



MINIMUM FISH SIZES

General

36. The EU minimum sizes are set out in Annex XII of Regulation 850/98 (Table 5). For both finfish and shellfish undersized animals are not to be retained on board, transhipped, landed, transported, stored, sold, displayed or offered for sale. Undersized animals must be returned immediately to the sea.

Shellfish

Lobster & Crawfish

37. It should be noted that:

- carapace length is now the only measurement to decide minimum size;
- the minimum size for lobster from 1 January 2002 has been increased to 87mm on an EC wide basis.

Edible Crab

38. Edible crab landing sizes were introduced at EC level for the first time on 1 January 2000. The sizes are:

- 140mm north of 56°N both to West of Scotland and in the North Sea;
- 130 mm in the remainder of the North Sea except the Eastern Sea Fisheries District;
- 115 mm in the Eastern Sea Fisheries District;
- 140mm in the Channel and around the Southwest Peninsula i.e. areas VIId, e and f;
- 130mm elsewhere.

39. Please remember that UK national legislation already applies higher crab landing sizes in the UK. Off Devon, Cornwall and the Scilly Isles the UK size for male edible crab is set at 160mm rather than 140mm established by the EC. The size for female edible crabs in this area is 140mm. For male Spider crabs the UK has set a size of 130mm. Females may be

landed at 120mm in accordance with the EC requirements.

40. For catches of edible crabs made by pots or creels a maximum of 1% by weight of the total of edible crabs or parts of edible crabs may consist of detached crab claws. For catches of edible crabs made by any other fishing gear a maximum of 75kgs of detached crab claws may be retained on board or landed at the end of any fishing voyage. Please note, however, that the Marketing Regulation restricts crab claws to a small final quantity necessary for local processing.

Scallops

41. For scallops the size is 110 mm for the Irish Sea from its northern boundary down as far as 52° 30'N. 110 mm is also the size set in area VIId. Elsewhere the size remains 100mm.

Whelks

42. The minimum landing size for whelk is 45 mm shell length.





Table 5

Council Regulation 850/98 ANNEX XII

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Species	Minimum size	
	Regions 1 to 5 except Skagerrak/Kattegat	Skagerrak/Kattegat
Cod (<i>Gadus Morhua</i>)	35 cm	30 cm
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>)	30 cm	27 cm
Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)	35 cm	30 cm
Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)	30 cm	-
Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	27 cm	30 cm
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>)	20 cm	25 cm
Sole (<i>Solea spp.</i>)	24 cm	24 cm
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	27 cm	27 cm
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	27 cm	23 cm
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)	63 cm	-
Blue ling (<i>Molva dipterygia</i>)	70 cm	-
Bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	36 cm	-
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) ¹ Norway lobster tails		130 (40) mm ¹
Mackerel (<i>Scomber spp.</i>)	20cm (30cm in North Sea)	20 cm ²
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)	20 cm	18 cm
Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus spp.</i>) ⁽³⁾	15 cm	15 cm
Sardine (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>)	11 cm	-
Lobster (<i>Homarus gammarus</i>)	87 mm	220 (78) mm ¹
Spinous spider crab (<i>Maia squinado</i>)	120 mm	-
Queen scallop (<i>Chlamys spp.</i>)	40 mm	-
Grooved carpetshell (<i>Ruditapes decussatus</i>)	40 mm	-
Carpetshell (<i>Venerupis pullastra</i>)	38 mm	-
Short-necked clam (<i>Ruditapes phillipinarum</i>)	40 mm	-
Clam (<i>Venus verrucosa</i>)	40 mm	-
Hard clam (<i>Callista chione</i>)	6 cm	
Razor clam (<i>Ensis spp.</i>)	10 cm	
Surf clams (<i>Spisula Solida</i>)	25 mm	
Donax clams (<i>Donax spp.</i>)	25 mm	
Bean solen (<i>Pharus legumen</i>)	65 mm	
Whelk (<i>Buccinum undatum</i>)	45 mm	-
Octopus (<i>Octopus vulgaris</i>)	750 grammes	
Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) ⁽⁴⁾	25kg or 125cm (lower mandible)	
Bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>) ⁽⁵⁾	6.4 kg (or 70 cm)	
Crawfish (<i>Palinurus spp.</i>)	95 mm	
Deepwater rose shrimp (<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>)	22 mm (carapace length)	

¹ Total carapace length

² 30 cm for industrial purposes only

³ No minimum size will apply to horse mackerel caught in waters adjacent to the Azores islands and under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Portugal.

⁴ It is prohibited to land more than 15% in number of swordfish below 25kg or 125 cm

⁵ It is prohibited to land more than 15% in number of bluefin tuna below 6.4 kg or 70cm. In addition it is prohibited to land any individual tuna below 1.8 kg.



Species	Minimum size, Regions 1-5 except Skagerrak/Kattegat
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>)	Whole area, except Region 3 and ICES VIa, VIIa: total length 85 mm, carapace length 25 mm
	ICES VIa, VIIa; Region 3: total length 70 mm, carapace length 20 mm
Norway lobster tails	Whole area, except Region 3 and ICES VIa, VIIa 46 mm
	ICES VIa, VIIa; Region 3: 37 mm
Mackerel (<i>Scomber spp.</i>)	Whole area, except North Sea: 20 cm
	North Sea: 30cm
Anchovy (<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>)	Whole area, except ICES IXa east of longitude 7° 23' 48" W: 12 cm
	ICES IXa east of longitude 7° 23' 48" W: 10 cm
Edible Crab (<i>Cancer pagarus</i>)	Regions 1 and 2 north of 56° N: 140 mm
	Region 2 south of 56°N except ICES Divisions VIIId, e, f and ICES Divisions IVb, c south of 56°N: 130 mm
	ICES Divisions IVb, c south of 56°N: 130 mm (except for an area limited by a point at 53°28'22" N 0°09'24"E on the coast of England, a straight line joining this point with 53°28' 22"N 0°22' 24" E, the 6 mile boundary of the United Kingdom and a straight line connecting a point at 51°54'06" N 1°30' 30"E with a point on the coast of England at 51° 55' 48"N 1°17' 00" – the Eastern sea fisheries district – where the landing size shall be 115 mm).
	ICES Divisions VIIId, e, f: 140 mm
	Region 3: 130 mm
Scallop (<i>Pecten maximus</i>)	Whole area, except ICES VIIa, north of 52° 30' N VIIId: 100mm
	ICES VIIa, north of 52° 30' N VIIId: 110mm