**Edible crab** East Coast Scotland

**Fishery**  
East Coast Scotland  
Scotland East Coast  
United Kingdom  
Pots

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**IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Cancer pagurus

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
Edible crab, Brown crab

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

The stock structure of edible (brown) crabs around Scotland is not completely understood. Marine Scotland Science considers twelve assessment units, each of which assessed and managed separately (ICES, 2013; Barreto and Bailey, 2014).

**RELATED LINKS:**  
Marine Scotland (MS)  
Marine Scotland Science

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**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
- An assessment is conducted with available data, allowing exploitation rates to be determined and growth overfishing detected.
- The gear used has low environmental impacts.

**Weaknesses**
- Stock assessment for 2009-2012 indicated that the current fishing mortality is above the recommended level (F_{MSY}) for both females and males.
- The assessment conducted only provides long-term trends assuming population equilibrium and cannot detect recruitment overfishing. Biomass or abundance can also not be estimated.

**Options**
- Reliable effort data should be provided by fishers to enable LPUE to be determined and abundance estimated if the currently assumed stock structure is accurate.
- Growth parameters should be locally determined to improve the assessment quality.
- More regularity is required in discard sampling. It is important to assess the status of Nephrops caught in the fishery.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>≥ 8</td>
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**Stock Health:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOT YET SCORED</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
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</table>

**FIPS**
No related FIPs

**MSC**
No related MSC fisheries

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Start a fishery improvement project (FIP) to address the lack of publicly available information on this fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see SFP’s Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs and other resources at https://www.sustainablefishing.org/Programs/Professional-Guidance/FIP-Toolkit-Resources.
- Encourage scientists to share their studies/publications with FishSource by commenting on the profile and uploading a hyperlink to the document.
- Work with the government and scientists on the collection of data and make them accessible online.