



# Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

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*Rheynn Chymmyltaight, Bee as Eirinys*

**Director of Environment  
Dr. Ken Milne**

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**Please read the licence conditions before completing the application form overleaf, should you wish to apply for a recreational potting licence to fish for lobsters & crab.**

**Licence Conditions:**

1. A recreational potter must not fish for crab or lobster in any part of the Isle of Man territorial sea other than within the three-mile area.
2. A recreational potter must not fish for crab or lobster from a vessel other than a recreational fishing vessel (where using a vessel to recreationally pot fish).
3. A recreational potter must not fish for crab or lobster from a vessel that is issued a commercial sea fishing licence by either —
  - (a) the Department
  - (b) the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, a department of the Northern Ireland Executive;
  - (c) the Marine Management Organisation, a body established further to section 1 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (of Parliament);
  - (d) the States of Jersey;
  - (e) the States of Guernsey;
  - (f) the Scottish Government;
  - (g) the Welsh Government; or
  - (h) a Member State of the European Union
4. This recreational sea fishing licence granted under regulation 4 of the Sea Fisheries (Licensing) (Recreational Crab And Lobster) Regulations 2022<sup>1</sup> is non-transferable.
5. The maximum number of pots which may be used by a recreational potter is 5.
6. A recreational potter must not take, kill, land or have in his or her possession in any one day more than — (a) 2 lobsters; (b) 5 crabs.
7. Despite paragraph 6, a recreational potter may not take more than 7 lobsters per week (being a period of 7 consecutive days).
8. A recreational potter must not land, or have in his or her possession at any time, a crab or lobster, alive or dead, that measures below the minimum landing size specified in the Sea Fisheries (Technical Measures) Bye-laws 2003<sup>2</sup>.
9. A recreational potter must not sell, expose for sale or offer for sale any lobster or crab.

<sup>1</sup> The Sea Fisheries (Licensing) (Recreational Crab And Lobster) Regulations 2022 is available online under the heading secondary legislation at [www.gov.im/legislationpolicy](http://www.gov.im/legislationpolicy)

<sup>2</sup> Sea Fisheries (Technical Measures) Bye-laws 2003 is available online under the heading secondary legislation at [www.gov.im/legislationpolicy](http://www.gov.im/legislationpolicy)

- 10.** A recreational potter must not lift, raise, haul, take fish from, re-bait or in any way use or interfere with a pot belonging to another person, without obtaining the Department's prior permission, and must not permit anyone else to do so.
- 11.** A recreational potter must not use any pot unless —
- (a) it has at least one unobstructed escape gap located on the lower half of the pot and, in the case of a parlour pot, in the parlour; and
  - (b) it is so designed and constructed that each escape gap is of sufficient size that there may easily passed through the escape gap and completely inserted into the pot, whether the pot is wet or dry, a rigid box shaped gauge of at least 78 millimetres wide, 44 millimetres high and 100 millimetres long.
- 12.** A recreational potter must not use a stock cage for storing any sea fish.
- 13.** A recreational potter must not use a pot unless it is securely attached to at least one surface marker by means of rope that is sufficiently weighted so that no section of rope may float on the sea surface.
- 14.** A recreational potter must not use a surface marker unless it is —
- (a) an inflatable buoy specifically designed for marking the position of equipment in the sea;
  - (b) at least 200 millimetres in diameter or of A0 Size;
  - (c) of a contrasting colour so as to be clearly visible on the surface of the water at all states of the tide;
  - (d) rigged to float on the surface of the water;
  - (e) maintained in good order; and
  - (f) free from obstruction and not attached to any other buoyant article.
- 15.** A surface marker must display the recreational sea fishing licence number of the person it belongs to, in such a way so that the number —
- (a) is displayed as high above the water as possible;
  - (b) so that it is clearly visible and legible upon inspection;
  - (c) is written in a colour contrasting with the surface on which it is displayed so as to be clearly legible;
  - (d) is the only recreational sea fishing licence number displayed.
- 16.** A recreational sea fishing licence number displayed on a surface marker must not be defaced, altered or allowed to become illegible.
- 17.** A recreational potter must not take, kill, land or possess in the Island or at sea —
- (e) an edible crab carrying spawn attached to its tail or other exterior part of the crab;
  - (f) an edible crab which has recently cast its shell;
  - (g) a lobster carrying spawn attached to its tail or some other exterior part of the lobster if the lobster's condition show that when it was taken, it was carrying the spawn; or
  - (h) a mutilated lobster or V notched lobster.
- 18.** A recreational potter must not possess —
- (i) a detached claw of an edible crab; or
  - (j) a detached tail or claw of a lobster.
- 19.** A recreational potter who —
- (a) unintentionally catches —
    - (i) a crab or lobster of a description specified in paragraph 6 or paragraph 15; or
    - (ii) a detached claw or tail of a description specified in paragraph 16; or
    - (iii) a crab or lobster when the amount specified in paragraph 4 has already been met; and
  - (b) immediately and carefully returns it to the sea, does not commit an offence.

