

# The UK Nephrops Fishery Improvement Project



Will Davies  
Group CSR Manager  
Sofina Europe





# Who am I ?

## Will Davies

### Group CSR Manager – Sofina Europe

- Ex Trawlerman – NW Scotland
- MSc – Marine Conservation
- Technical Background – supplier auditing
- Global Experience across sector wild and farmed seafood
- Over 15 Years in Seafood Processing industry – previously at Hilton Seachill and The Big prawn Co.
- Chair of the Scampi FIP Working Group





# Who are Sofina Foods Europe

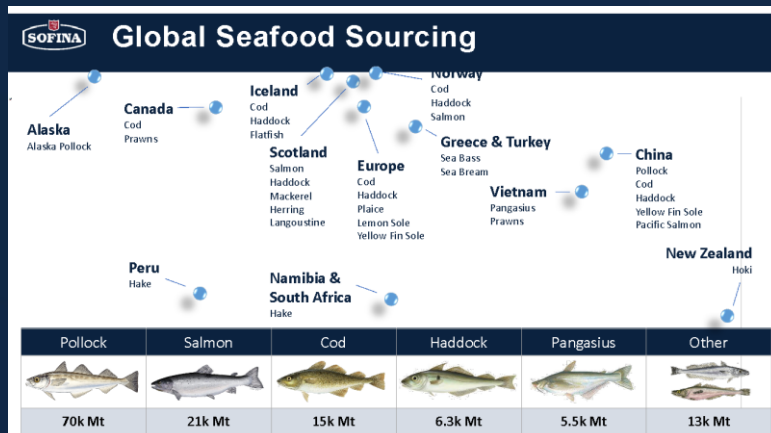
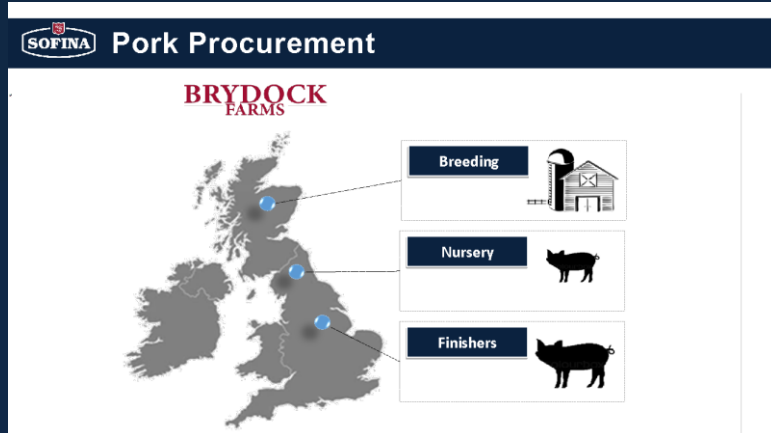
- We are a unique MFP supplier – Chilled & Frozen, Brand & Own Label right across the seafood & pork categories
- We can take a holistic MFP approach, based on strong market & consumer insights, with an aspiration to grow the whole MFP category by inspiring people to love fish & meat more often and expand their repertoires
- We have Solid Manufacturing Contingencies across the UK and Europe ensuring security of supply
- Our unrivalled passion, is supported by exceptional, committed & experienced teams right across our business
- Fish for Life – our Seafood CSR program



