensure that displacement is avoided. Where displacement is unavoidable, the Department will work with the fishing industry and others to mitigate or manage displacement.

3.2 Applying the Objectives

During the lifetime of this IOMFS, the Department will strive to make significant overall progress against the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives. The Department will seek to embed these objectives when developing policies, engaging with stakeholders or other Fisheries Authorities, and in our typical day-to-day operations.

4. DELIVERING THE FISHERIES STATEMENT

4.1 Principles

The Department will deliver policies under the IOMFS through the exercise of statutory functions and in line with the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives.

The use of best available evidence and scientific advice, transparent decision making, and partnership working, will be core principles that underpin delivery.

These principles will guide us in how we develop and implement policy under the IOMFS, and how we will achieve or contribute towards the achievement of the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives.

Fish and shellfish are a renewable resource, which can provide long-term benefits if they are harvested sustainably. It is our responsibility to work with and support stakeholders to ensure that harvests are biologically, environmentally, and economically sustainable.

4.2 Science and Evidence

Good science and a robust evidence base that commands trust and confidence will be essential to achieve the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives.

We will also continue to listen to the fishing industry and the experience and knowledge they have about the marine environment, using this knowledge to add to the richness of our overall understanding.

We want to ensure that the right protections are in place for our marine environment, underpinned by a robust scientific evidence base and enforcement regime.

In recent years, the Department supported, and been supported by, the fishing industry when it comes to maintaining and developing our evidence base. The Manx fishing industry, in collaboration with the Department's independent scientific advisors, have demonstrated that science and evidence can be a two-way relationship, and that each group – regulators, scientists, and the industry – have equally important roles to play in developing a strong evidence base.

This new approach of **co-science** is only possible through a trusting, open and transparent arrangement. We will continue to work with the industry to maintain and foster the co-science approach.

However, the value and importance of being able to rely upon independent data-collection, analysis, and advice is invaluable, particularly where there are disagreements around the Department's approach to fisheries management.

The Department intends to maintain this provision of independent fisheries science advice through the competitive procurement of external contracts, and ensure that those services continue to work with the fishing industry to meet our common aim of robust and reliable evidence.

The Department also recognises that, whilst the Island has a strong record in respect of biological and ecological evidence, that economic data collection and analysis has been overlooked. Moving forward, we intend to rectify this situation, and ensure that our decision-making is also guided by robust economic data analysis.

4.3 Reporting and Review Process

The IOMFS is intended to remain in place until it is amended or replaced. The IOMFS will be reviewed at least every 10 years, which will allow sufficient time to develop, implement, test and review any policies or actions taken under the IOMFS.

4.5 Working in Partnership

It is desirable to maintain a cohesive partnership with the UK in respect of our approach to fisheries management. In particular, this is important where stocks are subject to international agreements that are extended to the Island.

Effective fisheries management cannot be delivered in isolation, and the Department relies upon the UK Fisheries Authorities, through various Operational Agreements, to maintain a robust and strategic approach.

Alignment in policy areas is preferable, particularly where this relates to technical measures and a different approach would add unnecessary complexity and cost to the fishing industry, for example in respect of Vessel Monitoring Systems and Remote Electronic Monitoring.

However, the UK's JFS clearly recognises and respects the devolved nature of fisheries management, which each of the UK Fisheries Authorities may tailor to suit the needs, ambitions and objectives of their own Governments and stakeholders.

From an Isle of Man perspective, we must ensure that our autonomy as a British Crown Dependency is respected, that we enjoy *at least* the same level of decision-making that would be considered 'devolved' in the UK, and that we are recognised as an equal partner. This has not been achieved through the pre-existing Fisheries Management Agreements whilst the UK was a member of the EU and bound by the CFP; however, post-Brexit, the Isle of Man's position alongside the UK's Fisheries Framework has fundamentally changed.

4.6 Participatory Decision Making

In the Isle of Man we are fortunate to have a fishing industry that is well represented and we have an established working relationship between officers and the seafood sector.

We recognise that there is a space for holistic conversations between us and the seafood sector, and we will encourage the establishment of an independent Manx Seafood Sector Advisory Committee (MSSAC), which will be tasked with informing long-term and high-level policy considerations, as well as being the point of contact for other Government strategies, such as the Food Security Strategy.

