

The Great Grid Upgrade

Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5)

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 2

Part 3

Appendix 23.A Supporting Commercial Fisheries Information

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nationalgrid

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23.A. Supporting Information: Commercial Fisheries

23.A.1 Introduction

- 23.A.1.1 This Appendix provides supporting information that has informed the preliminary environmental assessment presented in **Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 23: Commercial Fisheries**. It is to be read in conjunction with the aforementioned chapter.
- 23.A.1.2 The study area for commercial fisheries, as illustrated in **Volume 3, Part 3, Figure 23-1: Commercial Fisheries Study Area**, includes the draft Order Limits, which encompasses the English Offshore Scheme. The study area for commercial fisheries is also defined by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) rectangles which the proposed English Offshore Scheme crosses. Each rectangle is approximately 30 Nautical Miles (NM) wide and is 30 min latitude and 10 longitude in size and is used to record and collate statistical fisheries data. The study area includes 12 ICES rectangles: 35F0, 36F0, 36F1, 37F0, 38E9, 38F0, 39E9, 39F0, 40E9, 40F0, 41E9, and 42E9.
- 23.A.1.3 This Appendix gives an overview of the different types of local fishing methods and gear types which are used within the study area also identifying the nationalities that typically use these methods.
- 23.A.1.4 The Appendix also includes the landings data for each of the individual ICES rectangles within the study area. This includes the top 10 species caught by value and by weight and the different gear types used to make these catches.

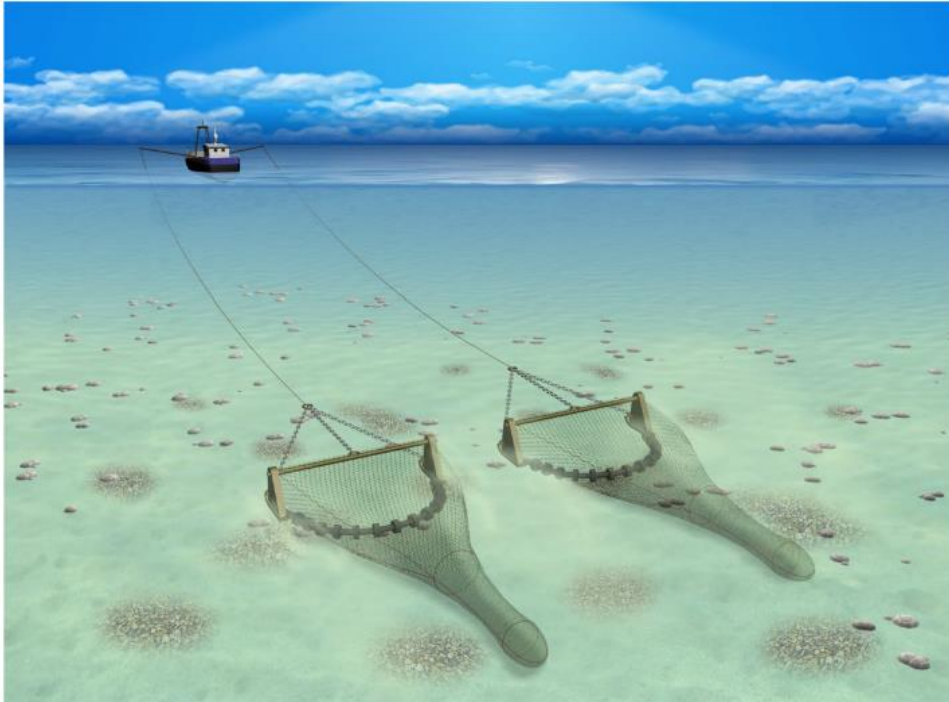
23.A.2 Local fishing methods

- 23.A.2.1 There are different fishing methods used with the study area. The following sections detail these different methods. It should be noted that this provides a high-level overview of the types of gear; however, not all gear types may be used.

Beam Trawl

- 23.A.2.2 A traditional beam trawler comprises of a steel beam held above the seabed by shoes at each end which are attached to a net. The beam is towed using chain bridles which are attached to the shoes. The gear is towed from outrigger booms either side of the vessel. Tickler chains disturb the fish on the seabed which make them rise into the net.
- 23.A.2.3 **Plate 23.A-1** is an example of beam trawling gear which illustrates the trailing nets vary in configuring depending on the target catch.
- 23.A.2.4 This type of gear typically penetrates the seabed to between 25 to 50 mm. This method of fishing is vulnerable to areas of seabed with large obstructions such as infrastructure crossings. Within the study area, beam trawling is used by UK and Dutch fishers, primarily beyond the 12 NM limit.

Plate 23.A-1 Example of a beam trawling gear



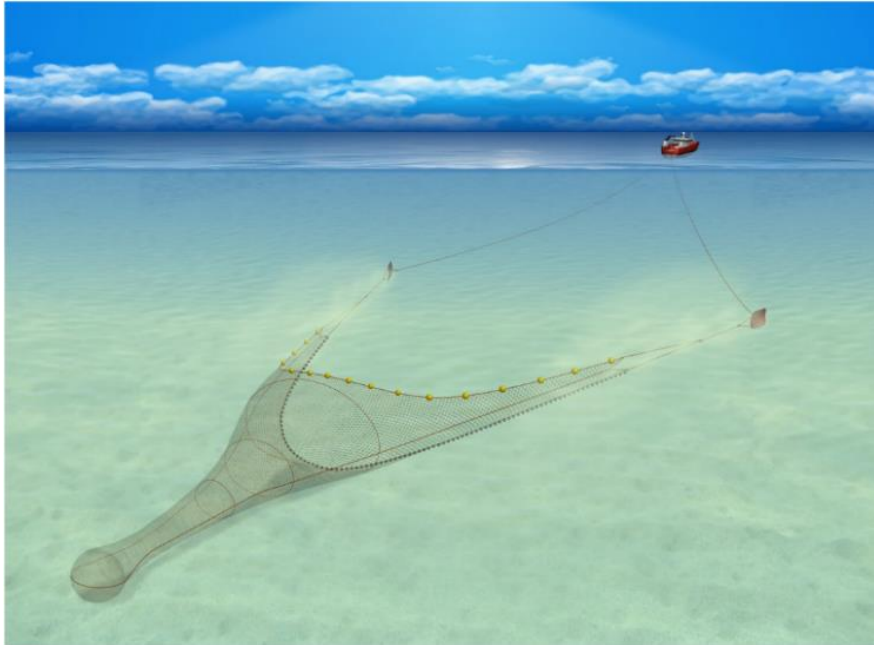
Source: (Ref 23.1)

Demersal trawl

23.A.2.5 Demersal trawl consists of a funnel shaped net which is towed over the seabed (as illustrated in **Plate 23.A-2**). The horizontal opening of the net is held open by a mix of hydrodynamic and ground shear forces acting on the trawl doors. The vertical opening of the net is sustained by a series of floats situated along the net headline. The base of the net is kept on the seabed by a weighted ground line. If fishing over rough ground, it can be fitted with rubber disks known as "rock hoppers". The effective gear width of demersal otter trawls can range between 25 m for smaller vessels and up to 65 m for larger vessels. The towing speeds are dependent on the weather, tidal state and seabed conditions but can be between 2.5 and 3.5 knots.

23.A.2.6 As with the beam trawling gear the demersal trawling nets vary in configuration depending on the target catch. It is sensitive to areas of seabed with large obstructions such as infrastructure crossings. Demersal trawling is used by UK fishers within the study area and primarily supports a Nephrops fishery, along with whitefish (the most valuable species being halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*), monkfish / anglerfish (*Lophius piscatorius*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*), cod (*Gadus morhua*), and whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*)) which utilises single and twin-rigged demersal 'otter' trawls. Squid are also a valuable fishery, though the species are not defined in landings.

Plate 23.A-2 Example of demersal trawl gear

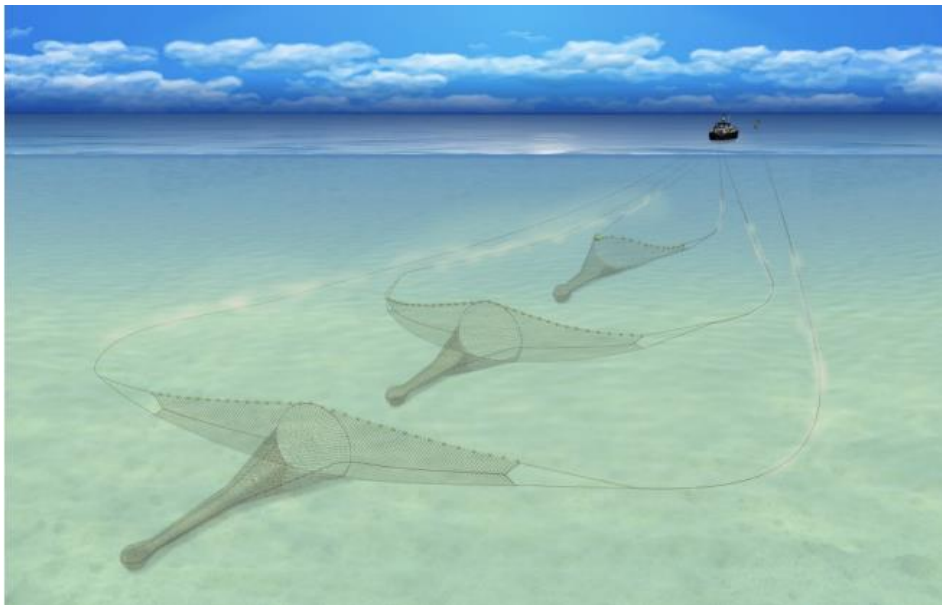


Source: (Ref 23. 1)

Seine Nets

- 23.A.2.7 The main principle of a seine net is that long lengths of ropes are laid on the seabed in a circular shape with the net halfway round the circumference of the circle. The ropes are then slowly closed, and as they move over the seabed they herd demersal fish into the net. There are three main types of seine nets; beach seine, anchor seine and Scottish seine, though there is no evidence of use of beach seine within the study area.
- 23.A.2.8 Scottish seine is a skilful activity requiring extensive knowledge in locating fish within the grounds, accurate rigging of the gear, and consideration of tidal streams in relation to the gear throughout the shooting, towing and hauling operation. **Plate 23.A-3** is an example of Scottish seine gear. Seine gear is used by vessels from the UK and Netherlands within the study area.

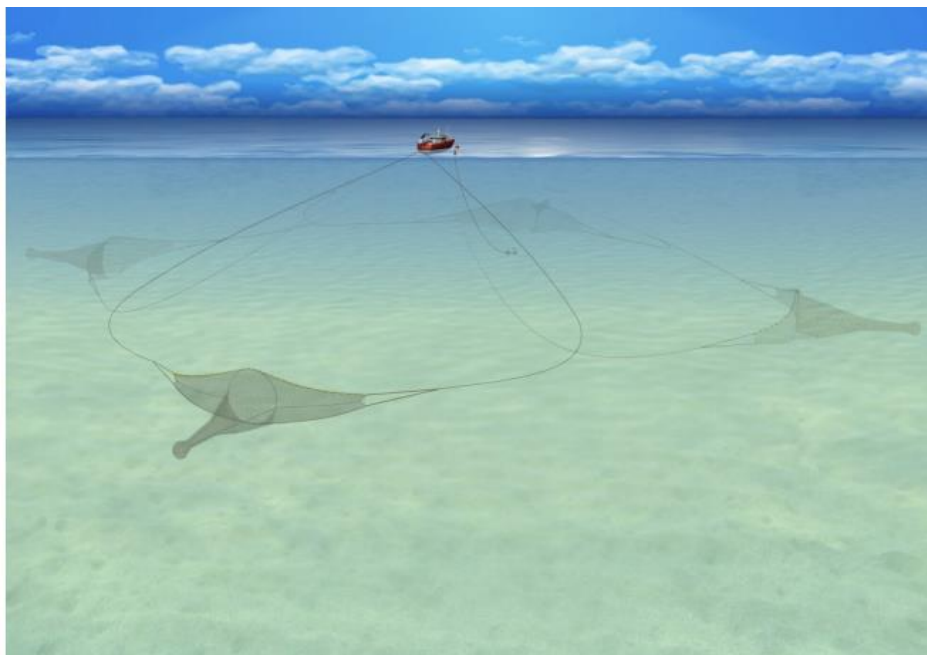
Plate 23.A-3 Example of Scottish seine gear



Source: (Ref 23. 1)

23.A.2.9 Anchor seine is handled in a similar way to Scottish seine, the main difference being that when the dhan (buoy) is shot away the vessel also drops a large anchor to which the dhan is attached. They will shoot the ropes and net as in Scottish seine, but when the boat returns to the dhan, the crew pick up the other end of the seine net ropes and lead them to the winch, but they will also moor the boat to the anchor. **Plate 23.A-4** is an example of anchor seine gear.

Plate 23.A-4 Example of anchor seine gear

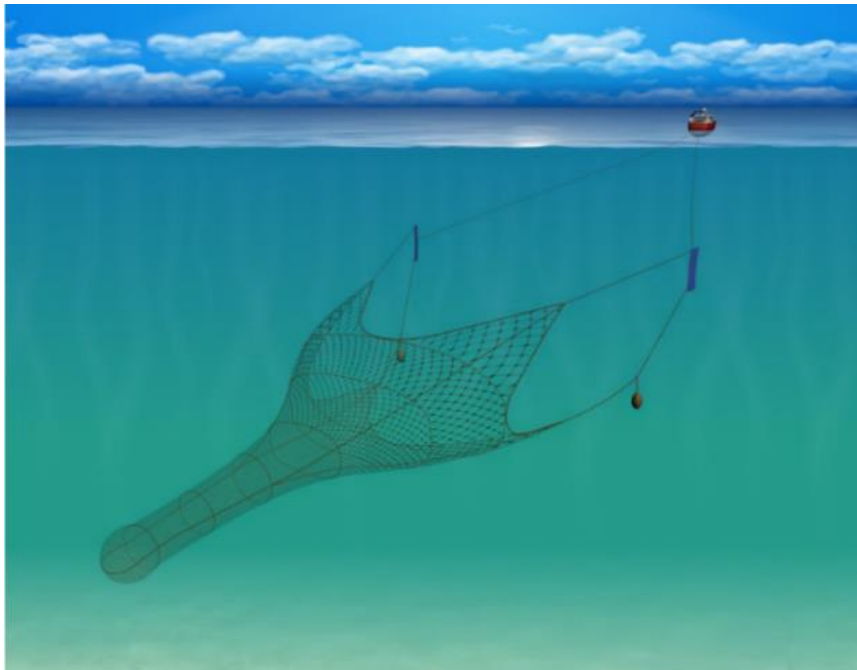


Source: (Ref 23. 1)

Pelagic trawl

23.A.2.10 Pelagic trawl gear is used to catch species such as horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*), herring (*Clupea harengus*), mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) and sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*). It is like those used for demersal species, but the nets are placed higher in the water column and therefore there is no penetration of the seabed with this method. This gear is illustrated in **Plate 23.A-5**. Pelagic trawling is used by English fishers around the study area. Activity for this gear type tends to be in rectangle 37F0.

Plate 23.A-5 Example of pelagic trawl gear



Source: (Ref 23. 1)

Netting

23.A.2.11 Drift and fixed / static nets may be used within the study area, though generally, bottom drift nets are now rarely used by the UK fleet with very limited catches using this gear type. The bottom drift net is suspended in the water with some light contact with the seabed. The nets are approximately 100 m in length, six of which are in one fleet. Vessels tend to work between four or six fleets. The nets are not fixed and therefore are moved by the tide. Examples of bottom and surface fixed nets are illustrated in **Plate 23.A-6** and **Plate 23.A-7**.

