Chapter 12 Addendum:
Commercial Fisheries

ORIEL WINDFARM
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Energy for generations

ORIEL WIND FARM PROJECT

Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Addendum
Chapter 12 Addendum: Commercial Fisheries

MDR1520C
EIAR– Chapter 12 Addendum
A1 C01
December 2025

Contents

Tables

Figures

12 CHAPTER 12 ADDENDUM – COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

12.1 Introduction

This Addendum provides information to supplement the assessment of commercial fisheries presented in chapter 12 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (2024). It has been prepared in response to a Request for Further Information (RFI) from An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) (formerly An Bord Pleanála) regarding the planning application (case reference ABP-319799-24) for the Oriel Wind Farm Project (hereafter referred to as "the Project").

Table 12A-1 outlines the specific information requested according to the referencing used in the 'Schedule-Further Information Request' provided by ACP (e.g. 11.A) and identifies specifically where the relevant information / responses can be found within (i) this Addendum to chapter 12, and (ii) the Response to Submissions Report provided to ACP. Table 12A-1 also provides a concluding statement on any resulting updates or changes to the conclusions reached in the assessment presented in the EIAR (2024).

To ensure consistency of referencing, and for ease of review, the heading sections and subsections in this Addendum are the same as the headings from chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries (EIAR volume 2B). The reader is directed to review the information presented in this Addendum alongside the details and assessment presented in the EIAR chapter.

Table 12A-1: Further information requested on Commercial Fisheries and details on Applicant's response.

Reference	Request for Further Information	Response / Reference to where information is presented	Concluding statement
11.	The NMPF provides that the proposed development should be considered in the context of co-existences with existing marine activities in the area, including fisheries and aquaculture. Having regard to the provisions of the NMPF, the submitted documentation in support of the application including the Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (Appendix 05-06 of the EIAR), all submissions made, and the location of the project site within a Designated Shellfish Waters area of the Irish Sea, the applicant is requested to submit the following further information:	n/a	n/a
11.A	The applicant is requested to respond to the concerns raised in the prescribed bodies and observers' submissions in relation to the potential impacts on commercial fishing arising from the proposed development within both the array and the cable route corridor areas. The applicant is requested to respond to concerns, specifically the practicality of co-existence with reference to Co-existence Policy 1 in the NMPF.	Coexistence is addressed in chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries (EIAR volume 2B) and includes measures set out in appendix 5-6: Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (EIAR volume 2A). The responses to the concerns raised in the submissions in relation to potential impacts on commercial fishing and specifically the concerns regarding the practicality of co-existence are provided in the 'Response to Submissions Report'. See response to the Marine Institute and public submissions. The Applicant is committed to co-existence with commercial fishers and the procedures presented within appendix 5-6: Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) (EIAR volume 2A) are to be discussed with fisheries stakeholders prior to construction phase. Further information on how the Project meets the requirements of Co-existence Policy 1 of the NMPF are set out the 'Response to Submissions Report'.	The Applicant's response to the concerns has not resulted in any changes to the assessment of commercial fisheries presented in chapter 19: Commercial Fisheries (EIAR, volume 2B) and therefore there are no changes to the conclusions of the EIAR.
11.B	The applicant is requested to address the submission made by the Marine Institute which raises concerns with regard to the effect of displacement of fishing activity during the operational phase of the project for mobile fishing vessels, potentially increasing fishing pressure and competition in the remaining accessible areas and will also have an impact on smaller vessels which cannot travel beyond their main area of activity. The applicant is requested to consider, in a holistic and integrated manner, the cumulative impacts associated with the potential for such displacement of the fishing effort associated with other Irish Sea Phase 1 ORE projects in this area.	Displacement of fishing activity is considered in section 12.10.1 in chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries (EIAR, volume 2B). The response to the Marine Institute concerns regarding displacement are provided in the 'Response to Submissions Report', specifically within section 2. Regarding the cumulative impacts associated with the potential for displacement of fishing effort associated with other Irish Sea Phase 1 ORE projects in the area, an updated cumulative impact assessment is presented	The Applicant's response to the concerns has not resulted in any changes to the assessment of commercial fisheries presented in chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries (EIAR, volume 2B) and therefore there are no changes to the conclusions of the EIAR.

Reference	Request for Further Information	Response / Reference to where information is presented	Concluding statement
		in appendix 3-2 Addendum: Cumulative Impact Assessment Report (EIAR volume 2A Addendum). No additional information on assessment of displacement is presented in this Addendum.	
11.C	In terms of the submitted Commercial Fisheries Technical report (EIAR Appendix 12-01) as the assessment is based on International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) data covering the period 2012-2016, these data might be considered out of date, particularly when these data are updated regularly. The applicant is requested to update its assessment of impact and findings using the best available recent data or justify the use of the 2012-2016 data if it can be clearly shown to be the most appropriate to use.	The Applicant notes the request to update the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) data utilising ICES rectangles for the period 2012 to 2016 within the submitted appendix 12-1: Commercial Fisheries Technical Report (EIAR volume 2B) and has accordingly updated the baseline environment in section 12.7 of this Addendum to incorporate the most recent data available, expanding beyond the period 2012 to 2016. The updated sources and timeline of data coverage include more expansive use of Marine Management Organisation (MMO) data for 2021–2024 as well as the addition of new spatial data direct from ICES for the period 2016 to 2020 which was not previously included in the EIAR. The most recent statistics from Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) and the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) have also been utilised and included within this Addendum. The Applicant would like to note that while there is an updated dataset available from the EU DCF beyond 2012 to 2016, the format of this data no longer suits the analysis presented within the EIAR (2024) and this Addendum. For this reason, the Applicant has utilised the multitude of updated data sources described above and in Table 12A-2 of this Addendum to supplement the submitted EIAR and to respond to the request utilising every available and appropriate source. Where data limitations exist, these have been detailed within section 12.7.6 of this Addendum.	The Applicant's response to the concerns has not resulted in any changes to the assessment of commercial fisheries presented in chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries (EIAR, volume 2B) and therefore there are no changes to the conclusions of the EIAR.

12.2 Purpose of this chapter

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.3 Study area

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.4 Policy context

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

The Planning Report Addendum includes an updated National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) – Compliance Report (see appendix A).

12.5 Consultation

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.6 Methodology to inform the baseline

12.6.1 Desktop study

Table 12A-2 presents additional data sources of information that were used to provide an updated baseline, which is presented in section 12.7 of this Addendum.

Table 12A-2: Summary of data sources.

Title	Source	Year Published	Author
Atlas of Commercial Fisheries Around Ireland	Marine Institute	2024	Gerritsen and Kelly
All Landings into Ireland 2021 - 2023	https://www.sfpa.ie/Statistics/Data/Annual-Statistics	2021 - 2023	Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)
Spatial data layers of fishing intensity as annual average swept area ratio 2016 - 2020	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	2021	ICES
The business of seafood 2024. A snapshot of Ireland's Seafood Sector	https://bim.ie/publications/corporate-and-other-reports/	2025	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
The business of seafood 2023. A snapshot of Ireland's Seafood Sector	https://bim.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/BIM-The-Business-of-Seafood-2023-WEB.pdf	2024	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2022 - 2023	Marine Management Organisation	2024	MMO
Data by ICES rectangles; landing statistics data for UK registered vessels for 2021 to 2023.	Marine Management Organisation	2024	MMO
Data by ICES rectangles; landing statistics data for UK registered vessels for 2020 to 2024.	Marine Management Organisation	2025	MMO

12.6.2 Site-specific surveys

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.7 Baseline environment

12.7.1 Gear types

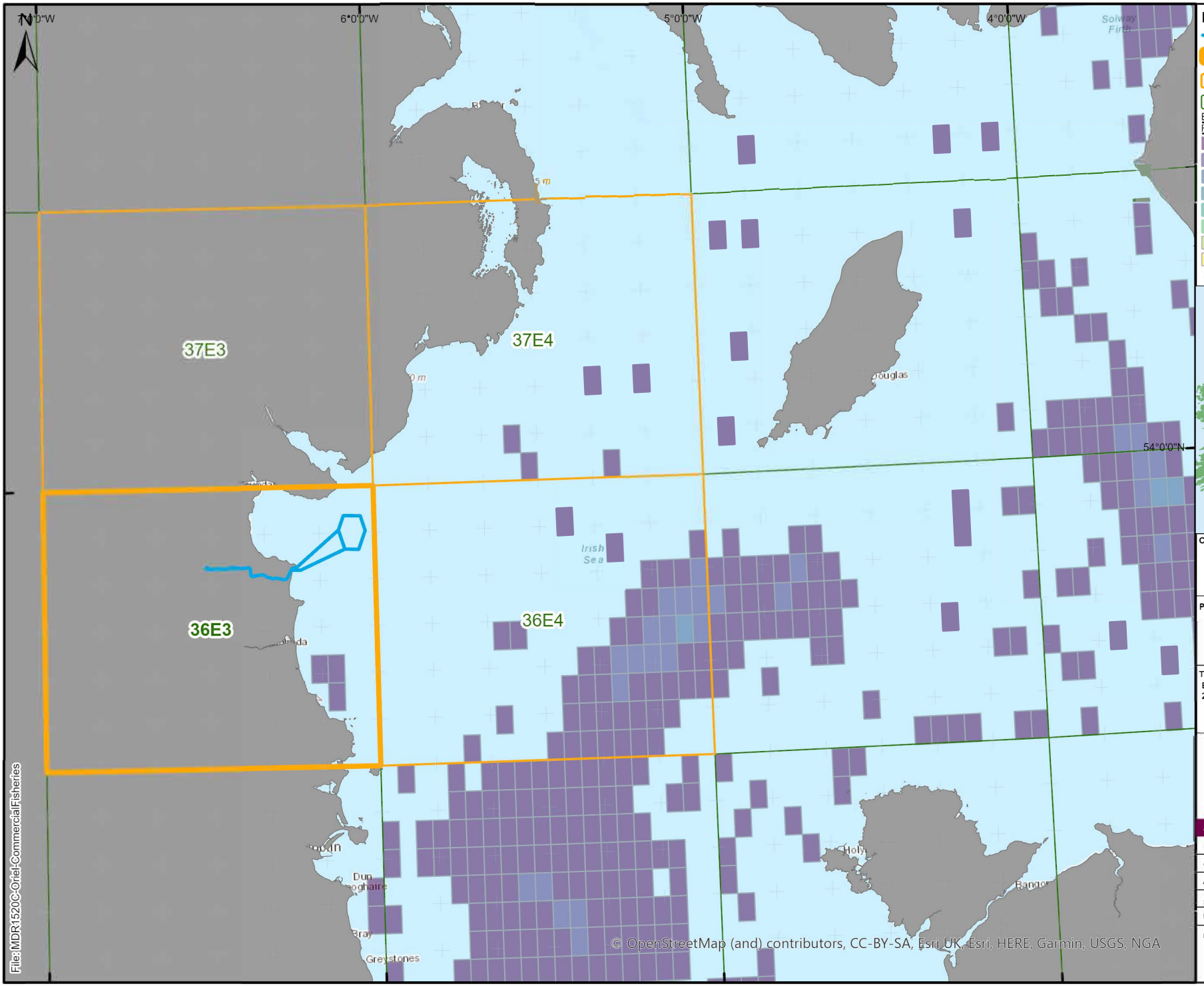
An assessment of the most recent and reliable data available since 2016 has been conducted (see Table 12A-2), with corresponding updates to the baseline presented below.

