



The Northern Ireland Marine Task Force (NIMTF) is a coalition of non-government environmental organisations – it includes RSPB NI, Ulster Wildlife, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, WWF Northern Ireland, National Trust, Friends of the Earth, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, and Northern Ireland Environment Link. The NIMTF has the support of approximately 100,000 local people. We are working towards healthy, productive and resilient seas for Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Marine Task Force response to:

[Consultation - Soft Shelled Edible \(Brown\) Crab](#)

Submitted on 17/03/2022

Consultation questions

(1) Do you support the proposal to prohibit any person from taking, having in possession, selling, exposing for sale, buying for sale, or consigning to any person for the purpose of sale, any edible (brown) crab which has recently cast its shell (soft-shelled edible crab).

The Northern Ireland Marine Task Force fully support this proposal and ask the Department to introduce measures to this effect as quickly as possible.

(2) Do you support the proposal to prohibit any person from selling, exposing for sale, buying for sale, or consigning to any person for the purpose of sale, any edible (brown) crab for a use that is not for human consumption (e.g., prohibit selling for bait).

The Northern Ireland Marine Task Force fully support this proposal and ask the Department to introduce measures to this effect as quickly as possible.

(3) Should "soft-shelled" prohibitions apply to all species of crab that are fished in Northern Ireland?

The Northern Ireland Marine Task Force agree that 'soft-shelled' prohibitions should apply to all species of crab that are commercially fished in Northern Ireland. Measures to implement such prohibitions should take care not to limit their extent to currently commercially fished crab species, but all crab species in NI when fished. This will account for future shifts in species focus among fishers. It may also be appropriate for DAERA to monitor recreational collection/fishing of other soft-shelled crab species, and if necessary, consider similar prohibitions.

(4) Do you wish for anything in your response to be kept confidential?

No

Contact:



Dr. Kenneth Bodles (RSPB) - Kenneth.Bodles@rspb.org.uk

Heidi McIlvenny (Ulster Wildlife) - Heidi.McIlvenny@UlsterWildlife.org