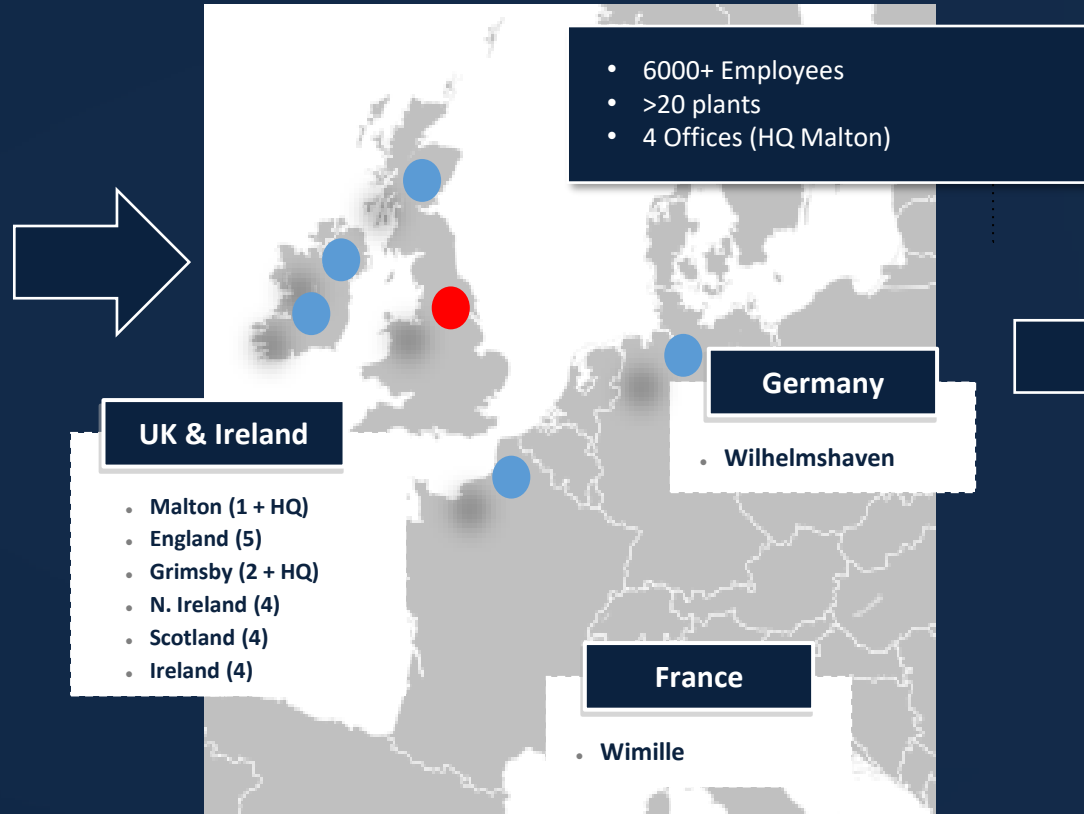


# What we do

## BUY



## MAKE



## SELL





# Scampi product range



## AIR FRYER FROZEN SCAMPI & CHIPS





## A Brief History of *Nephrops norvegicus*

...or how a little lobster came to embody many of the challenges of responsible seafood production.

The Drummond Lecture 2015 by: Mike Mitchell  
Technical and CSR Director, Young's Seafood Limited