The predominant gear types recorded in the vicinity of the Project continue to be bottom trawls (demersal otter trawls), dredges and pots. Based on the review of the data presented in the Atlas of Commercial Fisheries in Ireland in vicinity of the Project (Gerritsen, 2024), during 2018-2022, bottom trawling (otter trawls) was the main fishing activity in the Irish EEZ in terms of international fishing effort (more than half a million hours per year).

12.7.2 Traditional fishing grounds

Offshore fishing grounds

Figure 12A-1 through to Figure 12A-4 illustrate the average surface Swept Area Ratio for beam trawl, demersal otter trawl, demersal seine, and dredge fisheries during the period 2016–2020 for the Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area. Beam trawl fishing intensity is generally low within ICES rectangles 36E3 and 37E4, with the highest intensity observed in 36E4, located within the Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area. This pattern is consistent across demersal seine, dredge, and otter trawl methods, with otter trawl activity also peaking in ICES 36E4. Among all gear types listed, demersal otter trawl exhibits the highest overall fishing intensity across the entire Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area.



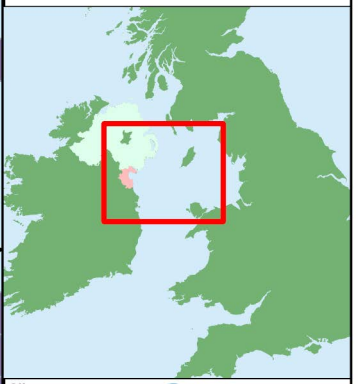
Legend

- Application Boundary
- Commercial Fisheries Study Area
- Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area
- ICES Statistical Rectangle

Beam Trawl Surface Swept Area Ratio (Average 2016-2020)

- 0.0 - 0.5
- 0.51 - 1.0
- 1.01 - 5.0
- 5.01 - 10.00
- 10.01 - 15.0
- 15.01 - 20.00
- 20.01 - 25.00
- 25.01 - 28.81

Data Sources: Client. Marine Scotland, ICES



Client

ORIEL WINDFARM
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Project

Oriel Wind Farm Project

Title Figure 12A-1
Beam Trawl Surface Swept Area Ratio (average 2016-2020)

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Issue Details

Drawn By: MJ	Project No. MDR1520C
Checked By: MJ	File Ref: MDR1520C-COR-001
Approved By: EC	
Scale: 1:1,000,000@A4	Projection: ITM (IRENET95)
Date: 02/07/2026	Geographic Co-ordinates: ETRS89

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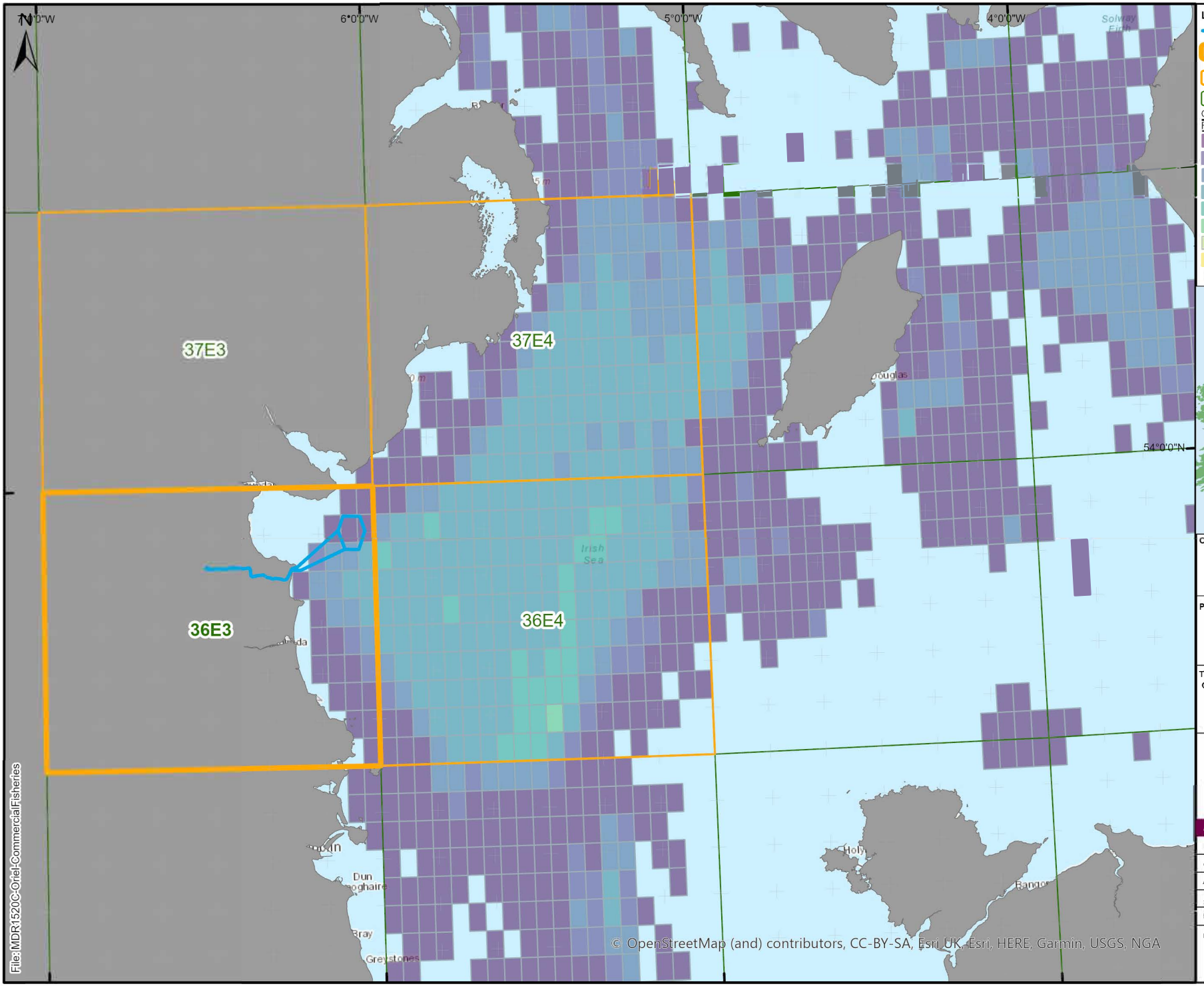
2. All levels are referred to Ordnance Datum, Malin Head

File: MDR1520C-Oriel-CommercialFisheries



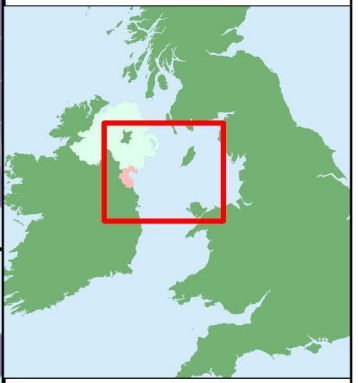
Legend

- Application Boundary
- Commercial Fisheries Study Area
- Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area
- ICES Statistical Rectangle

Otter Trawl Surface Swept Area Ratio (Average 2016-2020)

- 0.00 - 0.50
- 0.51 - 1.00
- 1.01 - 5.00
- 5.01 - 10.00
- 10.01 - 15.00
- 15.01 - 20.00
- 20.01 - 25.00
- 25.01 - 28.44

Data Sources: Client, Marine Scotland, ICES



Client

ORIEL WINDFARM
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Project

Oriel Wind Farm Project

Title Figure 12A-2
Otter Trawl Swept Area Ratio (average 2016-2020)

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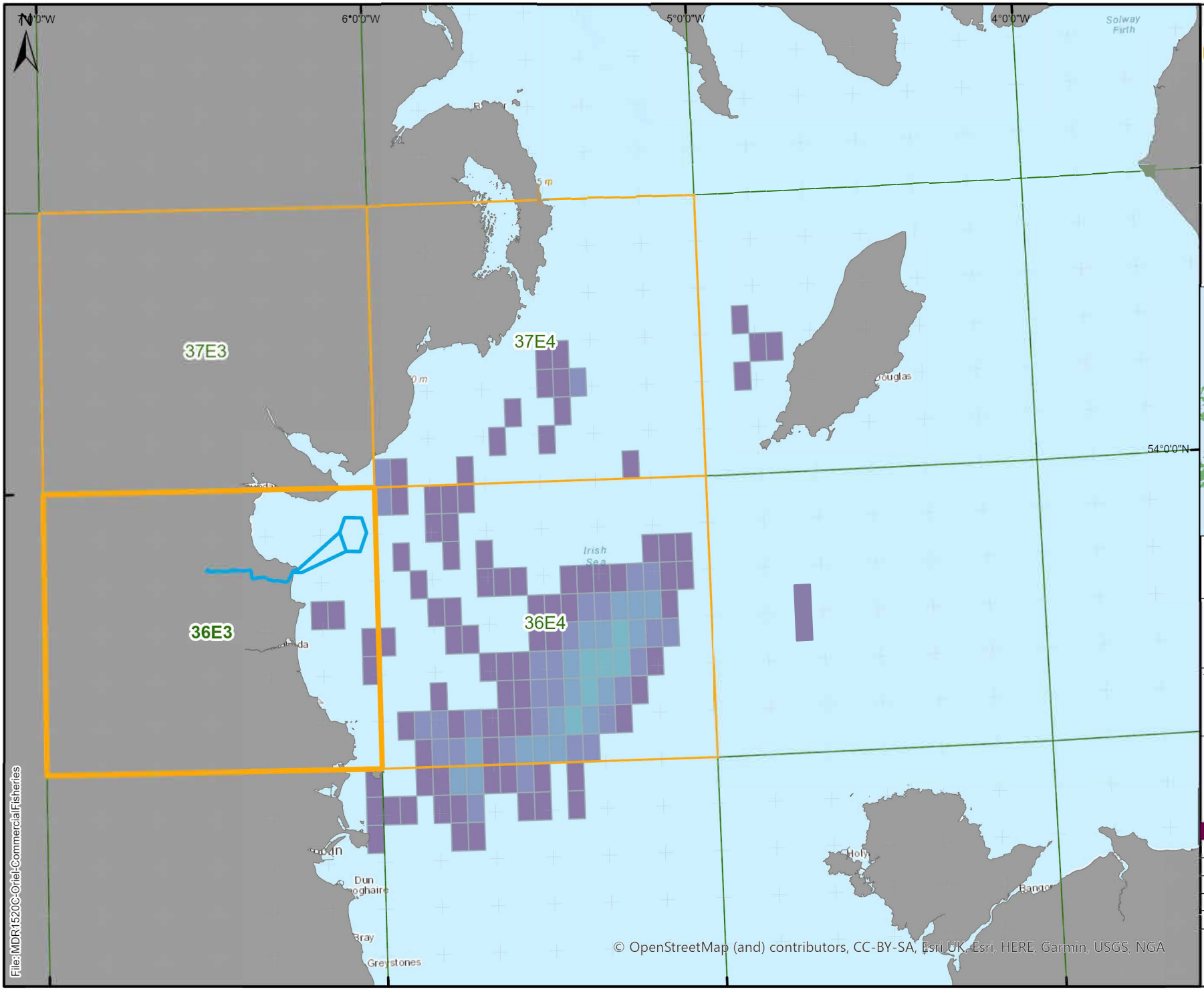


