

Annex 1: Fishery overview

Whelk biology

1. The common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) is a gastropod mollusc found off all British coasts and distributed throughout the continental shelf waters of the North Atlantic. It is the largest species of sea snail in the UK, growing up to 10cm in total shell length and 6cm wide in cooler, more northerly waters. In southern regions such as the English Channel, maximum shell length can be considerably smaller (5-6cm). Whelks are relatively sedentary throughout their life, typically inhabiting sand, sandy mud or stony substrates and are found from just below the tide line to depths of 100m.
2. Whelks have low reproductive rates, slow recruitment rates, limited larval dispersal and reduced gene flow due to being direct developers (no planktonic larval phase). This means that whelk stocks are vulnerable to localised depletion from overfishing and/or environmental change. Sexual maturation is also relatively slow (taking 4 to 6 years) and size at maturity (SaM) varies geographically, showing a general increase at more northerly latitudes (e.g. ranging from 45.2mm in Selsey, West Sussex, to 85mm in Scarborough, North Yorkshire).^{1,2,3}
3. Peak spawning periods vary between stocks but generally occur over winter months between October and February. Whelk reproductive biology and morphology varies around the UK and is likely influenced by environmental parameters, including water temperature and depth. This means management measures need to account for regional variability in species biology to ensure that stocks are sufficiently protected from overexploitation, and fishermen are not disproportionately impacted. This in turn makes traditional output control measures such as Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) more difficult to apply and monitor.

Description of the fishery

4. The whelk fishery has developed considerably over the last 10-15 years. This has largely been due to the expansion of Asian export markets and downturns in other UK fisheries causing a displacement of effort into whelking. Whelk is now one of the UK's largest and most valuable non-quota shellfish fisheries (£15.2 million total value landed into English ports in 2023), with the majority of landings made by English vessels (>95%). Data on whelk landings from English waters are only available back to 2016,⁴ however landings into English ports provide an indication of trends back to 2008.⁴ **Error! Reference source not found.** shows that landings into English ports increased from 2008 (8,433 tonnes) to 2013 (13,728 tonnes), then were relatively stable until a drop in 2016 and 2017 (11,320 tonnes). Tonnages then rose to a peak of 15,610 tonnes in 2020 (overall +85% increase since 2008). Many fishermen turned to whelking during the Covid-19 pandemic as markets for other species, such as whitefish, became

¹ Borsetti, S., Hollyman, P.R. and Munroe, D. (2021). Using a sclerochronological approach to determine a climate-growth relationship for waved whelk, *Buccinum undatum*, in the US Mid-Atlantic. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf science*, 252, p.107255.

² McIntyre, R., Lawler, A. and Masefield, R. (2015). Size of maturity of the common whelk, *Buccinum undatum*: is the minimum landing size in England too low?. *Fisheries Research*, 162, pp.53-57.

³ Bell, M.C., Walker, P. (1998). Size at maturity in common whelks *Buccinum undatum* L. in England and Wales. In: ICES Document: Theme Session on Population Biology.

⁴ Please note that this proxy is used to understand long term trends only, and vessel numbers and tonnages may differ slightly when analysing those fishing in English waters (as per scope of the English whelk FMP) and thus eligible for an permit.

- inaccessible.⁵ Post-Covid, landings dropped by almost half to 9,271 tonnes in 2022 (-41%) but then subsequently started to recover in 2023, reaching 10,910 tonnes (+17%).
5. Fleet size fluctuated but showed a general increase between 2010-2016, rising from 307 to 356 vessels (+16%) (**Error! Reference source not found.**). There was a marked decline between 2016-2022, to 248 vessels (-30%). In 2021, ongoing pandemic impacts on export markets and low bait supply triggered a cohort of whelkers to leave the fishery, leading to the drop in landings shown in **Error! Reference source not found.**⁶ In 2023 the number of vessels landing whelk from English waters increased from 213 to 220 (+3%).

