

FISHING METHODS LEAGUE TABLE

This table has been developed to provide an overview of 24 fishing methods in general use and to help identify the most sustainable fishing methods available in terms of their impact on marine habitat and species and the effectiveness of their management.

Impact on habitat – considers the impact of the fishing gear on the seabed and/or other habitat such as coral, seamounts etc.

Impact on target species – considers the impact of the fishing gear on the target species itself - how selective a method is it? how many juvenile or undersized fish are discarded or thrown away? etc. Factors such as the mesh size in use will have an impact on the number of undersized fish discarded or thrown away.

Impact on non-target species – considers the impact of the fishing gear on non-target species – often referred to as by-catch - these may be other fish species or non-fish species such as marine birds, turtles or mammals. The extent of the impact on non-target species depends on a number of factors such as the target fish species and the area in which the fishing activity is taking place. For example pelagic or mid-water trawling is associated with unacceptable levels of dolphin by-catch in seabass fisheries whereas fishing using the same method for herring no such problem is encountered.

Management – here the management framework, specifically regulation and/or effort controls, and its effectiveness is considered for fisheries in EU and UK waters only.

A number of ***Mitigation or Conservation Measures*** are also listed for each method which if implemented in all cases would improve the selectivity of the method further reducing its impact on marine habitat and/or species.

Rating: Impact/Management



Low Impact / Well Managed



Some Impact / Management Requires Improvement





























































Moderate Impact / Poorly Managed






























High Impact / Unacceptable

Fishing Method	Examples of Species Targeted by Method	Impact on habitat	Impact on target species	Impact on non-target species	Management	Mitigation or Conservation Measures Available (but not necessarily applied)	Rating
Dive caught	Scallops					Licensed diving only; closed areas	
Hand gathered or raked	Molluscs e.g. cockles					Controls on unlicensed harvesting	
Handline	Mackerel, cod					Licensing	
Jig	Squid				Not Applicable		
Pot or Creel	Crab, lobster, Dublin Bay prawn					Restrictions on the number and type of pot e.g.	

						parlour pot; escape gaps; closed areas and seasons.	
Rod and line (Commercial)	Trout					Licensing; closed seasons; gear restrictions; and minimum landing sizes	
Spear / harpoon	Tuna, grouper				Not Applicable		
Trap	Octopus, cuttlefish, prawns					Restrictions on the number of traps; escape gaps	
Troll	Tuna, swordfish				Not Applicable		
Beam Trawl (vessel <24m, 220Kw)	Flat fish e.g. plaice, sole, turbot, brill, lemon Sole. Also monkfish or angler and cuttlefish					Square Mesh Panel (SMP) to reduce bycatch of benthos; mesh size; square mesh; closed areas; replacement of skids with wheels	
Bottom longline	Cod, haddock, rays, ling and huss					Restrictions on number of hooks, length of line, soak time	

Bottom trawl (shelf seas)	Demersal e.g. cod, haddock, monkfish					SMP; square mesh; mesh size; separator panels and grids etc.; closed areas	
Fixed or Gill net	hake, turbot, brill, sole					Attachment of acoustic deterrent devices; closed areas; effort controls	
Drift Net (Coastal)	Salmon, herring					Licensing; mesh size restrictions; effort controls	
Pelagic longline	Toothfish, tuna, swordfish					Various measures inc. circular-shaped hooks and bait type to reduce turtle by-catch; various measures to reduce seabird by-catch e.g. weighted lines	
Purse-seine	Mackerel, tuna, herring, sardine					Dolphin friendly methods where applicable	
Demersal Seine netting -	Demersal fish e.g. cod, sole, lemon Sole, red mullet, squid,					Effort controls; licensing; mesh size restrictions;	

	dab					selective panels	
Pelagic or mid-water trawl	Seabass, herring, mackerel, hoki, horse mackerel, pilchard					Sorting grids; EU ban on mid-water pair trawling	
Beam Trawl (vessel >24m, >220Kw)	Flat fish e.g. plaice, sole					Electric ticklers (experimental); Square Mesh Panel (SMP) to reduce bycatch of benthos; mesh size; square mesh; closed areas; replacement of skids with wheels	
Dredge	Scallops, oysters					Closed areas; gear restrictions; effort controls	
Hydraulic or suction dredge	Molluscs e.g. cockles, clams					Closed areas; gear restrictions; effort controls	
Tangle Net	Spider crab, turbot, sole, angler or monkfish					Effort controls; restrictions on number and length of nets; mesh size	
Bottom trawl (deepwater coral reefs &	Demersal e.g. orange roughy					Moratorium on high seas bottom trawling	

seamounts)							
Chemical	Reef species e.g. grouper				Not Applicable	Illegal	
Explosive	Reef fish e.g. snapper				Not Applicable	Illegal	
Drift Net (High Seas)	Tuna, shark				Not Applicable	Illegal	