

Brussels, 30 April 2025

WK 5489/2025 INIT

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INFORMATION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	UK notification in accordance with Article 496(3) TCA - king scallop closure

Delegations will find attached a letter on the above-mentioned subject and its annex, as received from the European Commission services.



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Fabrizio Donatella
Director
Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission
1049 Bruxelles

Ref: UKEUD0053 (2025)
25 April 2025

Dear Fabrizio,

I am writing to notify you, in accordance with Article 496(3) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom, of our intention to proceed with the proposed closure of scallop fisheries in UK waters in ICES division 7d from 01 July – 30 September 2025. This measure will apply to all vessels of any nationality which are 10m or over in length.

I am also notifying you of our intention to proceed with the closure of scallop fisheries in UK waters in Lyme Bay ICES division 7e (ICES rectangles 29E5, 29E7, 30E6 and 30E7) from 01 July – 30 September 2025. This measure will apply to all vessels of any nationality which are 12m or over in length.

Latest stock assessment estimates for area 7d suggest current fishing may be occurring at a sustainable level with a positive trend seen in stock biomass since 2022. In the area of Lyme Bay 7e there continues to be high levels of exploitation above the MSY proxy. Although latest stock assessment estimates indicate improvements to the harvestable biomass in Lyme Bay 7e, and an increase in the number of individuals above the minimum conservation reference size present, ongoing protection of these highly exploited stocks is required.

Whilst improvements in stock health have been observed in both areas, MMO considers the 3-month closure to be the most appropriate decision to balance the environmental needs of the spawning stocks with the socio-economic impacts on the fishing industry. Alignment of the duration of closure periods across areas will offer increased protection to spawning stocks whilst reducing the risk of displacement of effort between 7d and Lyme Bay area of 7e.

The draft amendments to the existing licence condition for EU vessels fishing in UK waters are detailed in Annex A.

We welcome the Commission's engagement to date on this issue and look forward to continuing our collaborative working for the benefit of the stocks through the King Scallop Multi Year Strategy. The decision to proceed with the seasonal closure in 2025

is without prejudice to our commitment and position on the development of the Multi Year Strategy. Different considerations may be appropriate for a multi-year approach and we remain keen to make progress on this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Mike Dowell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mike Dowell
Deputy Director
Marine and Fisheries
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Annex A – Licence condition text

Prohibition on Scalping in ICES 7d (vessels over 10 metres overall length) and ICES rectangle 29E6, 29E7, 30E6 and 30E7 of 7e (vessels over 12 meters overall length) – Conditions for EU vessels

6.6 – Vessels over 10 metres in overall length; Fishing for scallops using dredges in UK waters of ICES area 7d is prohibited from 00:01 hours on 01 July 2025 to 23:59 on 30 September 2025.

6.7 – Vessels over 12 metres in overall length; Fishing for scallops using dredges in UK waters of ICES rectangle 29E6, 29E7, 30E6 and 30E7 of 7e is prohibited from 00:01 hours on 01 July 2025 to 23:59 on 30 September 2025.