



Future Issue of Isle of Man Queen Scallop Licences

To successfully protect the Isle of Man queen scallop populations from over-exploitation and to encourage stock recovery to a sustainable level the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture (DEFA) needs to ensure the stock is effectively managed and fishing effort is controlled.

There are a total of 48 vessels entitled to fish for queen scallops within the Isle of Man territorial sea. The Department has established a robust process for the future issue and retrieval of Isle of Man Queen Scallop Licences to make certain the stock is not exposed to increasing fishing pressure and also to ensure licences do not become tradable commodities.

The following policy on the future management and issue of Isle of Man queen scallop licences has now been endorsed by the Department:-

- Isle of Man Queen Scallop Licences (IOMQSCL), issued as part of the consolidated Isle of Man Fishing Licence, remain the property of the Department of Environment Food and Agriculture;
- IOMQSCL are non-transferable, not saleable, and return to the Department on the disposal or loss of the vessel;

In order to maintain continuity, track record, fishing opportunity, and to minimise financial speculation and risk to stock, the following *in principle* guidelines will apply;

- Current IOMQSCL holders will receive initial consideration with regard to that licence if they wish to replace the vessel to which it relates;
- Current IOMQSCL holders may retain the licence, for a period of time to be specified by the Department, to facilitate the replacement of the vessel to which the licence relates.
- On the purchase of a vessel, in respect of which an IOMQSCL had been issued, the new owner has no automatic right to an IOMQSCL and must make an application to the Department, assuming an IOMQSCL is available.
- A waiting list will not be administered for IOMQSCL, and no guarantee will be made of when such licences may become available;
- If a vessel is disposed of or lost and the IOMQSCL holder does not wish to pursue the fishery then the licence returns to the Department;

- The Department reserves the right to retain and not re-issue an IOMQSCL;
- The Department reserves the right to issue an IOMQSCL on a temporary basis or subject to whatever conditions it may deem necessary to regulate the fishery (in accordance with the Fisheries Act 2012);
- Where an IOMQSCL is issued in a respect of a vessel which is in the ownership of a company, any change of ownership of the company or change in its directorship will cause the licence to revert to the Department.

Vessel owners are strongly advised to contact the Department at the earliest opportunity should they anticipate changes to their vessel or circumstances which may affect the Isle of Man Queen Scallop Licence or their ability to prosecute the fishery.