**Additionally, please note the following:**

- Static fishing gear (pots) are prohibited under the Wildlife Act 1990 in eelgrass conservation zones in Marine Nature Reserves at Baie Ny Carrickey, Langness, Laxey Bay and Ramsey Bay. Maps are available online at <https://www.gov.im/categories/business-and-industries/commercial-fishing/closed-or-restricted-area-maps/>
- The Manx Marine Nature Reserve Byelaws 2018 must be adhered to, which are available online at <https://www.gov.im/media/1362727/manx-marine-nature-reserves-byelaws-2018-sd-2018-0186.pdf>

**The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture is committed to ensuring that its services are accessible to all. If you require this document in an alternative format and / or language please contact us to discuss your needs.**



## Application for a recreational licence to fish for lobsters & crabs

This application form is to apply for a licence valid until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Please read the following carefully and complete each section. Failure to complete these sections correctly or provide sufficient information may delay the processing of your application. Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS.

- If licensed for the previous season, a *catch return form* should be submitted with your application.

### Section 1 Applicant Details (please state n/a where you do not have a vessel)

Applicant Name	<input type="text"/>
Vessel Name and Number (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Previous licence number (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>
Applicant Address	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	Postcode
Telephone Number	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>

- Paperless:** Licences will be issued electronically to the email address provided above, if you would like your licence issued in paper form to the address provided above - please tick

Please provide a cheque for £13.00, made payable to the Isle of Man Government. Alternatively, payment can be made by debit/credit card upon receipt of a completed application form by contacting the department.

\*For office use only

Date payment received

Cheque Number

### Section 2 Declaration (to be signed by the applicant)

I declare that the information provided is correct to the best of my knowledge, and request the provision of a recreational licence to fish for crabs and lobsters. I have read the conditions set out overleaf and understand that I must comply with them at all times.

Signature of Applicant  Date

Please complete this form, and return it via post/email to the address below, together with payment.

Fisheries Division,  
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture,  
The Slieau Whallian, Foxdale Road, St John's,  
Isle of Man, IM4 3AS.  
Tel: 01624 685857 Email: [fisheries@gov.im](mailto:fisheries@gov.im)

**Personal Information:** The personal information supplied in this form is used and retained as follows:

<b>Legal basis</b>	The Data Subjects' details (the licence holder) are retained and processed to issue a Recreational Crab & Lobster Licence under the Fisheries Act 2012.
<b>Shared with</b>	Details are shared within the Fisheries Division, and may be shared further in accordance with the privacy notice.
<b>Privacy notice</b>	The Fisheries Division privacy notice is online at <a href="https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/fisheries/privacy-notice/">https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/environment-food-and-agriculture/environment-directorate/fisheries/privacy-notice/</a>
<b>Retention period</b>	Personal details provided by the application are retained for the application year plus six years.

To enquire about personal data uses, contact the DEFA Data Protection Officer on 01624 686781, email [DRO-DEFA@gov.im](mailto:DRO-DEFA@gov.im), or to make a complaint contact the Information Commissioner, visit <https://www.inforights.im>

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