# Morven South Offshore Wind Array Project

## Environmental Impact Assessment Report

### Volume 3, Annex 12.1: Commercial Fisheries Shared Technical Report

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## Document status

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|---|---|
| **TTRPSEL** | **Morven Offshore Wind Limited** |

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

1.1.1.1 The Morven North Offshore Wind Array Project (hereafter, "Morven North") and the Morven South Offshore Wind Array Project (hereafter, "Morven South") are both located within the Morven Option Lease Agreement Site in Scottish offshore waters (hereafter, the "Morven Site") (Figure 2.1). Morven North is located approximately 61km from the Aberdeenshire coast (at its closest point) and Morven South is located approximately 86km from the Aberdeenshire coast (at its closest point). Each project will comprise wind turbines, Offshore Substation Platforms, associated foundations, inter-array and interconnector cables and cable protection. Consent for the offshore export cables for Morven North and Morven South will be sought separately.

1.1.1.2 As shown in Figure 1.1, Morven North is situated northwest of Morven South. The external boundaries of the projects correspond with the boundaries of the Morven Site.

1.1.1.3 This Morven North and Morven South Commercial Fisheries Shared Technical Report (hereafter referred to as the Commercial Fisheries Shared Technical Report) describes the commercial fisheries baseline for both Morven North and Morven South. For the purposes of this baseline characterisation, commercial fishing is defined as the legitimate capture of finfish and shellfish for sale by a licenced fishing vessel.

1.1.1.4 Consent for Morven North and Morven South will be sought separately, aided by the development of a separate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) for each project. However, the survey campaign and/or desk-based studies that will support the impact assessments for Morven North and Morven South are based on the Morven Site, which accommodates both Morven North and Morven South. Given the comparability and consistency of information collected to inform the assessments for both projects, the baseline characterisation of commercial fisheries for both Morven North and Morven South is reported in the present Commercial Fisheries Shared Technical Report.

1.1.1.5 The information from this Commercial Fisheries Shared Technical Report provides the technical baseline to inform the assessment of the likely significant effects of Morven North and Morven South on commercial fisheries receptors. This report accompanies the EIA provided in Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries of the Morven North EIA Report and Morven South EIA Report to support the respective consent applications.

## 1.2 Purpose of the document

1.2.1.1 The aim of this Commercial Fisheries Shared Technical Report is to:

- Characterise the commercial fisheries baseline environment within and surrounding Morven North and Morven South;
- Identify the key fishing fleets active within and surrounding Morven North and Morven South;
- Identify grounds of importance to commercial fishing in areas within and surrounding Morven North and Morven South.

1.2.1.2 This Commercial Fisheries Shared Technical Report has been informed using best publicly available fisheries data as well information collected through direct consultation with the fishing industry.