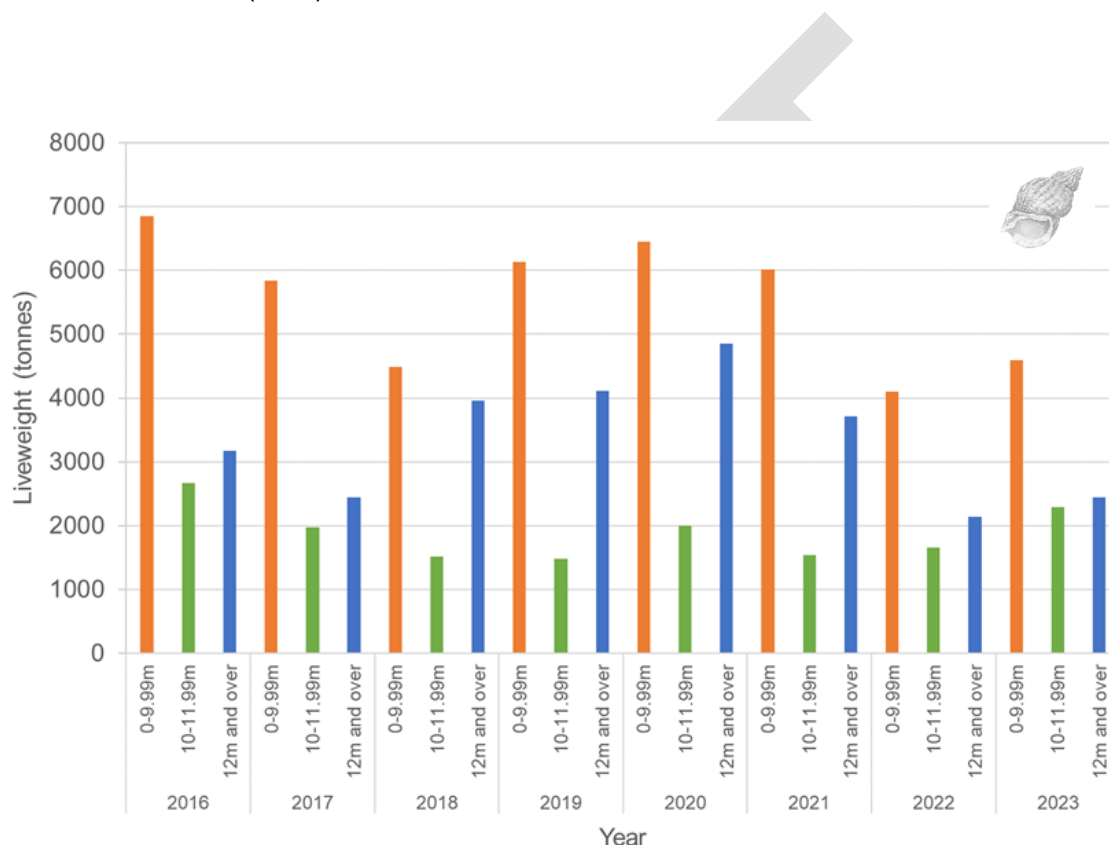


Figure 1. Whelk landings (liveweight, tonnes) from English waters between 2016-2023 by vessels size category.

⁵ Whelk markets remained open due to a ~one year time lag on Asian exports.

⁶ Markets demand dropped as Asian export markets saw a Covid-related downturn as hospitality closed and created a 'backlog' of frozen whelk stock that took time to clear.

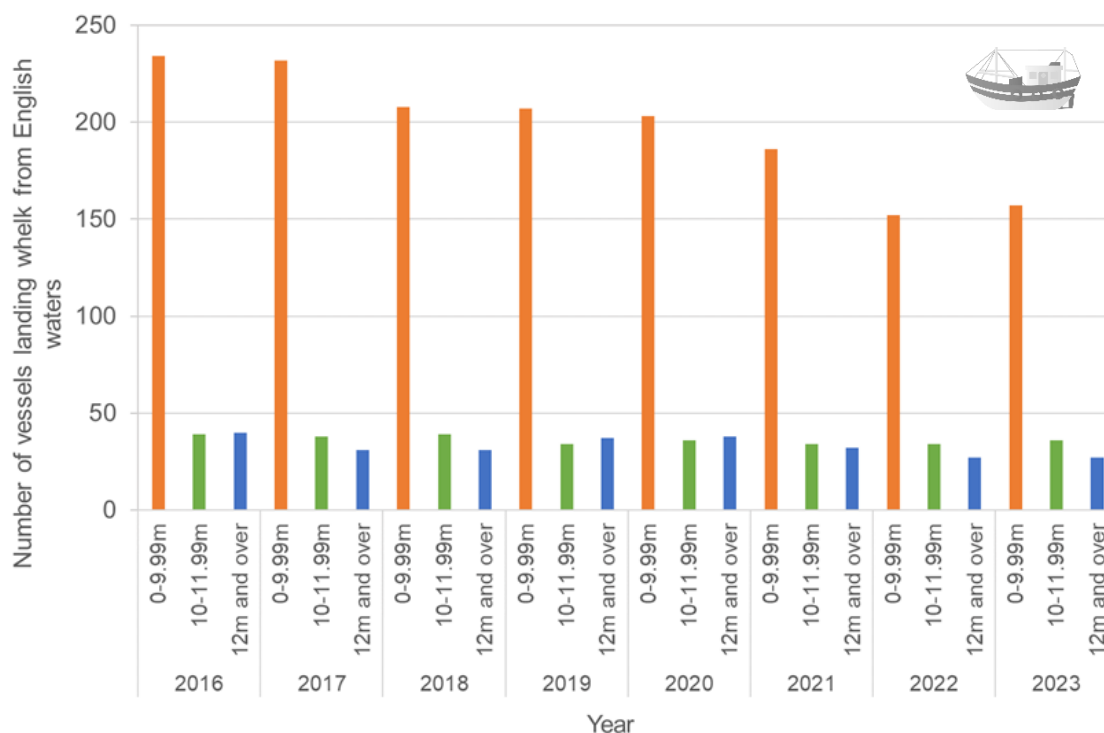


Figure 2. Number of vessels landing any volume of whelk from English waters between 2016-2023 by vessel size category.

