

Shellfish Fisheries Management Plans

FMIG Meeting January 2023



Here to give the UK seafood sector
the support it needs to thrive.

Summary

- **Introduction – What is an FMP?**
- **How is Seafish involved**
- **How are we approaching the work – management groups**
- **What's included in the FMP – Structure / content**
- **How it's going so far – Stakeholder engagement**
- **Feedback and emerging themes**
- **Next steps**

FMPs: The short version

Q: What is an FMP?

A: An FMP sets out policies for maintaining stocks at sustainable levels, or restoring them to these levels if needed. This includes non-quota stocks.

FMPs provide the framework to build and maintain sustainable UK fish and shellfish stocks.

Q: How did FMPs come about?

A: Following Brexit, the **UK Fisheries Act 2020** has placed FMPs at the heart of UK fisheries management. FMPs detail the practical, fishery-scale delivery of the overarching Act.

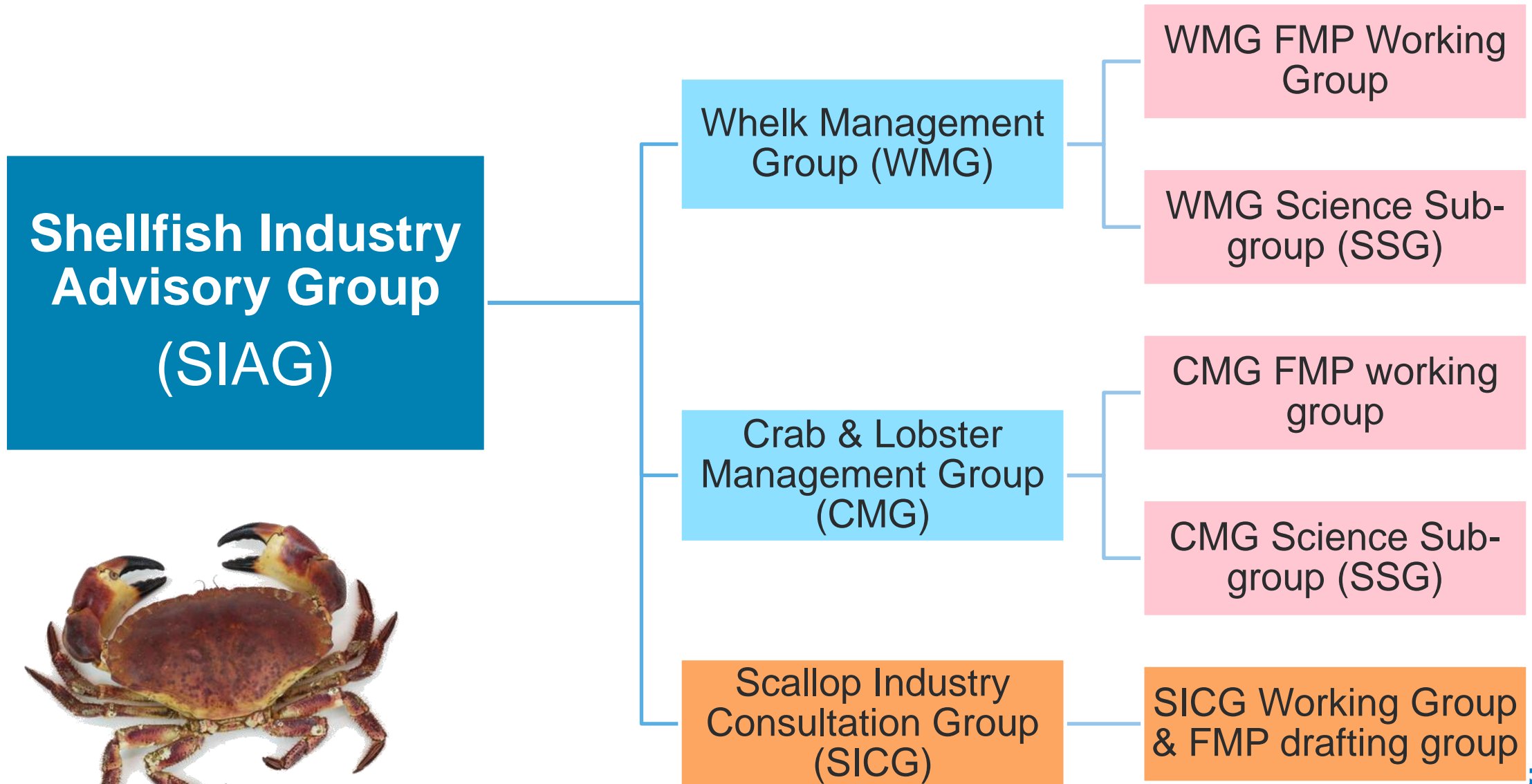
Q: Who is developing FMPs?

A: Defra is responsible for preparing and publishing FMPs. They will be based on best available science, fisher experience, and policy objectives through participation of key stakeholders (fishermen, researchers, and regulators).

How is Seafish involved?



How are we approaching the work?



What's included in the FMP?

Shared Shellfish Objectives

- Apply to all shellfish fisheries

Species specific objectives

- Apply to whelk / crab / lobster fisheries only

Scientific research plans

- Provides the detail on the evidence we will need to deliver FMP objectives

Example FMP objectives

Shared objectives:

- * Explore and address marine spatial conflict
- * Facilitate and promote trade opportunities
- * Understand the shellfish sector's carbon footprint

Crab- & Lobster-specific:

- * Establish methods to better assess stock status
 - * Address interactions with other fisheries
- * Understand and minimise impact of fishing on the wider marine environment

Whelk-specific:

- * Improved data collection
- * Develop key stock boundaries
- * Establish reliable CPUE assessment method

How its going so far – stakeholder engagement



– Where?

From Newlyn to Peterhead

– Why?

Raise awareness about FMPs

Gather feedback on draft content

Discuss management options

– Who?

~480 stakeholders to date, from all sectors

Stakeholder engagement: Emerging themes

Positive

- Strong appetite for collaborative management, improved data collection, evidence-based management, and industry input to marine spatial planning processes
- Support for harmonisation of some management measures (e.g. MLS increases) and acknowledgment of need for better management
- Positive views on promoting trade but lower priority than gathering good data and improving management
- Emphasis on need to distinguish between different fleet métiers (inshore / offshore; day boat / *vivier* vessel)

Stakeholder engagement: Emerging themes

Mixed

- Mixed views on regional importance / relevance of addressing latent capacity, and on climate change objectives (scale of the sector and ability to drive change)

Negative

- Concerns that “*we have been here before*”
- Lack of understanding of how FMPs will interact with existing management (e.g. IFCA byelaws)

Next Steps

- Writing stakeholder engagement reports for C/L and whelk (**end of January 2023**)
- Update the FMP to reflect what we have heard (**end of January 2023**)
- Collation of evidence statement for the FMP (**end of January 2023**)
- Provide the first draft FMP to Defra (**end of January 2023**)
- Formal public consultation on draft FMP by Defra (**April to June 2023**)
- Shellfish FMPs will be finalised and published (**Autumn 2023**)

Questions?

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