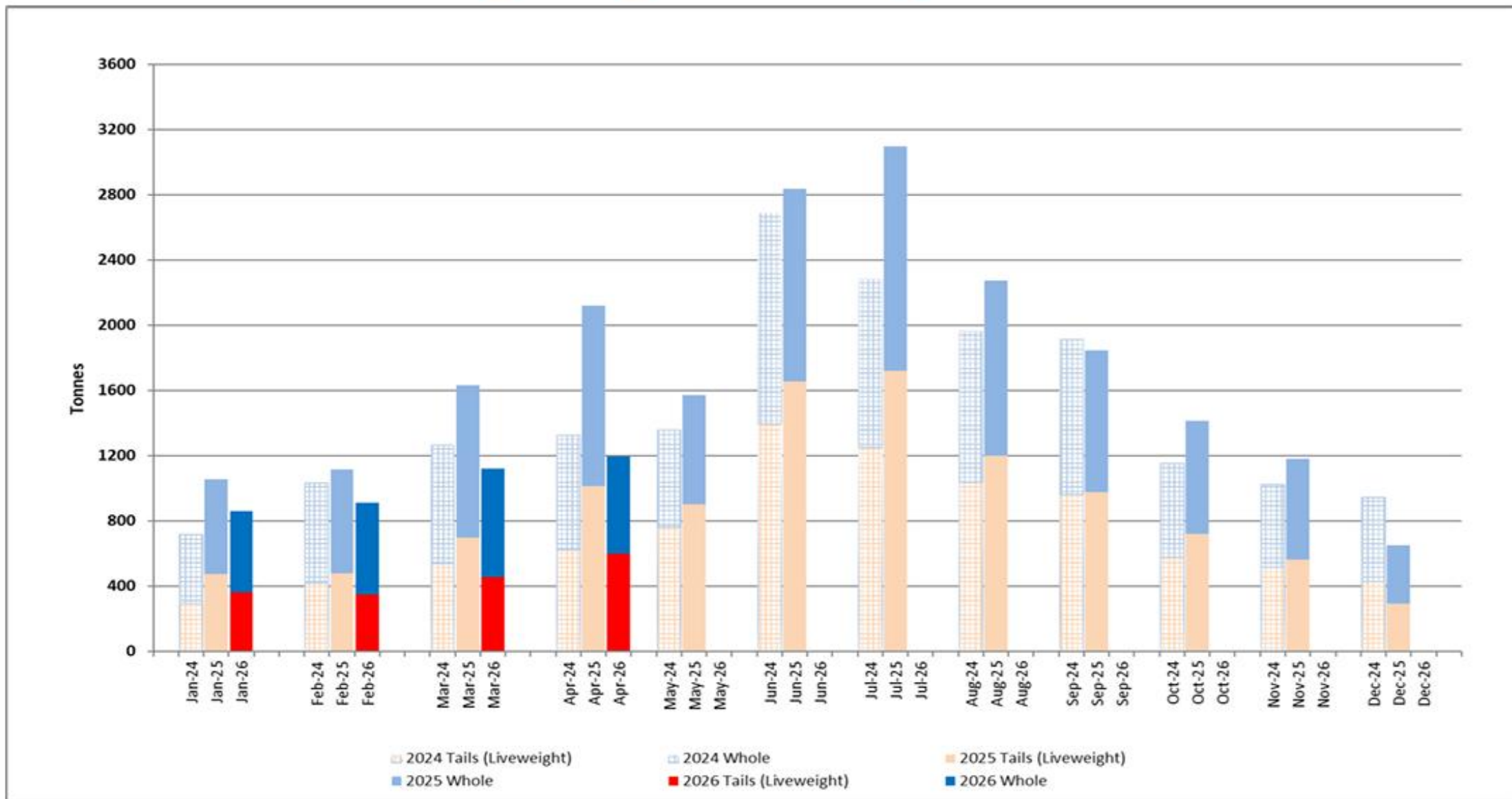
Shellfish  
Association of Great Britain



