

Open consultation: Proposed catch limits for September 2018

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) sets monthly catch limits for quota species to ensure the UK stays within the overall limit set by the EU. These limits apply to all under 10 meter vessels and the over 10 meter vessels that are not in a co-operative (Producer Organisation).

Please contact the MMO if you have any comment to make about the suggested catch limits which will be put into force on 1 September 2018.

Comments to be received no later than 12pm Tuesday 28 August 2018.

The MMO will regularly consult industry on monthly or other catch limits and will, wherever possible, ensure that any representations are taken into account when setting such limits. However, the MMO must reserve the right to alter catch limits and/ or close fisheries without prior notice or consultation in the event that such actions are necessary and expedient for the regulation of sea fishing.

Correspondence: EU energy legislation: Letter announcing an upcoming statutory instrument

Letter from Claire Perry, Minister for Energy and Clean Growth, providing detail on an upcoming piece of secondary legislation, which amends several pieces of EU energy legislation which will become retained direct EU law to deal with deficiencies arising from EU exit.

This is one of several upcoming statutory instruments to amend energy legislation as the UK leaves the EU. This instrument amends provisions which confer powers to make further legislation. The government intends to amend other provisions of those Regulations by separate statutory instruments, which have not yet been published. EU regulations amended by this instrument are:

- 'The Electricity Regulation' (Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity)
- 'The Gas Regulation' (Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks)

- 'REMIT' (Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency)
 - 'The Security of Gas Supply Regulation' (Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply)
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Notice: RH17 6JH, Cuadrilla Balcombe Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Cuadrilla Balcombe Limited
 - Installation name: Lower Stumble Hydrocarbon Exploration Site
 - Permit number: EPR/AB3307XD/V005
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News story: Undulate ray by-catch allowance in the eastern English Channel

From 1 September English fishing vessels in ICES Area VIIId will have a 50kg by-catch allowance for undulate rays.

- Undulates must be landed whole or gutted and must not measure less than 40cm or more than 60cm between wing tips.
- Landings of undulate ray will also be counted against Area VIIId skates and ray quota as a whole.

In previous years the quota for this stock has been allocated to individual fishermen for use in scientific trials run by CEFAS. There is to be no scientific trial this year and therefore to ensure equal opportunities for all vessels who may experience a by-catch of this species the 50kg per month is open to all vessels with an English licence.

This 50kg forms part of the total monthly allowance for skates and rays in area VIIId. A vessel may not catch more than the total allowance for skates

and rays in VIIId, inclusive of any undulate catches. For example, if an under-10m non-sector vessel lands 400kg of thornback ray and 50kg of undulate ray, the vessel will have landed 450kg of its monthly quota allocation for skates and rays in VIIId which for September is set at 500kg.

While undulate ray is classed as a [near-threatened species in Europe](#) it is also recognised as locally common in the eastern English Channel (area VIIId) which is why the EU allows a small quota each year. It has also been [removed as a feature of Defra's recommended Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone](#).

This year the UK allocation for area VIIId is 3 tonnes with an additional flexibility allowance of 5% of the quota in the Western English Channel (VIIe) which brings the total available quota in VIIId to a maximum of 6 tonnes as a total for the whole of the UK fleet.

Undulate ray caught in this area are under a restrictive management framework, and the following regulations below must be followed:

- To be consistent with Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) by-laws in some parts of the stock range, no undulate ray measuring less than 40 cm between the extreme tips of the wings should be landed.
- Following STECF guidelines, no undulate ray measuring greater than 60 cm between the extreme tips of the wings should be landed.
- No undulate ray may be transhipped.
- Undulate ray may only be retained on board or landed whole or gutted.

In order to prevent an over-fish of this small quota and protect the long term population it may be necessary to close this allowance at any point during a given month.

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