6. Vessels under 10m made up the majority of whelk vessels fishing in English waters (71%) in 2023 and landed the largest share of the total annual tonnage (4,599 tonnes, 49% of total annual landings) (Figure 3 and Figure 4). These smaller vessels often operate as day boats fishing inshore. Landings from all vessel size categories fluctuated with similar patterns across this timeframe.
7. A cohort of under 10m vessels left 2020-22 (-51 vessels, -26%) but some returned in 2023 (+3%) (Table 2, Annex 1). In 2023, 10-12m vessels made up 16% of the fleet and landed 2,297 tonnes (25% of total annual landings). There is also a smaller cohort of vessels over 12m in length (12% of the fleet), which landed similar tonnages (2,450 tonnes, 26% of total annual landings). Whelk fisheries located in the English Channel and along the Kent and Essex coastline tend to be predominantly targeted by smaller vessels under 12m, whereas larger vessels tend to operate further up the east coast, in the northwest and some in the southwest.⁷
8. Table 3 (Annex 1) shows that in 2022, 98.1% of whelk landings into English ports were made using baited pots. Bycatch of other species in the whelk pot fishery is negligible and undersized whelks can be returned to the sea. In 2022 there was also a notable bycatch in mobile gears (202 tonnes), including dredges, beam trawls and demersal trawls. Bycatch of whelk in mobile gears is most prevalent in the southwest of England, and survival rates of individuals caught in beam trawls are lower than pot fisheries.⁸
9. Table 4 (Annex 1) shows that in 2022 the majority of whelk were landed into ports on the south or east coast of England, with highest landings into Shoreham-by-sea in Sussex (1,431.4 tonnes, £1.6 million). Ports in these regions with smaller total landings tend to show a higher economic reliance on whelk.⁸ Some ports on the northeast and

⁷ Whelk FMP Evidence Statement.

⁸ Whelk FMP Evidence statement (unpublished at time of writing).

northwest coasts also report a significant contribution of whelks to total landings value.

10. The majority of whelk are exported, and there are two key markets. The European market (principally France, the Netherlands and Belgium) is predominantly for live whole whelk while Asian markets (principally South Korea) are for processed (cooked, picked and frozen) whelk meat.⁹ Export volumes have steadily increased over 2021, 2022 and 2023, with the largest volumes still being exported to South Korea, however there is an increasing focus on the European market.

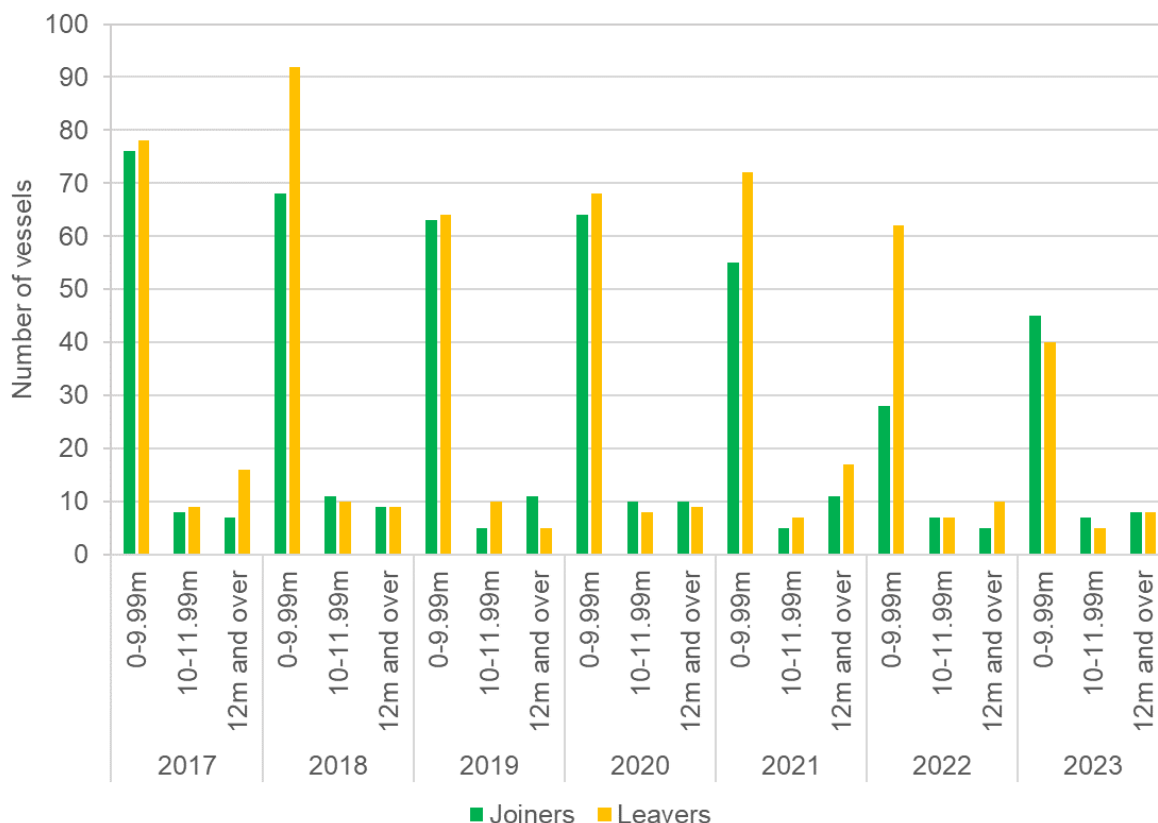


Figure 3. Number of vessels joining and leaving English whelk fisheries each year (2017-2023).

11. Figure 5 shows the number of vessels leaving and joining whelking fisheries across vessel size categories, which can be used to explain trends observed in Figure 4 – particularly for the under 10m fleet. Between 2020-22, an elevated number of under 10m vessels left whelk fisheries *and* fewer vessels joined, therefore leading to the declined in the under 10m fleet observed across these years. In 2023, numbers of under 10s begins to increase again, with fewer leaving and more joining. This coincides with increased price per kilo in 2023 compared to previous years (Figure 6).

⁹ Seafish Economics trade analysis.