# Nephrops Markets



# Total Scottish *Nephrops* landings 2024 - 2026





The UK Nephrops fishery is not currently certified



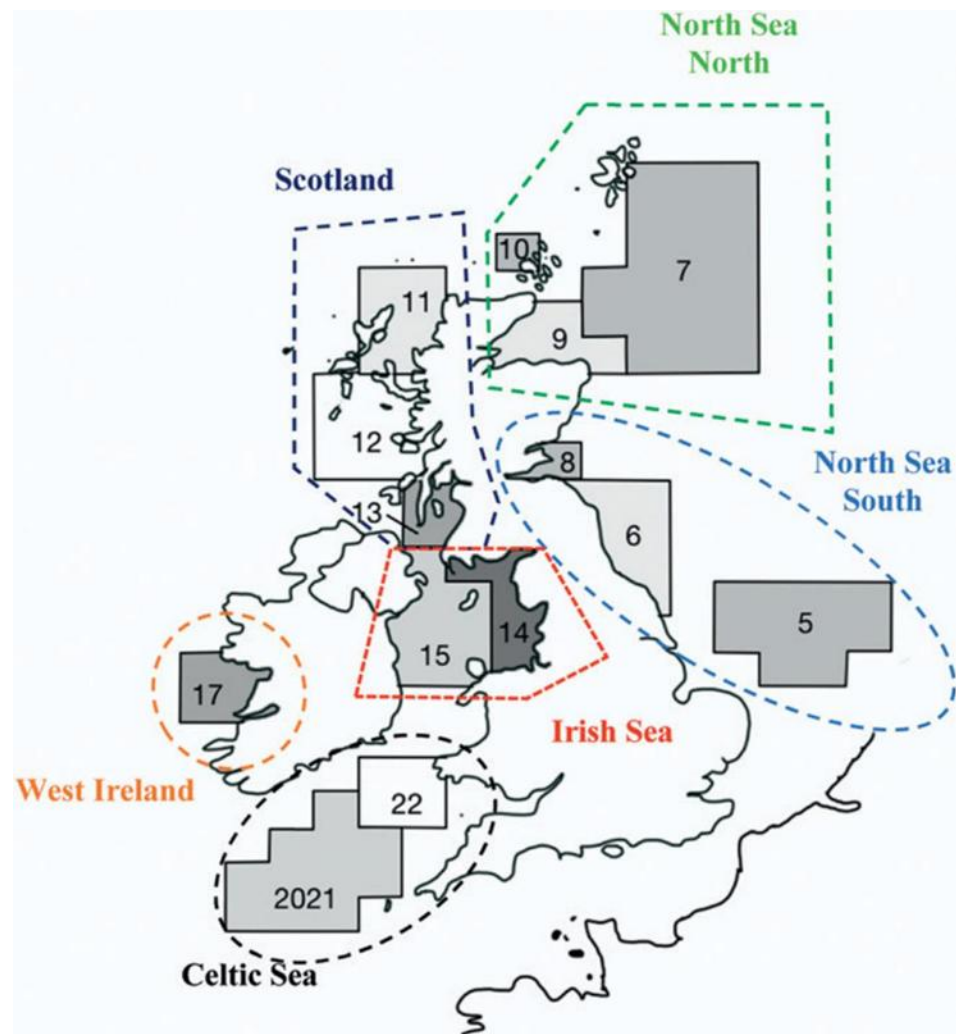


# Who is involved?



Shellfish  
Association of Great Britain

# What and where?



| Unit of Assessment | Gear                        | Stock Area                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| UoA 1              | Creel                       | FU 6 Farn Deepes                 |
| UoA 2              |                             | FU 34 Devil's Hole               |
| UoA 3              |                             | FU 5 & FU 10                     |
| UoA 4              |                             | FUs: 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 |
| UoA 5              | TR1 & TR2<br>demersal trawl | FU 5 Botney Gut - Silver Pit     |
| UoA 6              |                             | FU 6 Farn Deepes                 |
| UoA 7              |                             | FU 7 Fladen Ground               |
| UoA 8              |                             | FU 8 Firth of Forth              |
| UoA 9              |                             | FU 9 Moray Firth                 |
| UoA 10             |                             | FU 10 Noup                       |
| UoA 11             |                             | FU 11 North Minch                |
| UoA 12             |                             | FU 12 South Minch                |
| UoA 13             |                             | FU 13 Clyde & Jura               |
| UoA 14             |                             | FU 14 Irish Sea East             |
| UoA 15             |                             | FU 15 Irish Sea West             |
| UoA 16             |                             | FU 34 Devil's Hole               |





# MSC improvement Program

- **Structured 5-Year Pathway:** Accelerates sustainability for fisheries not yet meeting full MSC standards.
- **Replaces the Pilot:** Evolves from the five-year *In-Transition to MSC (ITM)* pilot program.
- **Mandatory Pre-Assessment:** Requires a gap analysis completed within the past three years.
- **Independent Verification:** Action plans and regular progress checks are verified by accredited third-party bodies.
- **No Front-of-Pack Eco-Label:** Products cannot use the blue MSC "fish tick" logo.
- **Back-of-Pack Claims Allowed:** Eligible for official text statements once performance milestones are met
- **Transparency** – listed on the MSC find a fishery page with relevant updates and progress



End overfishing

Sustainable seafood

A graphic for the MSC Improvement Program. It features a large blue circle on the left with the text "MSC IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the right of the circle is a photograph of a fishing boat's deck with various equipment and a fish visible in a blue container.

