

News story: Undulate ray by-catch allowance in the eastern English Channel

From 1 September English fishing vessels in ICES Area VIIId will have a 50kg by-catch allowance for undulate rays.

- Undulates must be landed whole or gutted and must not measure less than 40cm or more than 60cm between wing tips.
- Landings of undulate ray will also be counted against Area VIIId skates and ray quota as a whole.

In previous years the quota for this stock has been allocated to individual fishermen for use in scientific trials run by CEFAS. There is to be no scientific trial this year and therefore to ensure equal opportunities for all vessels who may experience a by-catch of this species the 50kg per month is open to all vessels with an English licence.

This 50kg forms part of the total monthly allowance for skates and rays in area VIIId. A vessel may not catch more than the total allowance for skates and rays in VIIId, inclusive of any undulate catches. For example, if an under-10m non-sector vessel lands 400kg of thornback ray and 50kg of undulate ray, the vessel will have landed 450kg of its monthly quota allocation for skates and rays in VIIId which for September is set at 500kg.

While undulate ray is classed as a [near-threatened species in Europe](#) it is also recognised as locally common in the eastern English Channel (area VIIId) which is why the EU allows a small quota each year. It has also been [removed as a feature of Defra's recommended Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone](#).

This year the UK allocation for area VIIId is 3 tonnes with an additional flexibility allowance of 5% of the quota in the Western English Channel (VIIe) which brings the total available quota in VIIId to a maximum of 6 tonnes as a total for the whole of the UK fleet.

Undulate ray caught in this area are under a restrictive management framework, and the following regulations below must be followed:

- To be consistent with Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) by-laws in some parts of the stock range, no undulate ray measuring less than 40 cm between the extreme tips of the wings should be landed.
- Following STECF guidelines, no undulate ray measuring greater than 60 cm between the extreme tips of the wings should be landed.
- No undulate ray may be transhipped.
- Undulate ray may only be retained on board or landed whole or gutted.

In order to prevent an over-fish of this small quota and protect the long term population it may be necessary to close this allowance at any point during a given month.

News story: Baby born mid-flight in coastguard helicopter

HM Coastguard's aeronautical rescue coordination centre, was called by South West ambulance at 1900 hrs to request assistance with a woman who had gone into labour whilst visiting the Isles of Scilly. Since there was not a midwife on the islands on Saturday 18 August the mum, 'bump' and dad needed to be evacuated from the islands to a hospital on the mainland.

The Newquay coastguard helicopter was scrambled, collected a midwife en route, touched down at St Mary's airport, picked up the man and woman then began the trip to the Royal Cornwall Hospital at Treliske, near Truro. However, the baby boy was in such a hurry he decided to make a guest appearance onboard the aircraft. At 2053 hrs, with the help of the midwife and aircrew, the healthy baby boy was born.

Jonathan Mustard, aeronautical operations controller for HM Coastguard said:

"This is the second time in recent times, that a baby has been born on board a coastguard helicopter. The last one was born over Lunna Holm, Shetland in December 2012. We are absolutely thrilled and delighted to have played a part in the birth and are pleased that mum and baby are doing well. It's rare to hear that our helicopter launched with 7 people on board, but were preparing to land with 8. Congratulations mum and dad!"

Press release: Charity regulators hold governance review of SORP making process

The four charity regulators in the UK and Republic of Ireland have decided to hold a governance review of the constitution and composition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) committee and the SORP making process.

The governance review will be undertaken by an Oversight Panel comprising an

observer representative nominated by the FRC and a representative from each of the four charity regulators. The panel will be assisted by the staff of the CCEW and OSCR.

The work of the panel will be overseen by Professor Gareth Morgan, an independent Chair retained by the SORP-making body.

The purpose of the governance review is:

- to gain assurance that the SORP-making process commands confidence and addresses the transparency and public confidence challenges facing charities; and
- to assure the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) that any revised arrangements adhere to the FRC Policy on developing SORPs.

The Charities SORP is the set of rules which governs charity accounting for charitable companies and larger charities and was initially developed by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (CCEW) and the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI) were added as joint members of the SORP-making body in June 2018. The Financial Reporting Council have also approved the inclusion of the Charities Regulator in the SORP-making body but this is subject to the SORP being formally adopted for use in the Republic of Ireland and made mandatory for Irish charities.

The charity regulators have identified that as a minimum the governance review shall consider the following matters:

- the composition of the advisory SORP Committee
- identification of, and engagement with, key stakeholders in the SORP development process
- the extent to which the views of key stakeholders have been recognised in the process
- potential of changes to membership of the SORP Committee should the FRC agree the remit of the SORP to make recommendations covering non-statutory financial reporting by charities

The governance review will be undertaken during 2018 and the conduct of the review, the taking of evidence, publicising of the process, and the identification and invitation of participants, and any other relevant matter shall be determined by the Oversight Panel. Any recommendations from the review requiring change to the composition of the advisory SORP Committee and the SORP development process will be taken forward by the SORP-making body in 2019 in time for the development of the next full SORP.