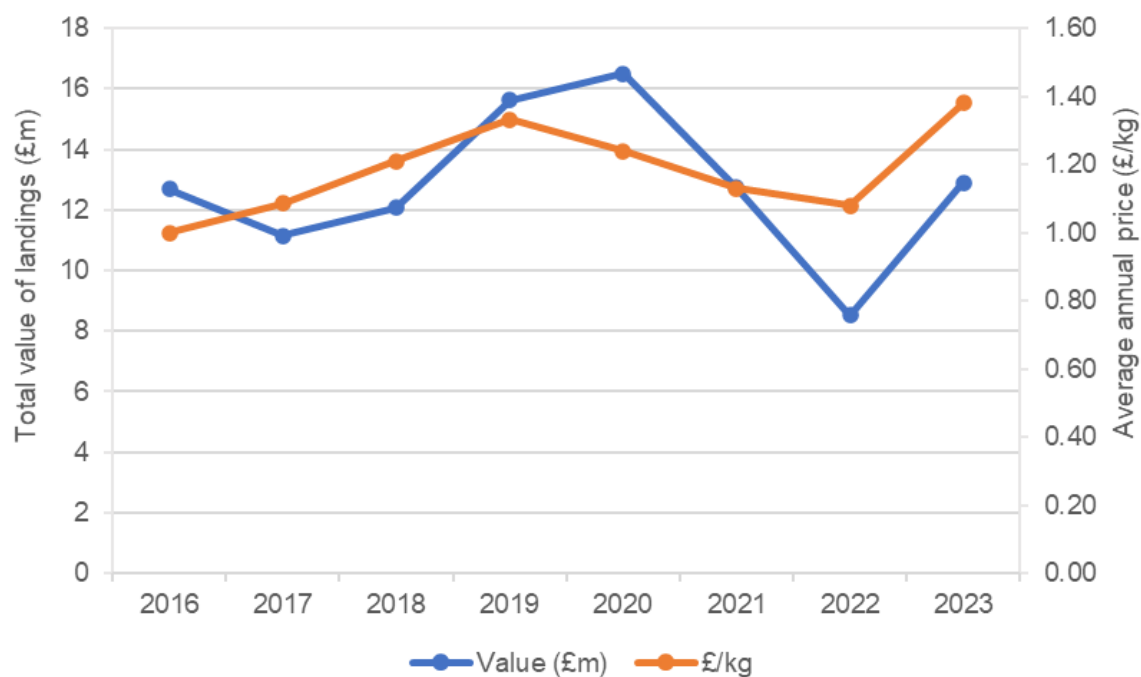


Figure 4. Total annual value (£ million) and price per kilogram (£/kg) of English whelk fisheries (2016-2023).

Current management of whelk stocks

National management

12. At a national level, the only measure which applies across all English waters is a Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) of 45mm total shell length.¹⁰ This aims to prevent the removal of too many juveniles before they have had a chance to reproduce. There are limitations to this approach as significant local variations on SaM make it difficult to set a biologically appropriate MCRS, with studies showing that 45mm is likely not appropriate in most regions.¹¹ Management by MCRS is also based on the premise that juveniles have high survivability when returned to the sea. There is growing evidence that onboard handling, riddling and air exposure could increase post-release mortality through shell damage and increased vulnerability to predation. MCRS is therefore not considered an effective standalone management measure for whelk.
13. In scope for this paper are whelk fisheries in English waters only (as per the FMP); there are already whelk fishery access authorisations in place for Welsh waters and for Manx waters. Given these existing schemes, it is unlikely that there will be a single whelk permit covering all UK waters. However, some degree of consistency of approach is desirable to ensure that (1) fishermen have clarity on the rules, (2) compliance and monitoring are streamlined for both regulator and operator, and (3) the application of rules in one jurisdiction do not create unforeseen consequences for other management areas. The regional nature of whelk biology, and current fishing activity, will also be important considerations in designing and implementing any permit scheme. Without this there is a risk of localised depletion. This is discussed further below.

¹⁰ Minimum fish landing sizes - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

¹¹ R McIntyre, A Lawler, and R Masefield. 2015. Size of maturity of the common whelk, *Buccinum undatum*: Is the minimum landing size in England too low? *Fisheries Research*, 162, p 53-57.

14. The fishery is otherwise open access, with no measures to control total fishing effort at a national level.

Local and regional management

15. Whelk fisheries inside 6 nautical miles (nm) are currently managed by IFCA through a mixture of permit schemes, pot limits, MCRS and regulations on escape gap size and positioning and riddle bar spacing. Four IFCA enforce an MCRS which is larger than the national MCRS – these are Eastern (55mm, introduced in 2015), Kent and Essex (53mm introduced in 2020), Devon and Severn (65mm, introduced in 2020), and Northwestern (65mm introduced in 2023, with the intention to increase further to 75mm in the future).
16. Eight IFCA jurisdictions (Northeastern, Eastern, Kent and Essex, Sussex, Devon and Severn, Northumberland, Northwestern) operate either a whelk specific permit scheme, an overarching shellfish permit scheme which includes whelk, or a potting permit. Permits are issued to any fishermen that can meet the required criteria on application. There is no limit on the number of permits issued within most IFCA districts; however, in late 2023 North Eastern IFCA consulted on changes to their shellfish permit byelaw, which proposed limiting the number of commercial fishing permits to 234 per year to maintain existing levels of fleet activity. Northwest IFCA issued whelk permits in 2021 on the basis of vessels having a track record of landings whelks from the district meaning that the number of permits is effectively limited by eligibility.
17. Permit holders are required to routinely submit landings data, including average number of pots hauled per trip, total weight (kg) landed in each month by fishing method and species. Four of the permit schemes set limits on pot numbers; North-western (500 pots), Eastern (500 pots), Kent and Essex (600 pots), Sussex (300 pots within 0-3 nm and 300 pots within 3-6 nm) and Northumberland (800 pots). Northeastern IFCA's 2023 shellfish byelaw consultation proposed capping pot numbers at 1,000 pots per vessel. Other technical measures such as maximum pot sizes, and size and positioning of escape holes, are also enforced.
18. Ensuring that any new whelk permit takes account of existing IFCA management measures will be important.