23.A.2.12 Static netting is like the bottom drift net but with the fleets anchored at the ends. The anchors penetrate the seabed by between 75 and 100 mm with the nets themselves penetrating up to 25 mm depth (Ref 23.1).

Plate 23.A-6 Example of bottom fixed net gear

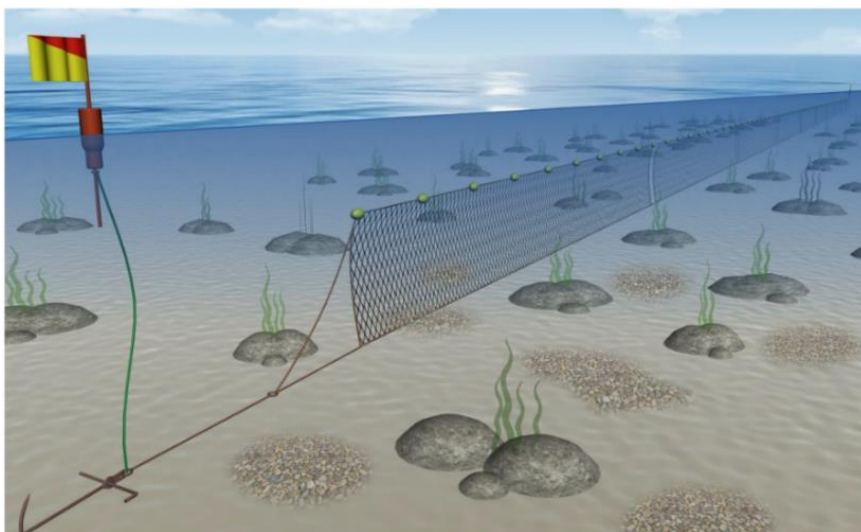
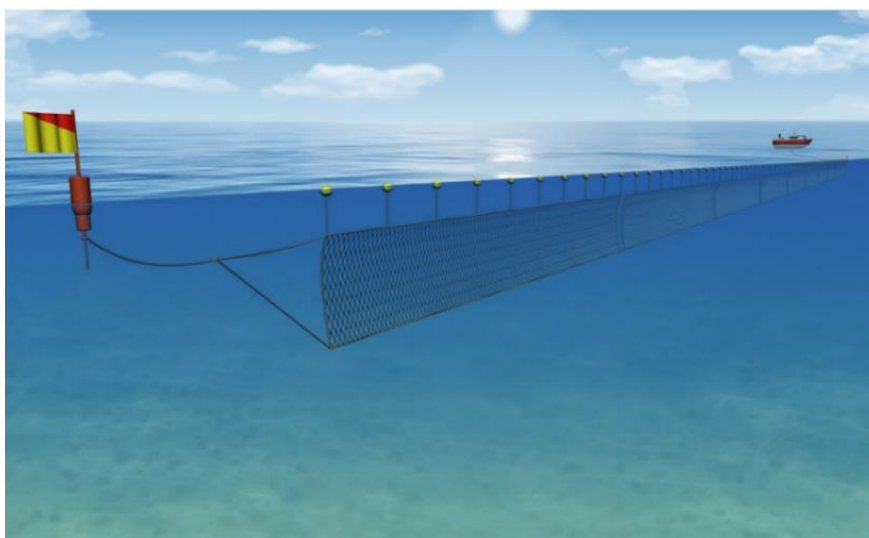


Plate 23.A-7 Example of surface fixed net gear

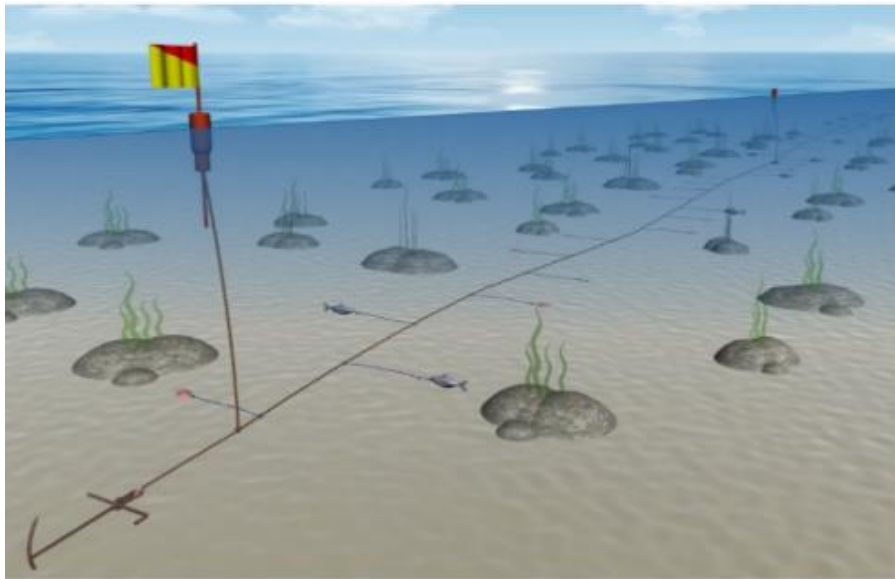


Source: (Ref 23. 1)

Longlining

23.A.2.13 Longlining can be used to target both demersal and pelagic fish species with lines being rigged and set in position within the water column to suit a targeted species. A standard longline comprises of the long length of line with multiple branches of lines with hooks attached at regular intervals. If being used to target demersal species, the lines can be anchored at the ends which would cause some seabed penetration. **Plate 23.A-8** is an example of longlining gear. Longlining gear is used by English fishers around the study area.

Plate 23.A-8 Example of longlining gear

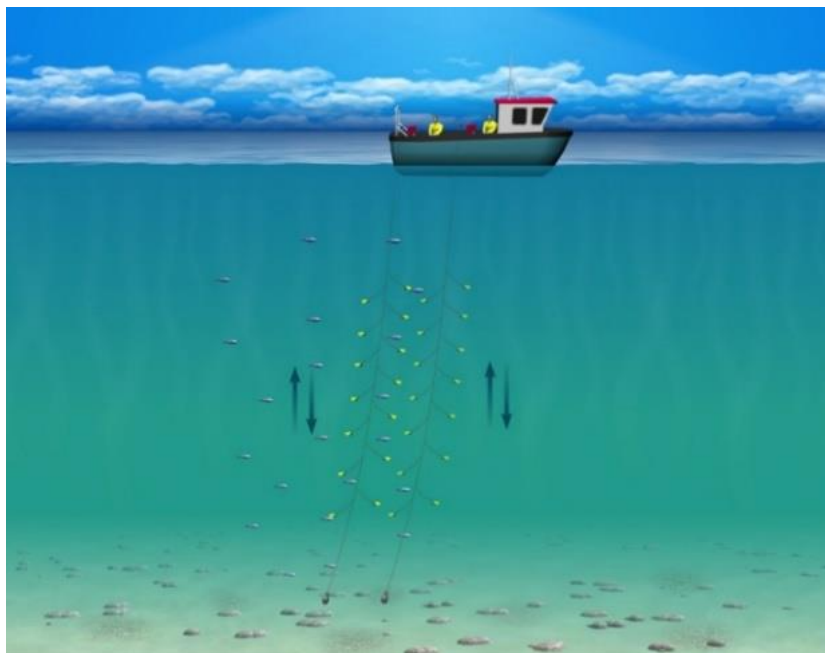


Source: (Ref 23. 1)

Handline

23.A.2.14 Handlining varies depending on where it is happening and what species is being targeted. In general, it uses a baited line from a stationary boat. The fisher pulls the line in by hand, rather than using rods or poles. However, poles and lines can be used. This method would involve a number of rods being set up on a boat. These might be operated by hand or mechanically. Bait is used to attract the target species. **Plate 23.A-9** illustrates this gear type. Handline gear is used within the UK fleet within the 6 NM limit.

Plate 23.A-9 Example of handline gear

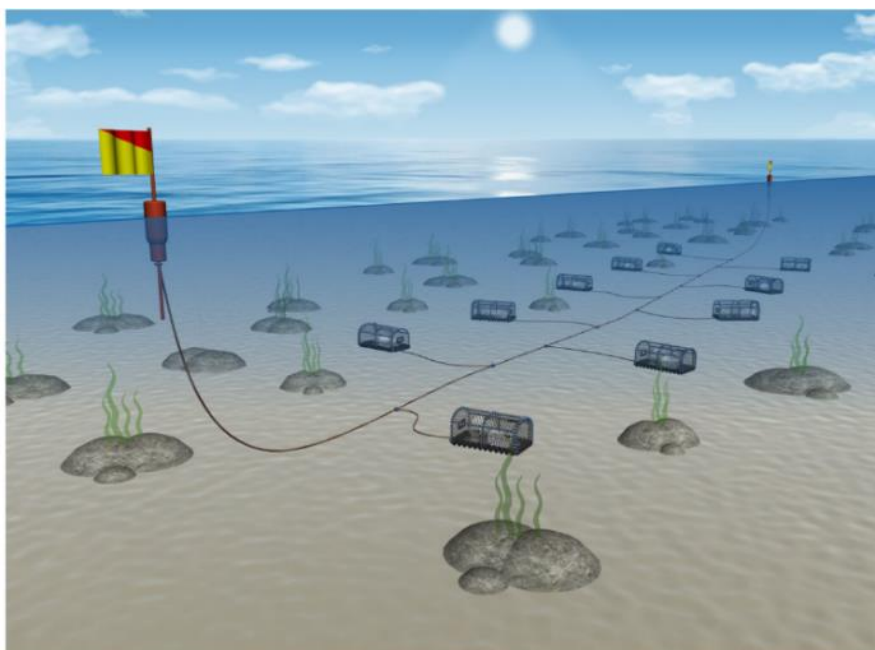


Source: (Ref 23. 1)

Pots and traps

- 23.A.2.15 Shellfish such as common whelk (*Buccinum undatum*), brown / edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*) and European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) are targeted throughout the North Sea, using static gear such as pots (also known as creels). The design of pots will vary depending on region and species being targeted. Generally, the pots have one or more "funnel" shaped openings for the shellfish to enter through. Crab and whelk are targeted on sandy seabed, whilst pots are deployed on hard, rocky ground for lobster.
- 23.A.2.16 Lobster and crab pots tend to be on strings of 15 to 20 pots with most vessels working an average of 100 to 150 pots. These static pots sit on the seabed, left to 'soak' for between a couple of days to a week, and therefore cause no seabed penetration. This is illustrated in **Plate 23.A-10**.
- 23.A.2.17 Whelk are generally caught using a purpose designed pot, which usually consists of modified, weighted plastic drums. The number of whelk pots on a string can be higher than those used for crab or lobster, with up to 80 pots per string. Most fleets' whelk vessels will work on average 600 to 800 pots. Pots and traps are used by UK fleet with most of them used within the 12 NM limit.

Plate 23.A-10 Example of a fleet of pots



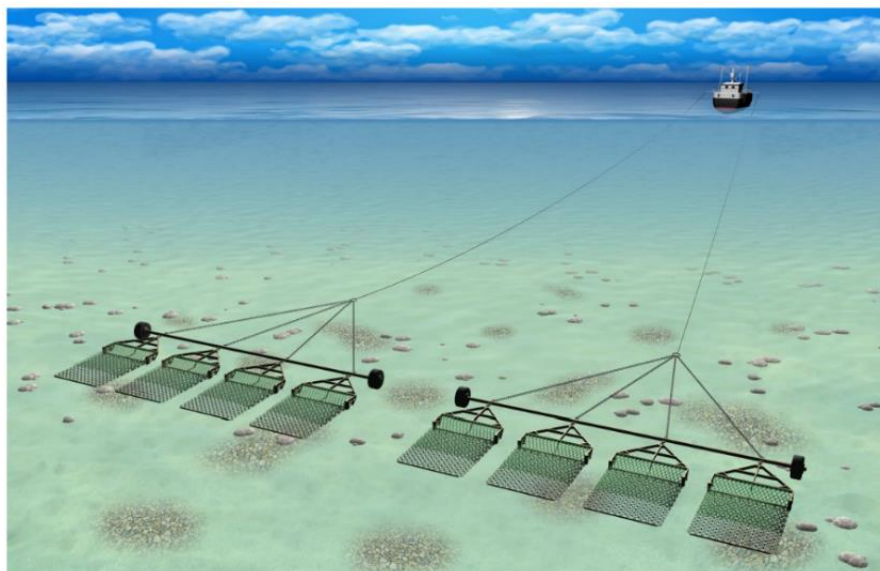
Source: (Ref 23. 1)

Scallop dredging

- 23.A.2.18 Scallop dredging gear are rigid structures which are towed behind a vessel along the seabed. They consist of a triangular frame with a toothed bar at the front which flip scallops out of the seabed in the collecting bag behind it which is a chain link bottom and either a netting or chain link on the top. The size of the bar towing the dredges, and the number of dredges is based on the size and strength of the vessels towing. Smaller, under 10 m vessels may use three or four whereas larger boats around 30 m in length can tow up to 20. **Plate 23.A-11** is an example of scallop dredging gear.
- 23.A.2.19 Scallop fishery is cyclical in nature with the production grounds rotating around the UK on a seven-to-eight-year cycle.

23.A.2.20 Vessels over 10 m who wish to catch scallop require a permit issued from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to allow them to use mechanical dredging gear. Ninety four of the vessels registered at the local ports (those landed to from the 12 ICES rectangles) within the study area currently (as of 2024) hold Scallop licences, though major ports on the south of England accounted for the majorities of these licences (for example, 45 Brixham vessels have Scallop licences, and 14 Plymouth vessels have Scallop licences).

Plate 23.A-11 Example of scallop dredging gears



Source: (Ref 23. 1)

23.A.3 Overview of landings data within the study area

23.A.3.1 The following sections looks at the landings data within each of the ICES rectangles that the study area Intersect. This information is taken from the MMO UK Sea fisheries annual statistics which are issued annually (Ref 23.2). These statistics show the catch data from the previous year and four further years before that, 2020 to 2024. This allows the data from previous years to be compared to identify trends or anomalies in the catch.

23.A.3.2 It is acknowledged that publicly available statistics will underrepresent the inshore fleet; fishing vessels <12 m are not required to carry Automatic Identification Systems (AIS). Landings data derived from the MMO catch statistics provide a general overview of fishing effort as fishers can sell catch directly in quantities <30 kg. Data will be supplemented with data received through consultation with the local fisheries stakeholders if available.

23.A.3.3 For each ICES rectangle analysed, the different species caught by their catch value and their catch weight (in tonnes (t)) are displayed via graphs showing the top 10 species over a five-year period. Additionally, the different types of fishing methods used within each area and the catch values of these different gear types are examined.

