



Green Crab Fishery

The green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) fishery is sporadic in nature and is frequently incidental bycatch in the velvet crab (*N. puber*) fishery. Landings and effort fluctuate (Figure 1), with peak landings recorded in 2002, followed by a decline until 2008 where landings remained relatively stable at around 20 tonnes annually. Landings declined in 2017 to 1.7 tonnes and remained broadly similar in 2018-2020. Market conditions and availability of other species are likely to influence landings.

LPUE is seen to be steady around 0.2-0.3 kg/creel since 2011, albeit with a drop to 0.1 kg/creel in 2017. The opportunistic nature of the fishery, and the widespread occurrence of this species, means it is unlikely the fishery is having a significant negative impact on the population, though the data does provide an indicator of annual change. Further, due to irregular reporting and resulting low confidence in data consistency, it is not currently possible to carry out further analyses for the green crab fishery.

The majority of reported landings of green crabs are seen to be from the east of Shetland (Figures 2-4). However, due to its widespread distribution, this is not deemed an accurate representation of its overlap with the fishery. The fishery presence has increased since 2019, though inter-annual variation is common.

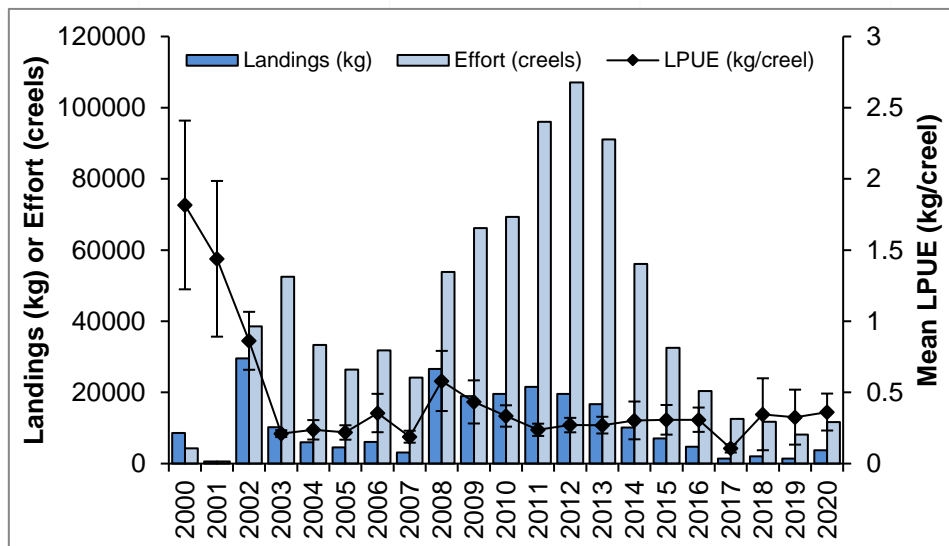


Figure 1 Total green crab landings (kg), total numbers of creels, and the average LPUE obtained from SSMO logbook data with 95% confidence intervals shown.

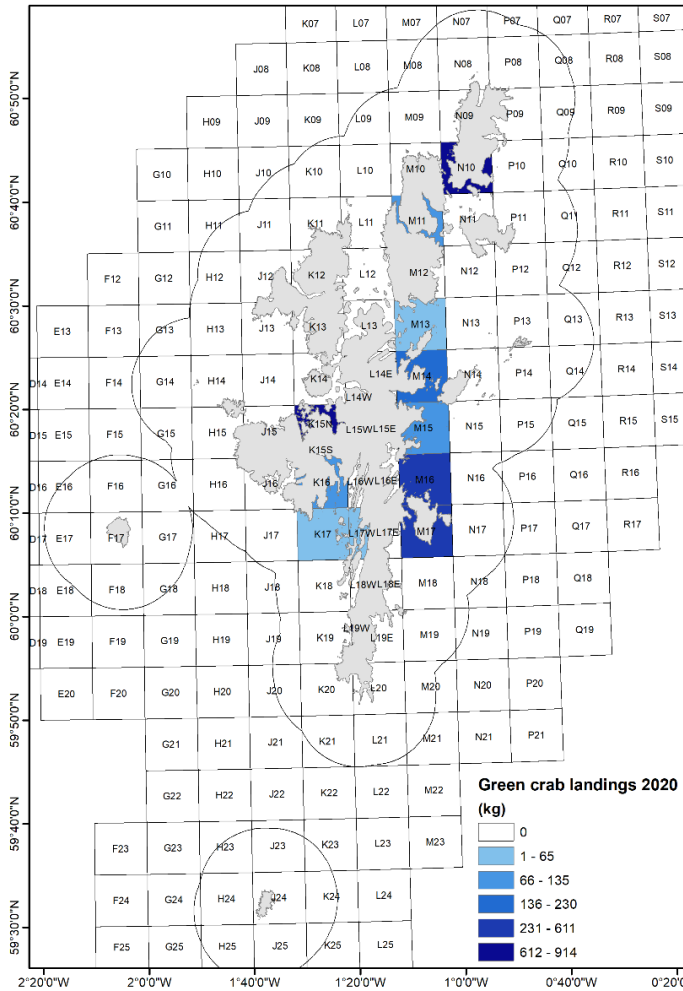


Figure 2 Geographic distribution of green crab landings per SSMO stat square in 2020.