File: MDR1520C-Oriel-CommercialFisheries

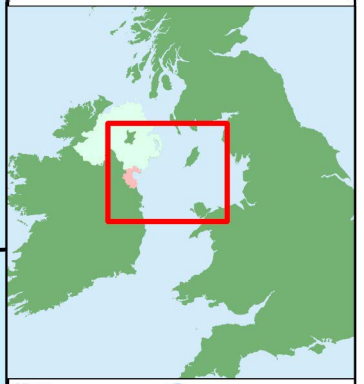
Legend

- Application Boundary
- Commercial Fisheries Study Area
- Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area
- ICES Statistical Rectangle

Demersal Seine Surface Swept Area Ratio (Average 2016-2020)

- 0.00 - 0.50
- 0.51 - 1.00
- 1.01 - 5.00
- 5.01 - 10.00
- 10.01 - 15.00
- 15.01 - 25.00
- 25.01 - 35.00
- 35.01 - 46.77

Data Sources: Client, Marine Scotland, ICES



Client

ORIEL WINDFARM
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Project

Oriel Wind Farm Project

Title Figure 12A-3
Demersal Seine Surface Swept Area Ratio (average 2016-2020)

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Issue Details

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Approved By: EC	
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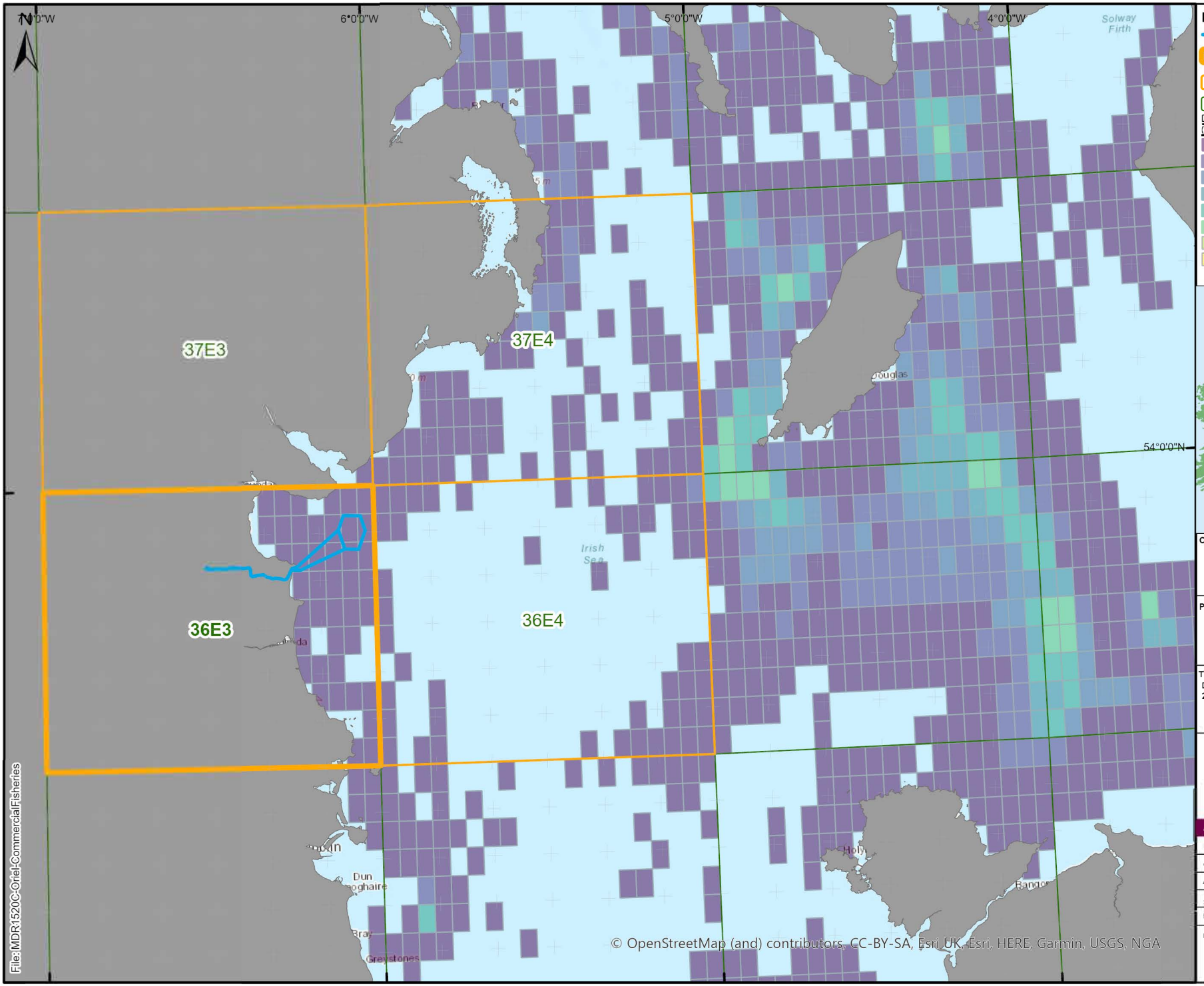


File: MDR1520C-Oriel-CommercialFisheries

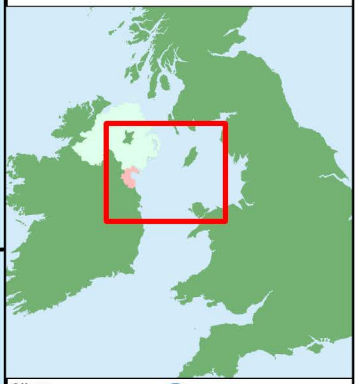
Legend

- Application Boundary
- Commercial Fisheries Study Area
- Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area
- ICES Statistical Rectangle

Dredge Surface Swept Area Ratio (Average 2016-2020)

- 0.00 - 0.25
- 0.251 - 0.50
- 0.51 - 0.75
- 0.751 - 1.00
- 1.01 - 1.50
- 1.51 - 2.00
- 2.01 - 3.00
- 3.01 - 3.77

Data Sources: Client. Marine Scotland, ICES



Client

ORIEL WINDFARM
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Project

Oriel Wind Farm Project

Title **Figure 12A-4**
Dredge Surface Swept Area Ratio (average 2016-2020)

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Issue Details

Drawn By: MJ	Project No. MDR1520C
Checked By: MJ	File Ref: MDR1520C-COR-002
Approved By: EC	
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12.7.3 Commercially important species

Historical commercially fished species identified within the 2007 Oriel Windfarm Environmental Statement (Aquafact International Services Limited, 2007) included whiting *Merlangius merlangus*, mackerel *Scombridae* spp., herring *Clupea harengus*, edible cockles *Cardiidae* spp., Norway lobster *Nephrops norvegicus* and queen scallops *Aequipecten opercularis*. The most recent five years of available landings data from the MMO reveal that from 2019 to 2023, crabs *Cancer pagurus*, Nephrops, and lobsters *Homarus gammarus* are consistently the top three commercial species landed by value (£) (MMO, 2024).

12.7.4 Fisheries activity

National fishing activity

Republic of Ireland

The majority of the Republic of Ireland (RoI) fishing activity undertaken by vessels ≥12 m in length takes place inside the Irish EEZ (72%; Gerritsen, 2024). However, most of the fishing effort inside the Irish EEZ is carried out by foreign vessels (57%); RoI vessels are responsible for only 43% of effort from vessels ≥12 m inside the EEZ (note that the proportion of RoI effort would likely be higher if smaller vessels were included). The RoI fishing effort consists mainly of demersal otter trawlers. French vessels account for 23% of the effort (mainly demersal otter trawlers and gill nets); Spanish vessels for 22% of the effort (dominated by longlines and demersal otter trawlers); UK vessels are responsible for 9% of the effort (mainly demersal otter trawlers) and vessels from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands account for 1% of the effort each, respectively.

According to the most recent annual report from BIM, in 2024, the overall value of landings from the RoI fishing fleet was €325 million and a total of 7,966 people were directly employed in the Irish seafood sector (BIM, 2025). A breakdown of this number indicates that 2,681 people were employed in fisheries, 1,908 in the aquaculture sector, and 3,407 in the processing branch (BIM, 2025).

Landings trends and key species

Within the Commercial Fisheries Study Area, landings by RoI vessels between 2018 and 2024 peaked in 2020 at just over 16 tonnes, before steadily declining through 2021, 2022 and 2023 (Figure 12A-5). The small peak in 2020 can likely be explained by the landing of five tonnes of herring, the only year within this period which it was landed. The decrease in landed weight from 2020 to 2023 may be explained by lower catches of scallops, razor clams and *Nephrops*. In 2024, the high sum of landed weight (81.2 tonnes) is attributed to the landing of 76.7 tonnes of sprat *Sprattus sprattus* in September by RoI vessels in the length category 18 m to 24 m (MMO, 2025).