35FO

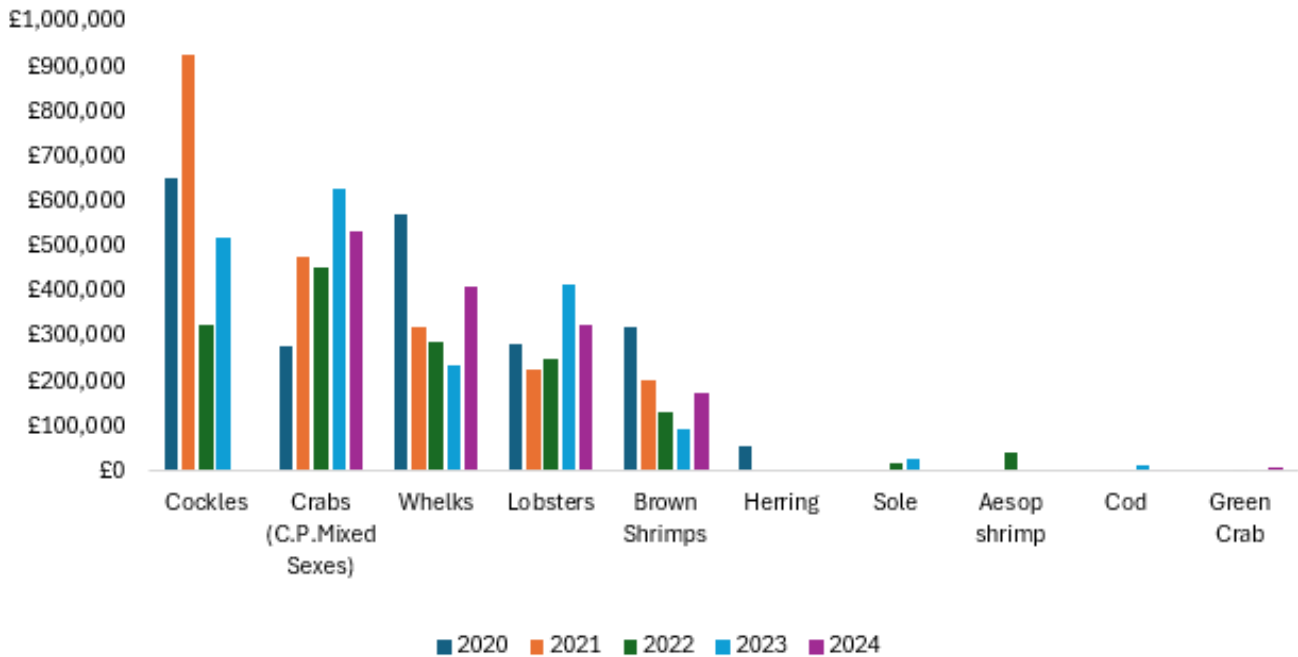
23.A.3.4 ICES rectangle 35FO is the rectangle within which the Anderby Creek Landfall in Lincolnshire lies. It is primarily fished by the UK inshore fleet, and is the third most valued rectangle for the under 10 m vessels due to the high quantity of shellfish caught in this area, with six of the top ten species being shellfish as shown in **Plate 23.A-12**.

23.A.3.5 This is also the case by weight as show in **Plate 23.A-13**.

23.A.3.6 It is the only rectangle where ‘other mobile gear’ is used as shown in **Table 23.A-1**, in this case the use of hydraulic suction dredgers which are used to catch cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*). The cockle catch in 35F0 is the highest value and highest catch weight species caught as shown in **Plate 23.A-12** and **Plate 23.A-13**. Cockles are targeted between July and December in The Wash, the majority of which is outside the study area.

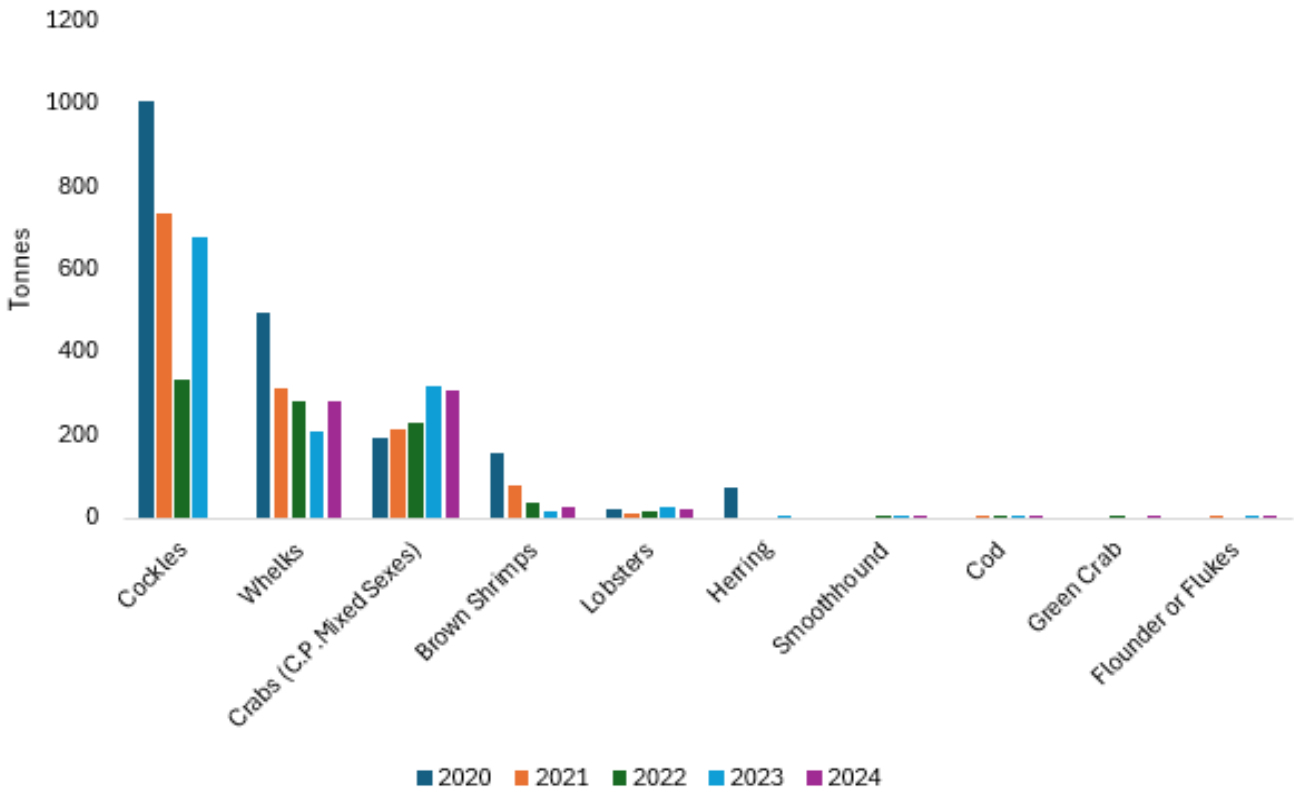
23.A.3.7 Other shellfish species such as crabs, lobsters and whelks are caught using pots or traps which are caught all year round.

Plate 23.A-12 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 35F0



Source: (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-13 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 35F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-1 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 35F0 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pots and traps	1,224,439	1,088,681	978,480	1,279,891	1,275,008
Other mobile gears	664,980	912,351	280,006	517,571	-
Beam trawl	197,590	148,513	158,147	88,103	173,797
Demersal trawls	14,550	5,497	18,946	52,682	7,458
Dredge	2,286	3,310	75,010	792	-
Pelagic trawls	58,646	-	-	-	-
Handlines	-	-	-	8,609	2,724
Drift and fixed nets	-	-	-	907	2,576
Longlines	-	81	-	972	1,997
Unknown	-	-	-	-	560

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.8 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in October, though this was closely followed by July and May landings (Table 23.A-2). The highest contributors to landed weight were edible crab, and whelk, and the months of lowest catch weight were January and December (Table 23.A-2).

Table 23.A-2 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 35F0 by weight (t) (year 2024)

Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	9.2	8.3	8.4	18.3	29.1	38.9	46.4	31.2	23.7	46.3	23.1	25.1	307.9
Whelks	Shellfish	11.2	42.3	48.0	31.6	34.8	23.0	22.6	14.6	1.2	19.1	24.8	11.1	284.4
Brown Shrimps	Shellfish	0.1	0.9	3.0	3.3	4.2	1.9	0.5	3.3	2.2	6.4	1.3	0.6	27.7
Lobsters	Shellfish	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.3	2.1	1.3	3.5	5.1	4.0	3.1	1	1.1	24.1
Green Crab	Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.4	-	4.6
Flounder or Flukes	Demersal	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.5
Dabs	Demersal	-	-	-	-	-	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.3
Nephrops	Demersal	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.7	0.7
Smoothhound	Demersal	-	-	-	-	-	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.7
Crabs - Velvet	Shellfish	0.1	0.1		0.1	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Total		21	52.2	59.9	54.5	70.2	68.6	75.0	54.6	32.5	75.6	50.6	38.6	653.3

Source (Ref 23.2)

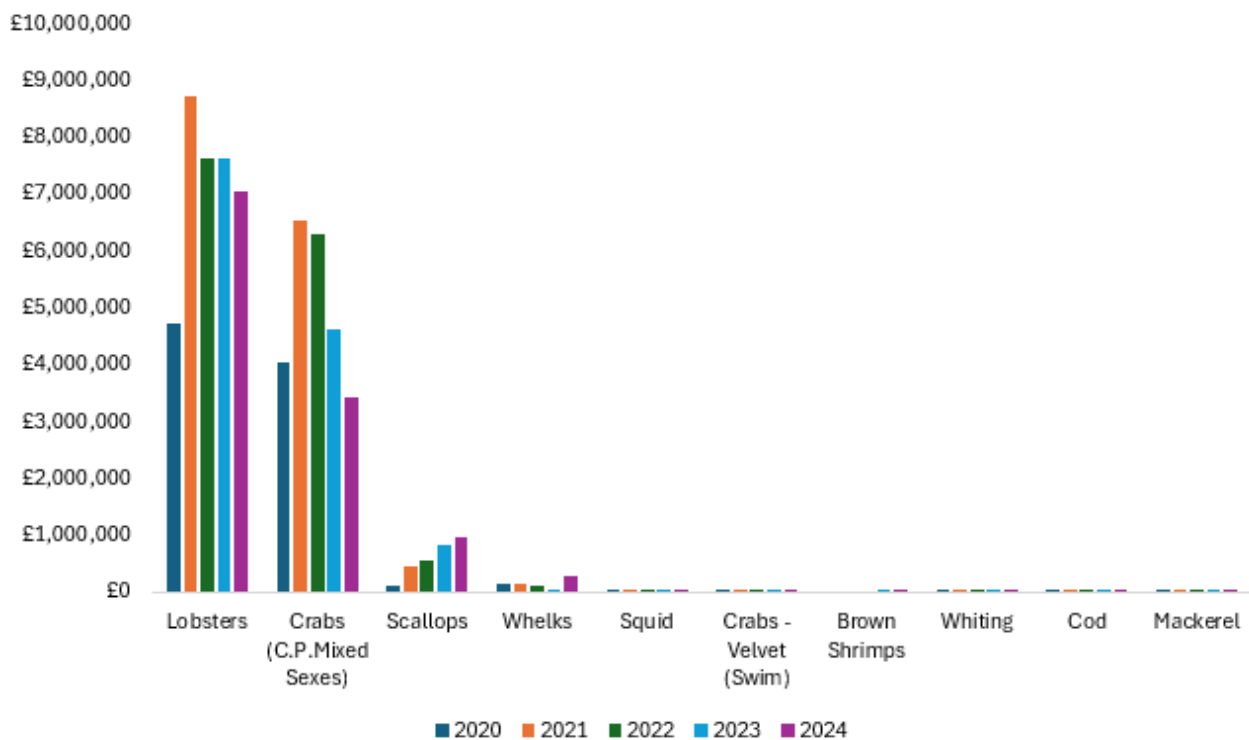
36FO

23.A.3.9 36FO is off the coasts of South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire. Rectangle 36FO has the highest catch value within the study area, with a value of over £52 million over the last five years, which is twice as much as any other rectangle. In 2024, 99.8%, over £11 million of the catch value was from shellfish which illustrates how important the shellfish industry is in this area. The bulk of this total is from crab and lobsters as shown in **Plate 23.A-14** and **Plate 23.A-15**.

23.A.3.10 Most vessels that fish within this rectangle are over 10 m, though it is also fished by the smaller UK inshore fleet. As well as the UK over 10 m fleet there is evidence of German and French trawling vessels. This is illustrated in **Volume 3, Part 3, Figure 23-6: Surveillance sightings by vessel nationality during 2018 to 2023**. Most surveillance sightings are in the rectangles which are closest to the coastline, this is primarily due to the size of the vessels. The smaller < 10 m vessels tend to fish closer to shore whereas the bigger vessels can go further offshore. Many of the European vessels sighted are in rectangles further offshore, this again is primarily due to the larger size of the European vessels.

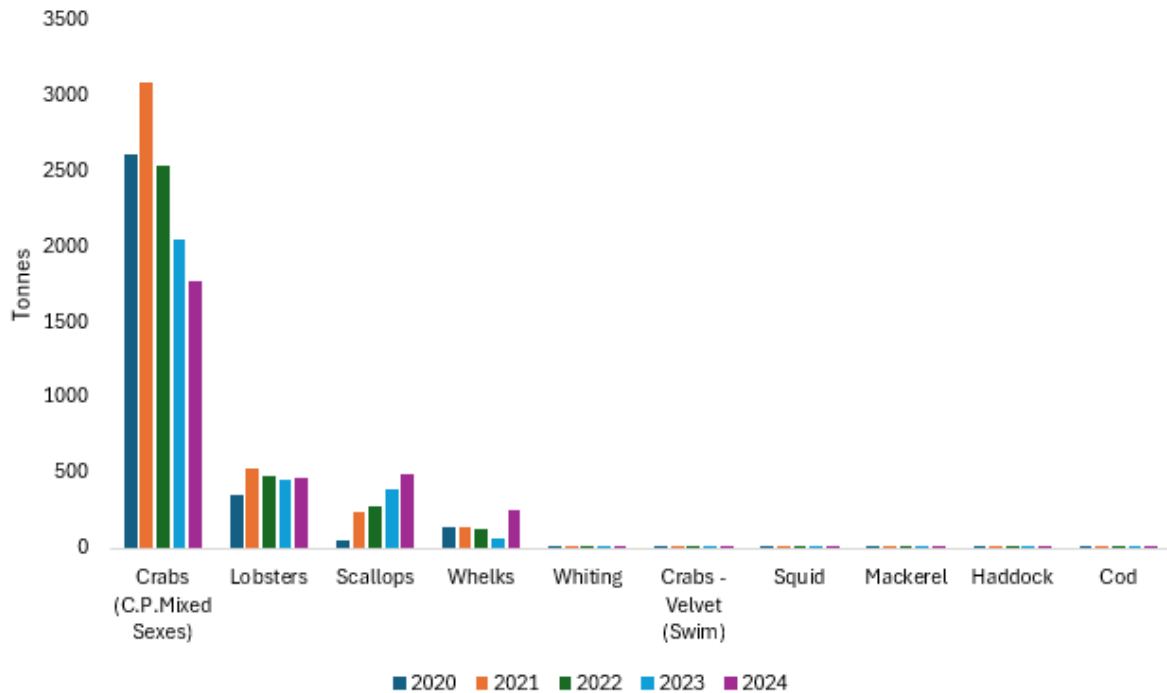
23.A.3.11 The most used fishing gear type in 36FO is pots and traps, with the second most popular gear type used being dredging primarily to target scallops (king scallop (*Pecten maximus*) and queen scallop (*Aequipecten opercularis*) as shown in **Table 23.A-3**. The MMO catch statistics show very little use of demersal trawling between 2020 and 2024 though there has been some use of demersal seine gear. This is illustrated in **Volume 3, Part 3, Figure 23-3: Bottom seines and dredging effort within the Study Area**.

Plate 23.A-14 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 36FO



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-15 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 36F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-3 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 36F0 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pots and traps	8,933,000	15,435,916	14,071,796	12,330,512	10,790,520
Dredge	113,106	446,238	573,985	823,579	957,688
Beam trawl	19,590	-	-	43,199	20,646
Demersal seine	31,194	49,780	39,035	35,872	14,097
Drift and fixed nets	4,016	1,970	14,332	630	4,147
Longlines	5,803	434	-	14,045	3,878
Unknown	-	-	-	-	1,762
Handlines	-	-	-	867	-
Demersal trawls	-	609	-	-	-

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.12 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in July, though this was closely followed by October and August landings (**Table 23.A-4**). The highest contributors to landed weight were edible crab, and scallop, and the months of lowest catch weight were January and December (**Table 23.A-4**).

