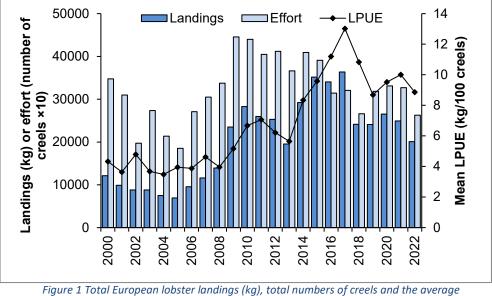
European Lobster Fishery

While there is some targeted creel fishing for lobsters (*Homarus gammarus*) they are largely caught as bycatch in the crab fisheries, which are regulated via creel limitations.

Data from SSMO logbooks show an initial period of decline in landings from 2000 to a low of around six tonnes in 2005 (based on a mean lobster weight of 0.8 kg; Figure 1). This was followed by a period of increase to 36 tonnes in 2017, followed by a drop to just below 25 tonnes in 2018 - 2022. The increase in landings observed between 2007 and 2017 coincided with a period of increased observations of undersized lobsters entering the fishery.

Effort, calculated as the total number of creels fished where lobsters were recorded in the landings data, has shown a steady decrease since a peak in 2009. However, effort has risen between 2019 and 2021, equivalent to 2017 levels (Figure 1). The decrease in LPUE observed between 2017 and 2019 was marked and could be representative of a return to lower levels of recruitment following the increased recruitment observed in 2007-17. Landings per unit effort (LPUE) remains well above the mean at 8.9kg/100 creels.



LPUE obtained from SSMO logbook data with 95% confidence intervals shown.

The lobster fishery is widespread (Figures 2-4), with areas of the highest LPUE observed around the north isles and North Mainland. Whilst overall distribution remains similar between years, interannual variation in the fishery result in fluctuations around Foula and Fair Isle.

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						K07	L07	M07	N07-	P07	Q07	R07] [K07	L07	M07	N07	P07	Q07	R07							K07	L07	M07	N07	- P07	Q07	R07
					J08	к08	L08	мов	N08	P08	008	R08						J08	к08	L08	мов	N08	P08	208	R08						J08	к08	L08	M08	N08	P08	208	R08
60.8°N				H09	109	K09	1.09		NO9	P09	Q09	R09	60.8°N -				H09	J09	K09	1.09		N09		Q09	R09	60.8°N				H09	J09	К09	1.09	_/ M09	N09	P09	Q09	R09
			G10	H10	J10	к10	_/	M10	N10	P10	Q10	R10				G10	H10	J10	К10	 L10	MIO	N10	P10	Q10	R10			[G10	H10	J10	к10) L10	M10		P10	Q10	R10
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		F12	G12	H12	J12	К12	L12	M12	N12	P12	012	R12			F12	G12	H12	J12	К12	L12	M12	N12	P12	012	R12			F12	G12	H12	J12	К12	L12	M12	N12	P12	012	R12
	E13	F13	G13	H13	J13	K13	L13	M13	N13 _	P13	Q13	R13		E13	F13	G13	H13	J13	K13	L13	,M13	N13 _	P13	Q13	R13		E13	F13	G13	H13	J13	K13	13	M13	N13	P13	Q13	R13
60.4°N	E14	F14 (G14	> H14	J14	K14 I	140/146	M14	N14	P14	Q14	R14	60.4°N - 1	E14	F14	G14	> H14	J14	K14 L	141/14	E 1M14	N14	P14	Q14	R14	60.4°N —	E14	F14 (G14	> H14	J14	K14 L	14W/14E	M14	Nta	P14	Q14	R14
5	E15	F15	G15	H15	J15		L15W/15	E_M15	N15	P15	Q15	R15	5	E15	F15	G15	H15	J15	K15N	L15W215	E_M15	N15	P15	Q15	R15	5	E15	F15	G15	H15	J15	K15N	15W/15E	M15	N15	P15	Q15	R15
. 60.2°N 3	E16	F16	G16	H16	J16	K15S K16	L 16W 16	É M16	N16	P16	Q16	R16	60.2°N 3	E16	F16	G16	H16	J16	K155	L 16W 16	E M16	N16	P16	Q16	R16	→ 60.2°N 3	E16	F16	G16	H16	J16	к155 К16 ц	16W 16E	M16	N16	P16	Q16	R16
7	E17	F17	G17	H11Z	J17	K17	L17W17	É M17	N17	P17	Q17	R17	7	E17	F17	G17	HINZ	J17	K17	L17W17	E M17	N17) P17	Q17	R17	- 7	E17	F17	G17	H1Z	J17	K17	17W 17E	M17	N17) P17	Q17	R17
-	E18	F18	G18	H18	J18	K18	L 18W 18	E M18	N/18	P18	Q18		-	E18	F18	G18	H18	J18	K18	18W18	E M18	N18	P18	Q18			E18	F18	G18	H18	J18	K18	18W 16E	M18	N18	P18	Q18	
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	E20	F20	G20	H20	J20	K20	¥20	M20	N20	P20		_		E20	F20	G20	H20	JZO	K20	¥20	M20	N20	P20		_		E20	F20	G20	H20	J20	K20	¥20	M20	N20	P20		_
59.8°N —			G21	H21	J21	K21	L21	M21	N21	Lobster Landir	· 2022 1gs (kg)		59.8°N -			G21	H21	J21	K21	L21	M21		bster 20			59.8°N —			G21	H21	J21	K21	L21	M21	N2 L	obster 2 LPUE (I	2022 kg/cree)
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58.0 N	59.6°N		G24	H24) 24	К2#	L24				2 - 865		09.0 N -		F24	G24	H24	324	K2#	L24				- 11320		59.0 N		F24	G24	H24	324	К2#	L24				3 - 0.15	
			G25	H25	ېت J25	к25	L25	-			6 - 1495 196 - 423				F25	G25	H25	پ J25	K25	L25	-			1 - 2003: 3 - 2982				F25	G25	\ H25	¢۳ J25	K25	L25				5 - 0.26 6 - 0.34	
		F25 2.0			/	W N25		1.0	ow.			5°W				0°W			SW N25		1.	D*W		0.5				2.0		/120		5°W	223	1.0	ww.		0.5	°W

Figure 2 Geographic distribution of European Lobster landings (kg) per SSMO statistical square in 2022. Figure 3 Geographic distribution of European Lobster effort (creels) per SSMO statistical square in 2022.

Figure 4 Geographic distribution of European Lobster LPUE (kg/creel) per SSMO statistical square in 2022.

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