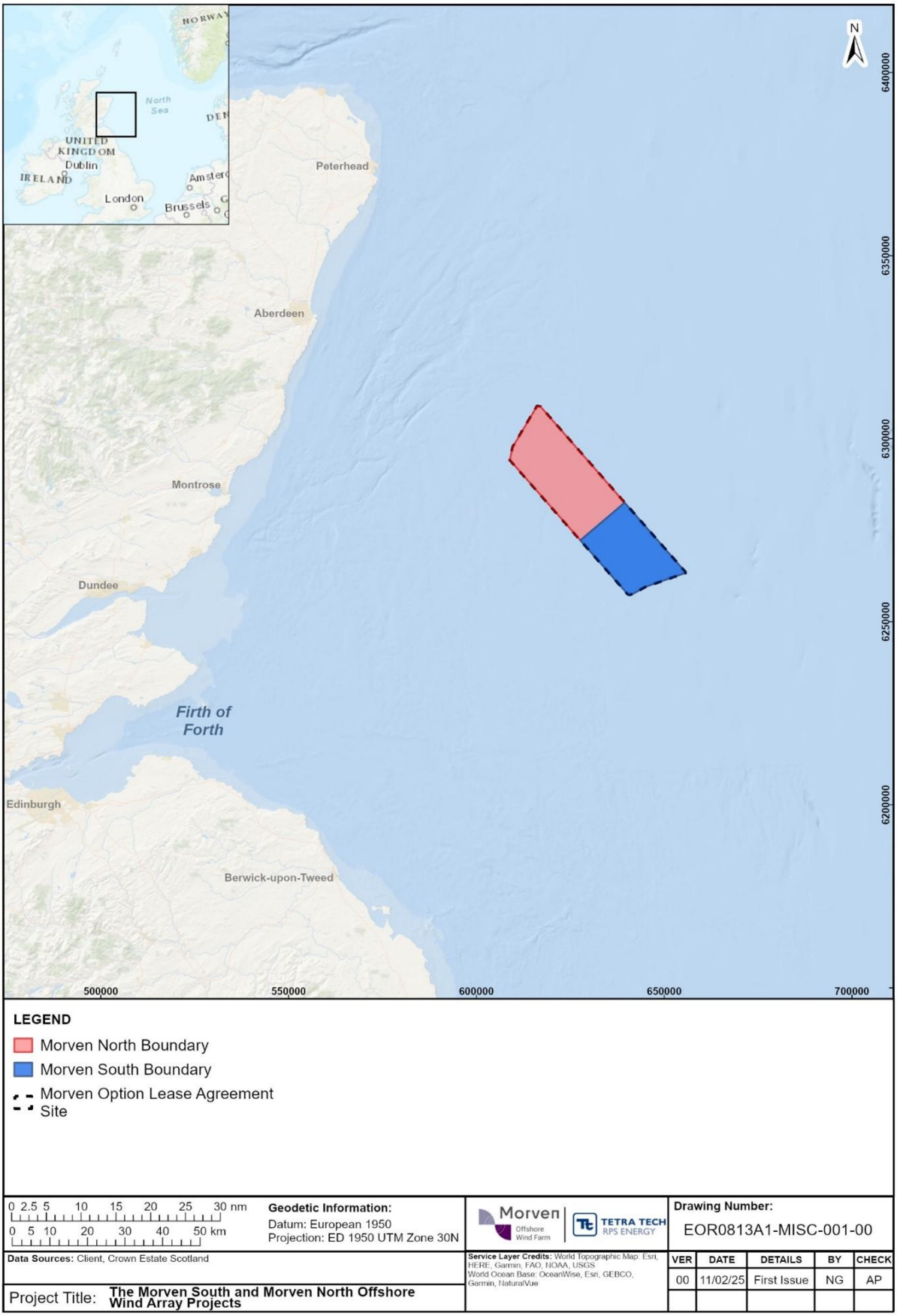



**Figure 1.1: The boundaries of Morven North and Morven South within the Morven Option Lease Agreement**

# 2 Study areas

2.1.1.1 Morven North and Morven South are located in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Division IVb (Central North Sea). ICES Divisions are separated into statistical rectangles which are the smallest standard spatial units used for compilation of fisheries statistics in the United Kingdom (UK).

2.1.1.2 The study areas used for the characterisation of the fisheries baseline include the three ICES rectangles that overlap with Morven North and Morven South, namely 42E8, 42E9 and 41E9 (Figure 2.1). To differentiate the fisheries baseline for Morven North and Morven South two individual study areas have been defined. These are illustrated in Figure 2.1 and are as follows:

- the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area: comprising ICES rectangles 42E8 and 42E9;
- the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area: comprising ICES rectangles 42E9 and 41E9.

2.1.1.3 These study areas have been described in this report to aid the identification of fisheries that are active in areas relevant to Morven North and Morven South.

2.1.1.4 It should be noted that the commercial fisheries assessments provided in Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries of the Morven North EIA Report and Volume 2, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries of the Morven South EIA Report also define a Regional Commercial Fisheries Study Area encompassing the Local Commercial Fisheries Study Areas and adjacent ICES rectangles.