Table 23.A-4 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 36F0 by weight (t) (year 2024)

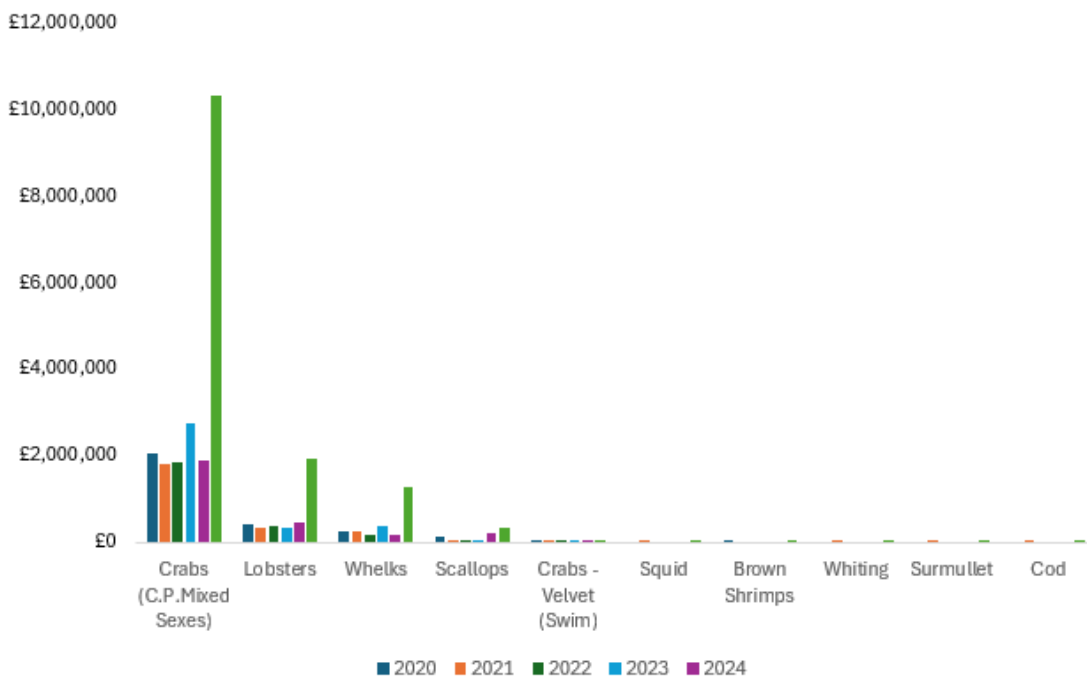
Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	99.7	117.0	87.4	91.5	88.1	98.4	220.0	191.6	176.1	298.0	172.8	126.7	1,767.4
Scallops	Shellfish	-	-	106.0	85.2	113.4	149.5	36.4	-	-	-	-	-	490.5
Lobsters	Shellfish	10.1	13.2	11.3	20.1	24.6	24.7	97.4	102.9	61.4	48.4	31.7	16.7	462.7
Whelks	Shellfish	6.3	34.8	32.5	18.1	54.3	23.4	27.9	6.1	5.5	20.4	29.1		258.3
Crabs - Velvet	Shellfish	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.6	2.0	1.5	2.8	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	9.4
Green Crab	Shellfish	-	-	-	1.0	0.7	-	-	0.6	2.0	-	-	-	4.3
Mackerel	Pelagic	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	0.1	-	-	-	-	2.4
Brown Shrimps	Shellfish	-	-	0.5	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8
Cod	Demersal	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	1.7
Whiting	Shellfish	0.1	-	0.0	-	-	-	1.0	0.6	-	-	-	-	1.6
Total		116.9	165.8	238.3	218.1	283.1	297.6	387.7	302.2	245.8	367.1	233.8	143.6	3,000

Source (Ref 23.2)

36F1

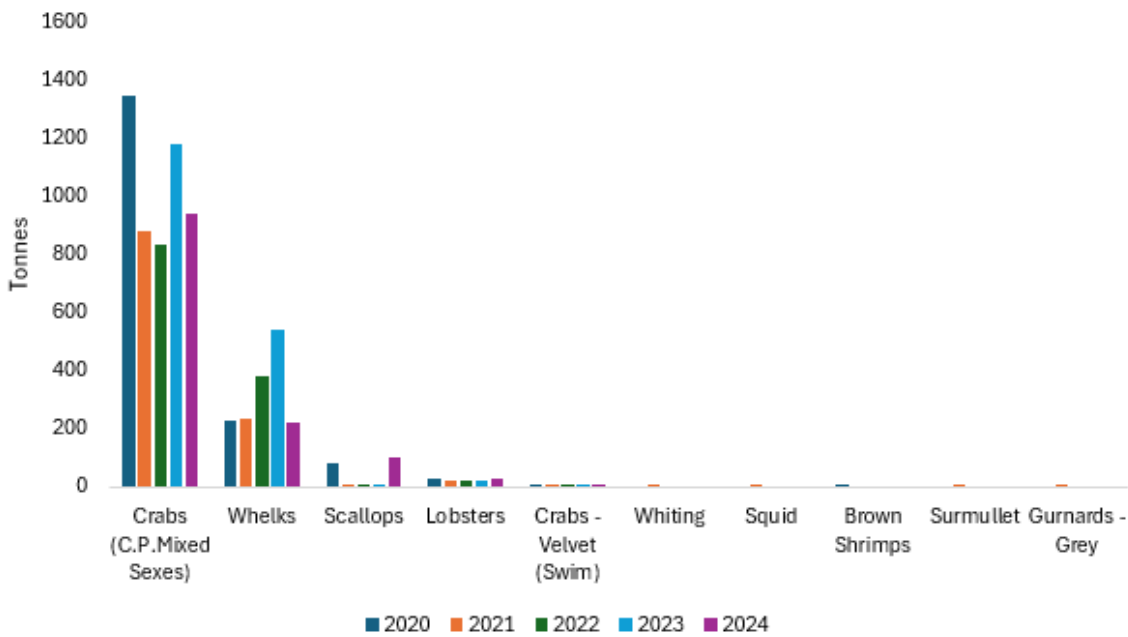
- 23.A.3.13 ICES rectangle 36F1 is off the coasts of South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire within the southern North Sea. Rectangle 36F1 has the second highest catch value within the study area 2024, with a value of over £2.7 million. In 2024, the entirety of the catch value was from shellfish which illustrates the importance of this fishery, as shown in **Plate 23.A-16** and **Plate 23.A-17**.
- 23.A.3.14 Crabs and lobster are the targeted catch, albeit with smaller volumes of whelk and scallop being landed.
- 23.A.3.15 The most used fishing gear type in 36F1 is pots and traps, with dredges being the second most popular gear type used as shown in **Table 23.A-5**.

Plate 23.A-16 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 36F1



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-17 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 36F1



Source (23.2)

Table 23.A-5 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 36F1 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pots and traps	2,731,424	2,398,795	2,420,423	3,477,180	2,512,602
Dredge	140,436	644	8,934	5,983	205,088
Demersal seine	-	10,867	-	-	-

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.16 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in October (**Table 23.A-6**). The highest contributors to landed weight were velvet and edible crab, and the month of lowest catch was January (**Table 23.A-6**).

Table 23.A-6 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 36F1 by weight (t) (year 2024)

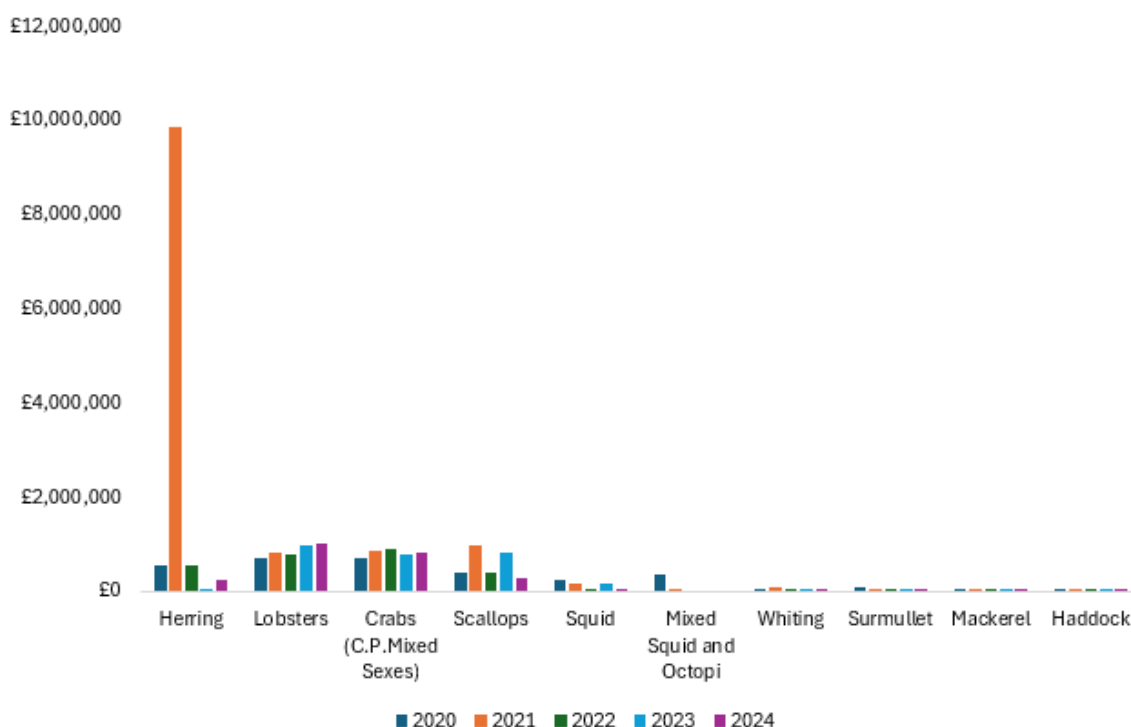
Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Crabs - Velvet	Shellfish	0.1	0.5	-	-	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.7	1	0.4	0.2	5.7
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	48.0	30.3	15.2	9.3	14.6	21.1	148.2	90.7	111.8	198.1	167.7	86.0	941
Lobsters	Shellfish	1.3	1.2	0.5	2.9	1.2	0.9	2	3.9	4.9	4.1	2	2.2	27.2
Scallops	Shellfish	-	-	37.4	21.9	-	40.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.1
Whelks	Shellfish	8.5	36	45.5	30.1	53.9	21.6	11.9	0.3	0.9	0.6	-	11.6	220.9
Total		58.0	67.9	98.6	64.2	69.7	84.9	162.4	95.8	119.4	203.9	170.2	100	1,295

Source (Ref 23.2)

37F0

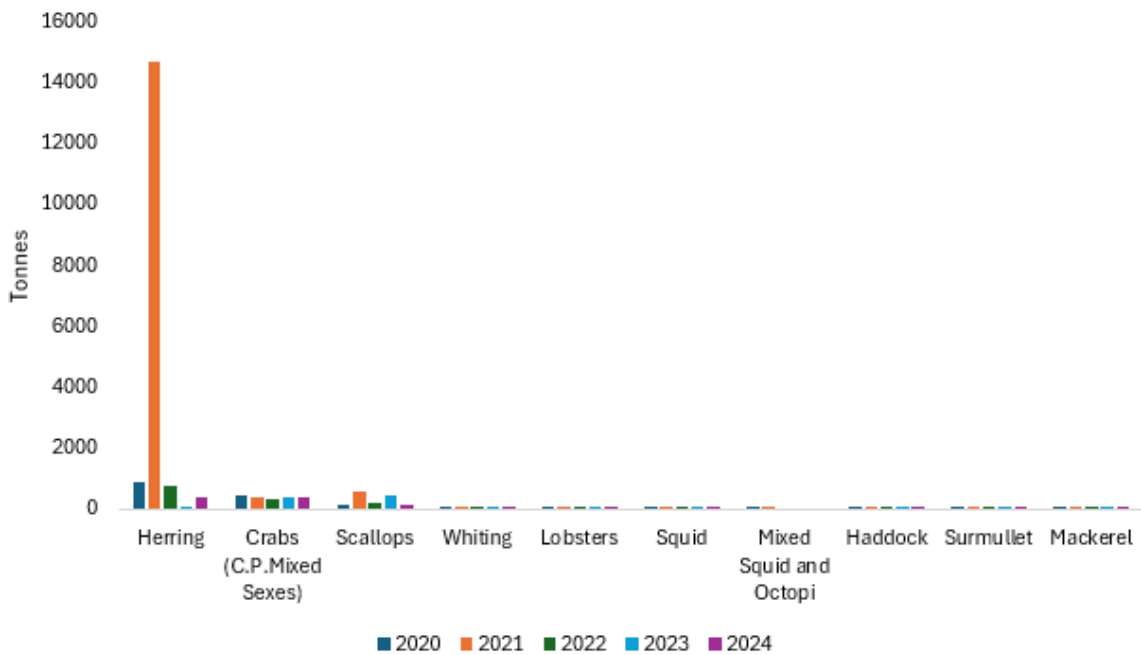
- 23.A.3.17 37F0 is off the coast of Yorkshire. The use of pots and traps is prevalent in ICES rectangle 37F0 to target crabs and lobsters as shown in **Table 23.A-7**, along with dredging gear to catch scallops. The shellfish catch in 2024 accounted for 87% of the catch value primarily from crab, lobster and scallops.
- 23.A.3.18 However, as can be shown in **Plate 23.A-18** and **Plate 23.A-19** there is also evidence of a high pelagic trawl usage. In 2021 the catch of herring accounted for 74% of the annual catch value and in 2024 had a landings value of £261,078.
- 23.A.3.19 It should also be noted that the herring anomaly in 2021 was only from September by vessels over 40 m, with most of these vessels coming from Norway rather than the UK fleet. This also illustrates how seasonality and annual variation can affect the catch value.
- 23.A.3.20 Most of the surveillance sightings are of the UK fleet but there is evidence of vessels from Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Belgium, Germany and Norway as illustrated in **Volume 3, Part 3, Figure 23-6: Surveillance sightings by vessel nationality during 2018 to 2023**.

