Fisheries Information Notice 05-2025

Non-Commercial Pot Fishing in Ireland

AN t-ÚDARÁS UM CHOSAINT IASCAIGH MHARA | SEA-FISHERIES PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information Notice titled:
'**Non-Commerical Pot Fishing in Ireland'**

Legislative Basis

- S.I. 31/2016 Non-Commercial Pot Fishing (Lobster and Crab) Regulations 2016

Introduction

National Legislation is in place in Ireland to control non-commercial pot fishing for **Lobster** *(Homarus gammarus)* and **Crab** *(Cancer pagurus, Maja squinado & Necora puber)* by all unlicensed fishing vessels within the internal waters or territorial seas of the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Non-commercial fishing carried out by unlicensed vessels may only take place if there is no intention or attempt to sell or offer for reward the caught fishery products. Any resultant catch may only be for personal consumption.

Lobster
(Homarus gammarus)
FAO Code: **LBE**

Brown Crab (or Edible Crab)
(Cancer pagurus)
FAO Code: **CRE**

Spider Crab
(Maja squinado)
FAO Code: **SCR**

Velvet Crab
(Necora puber)
FAO Code: **LIO**

Figure 1 Source of all images – *Species directory, An Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)*

Control Measures		
	Closed Season (Lobster & Crab)	A closed fishing season between **1st October to 30th April (inclusive)** applies to all relevant crab species and lobster (Figure 1). • **Prohibited** to place pots in sea • **Prohibited** to land, transport, store or retain lobsters or crabs
	V-notched / Mutilated lobsters	Shall not be landed, transported, stored or retained on board the boat. V-notched lobsters and/or mutilated lobsters must be carefully handled and returned to the sea alive immediately.
	Daily catch allowance	A maximum of no more than **one lobster and five crabs** may be landed or retained onboard in any 24-hour period.
	Pot limit	A maximum of **6 pots** in total (per boat) is permitted onboard the boat or in the sea at any time (whether individually or in combination with other persons on board the boat)
	Storage	It is **Prohibited** to store crab or lobster in the sea if the claws are nicked or banded.

"The purpose of this document is to provide information upon **'Non-commercial Pot Fishing in Ireland'.** For the avoidance of doubt, this information does not constitute legal advice or analysis and should not be relied upon as such. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accurate and relevant material is published, no responsibility is accepted by, or on behalf of the SFPA, for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages."

Marker Buoys and Ropes

All fishers who fish using pots (commercial or non-commercial) are reminded of their obligation as per Marine Notice No. 31 of 2023, to use appropriate marker buoys and ropes when engaged in pot fishing.

Commercial Licensing Fishing with the intention to sell catch may only take place when appropriately licensed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Contact the Licensing Authority (licensingauthority@agriculture.gov.ie) for specific information regarding licensing requirements for a commercial fishing vessel wishing to use pots.

Contact Details

sfpafood&fisheriessupport@sfpa.ie

This fisheries information notice was published on 04/03/2025 and replaces FIN 08 of 2021 Non-Commercial Pot Fishing in Ireland

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