Table 1. Summary of IFCA whelk management measures.

IFCA	Permit relevant to whelking?	Eligibility	Permit period	Maximum vessel size	Pot limits?	MCRS above national (45 mm)?	Riddling requirement?	Pot design	Permit for recreational whelking?	Source
Northwestern	Yes (closed permit system as of 2019)	Those with a track record of >5t between 2015-18 could apply for 1000 pots. <10 m vessels without a track record could apply for 400 pots.	Permits are valid from 1 October to 30 September the following year.	10m (0-3nm), 15m (3-6nm)	Yes (up to 1000 pots – see Eligibility column)	Yes (65 mm, with proposal to increase to 75 mm under review)	No	Pots must consist of a rigid container with an open top through which whelks can enter	Yes	Byelaw 4 – Potting Permit Category 1 – Commercial Permit; and Category 2 – Recreational Permit
Cornwall	No	N/A	-	16.46m (for shellfish fishing within 0-3nm, some exemptions for larger vessels within 3-6nm)	No	No	No	No	No	N/A
Isle of Scilly	No	N/A	-	11m (or 10t gross tonnage)	No	No	No	No	No	N/A
Devon and Severn	Yes	All fishers allowed to fish within the district may apply	Permits are valid for 24 months from start date	15.24m (new byelaw proposed in early 2023 to reduce maximum vessel size to 14.99m)	No	Yes (65 mm as of Nov 2020)	No (advised riddle bar spacing is 27mm)	No	Yes	Potting Permit Byelaw (2014)
Southern	Not yet, however all commercial vessels must have a Fishing for Sale Permit , and a Pot Fishing Byelaw is currently	N/A	-	12m	No	No	No	No	No	N/A

	under development									
Sussex	Yes	All fishers allowed to fish within the district may apply	Permits are valid for 24 months from start date	14m	Yes (up to 600 pots, with a maximum of 300 within 0-3nm)	No	Permit holders required to use a 25mm riddle	4x25mm escape holes positioned at least 150mm from the inside base of the pot or no more than 50mm from the top	Yes	Shellfish Permit Byelaw (2015)
Kent and Essex	Yes	All fishers allowed to fish within the district may apply	Permits are valid from the date of issue until the following 31 March	14m	Yes (maximum 300 pots for Category 1 commercial permits)	Yes (53mm – with a 5% undersize tolerance)	Permit holders required to riddle catches using a bar spacing of 25 mm	10x25mm escape holes	Yes (maximum 10 pots for Category 2 recreational permits)	Whelk Fishery Flexible Permit Byelaw
Eastern	Yes	All fishers allowed to fish within the district may apply	Permits are issued annually and expire on the 31 March each year. Fishers must then apply for a new whelk permit.	14m	Yes (500 pots for commercial fishers, 5 pots for recreational)	Yes (55mm)		30 litres maximum with 2x24mm escape holes positioned at least 150mm from the inside base or no more than 50mm from the top	Yes	Whelk Permit Byelaw 2016
North Eastern	Yes ('Shellfish Entitlement Holder Permit' and 'Limited Shellfish Permit' for those without a shellfish entitlement)	All fishers allowed to fish within the district may apply	Permits are valid until the 31 December in the year of issue of the permit	16m	Those with a Limited Shellfish Permit (no shellfish entitlement) can only fish 10 pots maximum	No	No	No	Yes (30 whelks per day)	Permit to fish for Lobster, Crab, Velvet Crab, and Whelk Byelaw Lobster, Crawfish and Crab Fishing Permit Byelaw
Northumberland	Yes	All fishers allowed to fish within the district may apply	-	12m	Yes (800 pots)	No	No	Escape gap at the lowest point in the exterior wall must allow a 80x46mm gauge to pass through	Yes (5 pots, 20 whelks per day)	Commercial Permit Scheme

Available information on stock status

19. There is currently no stock assessment for whelks in English waters, no delineation of stock boundaries, and no maximum sustainable yield (MSY) reference points or proxies. As a result, there is no assessment of likely stock health. Data which could be used to give an indication of likely stock status or fishing effort, such as catch per unit effort (CPUE) are either not currently gathered at a national level or are not of sufficient quality to be used to make meaningful assessments of stock health (e.g. accurate information on pot numbers or soak time is not available across the fleet to allow evaluation of fishing effort). This means that the most basic metrics for monitoring fishing pressure and interpreting stock health stock are unavailable.