Plate 23.A-18 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 37F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-19 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 37F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-7 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 36F0 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Demersal seine	768,326	355,718	143,178	302,221	38,839
Pelagic trawls	291,277	9,898,303	565,338	-	263,943
Pots and traps	1,443,295	1,717,514	1,717,200	1,756,686	1,846,097
Dredge	410,294	982,551	399,802	828,255	282,038
Demersal trawls	280,402	516	1,823	-	-
Beam trawl	84,888	-	-	67	-
Drift and fixed nets	-	21	-	-	-
Demersal seine	768,326	355,718	143,178	302,221	38,839
Pelagic trawls	291,277	9,898,303	565,338	-	263,943

Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-8 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 36F0 by weight (t) (year 2024)

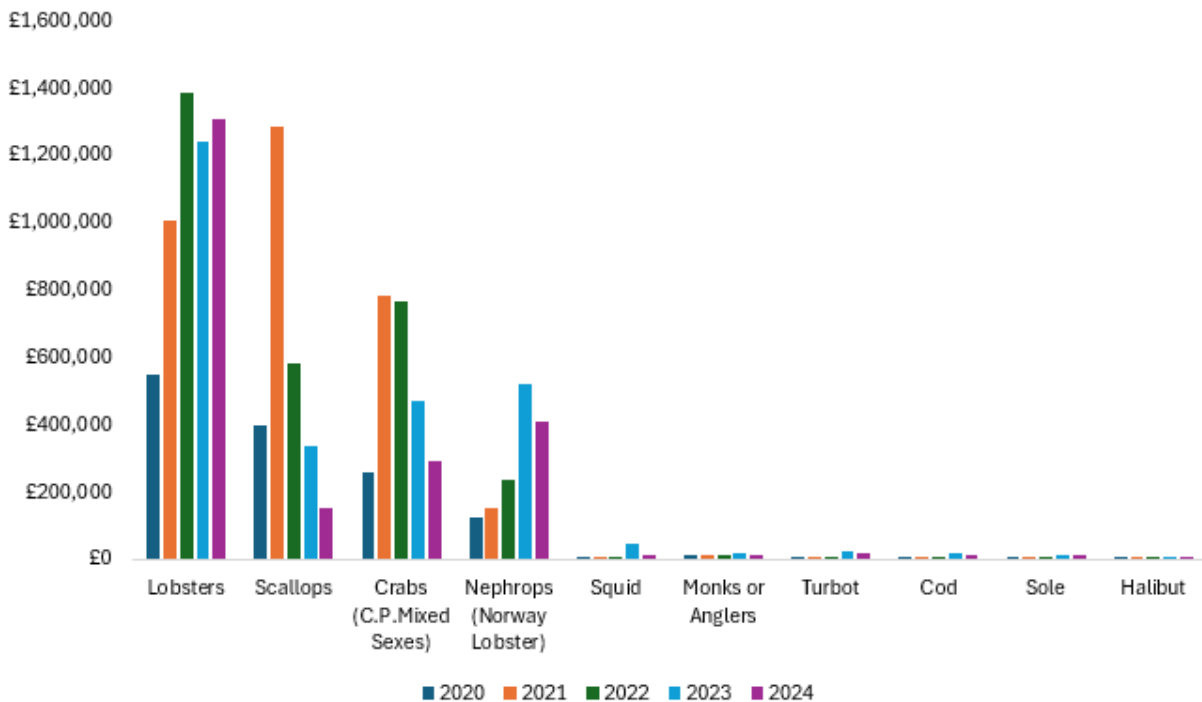
Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	20.3	17	6	9.3	6.3	6.4	25.6	34.0	51.9	149.3	66.3	24.1	416.5
Herring	Pelagic	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	0.9	396.4	-	-	-	397.8
Scallops	Shellfish		1.5	39.5	31.9	48.4	7.7	8.9	-	-	13.1	0.5	-	151.6
Lobsters	Shellfish	4.8	2.9	1.3	2	2.3	1.9	7.3	5.2	5.6	10.1	8.4	6.8	58.5
Whiting	Demersal	-	-	-	-	4.6	-	-	3.3	3.4	-	-	-	11.3
Mackerel	Pelagic	-	-	-	-	1.1	-	-	3.4	2.5	-	-	-	7
Haddock	Demersal	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3.0	1.1	-	-	-	6.1
Cod	Demersal	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	-	-	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	1
Squid	Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	0.1	-	-	-	0.5
Surmullet	Demersal	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	0.4	0.1	-	-	-	0.5
Total		25.2	21.4	47.1	43.2	65.6	16	41.8	50.7	461.3	172.6	75.2	30.9	1050.8

Source (Ref 23.2)

38E9

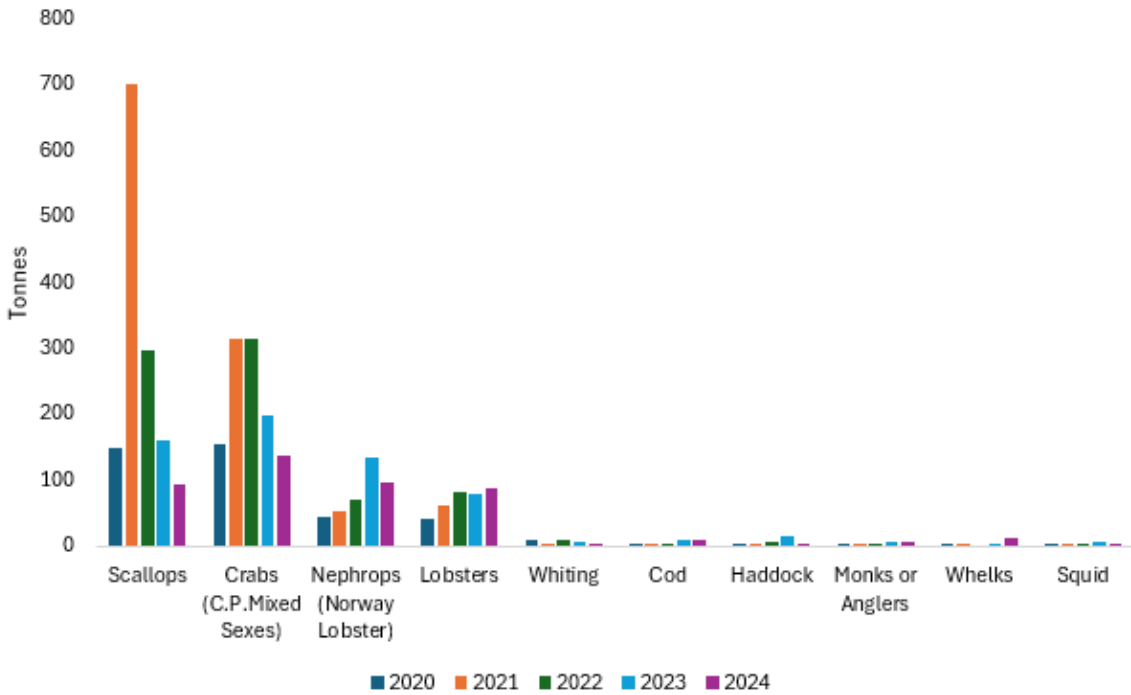
- 23.A.3.21 38E9 is off the North Yorkshire Coast and as with many of the rectangles along the study area, shellfish catch is the most important and the highest value in terms of weight and monetary value. Five of the top 10 species caught by value are shellfish with lobster, scallops and crabs being the most caught species as illustrated in **Plate 23.A-20** and **Plate 23.A-21**.
- 23.A.3.22 In terms of weight scallops and crabs are the most prevalent as illustrated in **Plate 23.A-21** – species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 38E9.
- 23.A.3.23 Pots and traps are the main gear type used but there is also high-level use of dredging gear to primarily catch scallops as well as demersal trawlers targeting species such as cod, halibut and sole (*Solea solea*) as shown in **Table 23.A-9**. However, the demersal catch in 2024 only accounted for 3.6% of the overall catch value of this rectangle.
- 23.A.3.24 In terms of vessel nationality, the MMO surveillance sightings only show UK vessels fishing within this rectangle as illustrated in **Figure 23-6: Surveillance sightings by vessel nationality during 2018 to 2023**.

Plate 23.A-20 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 38E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-21 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 38E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-9 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 38E9 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pots and traps	806,663	1,802,238.47	2,150,101	1,715,636	1,620,753
Dredge	395,025	1,271,111	491,105	205,683	44,071
Demersal trawls	168,253	202,878	391,169	769,713	497,134
Beam trawl	6,000	-	-	40,220	112,530
Demersal seine	1,331	-	-	-	-
Drift and fixed nets	-	-	424	-	352
Handlines	-	-	-	-	97
Unknown	-	-	-	-	1

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.25 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in May, though this was closely followed by July landings (**Table 23.A-10**). The highest contributors to landed weight were edible crab, and scallop, and the month of lowest catch weight was September (**Table 23.A-10**).

Table 23.A-10 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 38E9 by weight (t) (year 2024)

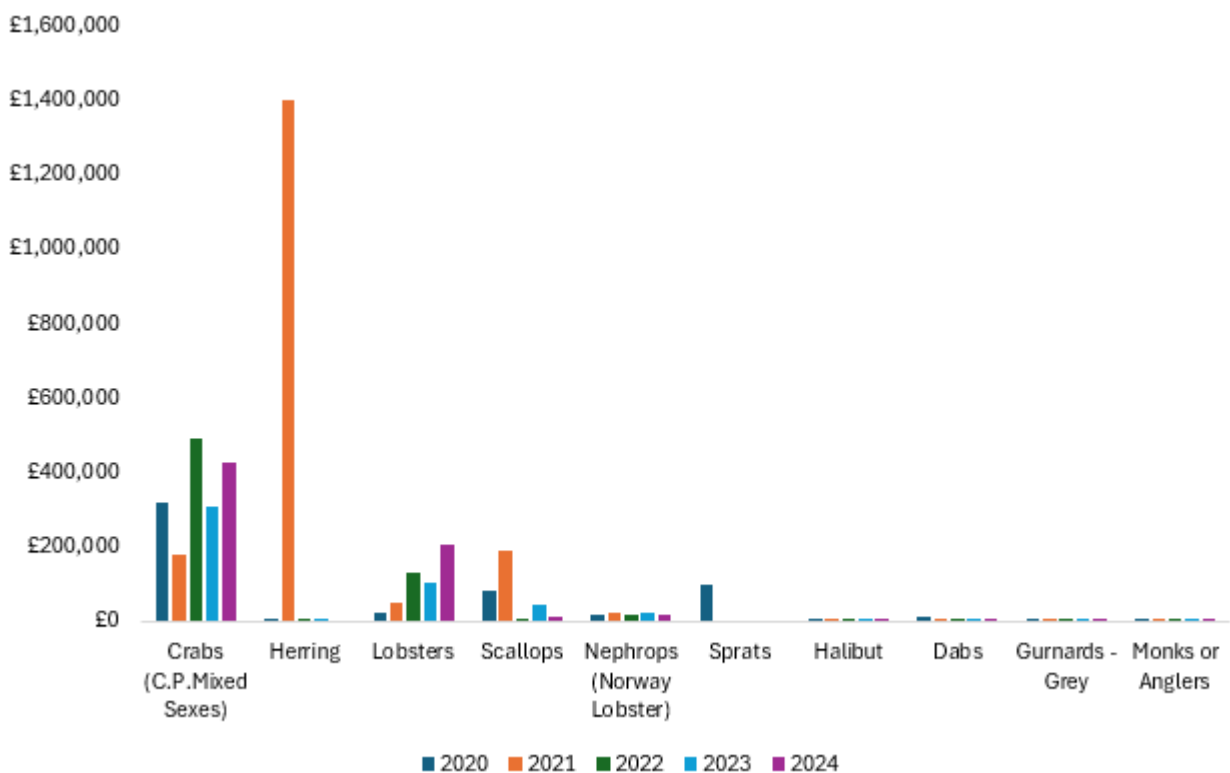
Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	19.4	11.7	6	5	7.4	8.2	14.7	14.4	9.9	19.9	11.9	9.4	138
Scallops	Shellfish	2.1	1.6	7.1	5.9	45.5	21.3	6.8	0.0	0.1	3.0	0.1	0.1	93.5
Lobsters	Shellfish	2.2	2.1	1.6	2.0	4.3	8.7	22.4	20.2	7.6	8.2	4.4	4.4	88.2
Nephrops	Shellfish	2.8	7.2	9.4	1	0.1	3.4	12.8	6.3	0.0	10.0	16.6	8.0	77.5
Whelks	Shellfish	-	-	-	1.1	6.5	4.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	12.2
Cod	Demersal	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	3.3	3.4	0.4	9.4
Monks or Anglers	Demersal	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.3	1.3	0.3	4.6
Whiting	Demersal	0.1	0.3	0.1	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.3	-	-	0.1	1.1	0.1	3.8
Haddock	Demersal	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2	-	0.2	1.1	0.4	3.2
Sole	Demersal	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.4	3
Total		27.3	23.8	24.8	17.5	64.0	46.8	58.3	42.2	17.8	47	40.4	23.5	433.3

Source (Ref 23.2)

38F0

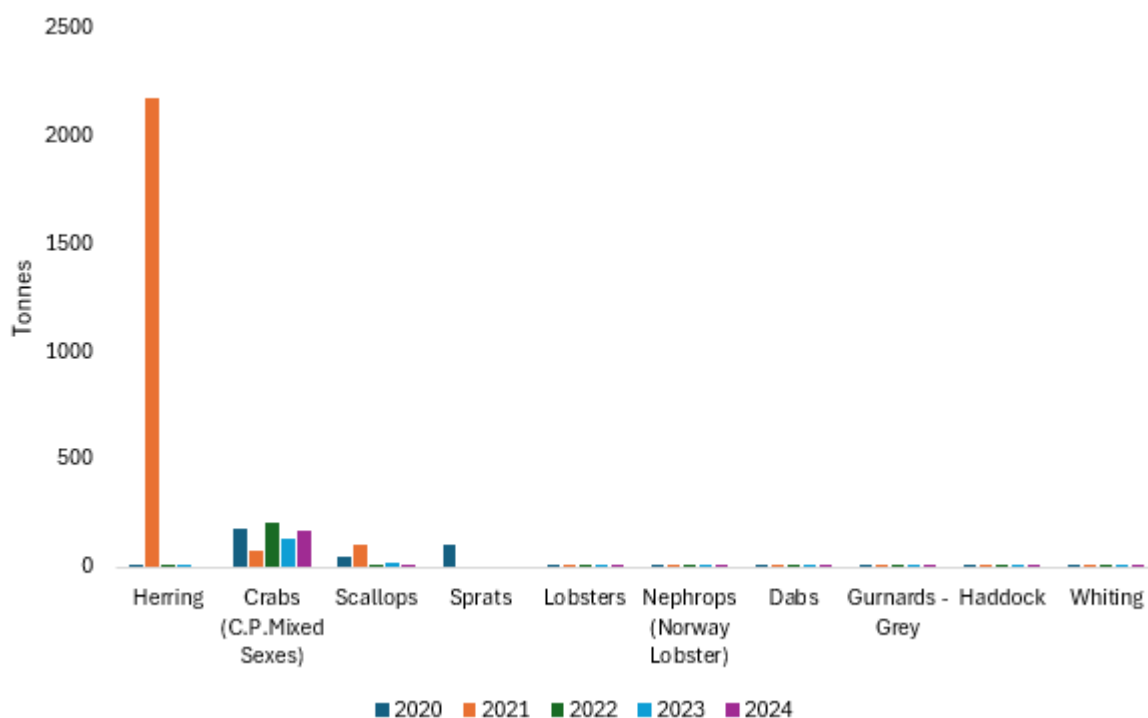
- 23.A.3.26 38F0 is approximately 50 km off the coast of Yorkshire. Like ICES rectangle 37F0, rectangle 38F0 demonstrates the anomaly of herring catch in 2021. Apart from this anomaly the most valuable catches are still that of shellfish. Five of the top 10 species caught by value are shellfish with lobster, scallops and crabs being the most caught species as shown in **Plate 23.A-22** and **Plate 23.A-23**.
- 23.A.3.27 Pots and traps are the main gear type used but there is also medium-level use of dredging gear to primarily catch scallops as well as demersal trawlers targeting species such as haddock and halibut as shown in **Table 23.A-11**. The demersal catch in 2024 only accounted for 2% of the overall catch value of this rectangle, and pelagic landings did not occur in this year.
- 23.A.3.28 The MMO surveillance sightings show that this rectangle is fished by vessels from the UK and France as illustrated in **Volume 3, Part 3, Figure 23-6: Surveillance sightings by vessel nationality during 2018 to 2023**.

Plate 23.A-22 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 38F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-23 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 38F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-11 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 38F0 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pots and traps	340,972	230,734	623,277	417,177	635,787
Pelagic trawls	98,821	1,399,446	-	670	-
Dredge	80,836	189,805	3,172	47,237	11,930
Demersal trawls	51,689	47,387	34,351	30,988	30,302
Beam trawl	413.37	-	-	-	-

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.29 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in October (**Table 23.A-12**). The highest contributors to landed weight were edible crab, and lobster, and the months of lowest catch weight were January to June, implying a scarce winter fishery which resumes in the summer months (**Table 23.A-12**).