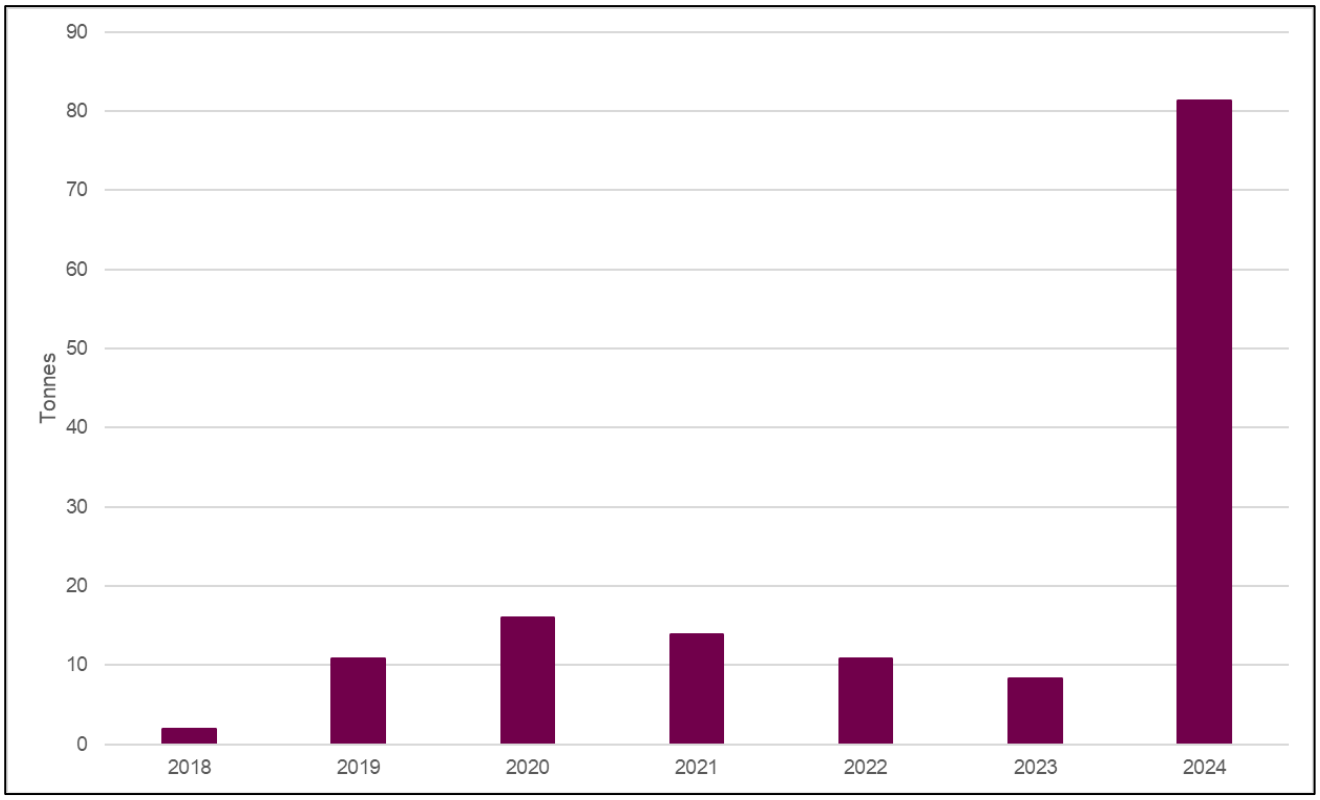

Figure 12A-5: Annual sum of landed weight (tonnes) of all species landed by RoI vessels from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) from 2018 to 2024, inclusive. (Data Source: MMO, 2023, 2024, 2025).

Between 2021 to 2023, Howth recorded the highest total landings (9,784 tonnes) out of the four relevant fishing ports, followed by Wicklow (5,567 tonnes), Clogherhead (4,758 tonnes) and Arklow (1,663 tonnes) (SFPA, 2021, 2022, 2023). In 2021, Howth recorded landings of 3,129 tonnes, followed by Wicklow with 2,105 tonnes, Clogherhead with 1,641 tonnes and Arklow with 613 tonnes. In 2022, Howth recorded landings of 3,354 tonnes, followed by Clogherhead with 1,818 tonnes, Wicklow with 1,695 tonnes and Arklow with 499 tonnes. In 2023, Howth recorded landings of 3,301 tonnes, followed by Wicklow with 1,767 tonnes, Clogherhead with 1,299 tonnes and Arklow with 551 tonnes.

It should be noted that species-level classification is unavailable in the SFPA dataset beyond 2020 and has therefore not been included in the analysis above.

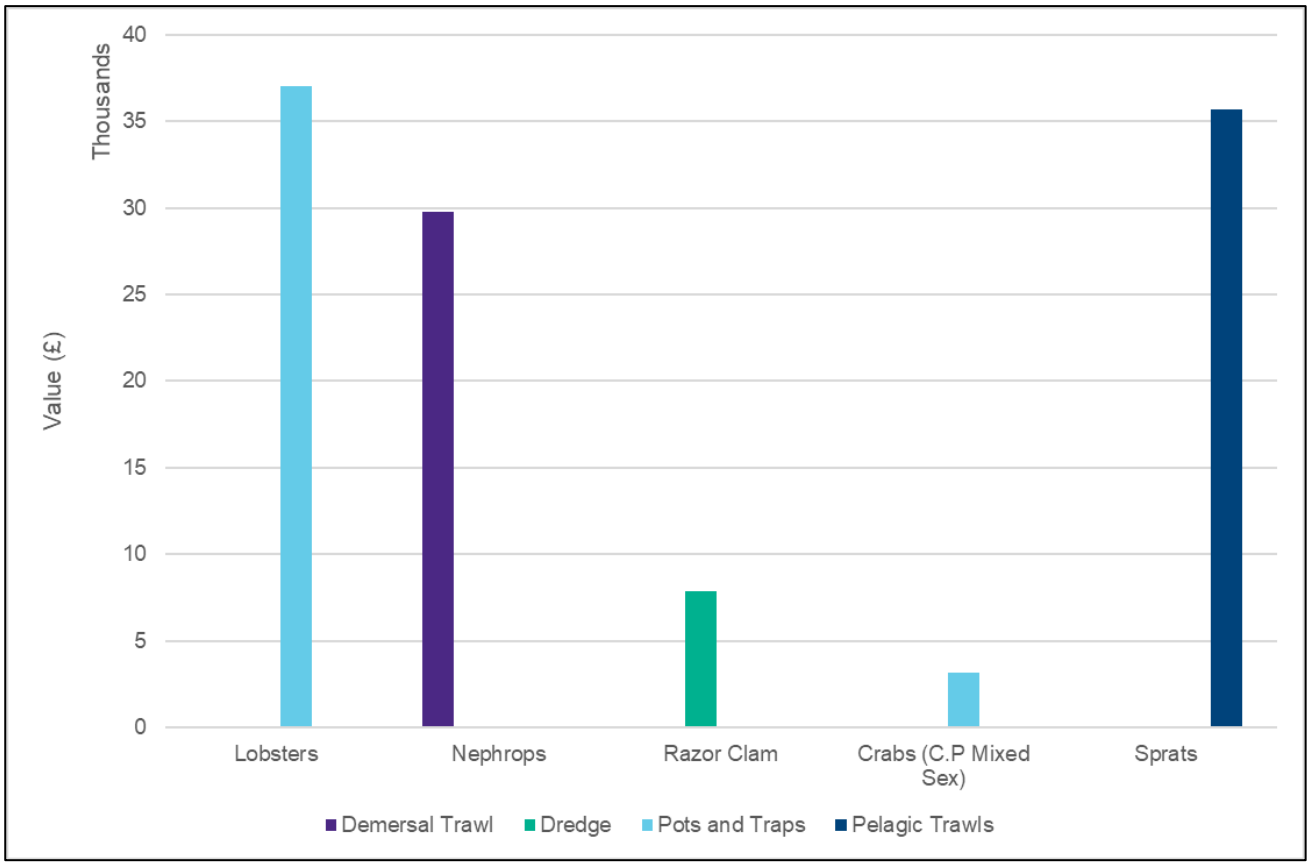

Figure 12A-6: Average annual value (£,000) of all landings by RoI vessels from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) indicating species and gear type (based on seven years data, 2018 to 2024). (Data Source: MMO, 2023, 2025).

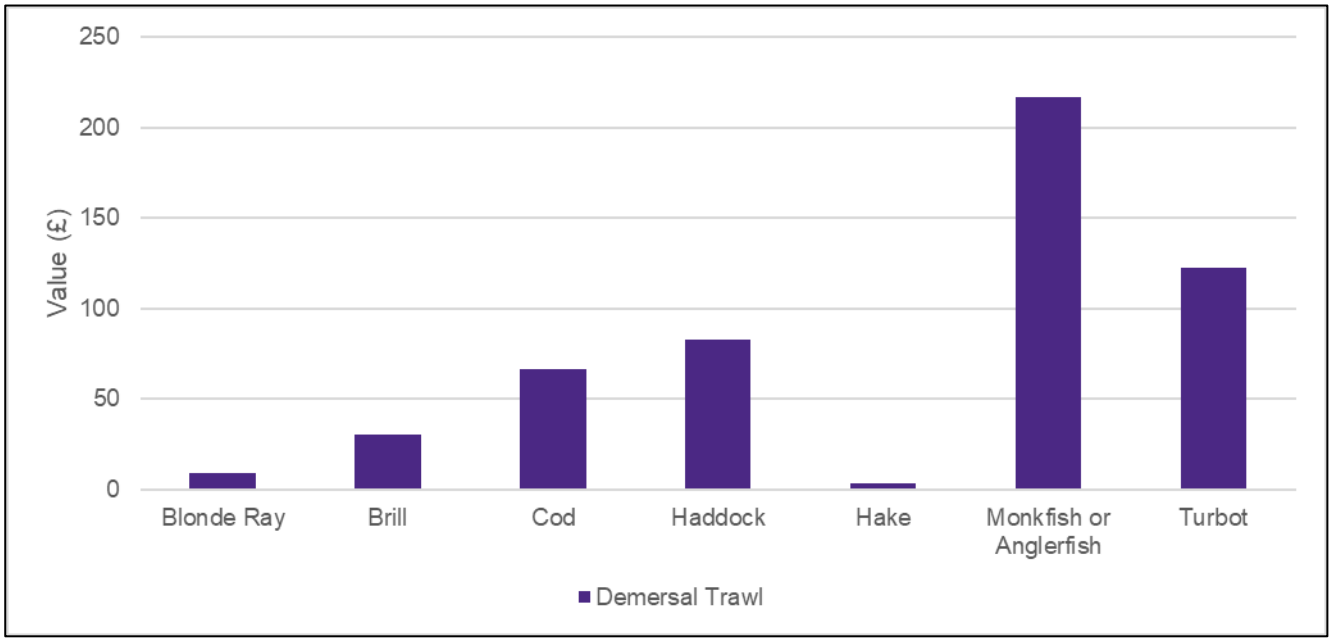

Figure 12A-7: Average annual value (£) of all landings by RoI vessels from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) indicating species and gear type (based on six years data, 2018 to 2023). (Data Source: MMO, 2023, 2024).