We also benefit from an engaged environmental community, and from members of local communities who take a direct interest in, and benefit from, fishing activity either from the jobs it creates or the food it produces.

Our approach to co-management

We already have an established co-management system in place for the Island's scallop fisheries, with Government officials, independent scientists and fisheries stakeholders working in partnership to advise on the management of our fisheries and guide key decisions. Going forward, we want to strengthen and expand these arrangements to include all sectors of the fishing industry, with a continued focus on strategic decision making and a shared responsibility for management and delivery whilst respecting the ultimate accountability of the Department and Tynwald.

We believe that strong and transparent governance arrangements should be in place, to ensure that appropriate engagement takes place and that decisions are taken at the right level. This may require strengthening the role of the Scallop Management Board, and other similar co-management groups, so that they are recognised as the main delivery vehicle for local management, and have the right resources in place to deliver improvements and tackle local issues such as gear conflict, fishing effort, and achieving the stated aims and objectives as we jointly develop long-term management plans for the Island's fisheries.

We are committed to co-management with stakeholders that depend on the Island's territorial sea.

Membership of co-management groups

MSSAC: includes representatives from fish producer organisations, fisheries associations, and the active fishing industry, alongside members of DEFA Fisheries policy, science and enforcement teams. The MSSAC may invite other officers from Isle of Man Government and external partners as appropriate.

SMB: Re-established in 2017, the SMB is a non-statutory body that aims to inform and improve management of the Island's king and queen scallop fisheries. It is composed of stakeholders with a knowledge of, and interest in, the successful management of the Island's king and queen scallop fisheries. This will be achieved by development of Long-term Fishery Management Plans and by offering fishers a strong voice in wider marine developments.

Other Sectoral Management Advisory Committee: other sectoral advisory committees will be developed and modelled on the success of the SMB.

The information we use to make our decisions comes from a variety of sources, for example through DEFA's Independent Fisheries Science Contractor, key data collected from the fishing industry itself, and a wide range of information and knowledge collected through government compliance and regulatory operations. Using this information within our decision making framework is important, although we recognise that there are some limits to the information we hold and there is an ongoing need to boost our knowledge and the quality of our data in certain areas. Strengthening our knowledge base in order to ground the decisions we take in a solid evidence base, and fully utilising the data and knowledge available at all levels, is a key aim of this strategy.

4.7 Support for the Sector

Existing Support

We recognise and acknowledge that the Fisheries Grant (Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme) has not achieved its objectives, and feedback from stakeholders is that the process requires improvement. We accept this feedback, and will work to revise the Fisheries Grant Scheme that will learn from our shared experience, in order to deliver meaningful, strategic support.

We will seek to support the delivery of this strategy through a revised Fisheries Grant, which will continue to sit under the Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme within DEFA. The new Grant Scheme will expand the scope of support to focus on strategic outcomes set out within the 12-point action plan, guided by the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives, and measures against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in respect of the Manx seafood sector:

Key Performance Indicators

1. the number of persons employed within the seafood sector;
2. the value of sustainable primary production sales, including exports;
3. the profitability of fishing operations;
4. the Gross Value Added achieved through seafood production;
5. the diversity and value of fishing opportunities available to the local industry;
6. whether 'new entrants' are seeking a long-term career in the industry;
7. the investment made in respect of the Island's catching sector;
8. the number of fisheries that are supported by 'long-term management plans' underpinned by a bioeconomic and ecosystem approach.

Future Support

The Department also recognises that the level of support available to the Manx fishing industry is substantially lower, on a per vessel basis, compared to support schemes in the UK.

Accessing additional funding is challenging in the current economic climate, however, we commit to working with the Manx fishing industry to identify where additional targeted assistance is justified, and in line with the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives, and identify where additional support may be available.

For example, additional targeted support may be available through the Treasury's Economic Fund and the Climate Change Fund.

We will also engage with the fishing industry to identify other funds and organisations that may be able to support the sector, and might be otherwise better suited to do so than the Department, for example IOM Maritime Ltd in respect of training provisions for the sector.