Table 23.A-12 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 38F0 by weight (t) (year 2024)

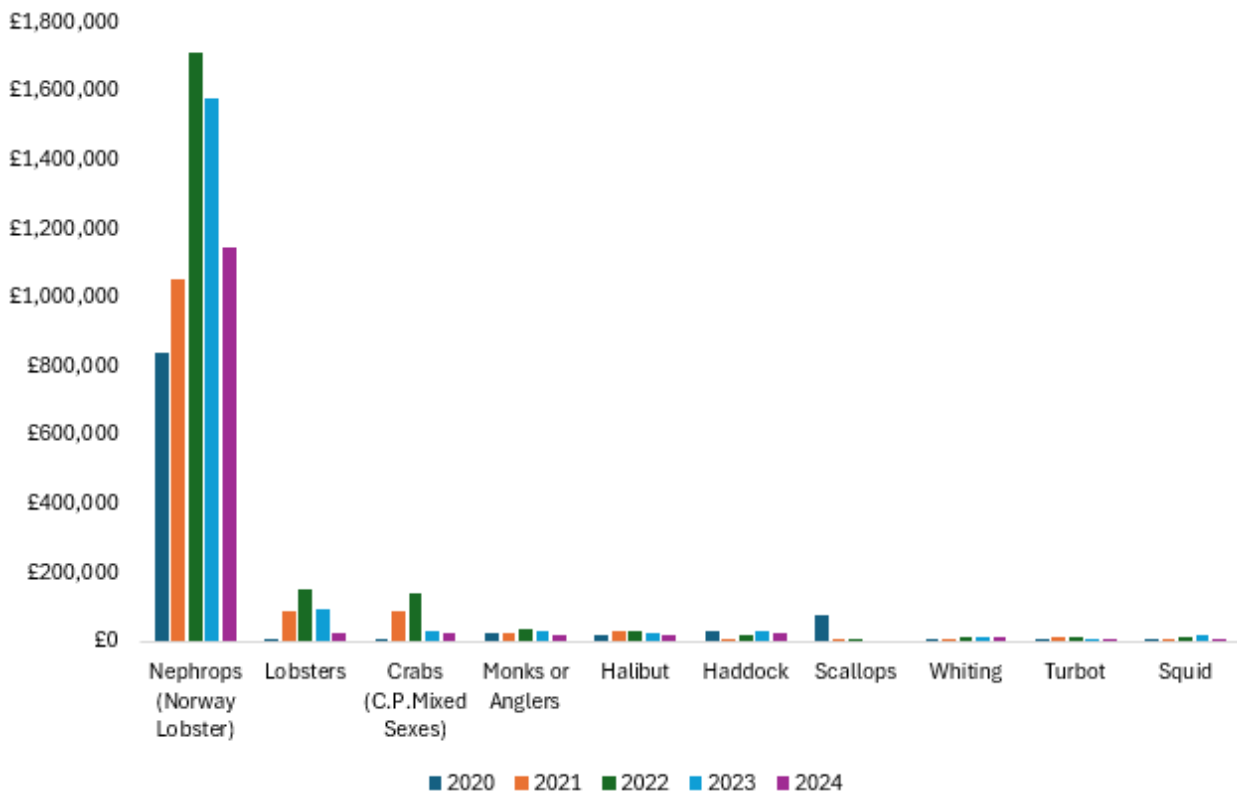
Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	4.8	6.1	9.4	4.8	3.8	3.9	16.2	21.4	19.6	52.4	13.4	19	1,767.4
Lobsters	Shellfish	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	1	0.9	2.9	1	2.3	490.5
Whiting	Demersal	-	0.7	-	-	-	-	0.7	-	2.1	-	2.6	-	462.7
Scallops	Shellfish	-	-	-	-	5.0	0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	258.3
Nephrops	Shellfish	-	0.1	-	-	-	0.5	1	-	0.7	-	0.7	-	9.4
Haddock	Demersal	-	0.4	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	0.0	-	0.4	-	4.3
Cod	Demersal	-	0.1	0.7	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	2.4
Plaice	Demersal	-	0.1	-	-	-	0.1	0.5	-	-	-	0.1	-	1.8
Dabs	Demersal	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.4	-	-	-	0.1	-	1.7
Monks or Anglers	Demersal	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.2	-	0.1	-	0.2	-	1.6
Total		5.1	8.4	11	5.4	9.1	5.8	19.9	22.4	23.6	55.3	18.4	21.3	205.6

Source (Ref 23.2)

39E9

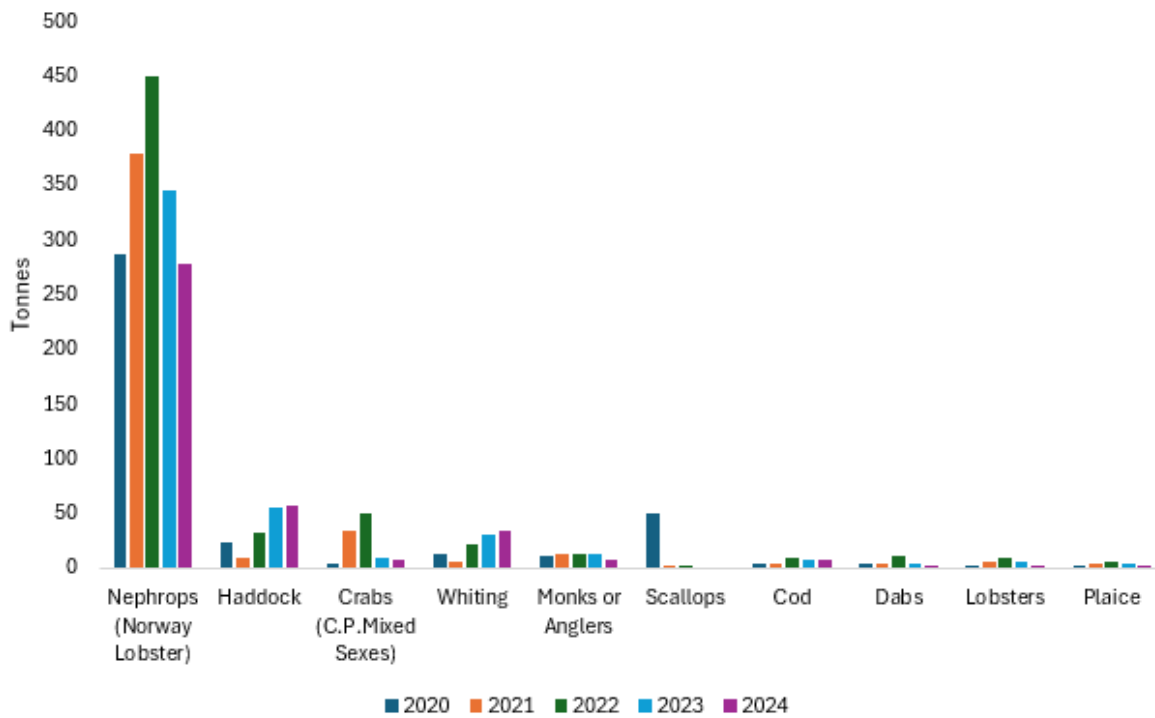
- 23.A.3.30 38E9 is one of the furthest offshore rectangles off the coast of Northumberland along the subsea cable route, and we see a noticeable change in the type of fishing gear used. Although shellfish still account for over 91% of the catch value it is Nephrops (also known as the Norwegian lobster, langoustine, Dublin prawn, scampi) which is caught using demersal trawl gear rather than pots and traps as shown in **Plate 23.A-24** and **Plate 23.A-25**.
- 23.A.3.31 Pots and traps only account for 3.8% revenue in 2024 with demersal trawling accounting for over 95% as shown in **Table 23.A-13**.
- 23.A.3.32 Over 88% of the landed weight in this rectangle comes from the over 10m vessels, this may be because it is too far out for the under 10 m vessel fleet who typically fish within the 12 NM boundary.

Plate 23.A-24 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 39E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-25 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 39E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-13 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 39E9 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Demersal trawls	951,990	1,123,456	1,877,474	1,753,855	1,277,392
Pots and traps	10,346	177,702	291,862	128,383	50,930
Dredge	75,233	1,999	-	-	-
Pelagic seine	-	40,9884	1,4704	-	-
Demersal seine	1,149	-	-	7,667	1,540
Beam trawl	4,807	-	-	-	-
Handlines	-	-	-	-	1,823

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.33 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in February, followed by March landings (Table 23.A-14). The highest contributors to landed weight were Nephrops and haddock, and the months of lowest catch weight were April and May (Table 23.A-14).

Table 23.A-14 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 38F0 by weight (t) (year 2024)

Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Nephrops	Shellfish	11.0	50.4	47.5	0.6	1.4	9.1	24.7	10.9	3.5	11.5	14.3	14.0	199
Haddock	Demersal	3.0	7.2	4.7	0.5	1.1	2.2	10.7	2.6	3.8	11.7	3.4	1.5	52.5
Whiting	Demersal	2.4	7.5	4.2	1.9	2.3	2.9	3.8	1.7	2.6	2.1	1.6	0.8	33.9
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	4.5	1.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	-	-	0.6	0.1	0.1	8.2
Cod	Demersal	0.5	1.3	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.6	0.2	7.2
Monks or Anglers	Demersal	0.3	1.3	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.5	5.8
Dabs	Demersal	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3	-	0.2	0.2	0.1	2.8
Whelks	Shellfish	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.0	-	2.0	-	-	-	2
Plaice	Demersal	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.8
Squid	Shellfish	0.3	0.5	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.7
Total		22.3	70.4	59.8	3.3	6	15.1	41.5	16.1	12.6	28.4	21.8	17.6	314.8

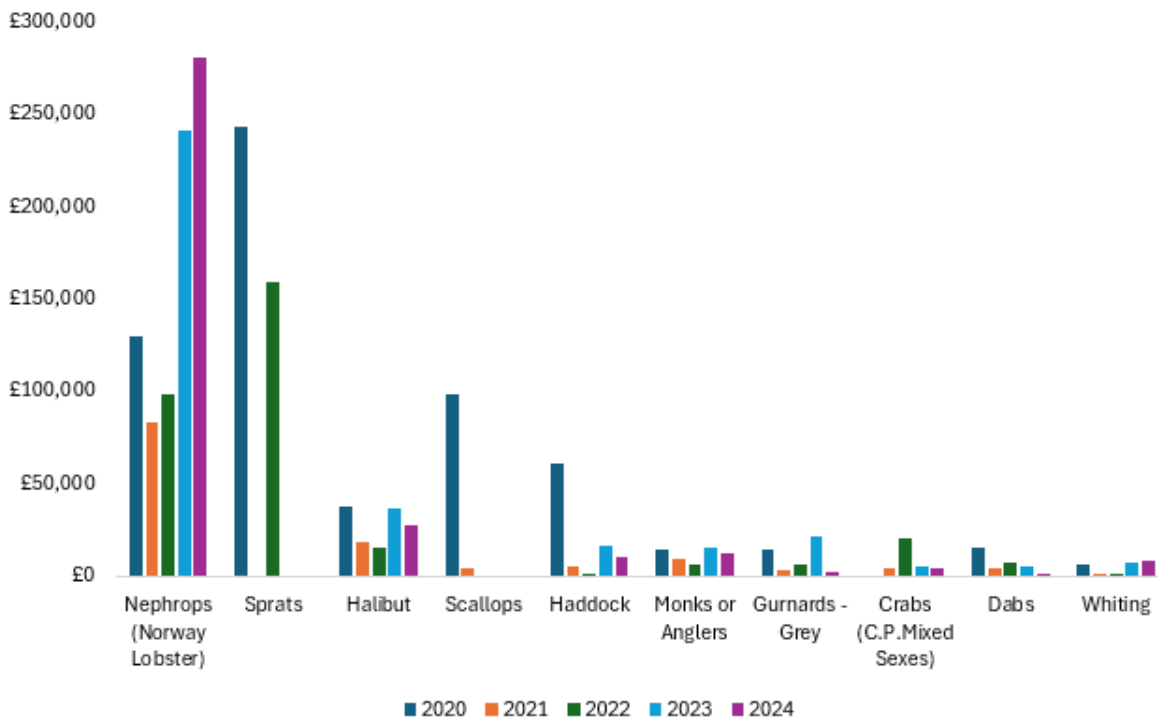
Source (Ref 23.2)

39F0

23.A.3.34 ICES rectangle 39F0 is off the northeast of the UK, in the central North Sea, and has a value of £363,064 in 2024. In 2024, 79% of the catch value was from shellfish which illustrates the importance of this fishery, as shown in **Plate 23.A-26** and **Plate 23.A-27**.

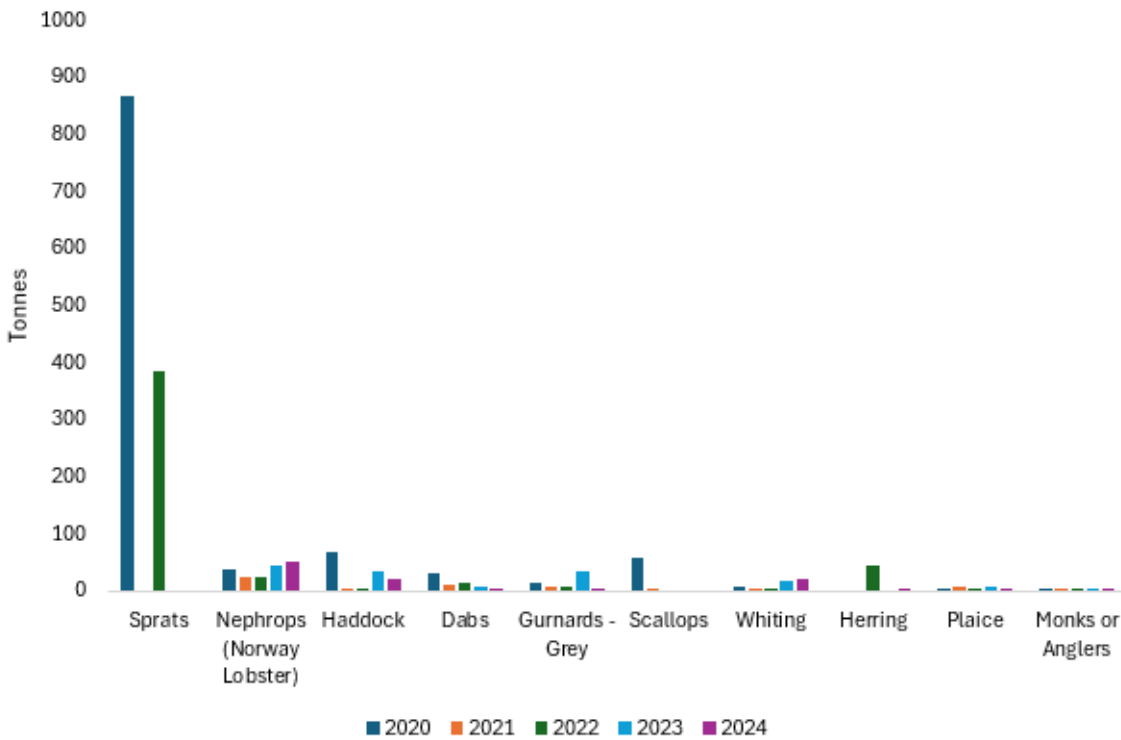
23.A.3.35 Like with rectangle 39E9, Nephrops make up the highest landings (£280,378 in 2024), caught by demersal trawls, which are the most valuable gear type. This is illustrated in **Table 23.A-15**.