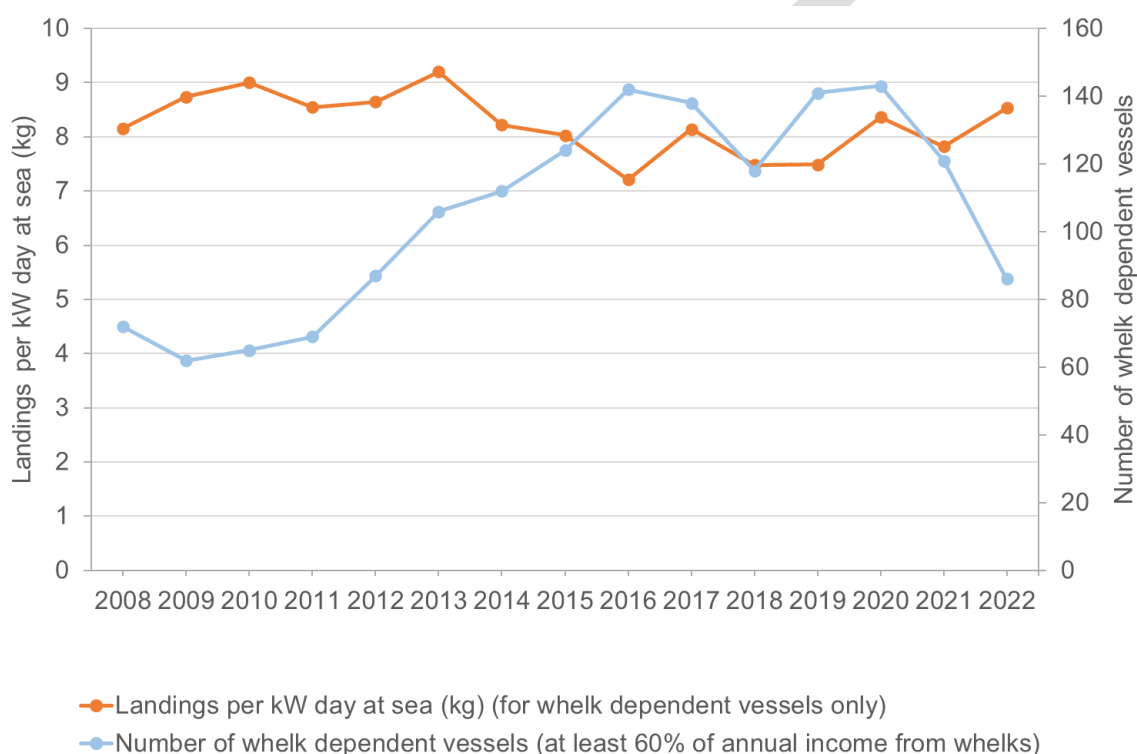


Figure 5. Landings per kW day at sea (kg) for whelk dependent vessels (at least 60% of annual income from whelks) from 2008-2023.

20. It is possible to approximate LPUE using landings per kilowatt (kW) day at sea. However, days at sea is generally not considered the most appropriate metric for pot fisheries, as the number of pots fished within a day can vary. Despite such limitations, this data can still provide some information about the fishery. Landings per kW day dipped when the number of whelk dependent vessels was highest (~2014-2019) and rebounded as the number of dependent vessels dropped after the 2020 pandemic (Figure 7). Whilst we cannot make assumptions about stock health from this data, it is encouraging that landings per kW day have remained relatively stable and have increased when fleet size dropped.

21. On a regional level, IFCA's with significant whelk fisheries collect landings and effort data via monthly shellfish returns, usually as a permit condition. This includes information on the average number of pots hauled per trip, total number of trips, and total weight landed. LPUE trends are variable both within and between IFCA's. Work is

underway to better understand LPUE trends across all IFCA districts with whelk fisheries. Of the information gathered so far:

- a. Kent & Essex IFCA: LPUE appears relatively stable over the last decade, except for one fishing area (Area 3) which has been low since 2020 when the few fishermen working this area switched over to different fisheries. This means the trend may be a result of data deficiency and changes in fishing activity rather than whelk stock health. A small uplift in LPUE was recorded for all other areas in 2023. The relative stability of LPUE suggests that stock levels are stable.¹²
- b. Sussex IFCA: Steady increase in LPUE from 2018-2021, then dropped slightly in 2022. It is uncertain as to what this means in terms of stock status. It is possible that this drop may represent either a decline in stock health, or the delayed influence of Covid-19 on the dynamics of the fleet – 2023 data will aid interpretation when it becomes available.
- c. Eastern IFCA: Declining LPUE has raised concerns around the sustainability of current fishing pressure. However, an issue with catch recording outside the district was identified in February 2020, invalidating sections of the data. Work is ongoing to re-analyse 2015-2023 data knowing these caveats.

¹² Kent & Essex IFCA Quarterly meeting, 30 January 2024: [agenda-item-b3-whelk-report-1706000841.pdf](#) ([kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk](#))

Annex 2: Examples of whelk permit / permit / licence schemes from other jurisdictions

In addition to the IFCA permit schemes referenced above, there are numerous examples of how permits are used in other shellfish fisheries to manage effort, both within the UK and in other jurisdictions. These range in restrictiveness, however in the majority of whelk fisheries fleet size is limited by a permit (or 'licencing') scheme and management (e.g. temporal closures, catch limits, MCRS, days at sea limits) is administered through permit conditions.

Welsh Whelk Permit

Introduced in March 2022 following the Whelk Fishing Permit Order (2021). Each vessel fishing for whelk in Welsh waters must purchase a valid permit at the cost of £285 (2022 prices) for each permit period, which is usually twelve months (1 March to 28 or 29 February). There is no limit on the number of permit holders at any one period.

The Welsh permit gives each fishing vessel a share of an Annual Catch Limit (ACL) – currently 4,768 tonnes for 2023-2024. The ACL is underpinned by a monthly catch limit (50 tonnes per vessel per month at the start of the permit period) which is modified throughout the year to ensure that the ACL is not exceeded. In the 2022-2023 permit period, the ACL was 5,298 tonnes and uptake was 4,250 tonnes (80%), however not all permit holders fished for whelk in this period.

