

Detailed guide: Understand your fishing vessel licence

Updated: Annexes updated

Understanding your vessel licence

Your fishing vessel licence is in several parts. You must read each part carefully to make sure you understand the terms attached to it and that they are correct for your fishing activity.

Contact your [local Marine Management Organisation \(MMO\) office](#) with any questions and notify them immediately if any of the details are incorrect.

An incorrect licence is invalid and you could be liable to penalties.

It is your responsibility to check your licence documents before going to sea as licences can be changed at any time. MMO publishes variations online and notifies those who have provided their contact information.

You can provide MMO with up to 2 emails, mobile phone numbers, or both, as a way of getting direct alerts about changes. You can receive notifications yourself, but it may make sense to nominate someone based onshore who can contact you on your vessel quickly.

Variations are considered to have been received when they are published online. You are required, as part of your licence conditions, to check [each week for any changes](#).

Part 1: Vessel details

This part includes:

- category of licence
- official licence number
- characteristics of your vessel
- registered owners
- specific authorities for scallop dredging, beam trawl fishing, fish for shellfish with pots, fixed nets or both
- membership of a fish producer organisation

Part 2: Conditions

This specifies how your vessel will fish. You may be directed to make landings at certain ports and times.

Part 3: Schedule

This sets out the authority under which you are allowed to fish.

Part 4: Annex

This lists species that you are not permitted to fish and any catch limits for stocks that you are able to fish and land.

Fishing vessel licences: 10 metre and under vessels – non-sector

These are vessels 10-metres-and-under that don't belong to a producer organisation.

Uncapped licences for the non-sector and Isle of Man have the same conditions and schedules, and their own specific annexes.

- [Uncapped licence: conditions \(91\)](#)
(PDF, 107KB, 3 pages)
- [Uncapped licence: schedule \(91\)](#)
(PDF, 115KB, 5 pages)
- [Uncapped licence: Lyme Bay and Torbay Site of Community Importance conditions \(91\)](#)
(PDF, 80.6KB, 1 page)
- [Uncapped licence: annexe \(9199\)](#)
(PDF, 171KB, 5 pages)
- [Uncapped licence: annexe – Isle of Man \(9123\)](#)
(PDF, 169KB, 5 pages)
- [Monitored licence: schedule \(45\)](#)
(PDF, 116KB, 5 pages)
- [Monitored licence: conditions \(45\)](#)
(PDF, 107KB, 3 pages)

- [Monitored licence: Annexe \(4599\)](#)
(PDF, 172KB, 5 pages)
- [Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation \(172\)](#)
(PDF, 101KB, 4 pages)

Capped licences for the non-sector have the same conditions, schedule and annex.

- [Capped licence: conditions \(94\)](#)
(PDF, 107KB, 3 pages)
- [Capped licence: schedule \(94\)](#)
(PDF, 192KB, 5 pages)
- [Capped licence: Lyme Bay and Torbay Site of Community Importance conditions \(94\)](#)
(PDF, 80.6KB, 1 page)
- [Capped licence: annexe \(9499\)](#)
(PDF, 166KB, 4 pages)

Fishing vessel licences: 10 metre and under vessels – sector

All vessels that are members of a producer organisation have the same conditions and schedule.

- [Sector: conditions \(91\)](#)
(PDF, 115KB, 5 pages)
- [Sector: schedule \(91\)](#)
(PDF, 114KB, 5 pages)
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[Sector: Lyme Bay and Torbay Site of Community Importance conditions \(91\)](#)
(PDF, 80.6KB, 1 page)

They each have their own specific annexes.

- [Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers' Organisation \(911\)](#)
(PDF, 100KB, 4 pages)
- [Anglo-Scottish Fish Producers' Organisation \(915\)](#)
(PDF, 101KB, 4 pages)
- [Eastern England Fish Producers' Organisation \(9114\)](#)
(PDF, 101KB, 4 pages)
- [South Western Fish Producers' Organisation \(913\)](#)
(PDF, 102KB, 4 pages)

Fishing vessel licences: over 10 metre vessels – Category A

All Category A vessels have the same conditions and schedule.

- [Category A: conditions \(11\)](#)
(PDF, 267KB, 9 pages)
- [Category A: transitional condition \(11\)](#)
(PDF, 267KB, 9 pages)
- [Category A: schedule \(11\)](#)
(PDF, 196KB, 7 pages)
- [Category A: Lyme Bay and Torbay Site of Community Importance conditions \(11\)](#)
(PDF, 64.2KB, 1 page)

There are specific annexes for vessels in the non-sector, Isle of Man, and each producer organisation.