Plate 23.A-26 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 39F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-27 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value weight in ICES rectangle 39F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-15 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 39E9 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Demersal trawls	288,909	146,444	147,936	386,137	356,899
Pelagic trawls	242,824	-	180,796	-	-
Dredge	98,129	4,153	-	-	-
Pots and traps	-	7,280	28,528	6,394	5,442
Demersal seine	-	-	3,685	-	-
Handlines	-	-	-	-	722

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.36 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in August, followed by February landings (Table 23.A-16). The highest contributors to landed weight were Nephrops and haddock, and the months of lowest catch weight were May and June. Landings did not occur in April and December (Table 23.A-16).

Table 23.A-16 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 38F0 by weight (t) (year 2024)

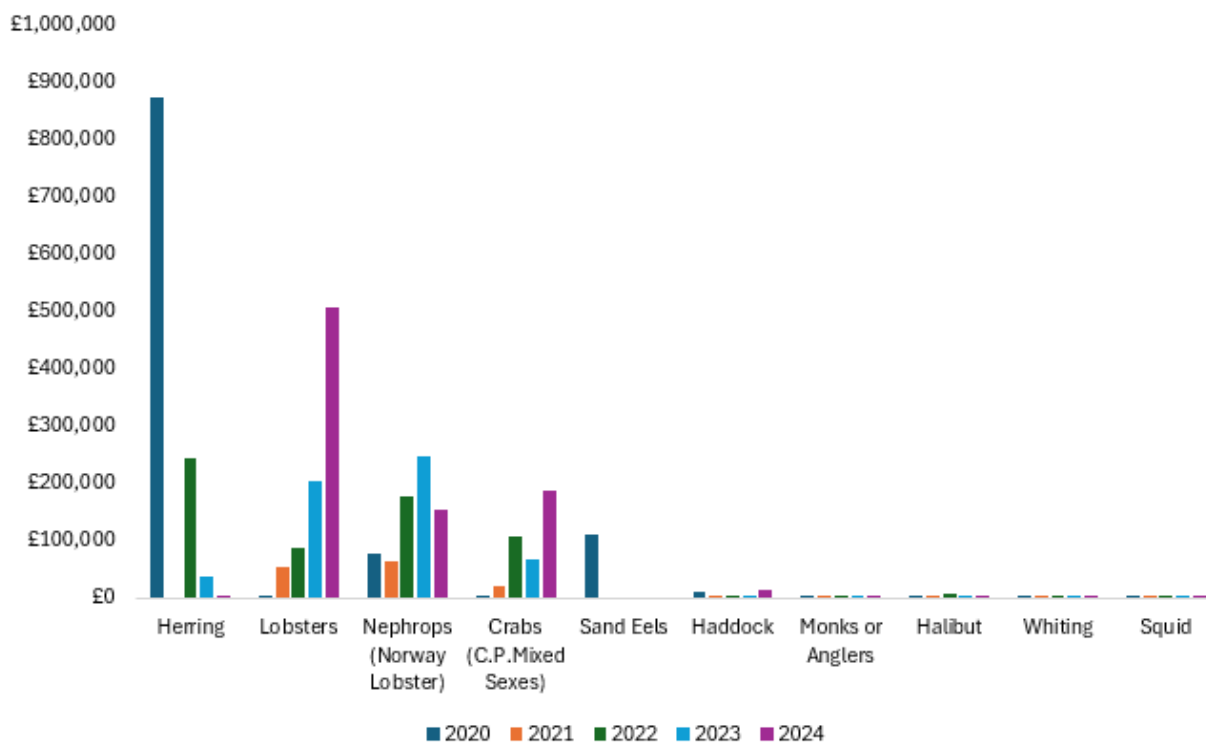
Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Nephrops	Shellfish	1.6	9.7	0.7	-	0.3	1.9	7.4	11.9	2.3	3.7	1.3	-	40.8
Haddock	Demersal	1.7	4.6	1.4	-	0.1	0.2	3.4	4.2	0.3	2.2	3.1	-	21.1
Whiting	Demersal	0.8	1.3	0.5	-	-	0.1	2.1	3.7	7.7	1.4	2.5	-	20.1
Monks or Anglers	Demersal	0.1	0.4	0.1	-	-	0.1	0.7	1.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	-	4
Plaice	Demersal	0.1	1.1	0.5	-	-	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	3.8
Gurnards - Grey	Demersal	0.3	1.1	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	2.6
Dabs	Demersal	0.2	0.8	0.3	-	-	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.1	-	0.1	-	2.5
Halibut	Demersal	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	-	2.1
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	-	-	-	-	1.4
Whelks	Shellfish	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total		4.7	20.3	4.5	-	0.3	3	15.8	23.9	11.4	7.9	7.6	-	99.3

Source (Ref 23.2)

40E9

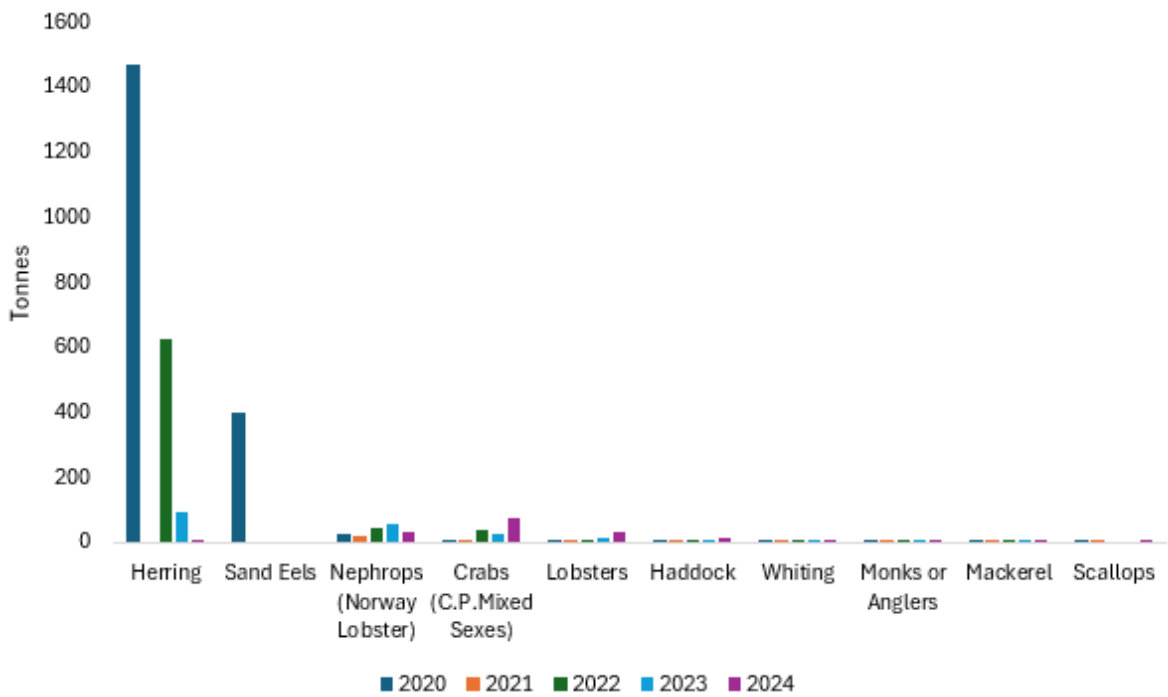
- 23.A.3.37 Rectangle 40E9 is around 38 km from the coastline of Northumberland at its nearest point, and there is a noticeable change in the type of fishing gear used within it. Pots and traps are the most used gear in this area in 2024, followed by demersal trawls, as shown in **Table 23.A-17**. Most of the catch is by the over 10m vessels due to the distance from the shore.
- 23.A.3.38 There is a noticeable anomaly on herring catch in 2020 where three catches in September accounted for over £870,000, which was just over 80% of the catch value that year as shown in **Plate 23.A-28** and **Plate 23.A-29**.
- 23.A.3.39 Also, in 2020 there was a very large catch of sandeels with a value of £110,000. This is the only rectangle within the study area that has any evidence of a sandeel catch. Sandeels are now prohibited as a catch species due to their importance as a prey species for other fish, offshore birds and marine mammals. Further information about sandeel can be found in **Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 19: Fish and Shellfish**.
- 23.A.3.40 The MMO surveillance sightings show that this rectangle is fished by vessels from Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK as illustrated in **Volume 3, Part 3, Figure 23-6: Surveillance sightings by vessel nationality during 2018 to 2023**.
- 23.A.3.41 Compared to the rectangles further south along the subsea cable route, 40E9 has one of the lowest catch values. In 2024 the annual catch value was £877,156 compared to 36F0 whose annual catch value was over £11 million.

Plate 23.A-28 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 40E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-29 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 40E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-17 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 39E9 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Demersal trawls	653,948	77,974	200,629	253,482	169,078
Pots and traps	3,077	75,554	195,386	289,941	697,262
Pelagic trawls	415,700	-	243,802	40,057	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	8,820
Demersal seine	7,577	-	-	586	325
Dredge	1,562	4,396	-	-	1,400
Handlines	-	-	-	-	272

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.42 Temporally, the highest weight landing occurred in February (**Table 23.A-18**). The highest contributors to landed weight were edible crab, and lobster, and the month of lowest catch weight was May (**Table 23.A-18**).

Table 23.A-18 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 40E9 by weight (t) (year 2024)

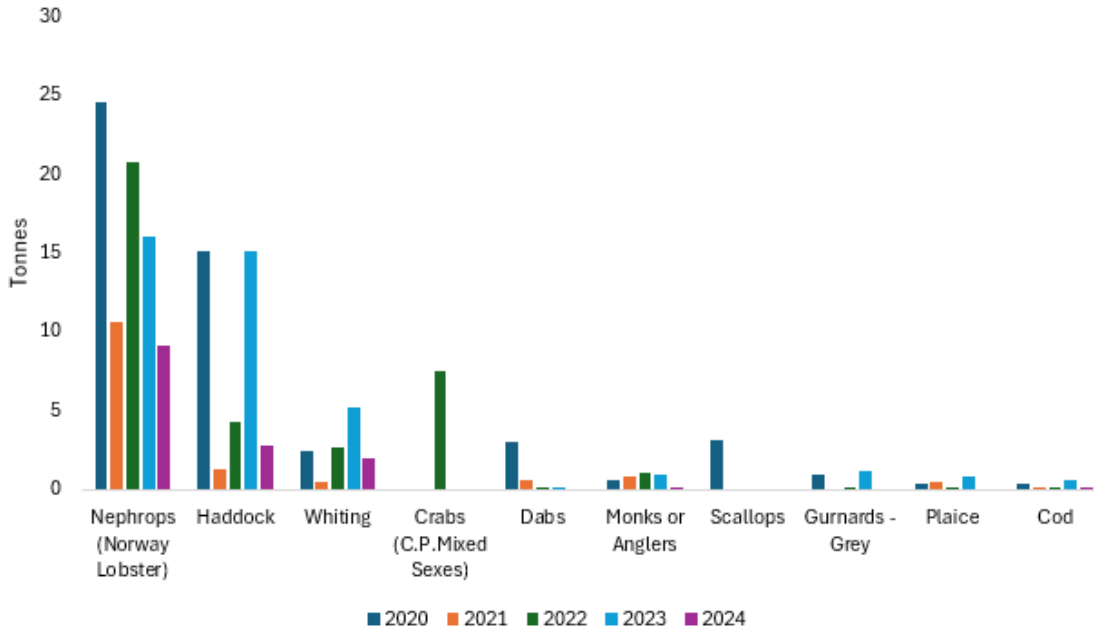
Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	7.4	7.9	6.5	7	4.8	6.9	5.9	3.4	4.6	5.2	6.1	7.1	72.8
Lobsters	Shellfish	0.7	0.9	0.7	1	1.4	2	5.2	8.3	4.9	3.1	3.2	2.6	33.9
Nephrops	Shellfish	3.2	12.8	4.6	-	0.4	0.2	2.3	1.2	-	0.1	0.3	-	24.9
Haddock	Demersal	1.9	1.9	0.9	-	0.0	0.1	2.3	4.9	-	0.5	-	-	12.4
Whiting	Demersal	0.7	1.6	1	-	-	-	0.6	0.5	-	0.3	-	-	4.6
Mackerel	Pelagic	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	1
Green Crab	Shellfish	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.8
Scallops	Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.6
Squid	Shellfish	0.2	0.1	0.1		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		0.1			0.3
Whelks	Shellfish		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1								0.3
Total		14.1	25.3	13.8	8.2	6.8	9.9	17.1	18.5	9.4	9	9.7	9.7	151.5

Source (Ref 23.2)

40F0

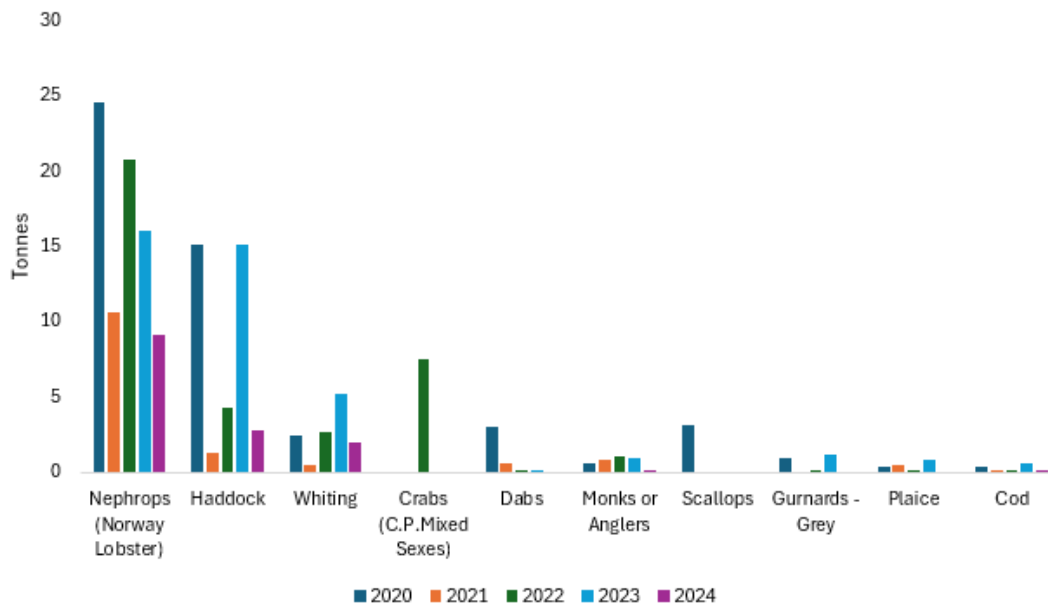
23.A.3.43 ICES rectangle 40F0 is in the northern North Sea, east of Scotland, with a value of £44,029 in the year 2024. In 2024, the entirety of the catch value was from demersal trawls, which target Nephrops, as shown in **Plate 23.A-30** and **Plate 23.A-31**.

Plate 23.A-30 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 40F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-31 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 40F0



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-19 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 40F0 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Demersal trawls	83,521	38,895	92,606	97,725	44,029
Pots and traps	-	-	17,237	-	-
Demersal seine	6,208	-	-	-	-
Dredge	5,264	-	-	-	-

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.44 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in January and September, though this was closely followed by May landings (**Table 23.A-20**). The highest contributors to landed weight were Nephrops and haddock, and the month of lowest catch weight was August. Landings did not occur in February, March, April, July, October, November and December (**Table 23.A-20**).