**MSC IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM**

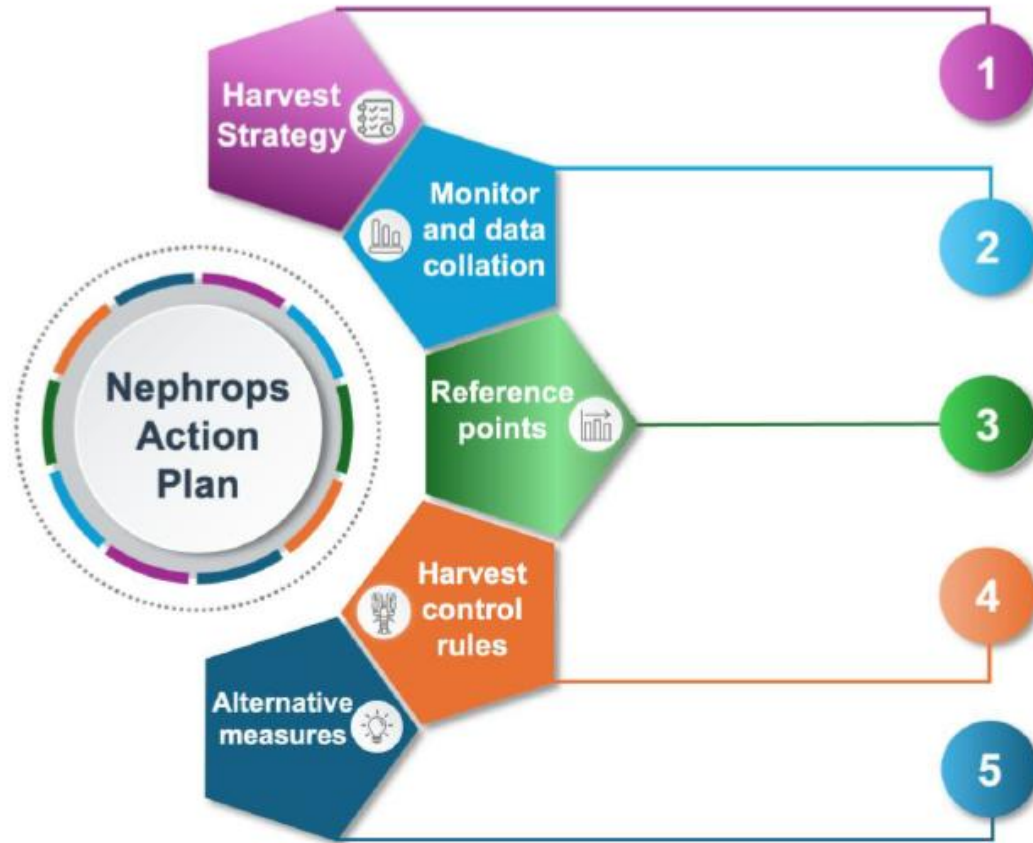
# MSC Improvement Programme Action Plan

Specific timebound and staged steps to improve stock assessments, reduce bycatch, and enhance traceability



# MSC Improvement Programme Action Plan

## Action Plan – Principle 1



### 1. Harvest Strategy

- Define strategy for controlling exploitation rate at a stock (FU) level

### 2. Monitoring and data collation

- Review annual stock assessments and collate total catch data

### 3. Reference points

- Consider options for defining Blim and BMSY (or equivalents)

### 4. Harvest control rules

- Develop and agree HCRs that are triggered if reference points are reached

### 5. Alternative measures

- Review and implement alternative measures to reduce unwanted catch

# MSC Improvement Programme Action Plan

## Action Plan – Principles 2 & 3

### 6. Primary and secondary species

- Develop strategies for species that are below the point of recruitment impairment

### 7. Endangered, Threatened and Protected Species

- Review and refine ETP lists
- Recording interactions
- Implement protection measures