Key species landed from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area by RoI registered vessels include *Nephrops* and monkfish or anglerfish targeted by demersal trawls, lobsters and crab species (C.P) targeted by potters, razor clam targeted by dredgers, and sprat by pelagic trawls (Figure 12A-6; Figure 12A-7). Annual variations in landings per species are presented in Figure 12A-8 ; *Nephrops* are the most consistently caught species within 36E3, with the annual average landed weight from 2018 to 2023 calculated at 5.6 tonnes (no landings in 2024). Across this seven-year period from 2018 to 2024, landings have primarily comprised of *Nephrops*, lobsters and crabs. The extremely high landings of sprat in 2024 (76.7 tonnes) are not illustrated in Figure 12A-8 below, as this species was not landed in any other year, and the magnitude of landed weight would skew the presentation of other species, however, the landed value is illustrated in Figure 12A-9.

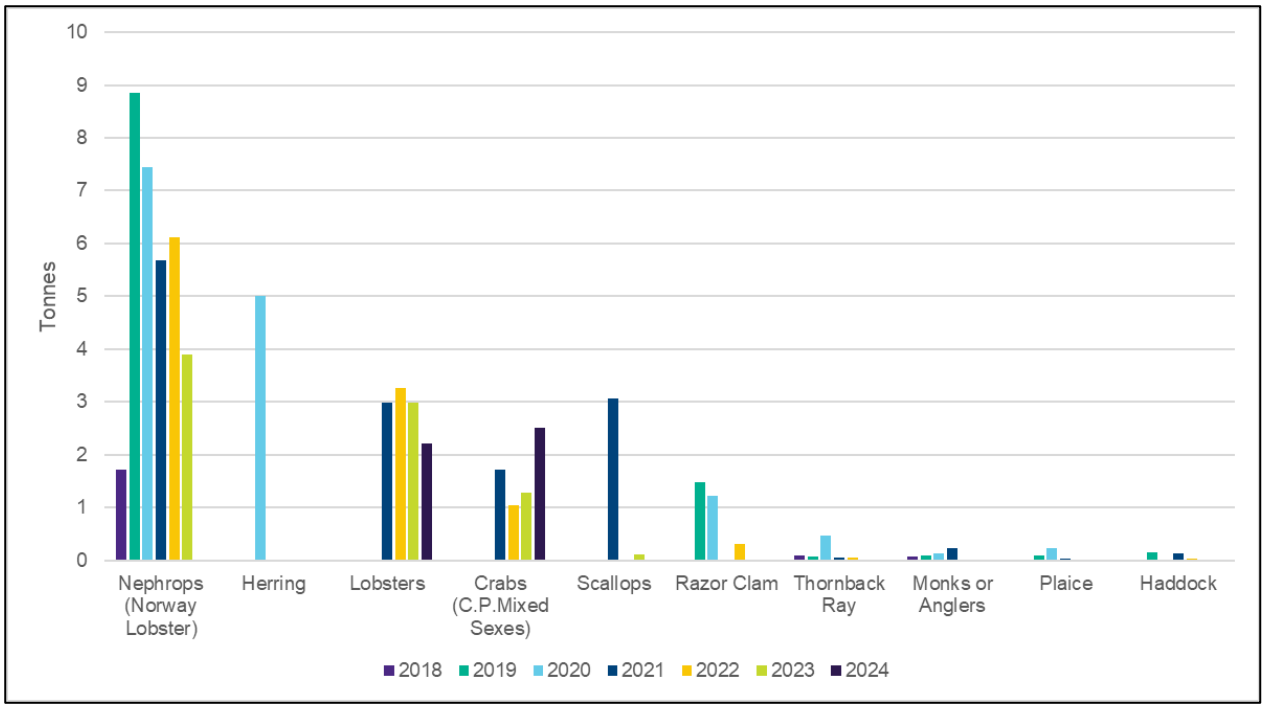

Figure 12A-8: Annual sum of landed weight (tonnes) of landings by RoI vessels from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) by species (2018 to 2024). (Data Source: MMO, 2023, 2025).

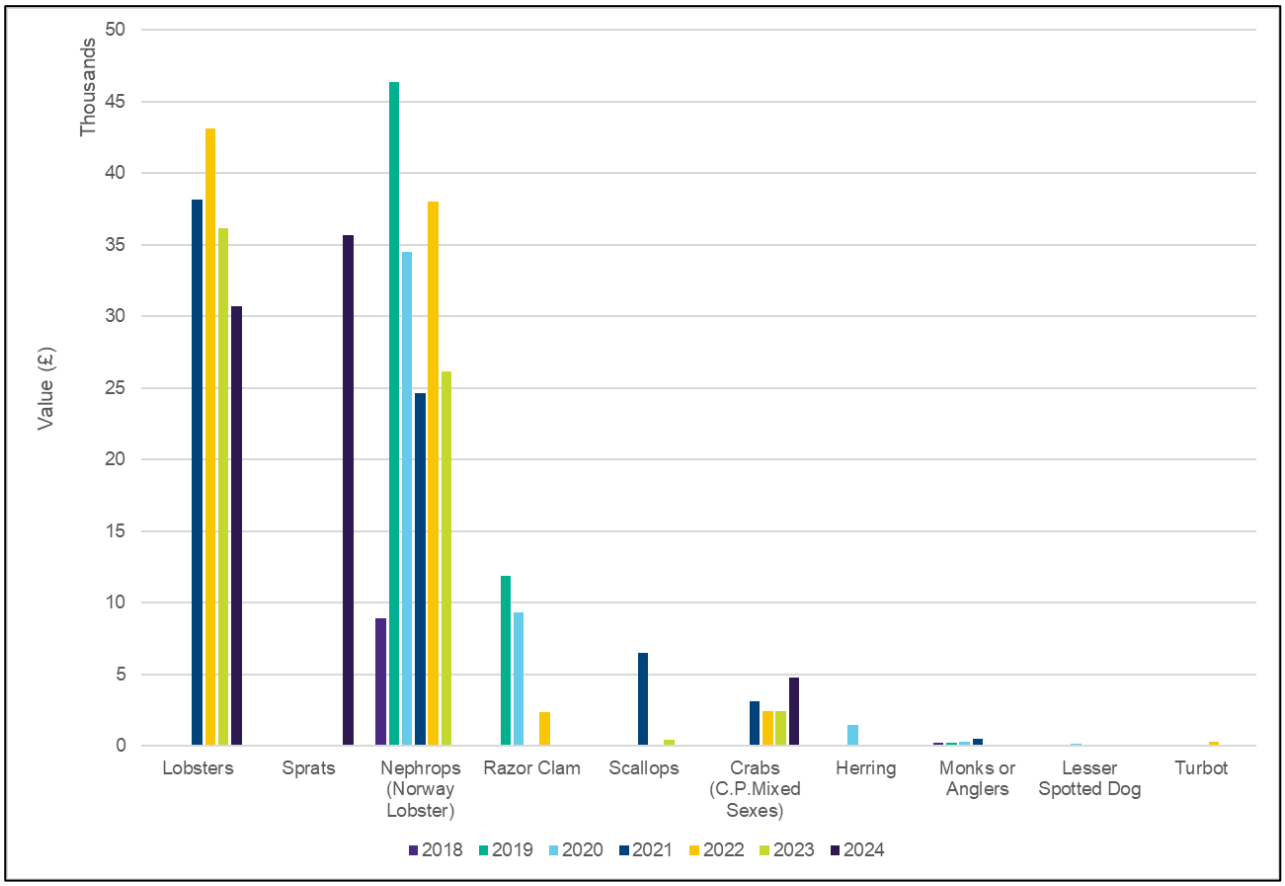

Figure 12A-9: Annual sum of value (£,000) of landings by RoI vessels from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) by species (2018 to 2024). (Data Source: MMO, 2023, 2025).

Northern Ireland

The total number of registered fishing vessels (including those under 10 m in length) has steadily declined from 323 in 2021 to 300 in 2022, 293 in 2023 and 280 in 2024, a reduction of 13.3% from 2021 to 2024 (MMO, 2025). The reduction in Northern Ireland's fishing fleet across this period was mainly due to a decline in vessels under 10 m in length. These smaller vessels make up the majority of the fleet, and their numbers have been steadily decreasing due to economic pressures, aging infrastructure, and policy-driven fleet consolidation.

As of 2022, an estimated 850 fishermen were working across 293 registered vessels in Northern Ireland, operating out of key ports such as Belfast, Kilkeel, Ardglass and Portavogie (MMO, 2024). The MMO's Annual Fishermen's Survey for 2023 was not released due to inconsistencies in the data for English vessels, which raised concerns about its reliability. Therefore, the most recent reliable data from 2022 has been used.

Landings trends and key species

The trends in Northern Ireland vessel landings by weight and value from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) are presented in Figure 12A-10.

The total landed weight (tonnes) by Northern Ireland registered vessels between 2021 and 2024 within the Commercial Fisheries Study Area was 976.12 tonnes (£2,563,625.12; Figure 12A-10). A gradual increase can be observed between 2021 to 2024 from 204.59 tonnes (£451,186.80) to 275 tonnes (£659,495.37) respectively.

Figure 12A-10: Annual sum of landed weight (tonnes) and value (£) of all landings by Northern Ireland vessels from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) (2021 to 2024, inclusive) (Data source: MMO, 2025).

