

Marine & Fisheries Division
Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group

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Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Sea Fisheries Policy

Rathkeltair House

Market Street

Downpatrick

Co. Down

BT30 6AJ

Email:

NonQuotaShellfishFMP@daera-ni.gov.uk

27 April 2026

Dear consultee

Consultation on Proposed Northern Ireland Non-Quota Shellfish Fisheries Management Plan

The Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) as amended, as required by the UK Fisheries Act 2020 (the Act), sets out how the UK fisheries authorities will prepare and publish 43 Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) by 2028.

The Draft Northern Ireland Non-Quota Shellfish FMP is the subject of this consultation. The publication for the final (post consultation) version of this FMP is by end December 2026.

This Draft FMP brings together evidence on the state of the relevant fish stocks (Brown Crab, Velvet Crab, Lobsters, King Scallops and Queen Scallops) and sets out a range of objectives and proposed actions considered necessary to manage these fisheries in an effective and sustainable way.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to help shape and influence fisheries management policy in Northern Ireland for the crab, lobster and scallop fisheries and builds upon previous engagement with a range of stakeholders during the pre-consultation phase. The consultation survey has three parts:

1. Personal details and confidentiality (required)

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

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2. Questions relating to the content of the draft Northern Ireland Non-Quota Shellfish FMP, the Environmental and Conservation Reports and the statutory impact assessments.
3. Consultee feedback on the Online Survey (required)

You only need to respond to the questions that you wish to answer. There is a mixture of general and specific questions. However, all respondents must complete the required 'Consultee Feedback on the Online Survey' and 'personal details and confidentiality' sections before you are able to submit your response to the online survey. We welcome any further information and evidence to support this work. You can supply that directly via fmops@daera-ni.gov.uk.

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation document provided through Citizen Space

[Consultation on Non Quota Shellfish Fisheries Management Plan in Northern Ireland - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)

If you require a copy of the consultation, please contact us at NonQuotaShellfishFMP@daera-ni.gov.uk

The following documents can also be found on the Citizen Space link:

- Draft Northern Ireland Non-Quota Shellfish FMP
- Strategic Environment Report (SEA)
- Conservation Advice Report
- Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)
- Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

Responses, additional information, or documents can be sent to:

Sea Fisheries Policy Branch
Marine and Fisheries Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Rathkeltair House
Market Street
Downpatrick
BT30 6AJ

Responses should be received by 23:59 on 19 July 2026.

Yours faithfully,



PATRICK SMITH

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