4.8 12-point Action Plan (2023-2033)

The IOMFS sets out our aspirations, principles and objectives. They link directly to the delivery of Our Island Plan, and its *Secure, Vibrant and Sustainable* Vision for:

A strong and diverse Economy: a strong and diverse economy which is sustainable, ambitious and built on firm foundations to provide economic success, rewarding career opportunities and prosperity which positively impacts all residents of the Isle of Man.

An Environment we can be proud of: we can be proud of is an Island that provides for vibrant communities where people feel safe and is a rich and diverse biosphere that is being protected, nurtured and sustained and held in high regard here and around the world.

Outstanding lifelong learning and development opportunities for all: outstanding lifelong learning and development opportunities for all is one where we invest in our residents' education from an early age, and everyone can access high-quality education and training opportunities to reach their full potential at any time in life.

The Department recognises that for most stakeholders, **culture** and **delivery** are more important than **'plans'** and **'statements'**. To this end, we have set out a series of outcomes, which we aim to deliver under the IOMFS during the present political administration of the Isle of Man:

1. **We will take action to** encourage recovery and long-term resilience of the Manx seafood sector, working with and supporting stakeholders in increasing Food Security by strengthening links to local markets, sustainable diversification, cost reduction, and industry-science programmes through a revised Fisheries Grant.
2. **We will take action to** reset our relationship on fisheries matters with UK Fisheries Authorities post-Brexit, one which appropriately reflects the Island's jurisdictional autonomy, and our role and responsibility as a responsible Fisheries Authority, whilst recognising the benefits of a coherent, reciprocal, and equitable approach within British Fishery Limits.
3. **We will take action to** increase the proportion of fishing opportunities available to locally-registered vessels through our policies, and to secure a fair share of additional quota for stocks of importance in the Island's territorial sea based on the principle of zonal-attachment.
4. **We will take action to** increase the economic benefits to the Island's economy as a result of fishing activity in the Isle of Man territorial sea, for example through the consideration of a Manx economic-link as a licence-condition, as well as consulting on a new licence-fee framework that balances the benefits of resource-use with Department cost-recovery.
5. **We will take action to** better understand the economic context of the fishing industry, both onshore and offshore, and use robust economic data and insights when informing our fisheries management decisions.
6. **We will take action to** promote fishing as a rewarding career choice, with a focus on improving standards and facilitating new entrants into the sector through a Manx Fishing Industry "Trailblazer"

Apprentice / Trainee Skipper programme, which will be delivered in collaboration with industry, and with input from the Department of Education, Sport and Culture and IOM Maritime Ltd.

7. **We will take action to** work with and support our stakeholders to deliver an ecosystem-based approach to management, including considering additional protections in areas that are integral components of the marine food web and wider marine ecosystem, recognising that additional protections reflect an opportunity cost to the fishing industry in the short-term.
8. **We will take action to** establish Long-term Management Plans for all fisheries in the Isle of Man territorial sea, which will guide decision-making and establishment of annual Harvest Control Strategies in pursuit of high-level long-term environmental and socio-economic objectives. Long-term Management Plans will be developed in partnership with our stakeholders, and will aim to deliver effective management with responsive and proportionate technical, conservation, input (effort), and output (catches) Harvest Control Rules, and the requirements of the Island's seafood processing and exporting businesses.
9. **We will take action to** strengthen and expand our co-management processes, and support transparent and responsive management in the Island's territorial sea, informed by the best available scientific evidence, and developed collaboratively with stakeholder groups. As part of this, we will always consider impacts on the Island's community and economy as part of our decision making process.
10. **We will take action to** address the potential for 'spatial squeeze' arising from the shared marine space by linking with wider developments and Government strategies, recognising that access to fishing grounds is fundamental to fishing industry viability, and considering how fishing interests can work alongside other marine users including offshore renewables, conservation, and the wider Blue Economy.
11. **We will take action to** improve accountability and confidence in our seafood products and fishing operations by ensuring that our compliance regime is robust and future-proof by making full use of our assets and ensuring they remain fit-for purpose, as well as applying new technologies where appropriate, and by ensuring that our decisions are grounded in the best available scientific and stakeholder advice.
12. **We will take action to** continue to promote an evidence-based approach, and maintaining the provision of expert independent fisheries advice through competitive procurement, whilst expanding and supporting the role of industry in 'co-science' and Pilot-scheme initiatives.

5. LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT PLANS

5.1 Introduction

This section sets out the overall purpose of LTMPs, including their link to the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives and the wider IOMFS framework, together with the LTMPs that the Department intends to publish.

The Department is solely responsible for determining which fisheries will be subject to LTMPs in the territorial sea, and will take advice from the fishing industry to inform priorities.

For certain fisheries, the Department may look to align or cooperate with one or more UK Fisheries Authorities that have committed to producing a UK FMP for a stock that is biologically connected to, or part of, the stocks that are found within the Island's territorial sea. However, the Department is under no obligation to do so, and UK FMP policy priorities and objectives will only be extended to a Manx LTMP where the Department considers it to achieve, or contribute towards the achievement of, one or more of the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives.

The Department will work with relevant bodies and stakeholders to implement the policies set out in a LTMP. They represent the framework through which co-management of our fisheries will be undertaken.

5.2 What is a Long-term Management Plan

An LTMP is a document that sets out policy priorities designed to meet one or more of the Isle of Man fisheries objectives, tailored for a specific fishery.

Each LTMP will specify the stock(s), type of fishing and the geographic area covered.

LTMPs are an opportunity for the industry to work together with the Department to introduce, or develop, the co-management approach within the Isle of Man territorial sea, and to work with fisheries scientists to improve the evidence-base upon which they can make decisions about how to manage a fishery.

Ordinarily, the Department will look to develop the LTMPs with a co-management advisory group, and then publicly consult on any proposals that are considered to achieve, or contribute to the achievement of, the Isle of Man Fisheries Objectives.

Public consultation is important, considering that sea fishery resources in the Island's territorial sea are a public good, and that stakeholder's outwith a co-management forum should have an opportunity to provide their views on proposals.

5.4 How LTMPs relate to the UK's FMPs

The Department's LTMPs are under no obligation to relate to, complement, or coordinate with UK FMPs, which do not extend to the Isle of Man territorial sea.

However, as explained above, it may be preferable in certain circumstances to align with UK FMPs where there are biological reasons to do so. In any case, it is the responsibility of the relevant UK Fisheries Authority to approach and engage with the Department, and the Manx fishing industry, in order to identify how a UK FMP may be extended, in whole or in part, to the Isle of Man territorial sea. The Department may also approach the relevant UK Fisheries Authorities in order to coordinate management under UK FMPs and the Department's LTMPs.

5.7 Monitoring and Review of LTMPs

The Department will seek to monitor the effectiveness of LTMPs by referring to any relevant evidence bases, and assessing the performance of any policies or measures against relevant indicators.

LTMPs will be reviewed as and when appropriate, and in any case no less than every five years, which is considered a sufficient period of time to allow for most new measures and/or policies to have a measurable effect, and to consider whether any amendments or revisions are required.

5.8 Priority LTMPs

Under this IOMFS, the Department will focus on developing and delivering the following LTMPs:

- Manx king scallop (already published, delivery in progress, review pending in 2027)
- Manx queen scallop by end of 2023
- Manx mixed crustacea by end of 2024
- Manx whelk by end of 2025

The UK Fisheries Authorities have committed to developing the following FMPs, which are considered relevant to the Isle of Man territorial sea, or the Manx fishing industry:

- Crabs & Lobsters FMP (English waters) Lead: Defra
- Crabs and Lobster FMP (Welsh waters) Lead: Welsh Government
- Queen Scallop FMP (English waters) Lead: Defra
- Irish Sea Demersal Lead: DAREA (with Defra and Welsh Government)
- Irish Sea Herring Lead: DAERA (with Defra and Welsh Government)
- Northern Irish Inshore FMP Lead: DAERA
- King Scallop FMP (English and Welsh Waters) Lead: Defra (with Welsh Government)
- Whelk (English Waters) Lead: Defra
- Whelk (Welsh Waters) Lead: Welsh Government