Key species landed by Northern Ireland vessels within the Commercial Fisheries Study Area include *Nephrops*, targeted by bottom (demersal) trawls, lobsters and crab species (C.P) targeted by potters, and scallops by dredgers (Figure 12A-11). Herring are open-water schooling fish and are caught by drift and fixed nets in addition to demersal and pelagic trawl within the Commercial Fisheries Study Area. Figure 12A-11 is presented in two parts to fully illustrate the variation in value across species.

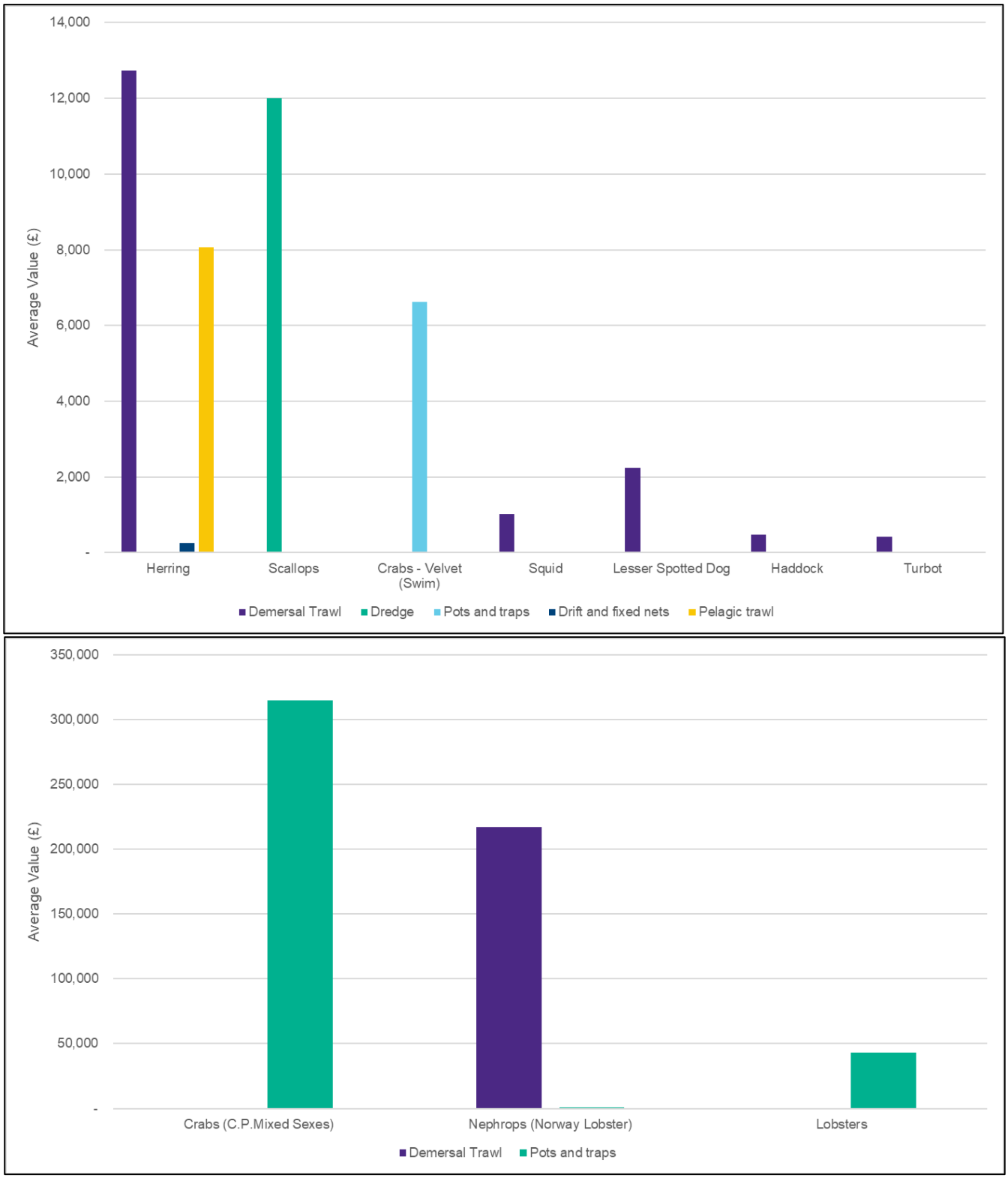

Figure 12A-11: Average annual value (£,000) of all landings by Northern Ireland vessels from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) by species and gear type (based on four years of data, 2021 to 2024 inclusive) (Data source: MMO, 2025).

Annual variations in landings (tonnes) and value (£) per species are presented in Figure 12A-12 and Figure 12A-13, respectively. A notable increase in landings is seen for herring in 2022, while landings of crabs have decreased over the four-year period. The *Nephrops* fishery has gradually increased from 14.55 tonnes in 2021 to 48.8 tonnes in 2024 (see Figure 12A-12). The average landed weight of scallops was relatively low in 2021 at approximately 0.49 tonnes, before increasing to 10.07 tonnes in 2022, and decreasing to 8.34 tonnes in 2023. Mixed species of crab has gradually decreased from 184.97 tonnes in 2021 to 112.10 tonnes in 2024. All other fisheries have remained fairly stable over the three-year period. Figure 12A-13 is presented in two parts to fully illustrate the variation in value across species.

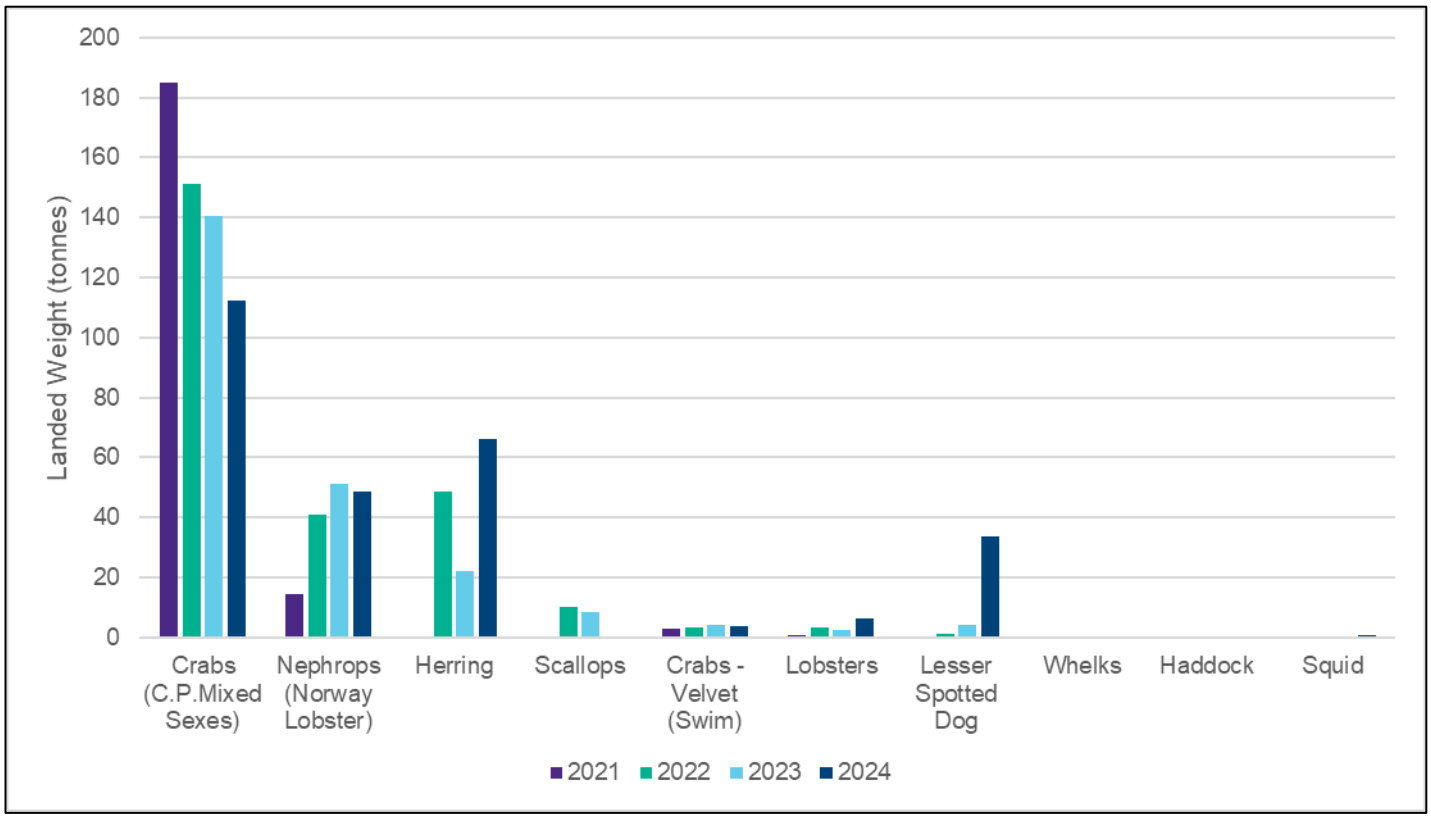

Figure 12A-12: Annual sum of landed weight (tonnes) of landings by Northern Ireland vessels from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) by species (2021 to 2024) (Data source: MMO, 2025).

