



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM  
CHOSAINT  
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES  
PROTECTION  
AUTHORITY

## Press Release

Issued by the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority's Press

12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### **SFPA issues Advice on Closure of Edible Crab and Spider Crab Fisheries in the Biologically Sensitive Area**

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) wishes to advise the fishing industry that the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has issued a Crab Fisheries Management and Conservation Notice, introducing an immediate closure of the edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*) and spider crab (*Maja squinado*) fisheries within Ireland's Biologically Sensitive Area (BSA).

This measure came into force at 16:55 hours on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Under this Notice, masters of Irish sea-fishing vessels 10 metres or greater in length are prohibited from fishing for, retaining on board, or transshipping edible crab or spider crab within the BSA as defined by the Notice.

By way of derogation, vessels that already have crab or spider crab on board within the BSA may retain and land their catch up to 16:55 hours on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025. After this time, no retention or landing of crab species from the area will be permitted. The BSA is defined as the waters off the south and southwest coast of Ireland.

The SFPA reminds all vessel masters and operators that full compliance with the closure notice is mandatory. The SFPA will continue to monitor fishing activity to ensure adherence to these conservation measures.

For assistance or further details please contact: [sfpafood&fisheriessupport@sfpa.ie](mailto:sfpafood&fisheriessupport@sfpa.ie)

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## **Note to Editor**

The Fisheries Management Notice No. 72 of 2025 can be accessed on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's (DAFM's) website under the Fisheries Management Notice 2025 section or directly via the following link: [Fisheries Management Notice No. 72 of 2025 – Crab Fisheries Management and Conservation Notice](#)

## **Further Information**

### **About the SFPA**

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is the independent statutory body responsible for the regulation of the sea-fisheries and the sea-food production sectors. It promotes compliance with the EU Common Fisheries Policy, sea-fisheries law and food safety law relating to fish and fish products, verifies compliance and, where necessary, enforces it. Its mandate covers all fishing vessels operating within Ireland's 200-mile limit, over 2,000 Irish registered fishing vessels wherever they operate, and all seafood produced in Ireland's seafood processing companies. The SFPA operates through a network of regional port offices situated at Ireland's main fishery harbours. For further information visit: [www.sfpa.ie](http://www.sfpa.ie)