### 8. Habitat and ecosystem

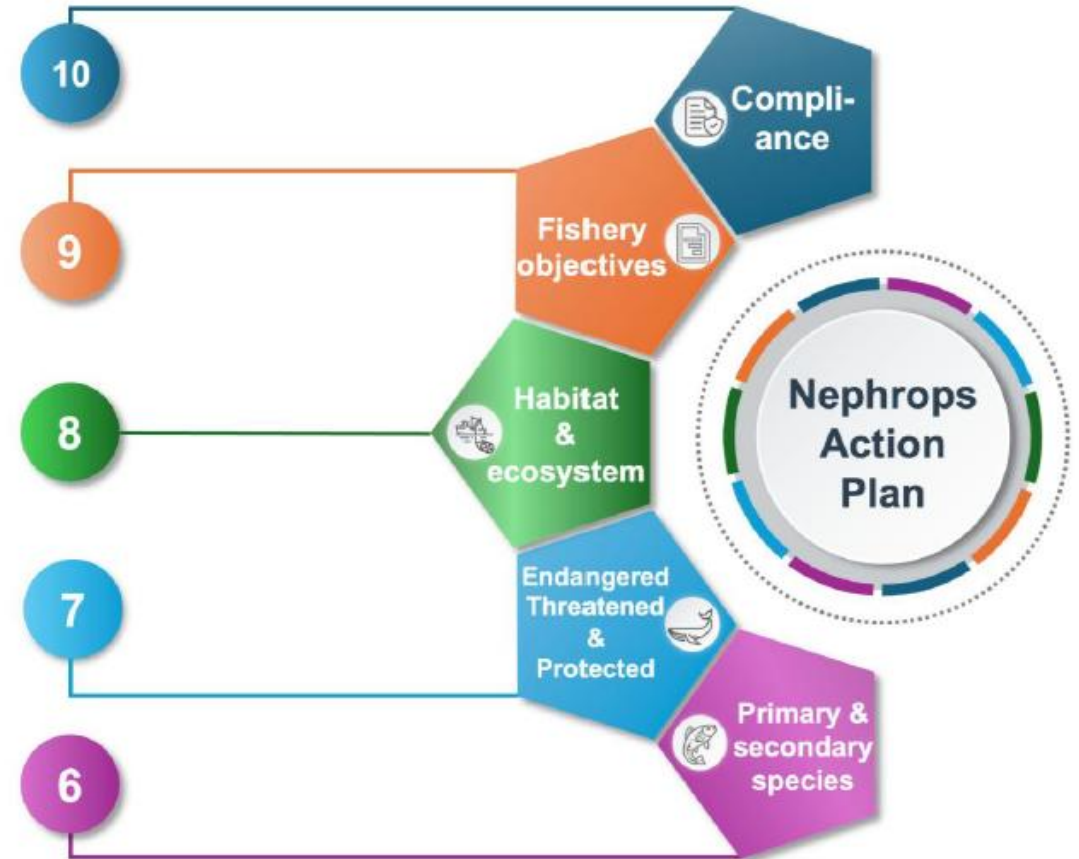
- Improve knowledge on fishery footprint
- Implement protection measures

