

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT SEA FISHERIES (MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS) (AMENDMENT No. 6) (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 201- (P.93/2018): ADDENDUM TO REPORT

**Presented to the States on 6th September 2018
by the Minister for the Environment**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The proposed amendment to the [Sea Fisheries \(Minimum Size Limits\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 2001](#) is to increase the minimum size limits for crawfish from 95 mm. to 110 mm. carapace length.

The distribution of crawfish of the species *Palinurus elephas* ranges from Norway to North Africa. Over the past 25 years, the regional population is estimated to have declined by an average of 60%, resulting in the species being categorised as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (“IUCN”) Red List¹.

Nationally, some areas such as the Scilly Isles maintain reasonable populations through long-established fisheries controls. Other areas, such as the Channel Islands, have seen a near-complete collapse in the species.

This is reflected in the local annual landings by the commercial fleet, as shown in the table below.

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Crawfish (kg.)	170	142	138	0	5	47	7	33	46	121	2

Jersey commercial landings of crawfish

Research² from a protected population of the species in the western Mediterranean has shown that, while female crawfish become able to bear eggs at a carapace length of 77 mm., those individuals sized 105–110 mm. carapace length contributed the most to egg production in a population. Therefore it is important to conserve smaller mature crawfish as part of the breeding stock.

While this study is from a different zone, the local population structure and maturity size is likely to be similar. This is also reflected in the recent move by Brittany and Normandy to increase the minimum size limit to 110 mm.

The Marine Conservation Society (“MCS”) is a leading UK charity working to make sustainable seafood the only choice for consumers in the UK. It publishes a Good Fish Guide, giving fish a rating to quickly identify species that are considered to be the most sustainably produced and those species that are not. The MCS Good Fish Guide rates crawfish as 4–5: 4 indicates fish which are some way from being sustainably caught or farmed and require significant improvements; 5 indicates fish from the most unsustainable fisheries or farming systems and recommends avoiding these fish.

¹ <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/169975/0>

² <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00227-003-1097-5>