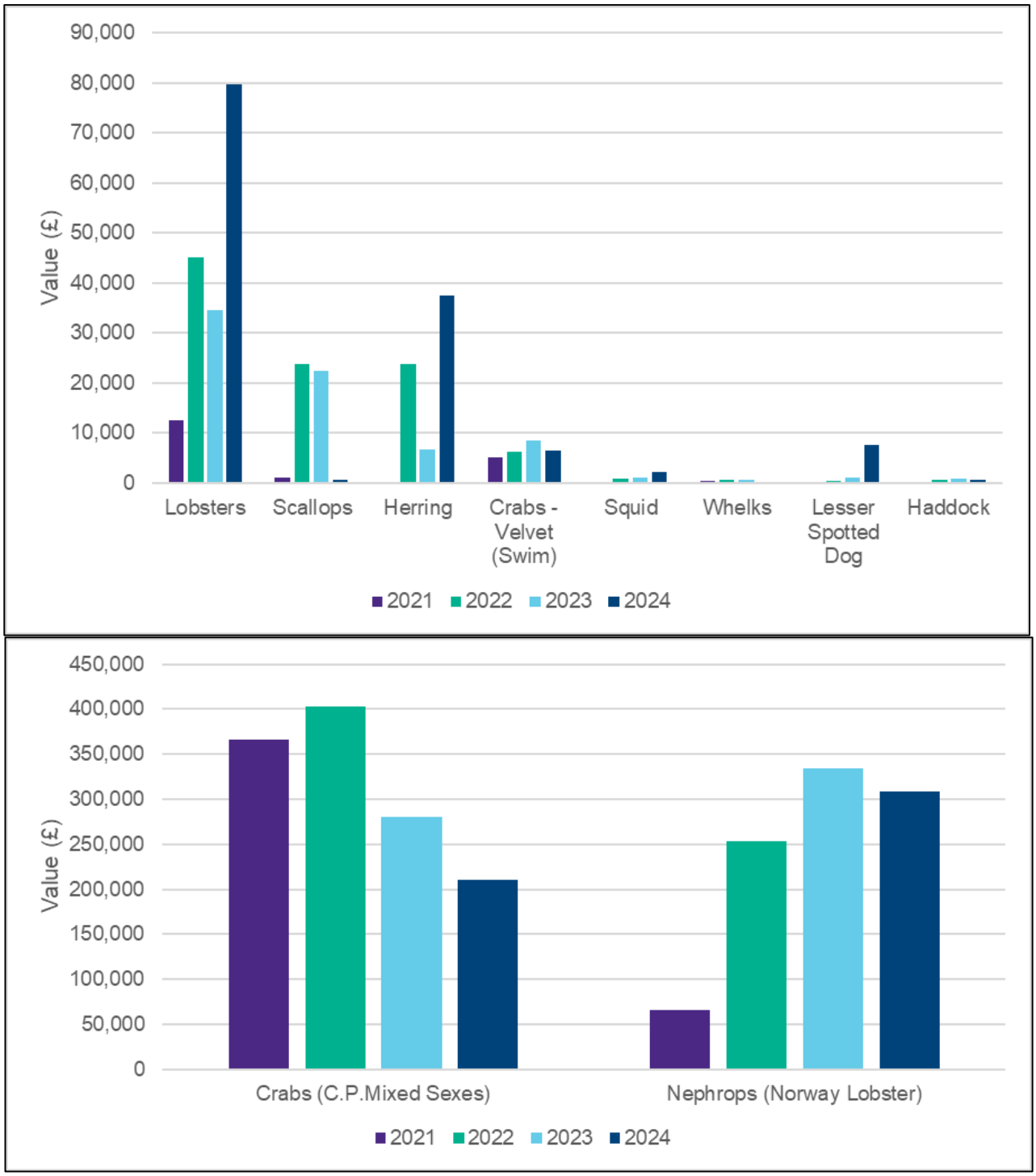

Figure 12A-13: Annual sum of value (£,000) of landings by Northern Ireland vessels from the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (ICES rectangle 36E3) by species (2021 to 2024) (Data source: MMO, 2025).

Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area

The average annual landed weight (tonnes) of all species taken by each vessel registered country is presented in Figure 12A-14. It should be noted that the data has been disaggregated to present Northern Ireland separately, thereby facilitating a clearer analysis of the remaining regions. The highest quantity of landed species (tonnes) is taken by Northern Ireland registered vessels, followed by RoI registered vessels, with smaller amounts landed by England, Scotland and Isle of Man registered vessels.

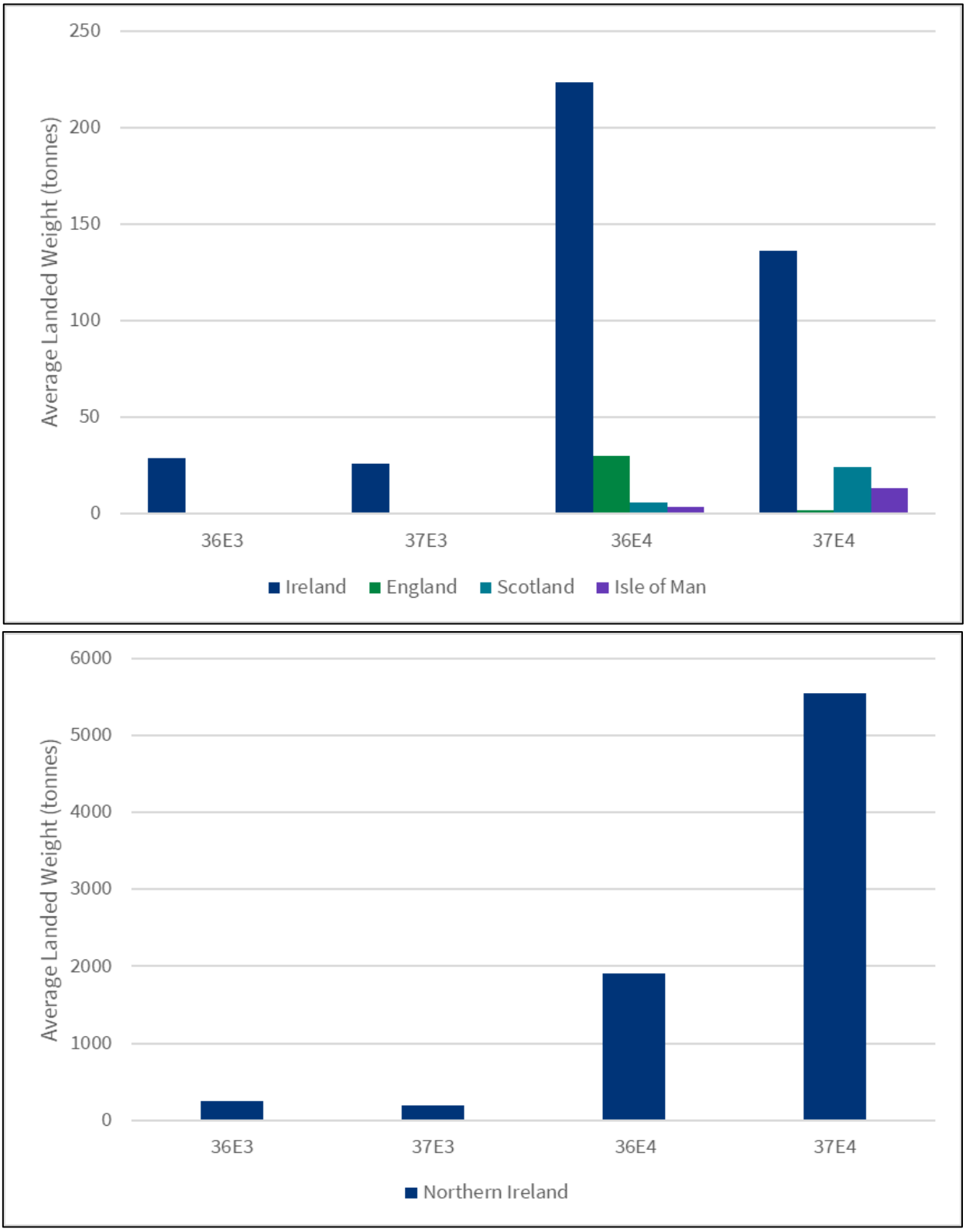

Figure 12A-14: Average annual landed weight (tonnes) of all species landed from the Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area by vessel registered country (based on four years' data from 2021 to 2024) (Data source: MMO, 2025).

The annual average landed weight (tonnes) of all species taken by gear type is presented in Figure 12A-15. The highest quantity of catch (tonnes) is taken by pelagic trawl, followed by demersal trawl and then in smaller quantities by pots and traps and dredge. Beam trawl, drift and fixed nets, demersal seine and longlines make up a negligible proportion of the landings within the Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area.

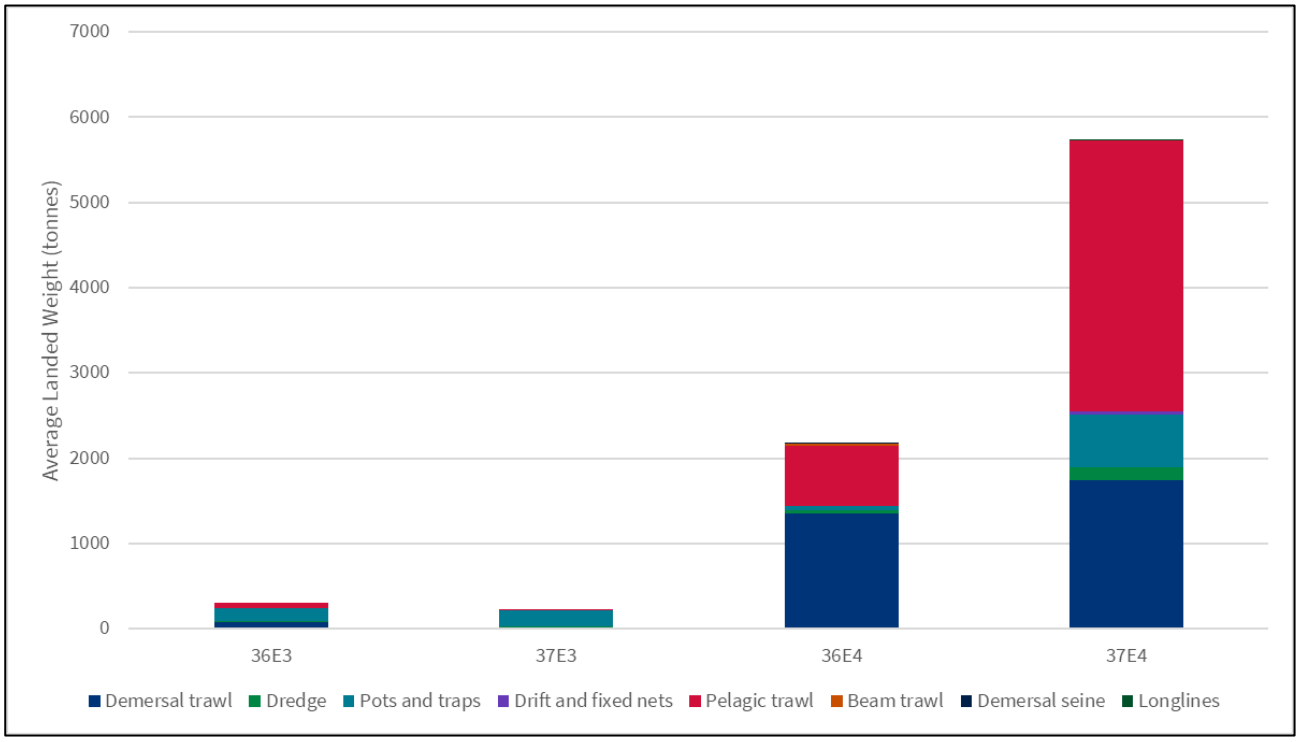

Figure 12A-15: Average annual landed weight (tonnes) of all species landed from the Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area by gear type (based on four years' data from 2021 to 2024) (Data source: MMO, 2025).