### 9. Fishery objectives

- Define short- and long-term objectives
- Agree decision making processes

### 10. Compliance

- Provide evidence of systems in place to enforce management measures





UK Nephrops & Scallop Supply Chains:  
A Human Rights Impact Assessment

Seafish project reference: TD2025-001

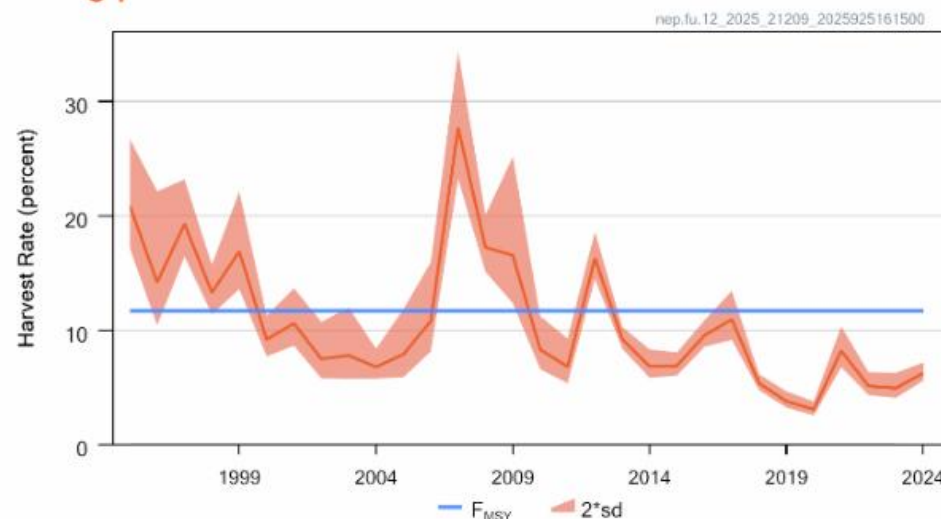
Final Report  
June 2026

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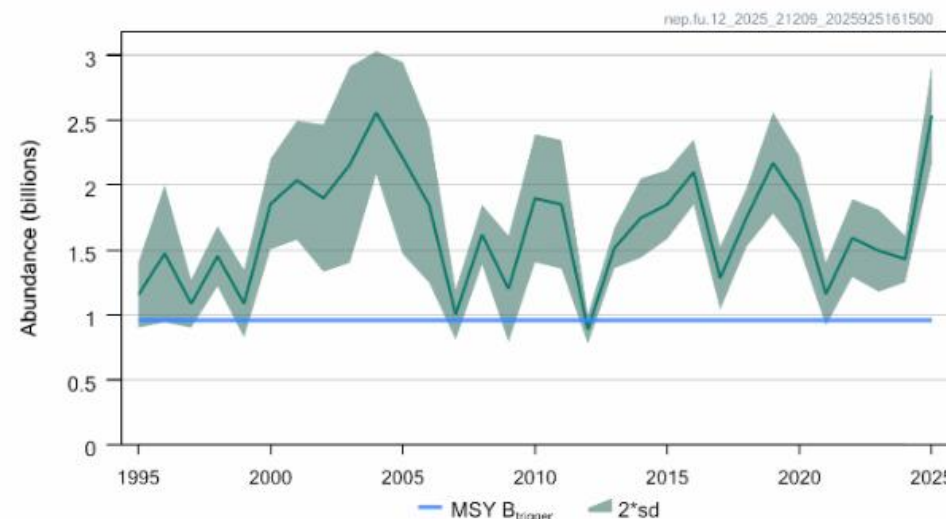


**POSEIDON**  
AQUATIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
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## Fishing pressure