- [Non-sector \(1199\)](#)
(PDF, 175KB, 7 pages)
- [Non-sector – Isle of Man \(1123\)](#)
(PDF, 168KB, 5 pages)
- [Aberdeen Fish Producers' Organisation \(118\)](#)
(PDF, 102KB, 4 pages)
- [Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers' Organisation \(111\)](#)
(PDF, 100KB, 4 pages)
- [Anglo-Scottish Fish Producers' Organisation \(115\)](#)
(PDF, 101KB, 4 pages)
- [Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation \(112\)](#)
(PDF, 101KB, 4 pages)
- [Eastern England Fish Producers' Organisation \(1114\)](#)
(PDF, 100KB, 4 pages)
- [Fife Fish Producers' Organisation \(1110\)](#)
(PDF, 106KB, 5 pages)
- [Fish Producers' Organisation \(114\)](#)
(PDF, 101KB, 4 pages)
- [Interfish Fish Producers' Organisation \(1125\)](#)
(PDF, 188KB, 4 pages)

- [Lowestoft Fish Producers' Organisation \(1117\)](#)
(PDF, 101KB, 4 pages)
- [Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation \(117\)](#)
(PDF, 102KB, 5 pages)
- [Northern Producers' Organisation \(1120\)](#)
(PDF, 102KB, 4 pages)
- [North Atlantic Fish Producers' Organisation \(1126\)](#)
(PDF, 100KB, 4 pages)
- [North Sea Fishermen's Organisation \(1118\)](#)
(PDF, 164KB, 4 pages)
- [Scottish Fishermen's Organisation \(119\)](#)
(PDF, 163KB, 4 pages)
- [South Western Fish Producers' Organisation \(113\)](#)
(PDF, 102KB, 4 pages)
- [West of Scotland Fish Producers' Organisation \(1121\)](#)
(PDF, 283KB, 5 pages)

Fishing vessel licences: over 10 metre vessels – Category A (Islands)

There are no producer organisation vessels that are Category A (Islands) vessels. All Category A (Islands) vessels are in the non-sector and have the same conditions, schedule and annex.

- [Category A \(Islands\): conditions \(12\)](#)
(PDF, 216KB, 9 pages)

- [Category A \(Islands\): schedule \(12\)](#)
(PDF, 190KB, 6 pages)
- [Category A \(Islands\): Lyme Bay and Torbay Site of Community Importance conditions \(1299\)](#)
(PDF, 64.2KB, 1 page)
- [Category A \(Islands\): annexe \(1299\)](#)
(PDF, 167KB, 5 pages)

Fishing vessel licences: over 10 metre vessels – Category A (Pelagic)

All Category A vessels have the same conditions and schedule.

- [Category A \(Pelagic\): conditions \(17\)](#)
(PDF, 235KB, 12 pages)
- [Category A \(Pelagic\): schedule \(17\)](#)
(PDF, 196KB, 8 pages)
- [Category A \(Pelagic\): Lyme Bay and Torbay Site of Community Importance conditions \(1799\)](#)
(PDF, 64.3KB, 1 page)
- [Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers' Organisation \(171\)](#)
(PDF, 203KB, 4 pages)

There are specific annexes for vessels in each producer organisation. There are no Category A (Pelagic) non-sector vessels.

- [Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation \(177\)](#)
(PDF, 86.4KB, 4 pages)
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[South Western Fish Producers' Organisation \(173\)](#)

(PDF, 102KB, 4 pages)

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[Wales and West Coast Fish Producers' Organisation \(1119\)](#)

(PDF, 150KB, 6 pages)

Fishing vessel licences: over 10 metre vessels – Category B

All Category B vessels have the same conditions and schedule.

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[Category B: condtions \(31\)](#)

(PDF, 215KB, 9 pages)

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[Category B: schedule \(31\)](#)

(PDF, 195KB, 7 pages)

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[Category B: Lyme Bay and Torbay Site of Community Importance conditions \(31\)](#)

(PDF, 64.2KB, 1 page)

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[Non-sector \(3199\)](#)

(PDF, 227KB, 5 pages)

There are specific annexes for vessels in the non-sector, Isle of Man, and each producer organisation.

