



2026/2027 Crawfish Seasonal Closure: Consultation

Background

In 2024, MMO worked with industry to address concerns for the crawfish fishery in South West English waters. Seasonal closures started in 2024. The third closure is running from 17 November 2025 to 31 May 2026.

In 2026, MMO held engagement events in Newlyn (February) and Hayle (March) to discuss the next seasonal closure for 2026/2027 and explore longer term regulatory measures. Meeting notes are available on the [South West Regional Fisheries Group \(RFG\) webpage](#).

2026 online survey

MMO has opened a survey for a seasonal closure for 2026/2027. The consultation closes at **23:59 on 12 May 2026**. The following closure periods are proposed for your consideration:

- **option 1: 22 November 2026 to 31 May 2027**
- **option 2: 22 November 2026 to 10 June 2027**
- **option 3: 22 November 2026 to 24 June 2027**
- **other: for you to suggest**

The closure would be for all UK and EU vessels with all gears working in English waters of ICES area 7 enacted through a fishing licence variation.

The purpose of the proposed closure is to:

- reduce fishing removals and interactions to support protection and spawning.
- increase chances for crawfish to spawn and moult before fishing interaction.
- boost juvenile recruitment by protecting berried females and enabling settlement.
- limit fishing when stocks are in poor condition to reduce mortality.
- reduce risks from long soak times or lost nets in winter conditions.

Further information

- If you submitted a response during 2026 engagement events, then you do not need to respond to this online survey.
- Information on this survey and how to respond can be found [here](#).
- If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact us at FMP@marinemanagement.org.uk.