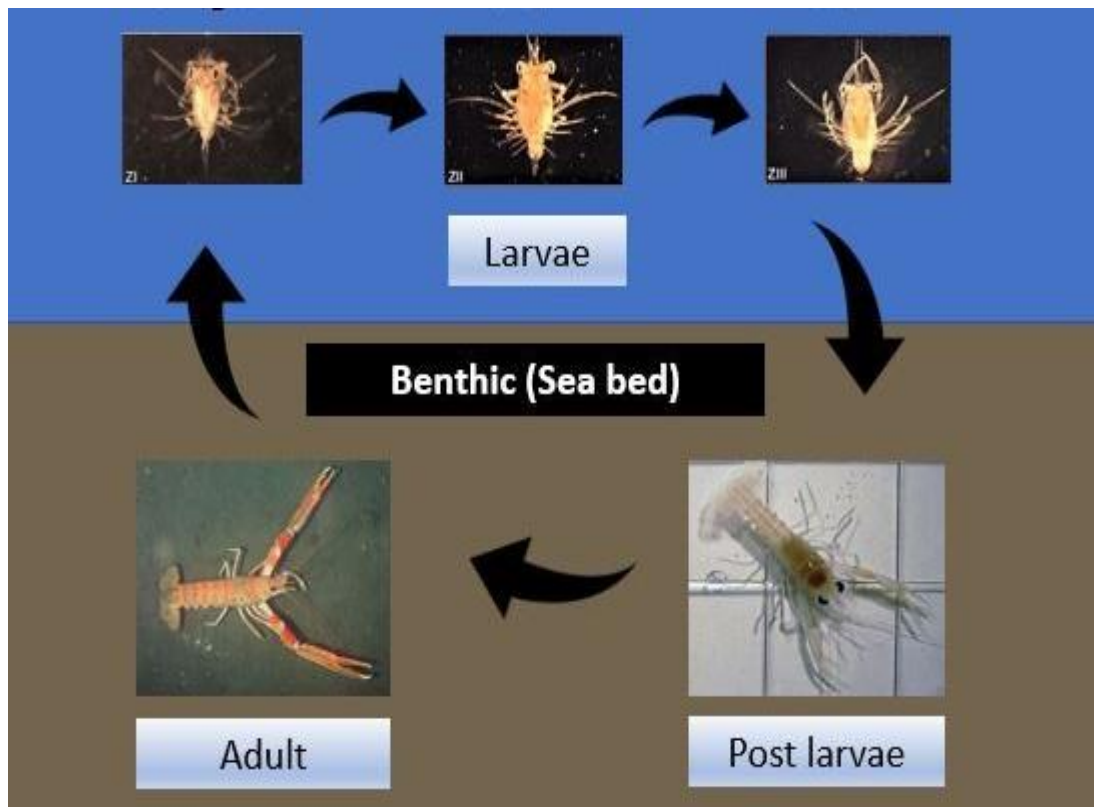
## Stock size



**Figure 1**

Norway lobster in Division 6.a, Functional Unit 12. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches (discard data are only available from 1990 onwards), harvest rate (sum of landings and dead discards in numbers, divided by stock abundance), and underwater TV (UWTV) survey abundance (carapace length > 17 mm). Discards include below minimum size (BMS) landings.

# Nephrops Stock, management and lifecycle



## Proposed Fisheries Management Plan for West of Scotland Nephrops



 Department  
for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs

 **DAERA**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Environment and Rural Affairs  
An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Comhaltas agus Oidhreachtaí  
Tuaithe  
Department of Faoine,  
Environment and Ruiria  
Nálairí  
[www.dairea.gov.uk](http://www.dairea.gov.uk)

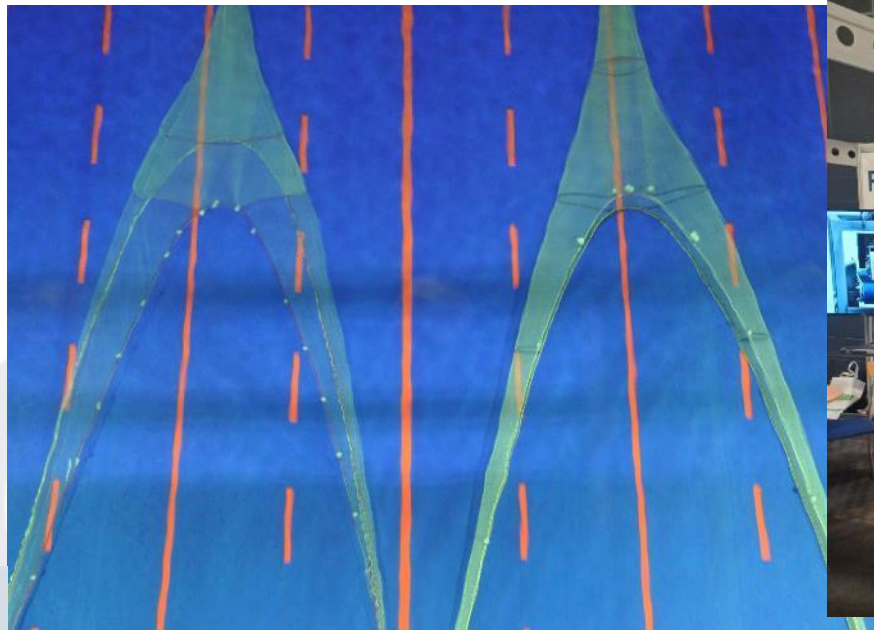
 **Scottish  
Government**  
Riaghaltas  
na h-Alba



# Other initiatives in the sector



COMMUNITY  
CATCH





# Fish For Life Timeline of achievements