English Scallop Permit

To be able to fish commercially for scallops, fishermen must have a scallop permit on their fishing vessel licence. The permit was first introduced in 1999 for over 10m fishing vessels targeting scallops using dredges. There is no permit in place for vessels of 10m and under in length. To qualify for an permit, vessels had to demonstrate they held a valid fishing licence and had landed 1 tonne of scallops using dredging gear between 1 January 1994 and 31 May 1998.¹³ The permit successfully capped the number of vessels fishing for scallops in English waters. Furthermore, in 2004 the English Scallop Order was introduced to regulate the fishery through technical measures such as dredge design.

The permit may be sold or transferred to another vessel, however there are certain rules which prevent this resulting in an expansion in fleet capacity.

English Shellfish Licencing Scheme

A restrictive licensing scheme for shellfish (lobsters, crawfish, edible crabs, velvet crabs, spider crabs and green crabs) was introduced on 1 January 2004 for vessels over 10 m, and on 1 April 2004 for vessels under 10 m. Shellfish entitlements were granted to existing fishing vessels which had landed more than 200 kg of lobsters or 750 kg of crabs in any 12-month period between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2002. The scheme applies to vessels under 8 m which will account for more than 40% of the vessels qualifying under the scheme. Anyone wishing to take up shellfishing will need to acquire an appropriate fishing vessel licence

¹³ There is also a separate beam trawl permit.

carrying a shellfish entitlement from an existing vessel. Licensed fishing vessels without a shellfish entitlement will be permitted to land up to five lobsters and 25 crabs per day.¹⁴

Isle of Man Whelk “Specific Fishery Authorisation” (SFA)

‘Specific Fishery Authorisations’ are part of the annual Isle of Man (IoM) Sea Fishing Licence and allow limited and conditional commercial fishing activity by the specified vessel in relation to specific fisheries.¹⁵ There are a limited number of whelk SFAs available and 16 are currently active. Latent SFAs are typically re-allocated annually (subject to the number of latent SFAs available at the start of the licensing period of 1 April), however latent SFAs may not be fully re-allocated if there is concern over trends in the fishery.

A maximum of 1000 pots are allocated to each whelk SFA, however, the number of pots on each SFA may vary. There is also an ‘of which’ limit for inshore waters (e.g. an SFA may be allocated 1000 pots, of which no more than 300 can be used within the three-mile area).

Restricting fishery access to SFA holders has been an important component of the IoM fisheries management framework and has helped guard against rising effort. This has been supported by an increased MCRS and work is ongoing to collect data which may inform future quotas.

Basse-Normandie Granville Bay “Whelk Licence”

The only acceptable gear type is pots, and entry into the Granville Bay whelk fishery is restricted to those who have a ‘whelk licence’. The whelk licence was introduced in 2004 and conditions were agreed in 2017. There are a limited number of licences available for under 12 metre vessels only. The whelk licence is non-transferable, granted to a specific vessel and its active fisher-owner. There is a national “Coquillages” (shellfish) licence that covers molluscs (including whelks) and provides a common framework with the conditions of sub-national permits from each Comité régional (CRPMEM-Normandie).¹⁶ It is worth noting that the number of licences available are now being actively reduced as more licences were initially issued than stocks can now support.¹⁷

Permits are used to restrict the number of pots per crew member per vessel (720 pots maximum)¹⁸, and there is also a daily catch allocation of 210kg per person and a total daily catch allocation of 900kg per boat (n.b. this has recently reduced owing to declining stock status).¹⁹ There are also days at sea limits (225 days/vessel), 45mm MCRS, riddling requirements and fishery closures that include holidays, weekends, and all of January which aligns with the spawning season.²⁰

¹⁴ [Shellfish Licensing Scheme - Hansard - UK Parliament](#); [Restrictive Shellfish Licensing Scheme - Hansard - UK Parliament](#)

¹⁵ [Isle of Man Government - Specific Fishery Authorisations](#)

¹⁶ By delegation from the French government, the Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins (CNPMEM) delivers the national “Coquillages” licence.

¹⁷ Arrêté préfectoral n°133/2017 of 22nd December 2017.

¹⁸ 720 per ship for 3 men on board, 480 for 2 men and 240 for 1 man.

¹⁹ Daily limit as of 2017: 300kg for one man on board, 600kg if two men on board, 900kg for three. This has now been reduced to 210kg per crew member owing to declining stock status.

²⁰ [Granville Bay whelk fishery, Marine Stewardship Council](#)

Newfoundland and Labrador Whelk Fishing Licence

The Newfoundland / Labrador whelk fishery is managed through issuing a limited number of whelk fishing licenses; there are 332 licenses, and no new licenses are added. The scheme and an associated whelk TAC were introduced in 2009. The license is also used to apply additional management measures such as a limit of 500 pots per vessel, a 63mm MLS, closed season between December and May, and a share of 5,000 tonnes annual Total Allowable Catch. There are also specific license conditions on the reporting of catch and effort data. The Newfoundland / Labrador licence restricts fishing activity to the NAFO division of the vessel's home port; there are 17 divisions around the coast of Newfoundland, Labrador, and Nova Scotia.²¹

