

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT SEA FISHERIES (MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS) (AMENDMENT No. 7) (JERSEY) REGULATIONS 201-

**Lodged au Greffe on 4th April 2019
by the Minister for the Environment**

STATES GREFFE



Jersey

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REPORT

Background

The Chancre Crab (*Cancer pagurus*) has for many decades been a mainstay of Jersey's commercial fisheries. In the past, catches have risen and fallen with changes to the size and capacity of Jersey's fishing fleet, but a recent steep downward trend in landings cannot be explained by changes in local fishing dynamics or effort. Catches of Chancre Crab have been in decline since 2012, when 507 tonnes were landed from Jersey waters by the local fleet. By 2018, landings had halved to 247 tonnes.

The decline is not restricted to local waters, and has been seen in landings recorded by Guernsey, Normandy, Brittany and Cornish fisheries management organisations. A conclusion by the ICES WGCRAb group is that this is a phenomenon of the western English Channel, as landings in other sea areas have remained stable. The cause of the decline in Chancre landings is not known, but the Jersey fishing fleet is keen to preserve existing stocks and to ensure that only the best crab is landed. In October 2018, the issue was discussed by Jersey, Normandy and Brittany scientists and fishing representatives at the Crustacean Working Group, which forms part of the Bay of Granville Agreement. All parties agreed that action is needed and that local authorities should work with the industry to consider appropriate conservation measures.

Following research carried out by the Jersey Fishermen's Association ("JFA"), it was suggested that the minimum landing size ("MLS") for Chancre Crab should be changed from the current 140 mm. to 150 mm., as measured across the back of the carapace. This was, at the request of the JFA, brought in immediately as a commercial licence condition, along with a ban on the landing of soft-shelled (newly-moulted and therefore poor quality) crab, and a reduction in the allowance for the landing of detached claws.

In February 2019, the JFA proposed several conservation measures, including changing the MLS to 150 mm., at a Joint Advisory Committee meeting within the Bay of Granville Agreement framework. Normandy and Breton fishermen requested a further consultation period, but a meeting of the Joint Management Committee recommended that Jersey should immediately legislate to change the Chancre Crab MLS to 150 mm. (carapace width) within Jersey Waters, with the expectation that the measure would be extended to Normandy and Brittany waters in due course.

A legislative change is required so that all commercial and recreational fishing boats and low-water fishers operating within Jersey's territorial waters will be subject to the

new minimum landing size. A change in MLS made through Jersey fishing licence conditions will apply only to Jersey commercial vessels, and so to safeguard the whole stock, it is necessary to change the MLS as stated in the attached draft Regulations.

On 14th March 2019, the Assistant Minister for the Environment made Ministerial Decision [MD-PE-2019-0030](#), requesting that the Regulations be drafted.

Detail of the draft Regulations

Regulation 1 would amend Part 3 of the Schedule to the [Sea Fisheries \(Minimum Size Limits\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 2001](#), with the effect that the minimum size limit for Chancre (edible) crabs which may be landed, offered for sale, sold or retained by fishermen, is increased from 14 centimetres to 15 centimetres.

Regulation 2 gives the title by which these Regulations may be cited and provides that they come into force 7 days after being made.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no financial or manpower implications for the States arising directly from the adoption of these draft Regulations.

Explanatory Note

Regulation 1 of these Regulations would amend Part 3 of the Schedule to the Sea Fisheries (Minimum Size Limits) (Jersey) Regulations 2001, with the effect that the minimum size limit for Chancre (edible) crabs which may be landed, offered for sale, sold or retained by fishermen, is increased from 14 centimetres to 15 centimetres.

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(AMENDMENT No. 7) (JERSEY)
REGULATIONS 201-**

Made [date to be inserted]
Coming into force [date to be inserted]

THE STATES, in pursuance of Articles 2 and 6 of the Sea Fisheries (Jersey) Law 1994¹, have made the following Regulations –

**1 Schedule to the Sea Fisheries (Minimum Size Limits) (Jersey)
Regulations 2001 amended**

In Part 3 of the Schedule to the Sea Fisheries (Minimum Size Limits) (Jersey) Regulations 2001², in the entry in Column 2 in respect of the item “Crabs – (a) Chancre (Edible crab) (*Cancer pagurus*)”, for “14” there is substituted “15”.

2 Citation and commencement

These Regulations may be cited as the Sea Fisheries (Minimum Size Limits) (Amendment No. 7) (Jersey) Regulations 201- and come into force 7 days after the day on which they are made.

¹ *chapter 14.825*
² *chapter 14.825.72*