Table 23.A-20 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 40F0 by weight (t) (year 2024)

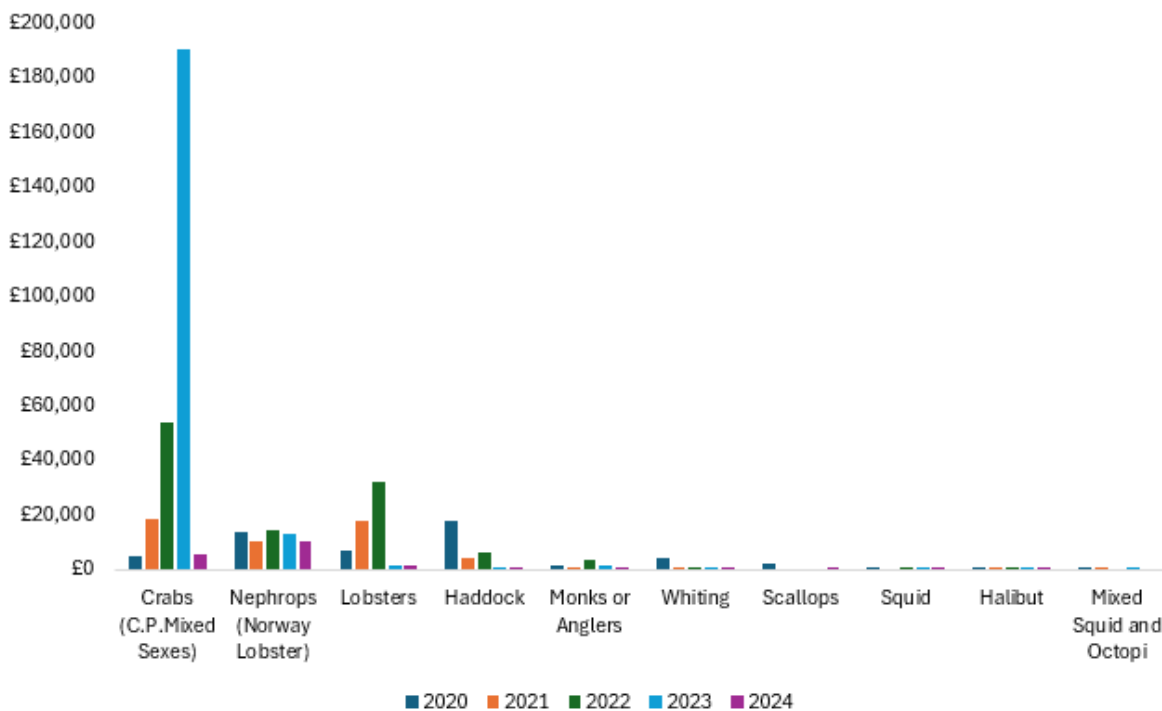
Species	Type	J	M	J	A	S	Total
Nephrops	Shellfish	0.6	2.4	2.8	0.3	0.1	6.2
Haddock	Demersal	1.5	0.1	-	-	0.9	2.5
Whiting	Demersal	0.4	0.1	0.1	-	1.7	2.0
Spurdog	Demersal	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1
Saithe	Demersal	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1
Halibut	Demersal	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1
Monks or Anglers	Demersal	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	0.1
Squid	Shellfish	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.1
Lemon Sole	Demersal	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1
Cod	Demersal	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1
Total		2.7	2.6	3	0.3	2.7	11.3

Source (Ref 23.2)

41E9

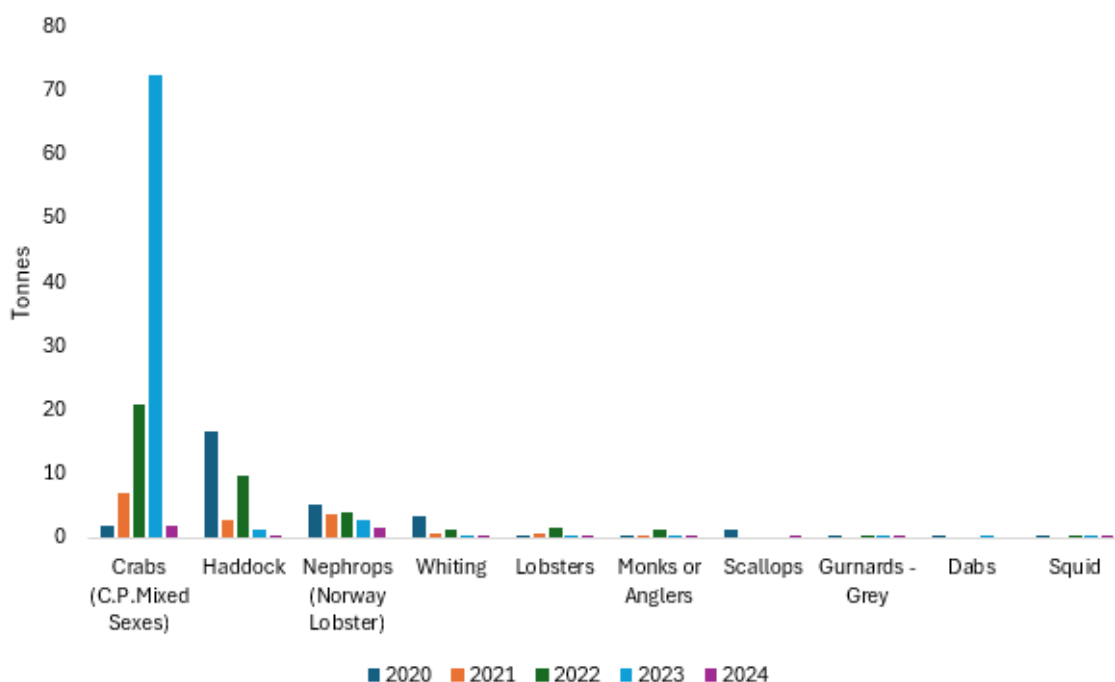
- 23.A.3.45 41E9 is the furthest north and offshore of the rectangles within the study area and crosses into the Scottish territorial waters. It is also the furthest rectangle within the subsea cable route from the English or Scottish coast.
- 23.A.3.46 Due to its location, this rectangle shows no landings of vessels under 10 m over the period analysed. It also has the lowest catch value by weight or cash value of any of the rectangles along the subsea cable route with a value of only £19,297 as shown in **Plate 23.A-32** and **Plate 23.A-33**.
- 23.A.3.47 The MMO surveillance sightings only show that vessels for the Danish fleet fish within this rectangle as illustrated in **Volume 3, Part 3, Figure 23-6: Surveillance sightings by vessel nationality during 2018 to 2023**.
- 23.A.3.48 Pots and traps, and demersal trawling are the most used gear types, with the most targeted species being shellfish (mainly crabs, lobsters and Nephrops) as shown in **Table 23.A-21** and **Table 23.A-22**.

Plate 23.A-32 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 41E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-33 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 41E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-21 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 41E9 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pots and traps	11,850	36,915	86,291	192,178	7,499
Demersal trawls	17,218	4,749	27,402	15,975	11,539
Demersal seine	23,047	5,542	-	734	-
Pelagic seine	-	6,460	-	-	-
Dredge	2,380	-	-	-	259

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.49 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in April (**Table 23.A-22**). The highest contributors to landed weight were edible crab, and Nephrops, and the month of lowest catch weight was August. Landings did not occur in January, March, July, September, October, November and December (**Table 23.A-22**).

Table 23.A-22 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 41E9 by weight (t) (year 2024)

Species	Type	F	A	M	J	A	Total
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	-	1.5	0.5	-	-	2
Nephrops	Shellfish	0.6	-	-	0.7	0.1	1.3
Haddock	Demersal	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1
Monks or Anglers	Demersal	0.1	-	-	0.1	-	0.1
Scallops	Shellfish	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.1
Lobsters	Shellfish	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.1
Whiting	Demersal	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1
Gurnards - Grey	Demersal	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1
Cod	Demersal	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1
Plaice	Demersal	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1
Total		0.7	1.6	0.5	0.9	0.3	4

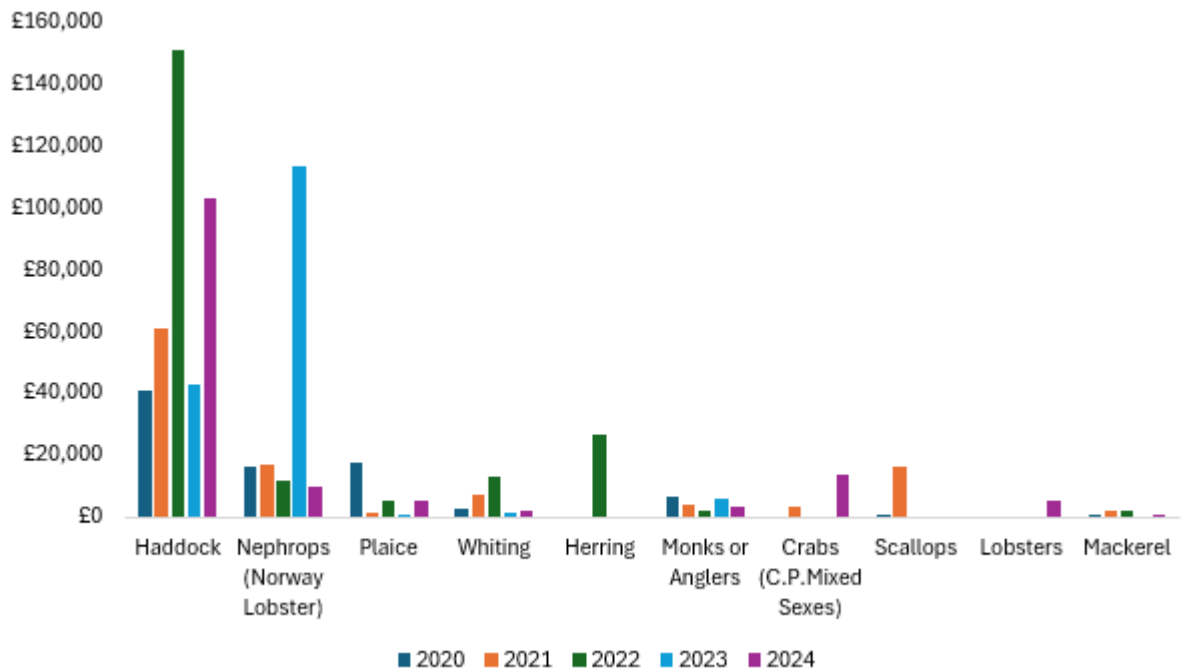
Source (Ref 23.2)

42E9

23.A.3.50 ICES rectangle 42E9 is located in the central North Sea, east of Scotland, and had a landings value of £148,106 in 2024, as shown in **Plate 23.A-34** and **Plate 23.A-35**.

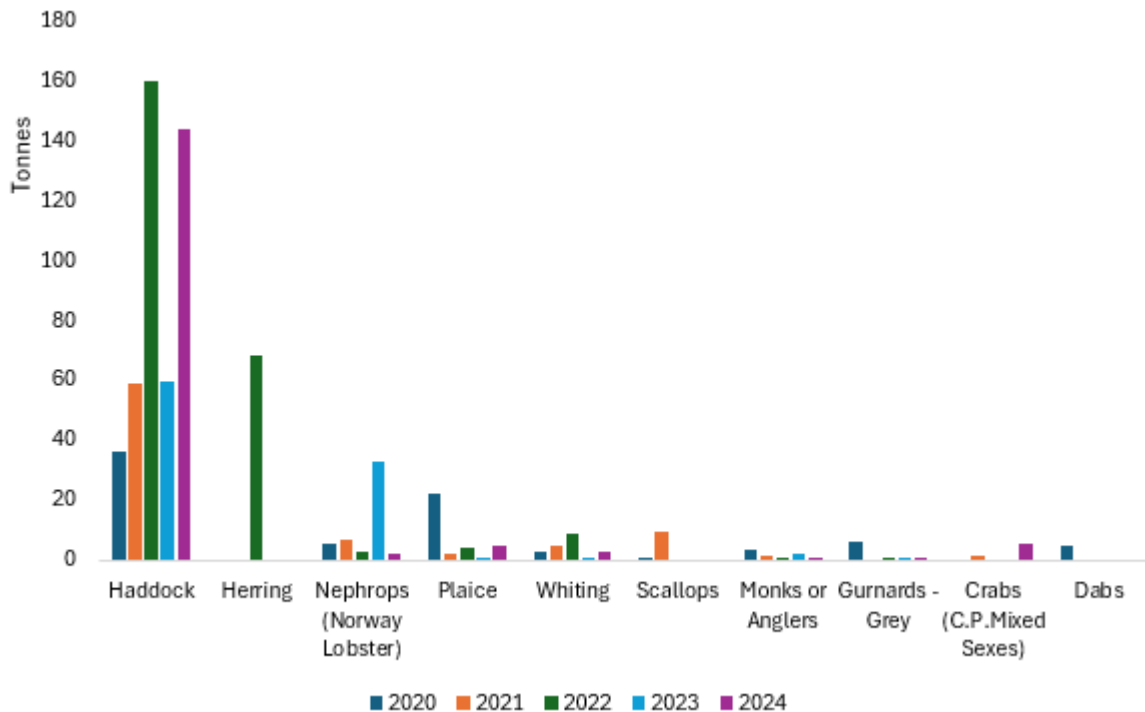
23.A.3.51 Haddock and Nephrops are target species, caught via demersal seine and demersal trawl, respectively, as shown in **Table 23.A-5**. In 2024, demersal seine landings were valued at £110,138 and demersal trawl landings had a value of £18,508.

Plate 23.A-34 Top 10 species caught by annual landed value in ICES rectangle 42E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Plate 23.A-35 Top 10 species caught by annual landed weight in ICES rectangle 42E9



Source (Ref 23.2)

Table 23.A-23 Fishing gear used in ICES rectangle 42E9 between 2020 and 2024 by catch value

Gear Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Demersal seine	9,925	26,023	50,917	39,321	110,138
Demersal trawls	89,599	70,627	138,273	130,347	18,508
Pelagic trawls	-	-	26,608	-	-
Pots and traps	-	3,417	-	-	19,460
Dredge	496	16,685	-	-	-

Source (Ref 23.2)

23.A.3.52 Temporally, the highest weight landings occurred in July (**Table 23.A-24**). The highest contributors to landed weight were haddock and edible crab, and the months of lowest catch weight were September and October. Landings did not occur in March (**Table 23.A-24**).

Table 23.A-24 Catch seasonality within ICES rectangle 42E9 by weight (t) (year 2024)

Species	Type	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Haddock	Demersal	26.4	13.3	-	0.0	0.2	11.8	75.3	-	-	-	4.2	0.5	131.8
Crabs - Edible	Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	3.1	1.1	0.1	-	-	-	5.5
Plaice	Demersal	0.0	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	1.3	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	4.4
Whiting	Demersal	0.4	0.2	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.4	-	-	-	0.1	0.4	2.6
Nephrops	Shellfish	-	-	-	0.3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	1.8
Monks or Anglers	Demersal	0.1	-	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.7
Mackerel	Pelagic	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	0.5
Lobsters	Shellfish	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.4
Witch	Demersal	0.1	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.4
Cod	Demersal	0.1	0.2	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.3
Total		26.9	13.7	-	0.6	1.6	15.1	83.3	1.2	0.1	0.1	4.3	1.7	148.5

Source (Ref 23.2)

Bibliography

Ref 23. 1 SeaFish. (2012). Best Practice Guidance for Fishing Industry Financial and Economic Impact Assessments. Available at: <https://www.seafish.org/document/?id=34281> Best Practice Guidance for Fishing Industry Financial and Economic Impact Assessments — Seafish [Accessed 7 January 2026].

Ref 23. 2 MMO. (2025). UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2024. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-sea-fisheries-annual-statistics-report-2024> [Accessed 7 January 2026].

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