Average annual landings from the Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area are 2,091.73 T (based on four years' data from 2021 to 2024; MMO, 2025). The proportion of landings by ICES rectangle and species is shown in Figure 12A-16.

Crabs (C.P) and *Nephrops* dominate the landings in 36E3, accounting for 81% of the average annual landings. Rectangle 37E3 is dominated by green crab, accounting for 69% of landings, followed by lobsters (13%). *Nephrops* dominate the landings within 36E4 and 37E4, accounting for 86% and 76% of the species landed, respectively.

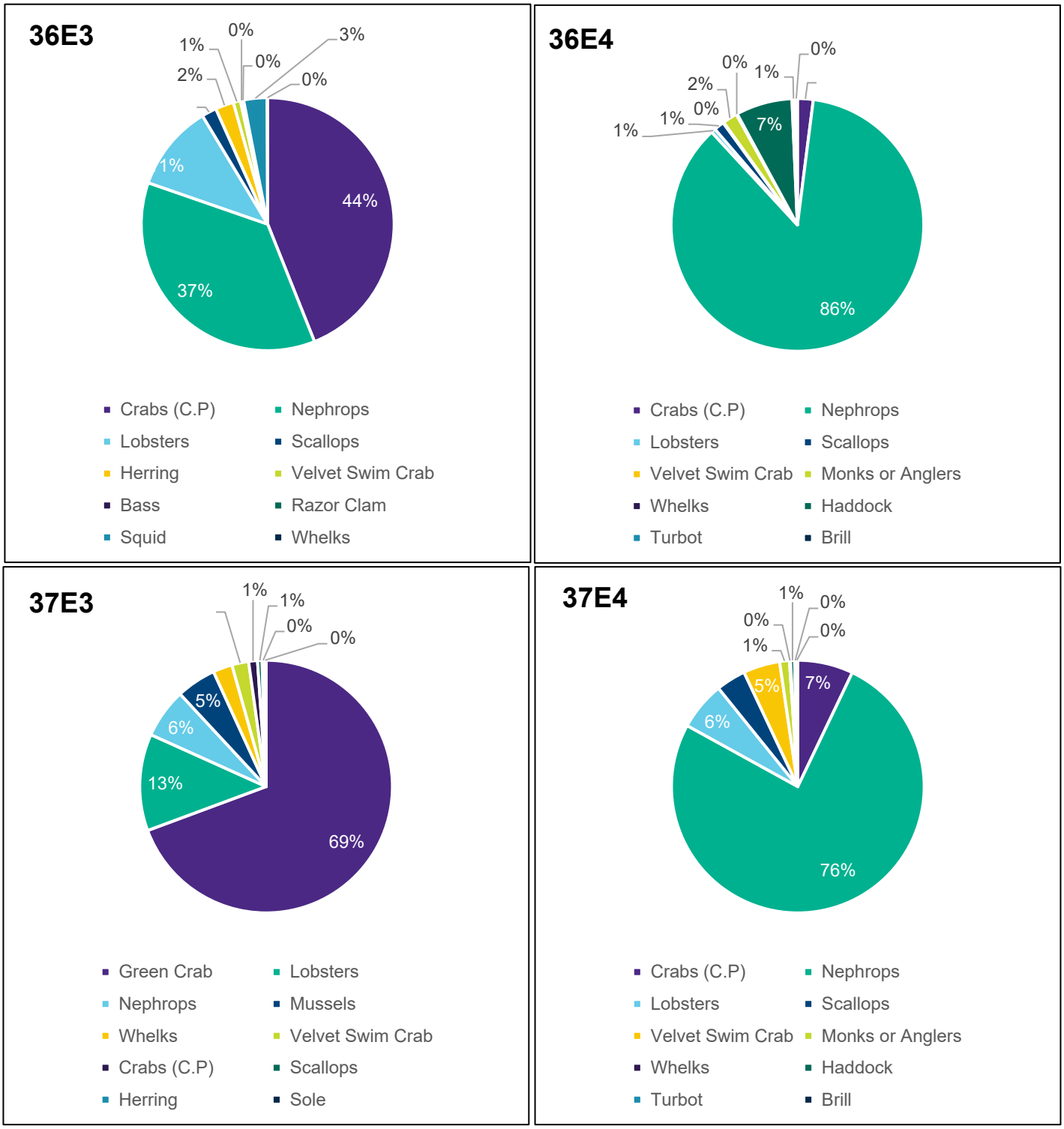

Figure 12A-16: Average annual proportion of landings value by species for the Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area combined (based on four years' data from 2021 to 2024) (Data source: MMO, 2025).

Commercial Fisheries Study Area

Landings by weight from 36E3 are dominated by Northern Ireland registered vessels, followed by RoI vessels. England accounts for a negligible proportion of landings within 36E3. Landings by weight from 36E3 are split between pots and traps, followed by demersal trawl and dredge, and a negligible amount by drift and fixed nets. A summary of the key fishing fleets operating within the Commercial Fisheries Study Area in order of landings value is presented below in Table 12A-3.

Table 12A-3: Summary of commercial fisheries within the Commercial Fisheries Study Area (in order of landings value for each nation).

Fishery	Justification
Republic of Ireland Fishing Fleet (2021 – 2024) (MMO, 2025)	
Demersal Trawl	Vessels targeting primarily *Nephrops* likely operating within offshore fishing grounds, with an annual average value of £30,088 over the period 2021 to 2024.
Dredgers	Vessels targeting shellfish species, such as razor clam and scallops likely operating in both inshore and offshore fishing grounds, with a combined species annual average value of £3,130 over the period 2021 to 2024.
Pots and Traps	Vessels targeting lobsters and crabs (C.P mixed sexes), likely operating in offshore fishing grounds with a combined species annual average value of £40,245 over the period 2021 to 2024.
Pelagic Trawls	Vessels targeting herring or sprat likely operate within offshore fishing grounds. Herring was only landed in 2020, with a value of £1502 and landed weight of 5 tonnes, while 76.6 tonnes of sprat were landed in 2024 with a sum of first sales value of £35,694.
Northern Ireland Fishing Fleet (2021 – 2024) (MMO, 2025)	
Bottom Trawl	Vessels targeting *Nephrops* and herring, likely operating in offshore fishing grounds, with a combined species annual average value of £257,620 (73.15 tonnes) over the period 2021 to 2024.
Pots	Vessels targeting lobsters, velvet swimming crabs, and mixed species crabs likely operating in inshore and offshore fishing grounds, with a combined species annual average landings value of £364,294 (154 tonnes) over the period 2021 to 2024.
Pelagic Trawls	Vessels targeting herring, likely operating in offshore fishing grounds. It should be noted that pelagic trawls were only recorded during 2022, with a sum of first sales value of £16,137 (27.08 tonnes).
Dredgers	Vessels targeting scallops, likely operating in inshore or offshore fishing grounds, with an annual average landings value of £11,999 (4.79 tonnes) over the period 2021 to 2024.
Nets	Vessels targeting herring, likely operating in offshore fishing grounds, with a sum of first sales value of £759 (2.3 tonnes). It should be noted that drift and fixed nets were only recorded during 2022.

12.7.5 Future baseline scenario

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.7.6 Data validity and limitations

The data sources used in this Addendum are detailed in 12.6.1. Table 12A-2 presents additional data sources of information that were used to provide an updated baseline, which is presented in section 12.7 of this Addendum.

Table 12A-2 and the data included in appendix 12-1: Commercial Fisheries Technical Report (EIAR volume 2B) are the most up to date publicly available information which can be obtained from the applicable data sources as cited. Data has been reviewed and presented across multiple years to ensure an accurate characterisation for the region. Data has also been provided through consultation as detailed in section 12.5 of chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries (EIAR volume 2B). The data are therefore limited by what is available and by what has been made available at the time of writing this Addendum.

With specific respect to the concern from ACP regarding ICES data covering the period 2012-2016, the Applicant clarifies that this refers to the EU DCF Fishery Dependent Information (FDI) data from 2012 to 2016 which utilised ICES spatial divisions. This Addendum provides an updated illustration of landings statistics through the use of data provided by the MMO, up to and including the year 2024. It should be noted that while there is an updated dataset available from the EU DCF up to and including the year 2023, this data has changed in format since its use in the appendix 12-1: Commercial Fisheries Technical Report

(EIAR volume 2B), and from the year 2017 the dataset no longer provides disaggregation by country or vessel nationality. Thus, it is not possible to fully describe landing statistics and therefore the updated EU DCF data has not been included in this Addendum. In order to illustrate more recent landing statistics from RoI vessels, data from the MMO has been utilised. However, whilst this provides a useful overview of likely trends in species caught and gear categories utilised, this data under-represents the fishing effort of RoI vessels. This is because the MMO primarily collates data from UK ports and, as such, Irish vessels landing into a number of Irish ports have not been captured. Furthermore, MMO data from 2017 pertaining to RoI vessels has been excluded, as it does not contain the nationality-specific detail that is consistently available from 2018 onwards. Despite these limitations, a full and accurate account of fishing effort as far as practicably possible has been provided with the addition of data and fishing statistics from BIM, the SFPA and spatial data directly from ICES as requested on behalf of OSPAR (ICES, 2021).

12.8 Key parameters for assessment

12.8.1 Project design parameters

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.8.2 Measures included in the Project

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.8.3 Impacts scoped out of the assessment

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.9 Impact assessment methodology

12.9.1 Overview

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.9.2 Impact assessment criteria

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.10 Assessment of significance

12.10.1 Displacement of fishing activity

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.10.2 Potential changes to fishing activity due to presence of infrastructure

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.10.3 Potential for snagging of gear

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.10.4 Reduction in available seabed due to the presence of infrastructure

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.10.5 Mitigation and residual effects

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.10.6 Future monitoring

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.11 Cumulative Impact Assessment

An updated Cumulative Impact Assessment is provided appendix 3-2 Addendum: Cumulative Impact Assessment Report (EIAR volume 2A Addendum). The assessment concludes that there is no change to the conclusion reached in cumulative assessment provided in chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries (EIAR volume 2B) following updates to the baseline data.

12.12 Transboundary effects

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.13 Interactions

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

12.14 Conclusion and summary of impacts, mitigation measures and residual effects

There are no changes to EIAR chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

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