Annex 3: Supporting Data

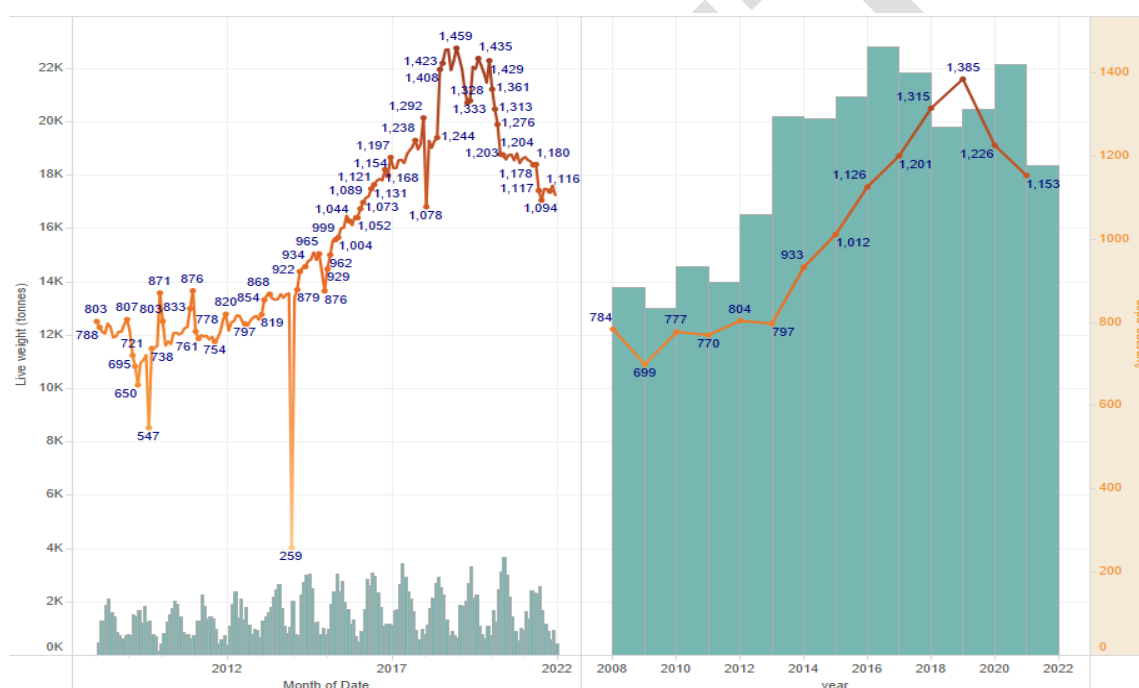


Figure 6. Analysis showing landings of whelks alongside the average whelk prices from 2008 to 2022 (Seafish Fleet Inquiry tool, data extracted March 2023)

Table 2. Tonnages (liveweight) of whelk landed into English ports in 2023 by vessel length category (0-9.99m, 10-11.99m and 12m and over), and numbers of vessels within each length category.

Year	Length group	Number of vessels	Liveweight (tonnes)
2016	0-9.99m	234	6,854
	10-11.99m	39	2,666
	12m and over	40	3,177
2017	0-9.99m	232	5,843
	10-11.99m	38	1,978
	12m and over	31	2,442
2018	0-9.99m	208	4,494

²¹ [Whelk \(*Buccinum undatum*\) Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization \(NAFO\) Subdivision 3Ps Newfoundland and Labrador Region](#)

	10-11.99m	39	1,522
	12m and over	31	3,959
2019	0-9.99m	207	6,136
	10-11.99m	34	1,486
	12m and over	37	4,107
2020	0-9.99m	203	6,455
	10-11.99m	36	2,002
	12m and over	38	4,852
2021	0-9.99m	186	6,016
	10-11.99m	34	1,535
	12m and over	32	3,713
2022	0-9.99m	152	4,104
	10-11.99m	34	1,656
	12m and over	27	2,143
2023	0-9.99m	157	4,599
	10-11.99m	36	2,297
	12m and over	27	2,450

Table 3. Tonnages (liveweight) and value (£ million) of whelk landed into English ports in 2022 by gear type.

Gear type	Landings (liveweight, tonnes)	Value (£ million)	% of total annual landings
Pots and traps	9108.3 t	£9.35 m	98.12%
Drift and fixed nets	74.6 t	£0.08 m	0.80%
Other mobile gears	71.9 t	£0.09 m	0.77%
Dredge	13.8 t	£0.02 m	0.15%
Beam trawl	7.95 t	£0.01 m	0.086%
Demersal trawls	4.05 t	£0.01 m	0.044%
Longlines	2.36 t	£0.002 m	0.025%
Handlines	0.007 t	£0.00001 m	0.0001%

Table 4. Top 10 ports in terms of whelk landings (liveweight, tonnes) into English ports in 2022. Value (£ million) and percentage contributions to total annual landings and value of the English whelk fishery is also shown.

Row Labels	Landings (liveweight, tonnes)	% of total annual landings	Value (£ million)	% of total annual value
Shoreham-by-Sea	1431.4 t	21.8%	£1.60 m	24.0%
Eastbourne	938.6 t	14.3%	£0.94 m	14.0%
Whitehaven	745.4 t	11.3%	£0.85 m	12.7%
Grimsby	604.8 t	9.21%	£0.23 m	3.42%
Ilfracombe	600.0 t	9.13%	£0.65 m	9.70%
Weymouth	589.1 t	8.97%	£0.63 m	9.45%
Wells	467.4 t	7.11%	£0.45 m	6.77%
Whitstable	458.2 t	6.97%	£0.45 m	6.81%
Portsmouth	398.6 t	6.07%	£0.51 m	7.63%
Kings Lynn	336.6 t	5.12%	£0.37 m	5.55%