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[Non-sector – Isle of Man \(3123\)](#)

(PDF, 187KB, 4 pages)

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[Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation \(312\)](#)

(PDF, 264KB, 4 pages)

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[Scottish Fishermen's Organisation \(319\)](#)

(PDF, 244KB, 4 pages)

- [South Western Fish Producers' Organisation \(313\)](#)
(PDF, 271KB, 5 pages)

Fishing vessel licences: over 10 metre vessels – Category C

All Category C vessels have the same conditions and schedule.

- [Category C: conditions \(41\)](#)
(PDF, 203KB, 10 pages)
- [Category C: schedule \(41\)](#)
(PDF, 198KB, 7 pages)
- [Category C: Lyme Bay and Torbay Site of Community Importance conditions \(41\)](#)
(PDF, 64.2KB, 1 page)
- [Non-sector \(4199\)](#)
(PDF, 222KB, 4 pages)

There are specific annexes for vessels in the non-sector, Isle of Man, and each producer organisation.

- [Non-sector – Isle of Man \(4123\)](#)
(PDF, 184KB, 4 pages)
- [Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers' Organisation \(411\)](#)
(PDF, 261KB, 4 pages)
- [Eastern England Fish Producers' Organisation \(4114\)](#)
(PDF, 181KB, 4 pages)
- [Fife Fish Producers' Organisation \(4110\)](#)

(PDF, 266KB, 4 pages)

Fishing vessel licences: over 10 metre vessels – Deep sea species

All deep sea species vessels have the same conditions and schedule.

- [Deep sea species: conditions \(85\)](#)
(PDF, 136KB, 6 pages)
- [Deep sea species: schedule \(85\)](#)
(PDF, 9.61KB, 1 page)

There are specific annexes for vessels in the non-sector and each producer organisation.

- [Non-sector \(8599\)](#)
(PDF, 196KB, 2 pages)
- [Aberdeen Fish Producers' Organisation \(858\)](#)
(PDF, 255KB, 2 pages)
- [Lowestoft Fish Producers' Organisation \(8517\)](#)
(PDF, 256KB, 2 pages)
- [Northern Producers' Organisation \(8520\)](#)
(PDF, 255KB, 2 pages)
- [Wales and West Coast Fish Producers' Organisation \(8519\)](#)
(PDF, 256KB, 2 pages)

Fishing vessel licences: over 10 metre vessels – Handline mackerel

There are no producer organisation vessels with handline mackerel conditions

and schedules. There is no annex.

- [Handline mackerel: conditions \(24\)](#)
(PDF, 86KB, 2 pages)
- [Handline mackerel: schedule \(24\)](#)
(PDF, 8.28KB, 1 page)

Fishing vessel licences: over 10 metre vessels – Thames and Blackwater

There are no producer organisation vessels with these conditions and schedules. There is no annex.

- [Thames and Blackwater: conditions \(23\)](#)
(PDF, 22.5KB, 1 page)
- [Thames and Blackwater: schedule \(23\)](#)
(PDF, 7.25KB, 1 page)

Single licence category for the over ten metre fleet segment in Scotland.

Marine Scotland have created a single licence category for the over ten metre fleet segment in Scotland.

Different licence categories will remain in existence in England after 30 June 2017. Category B or C licence entitlements transferring from Scotland will be received as a Category B or C as they were prior to 1 July 2017.

Scottish licences created through disaggregation or aggregation in Scotland after 30 June 2017 will be tracked back to the lowest common denominator and received accordingly on transfer to England. For example a licence aggregation between an ex-Category B and an ex-Category A licence in Scotland will be received in England as a Category B licence.

Application to change UK fisheries administration

This [application to change UK fisheries administration](#)
(ODT, 40.1KB)

form must be completed by the vessel owner(s) who wish to request the change of administration from England to Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Latent capacity licence monitoring

In 2015 Defra carried out an exercise to address latent capacity in the English under 10m fleet. A number of licences had their finfish licence capped at 350kgs and/or had their shellfish permit temporarily suspended. This exercise included an appeals process. Some appeals were successful but subject to a monitoring period of 2 years.

This period drew to an end in most cases on 31 December 2017. Defra officials will be seeking to review this policy in 2018. In the interim all licences subject to monitoring will continue to be able to fish to the limits as set out in their current licence until further notice.

If you have any queries please contact the Defra Helpline on 0345 933 5577 or email fisheriesreform@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Further information

More information on:

- [vessel licence types](#).
- [current catch limits: over 10 metre non-sector](#)
- [current catch limits: 10 metres and under](#)
- [licence variations](#)