Charities SORP Committee Governance Review Panel Chair, Professor Gareth Morgan, said:

As someone who has had a long interest in the Charities SORP, both as an academic researcher and as a practitioner, I am very much aware of its significance in achieving massive improvements in

charity accounts and reporting since the first modern SORP was issued in 1995. Going forward in 2018, I am delighted that the four charity regulators across the UK and Ireland will together form the new SORP-making body. In the circumstances, it is entirely right to begin with a review of the governance processes in developing new versions of the SORP, and I am honoured to have been asked to chair that review.

Laura Anderson of OSCR who is one of the joint Chairs of the SORP Committee, said:

On behalf of the charity regulators involved in the SORP process we welcome Gareth taking on the role of Chair. The review comes at a critical juncture as we look to take stock and develop the next SORP with the needs of all four charity law jurisdictions in mind. To be effective we need a SORP process that is fully representative and delivers a SORP that it is clear, accurate and meets the reporting needs of the users of charity reports and accounts whilst upholding the standards issued by the FRC.

Ends

Notes to Editors

1. The full terms of reference for the Charities SORP Committee Governance Review can be found [here](#).
 2. Gareth Morgan is Emeritus Professor of Charity Studies at Sheffield Hallam University where he led various research concerned with charity accounting and regulation. He has also advised a wide range of charities (mostly small to medium organisations) on accounting and governance issues through his firm, The Kubernesis Partnership LLP. He has worked with charities and the charity regulators across the three UK jurisdictions, and with the Irish Charities Regulator.
 3. The Oversight Panel members are Sarah Atkinson, Director of Policy, Planning and Communication at CCEW, Judith Hayhow, Head of Support Services at OSCR, Punam McGookin, Head of Charity Services at CCNI and Tom Malone, Head of Compliance and Enforcement at the Charities Regulator.
 4. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) is applicable to accounts prepared to give a true and fair view in the UK and Ireland. Whilst this remains the case the FRC oversees the SORP which provides guidance to charities in the UK and Ireland as to how to apply FRS 102 when preparing charity accounts.
 5. For more information about the SORP, the SORP-making body and advisory SORP Committee refer to the dedicated website www.charitySORP.org.
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News story: UK Government reaction to GERS

Commenting on the Scottish Government's [GERS figures](#), Scottish Secretary David Mundell said:

These Scottish Government figures show that at more than £13 billion, Scotland's deficit at 7.9% as a share of GDP is four times that of the UK's 1.9% as a whole. This is concerning.

However these figures also confirm that being part of a strong United Kingdom – the 5th largest economy in the world – is worth nearly £1,900 for every single person in Scotland, which supports vital public services. Simply put, Scotland contributed eight per cent of UK tax, and received more than nine per cent of UK spending for the benefit of families across the country.

The UK Government is investing directly in Scotland, including more than £1 billion in city and growth deals, and we are ready to work with the Scottish Government to boost the economy.

1. Using the Scottish Government's own data, public spending in Scotland was nearly £1,600 per head higher than that of the UK average. In other words, in 2017-18 it was 13.2% higher than the UK average. Over the last five years, this gap has been between 10.6% in 2014-15 and 13.2% in the latest full financial year.
2. Scotland's tax contributions, at £11,052, continue to be around £300 per head less than the UK average, at £11,358.
3. Scotland's deficit [or borrowing] was nearly £1,900 per person larger than the UK average in 2017-18.
4. Scotland contributed 8.0% of UK tax and received 9.3% of UK spending in 2017-18 (Scotland's population share was 8.2% in mid-2017), demonstrating how Scotland receives secure and stable levels of spending irrespective of the volatile tax revenues from the North Sea.
5. Scotland's share of UK total revenue has fallen over recent years. Since its peak at 9.7% in 2008-09, Scotland's contribution to UK revenues has been on a downward trend in subsequent years and is currently at 8.0% of the UK total.
6. Scotland's geographical share of North Sea revenues increased from £266 million in 2016-17 to £1.3 billion in 2017/18. This is up from a low of £50 million in 2015-16 and down from a peak in 2008-09 of £8.9 billion.

7. Non-North Sea revenue in Scotland grew by 3.6% in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17, just marginally higher than the figure for the UK as a whole, at 3.5% (excluding reclassification of English housing association). This growth is driven by increased national insurance contributions and corporate tax revenues.
 8. Scotland's net fiscal balance as a share of GDP was -7.9%, compared to -1.9% for the UK overall. This decreased from -8.9% in 2016-17, compared to the UK overall, which came down from -2.3%. In absolute terms, Scotland's deficit was £13.4 billion in 2017-18, down from £14.5 billion in 2016-17.
 9. While Scotland's overall fiscal position improved in 2017-18, Scotland's deficit as a share of its economy is over 4 times higher than that of the UK.
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Notice: Notice 22/18 – Imports of rice under Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1273/2011

Details of the quantities available are fully outlined in Annex 1 of this notice.