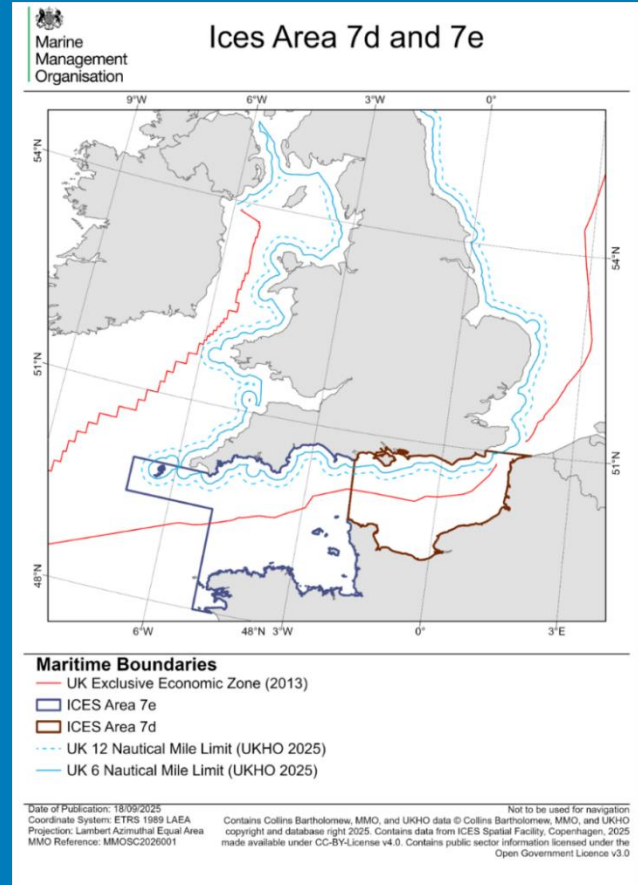




Proposed closure to the king scallop dredge fishery 2026 & 2027



Why the need for the closure?

- MMO is seeking views on proposals to protect the king scallop (*Pectens maximus*) stocks in UK waters of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) area 7d and ICES area 7e.
- The purpose of the consultation is to consider protection for stocks during the main spawning period for king scallops within areas 7d and 7e, with peak spawning typically in summer.

What is the evidence?

ICES area 7d

- 2025 saw comparable or increased landings in ICES area 7d when compared to 2023 and 2024 per month. Landings in March, April, May and June are considerably greater than both previous years.

ICES area 7e

- King scallop landings in ICES area 7e are particularly low in the 7e offshore region. From May to September King Scallop landings show a noticeable decrease when compared to previous years.

The proposed management for ICES area 7d and 7e king scallop closures is from 1 July to 30 September 2026 & 2027.

MMO will consider any new scientific evidence available, the management period of 1 July to 30 September will be implemented in 2026 & 2027 if evidence doesn't indicate a significantly improved or negative trend or alternative management has been delivered in the interim.

Tell us your views

- The consultation is open from 10 November 2025 to midnight 30 November 2025. To respond to this consultation and access further information, please contact us at [king scallop dredge closure consultation survey](#).