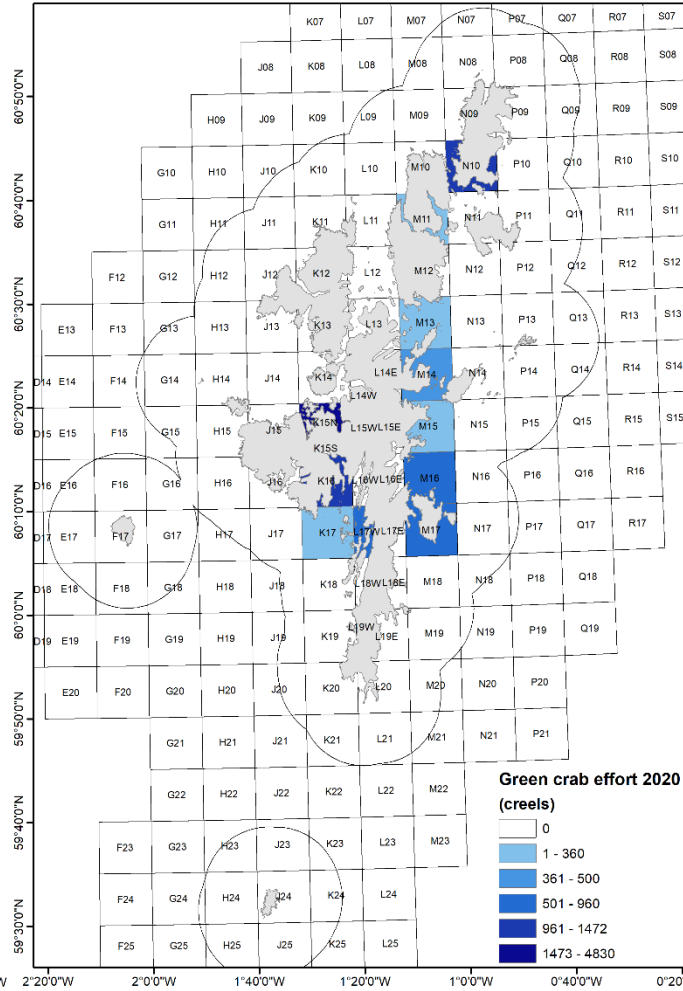


Figure 3 Geographic distribution of green crab effort per SSMO stat square in 2020.

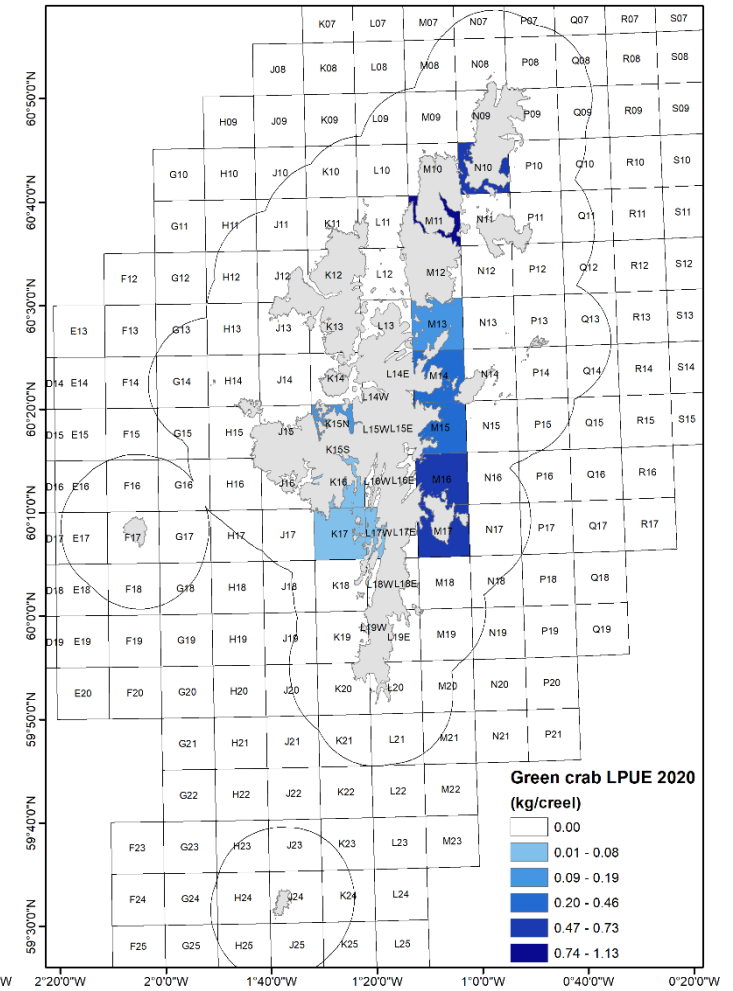


Figure 4 Geographic distribution of green crab LPUE per SSMO stat square in 2020.