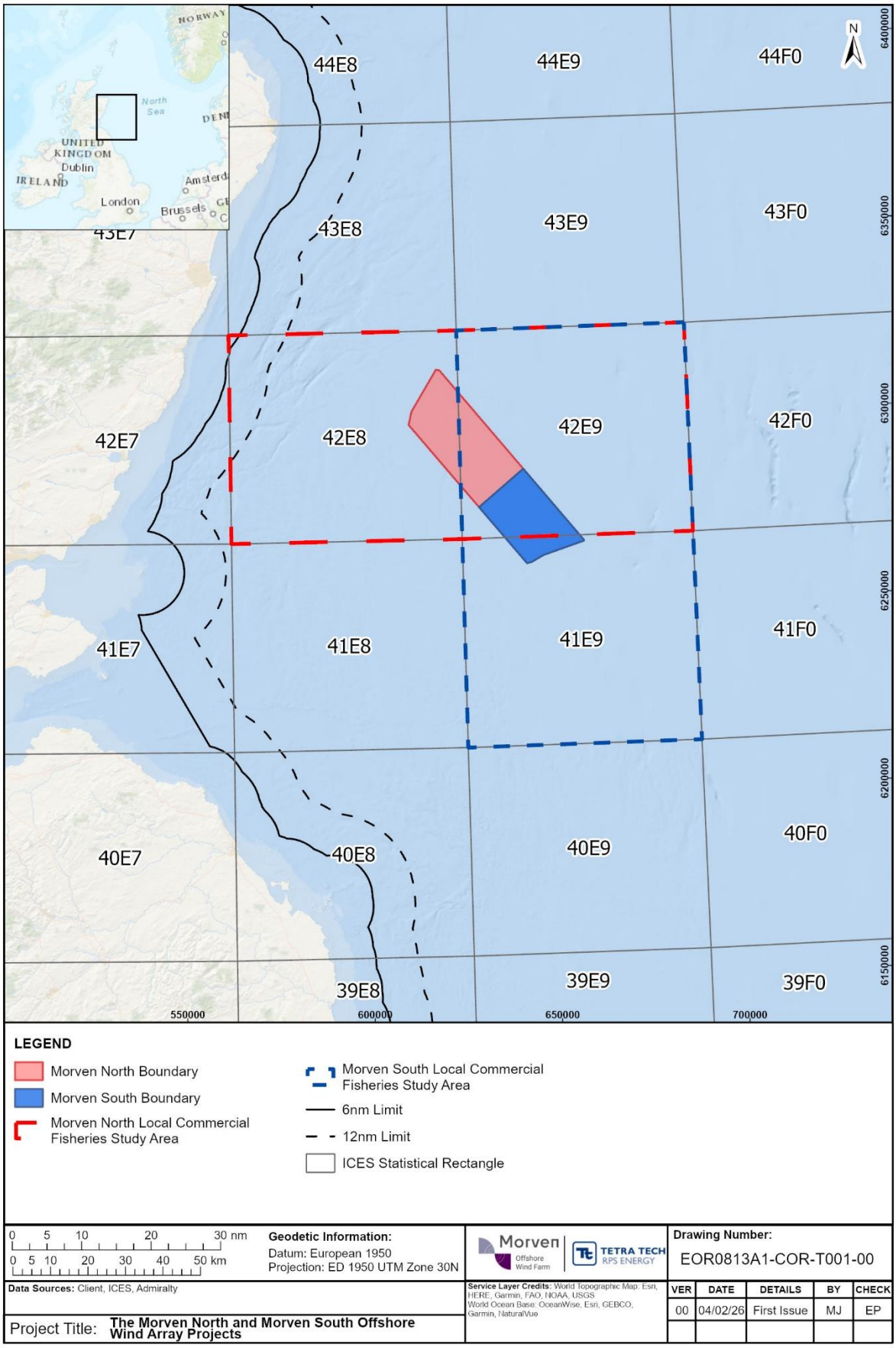



**Figure 2.1: Local Commercial Fisheries Study Areas for Morven North and Morven South**

# 3 Data and information sources

3.1.1.1 The principal sources of data and information used to inform this report are given in Table 3.1 along with a summary of their respective limitations and sensitivities.

3.1.1.2 In addition to the data sources listed in Table 3.1, information on fishing activities of relevance to Morven North and Morven South has been collected via direct consultation with the fishing industry. Details of the consultation undertaken to inform the baseline characterisation are provided in Section 5.

**Table 3.1: Key sources of data and information**

| Data and information source | Source and coverage | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Surveillance sightings by nationality and fishing method | Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Marine Directorate (2013 to 2022) | Surveillance sightings in UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters are recorded by fishery protection aircraft and surface craft in order to police fisheries legislation. This dataset provides information on fishing vessels observed within UK waters, regardless of vessel size, nationality and fishing method.<br>This data provides a good indication of the relative distribution of activity by fishing method and nationality. However, it does not give an accurate quantification of effort, as surveillance patrols are not carried out at constant time intervals and the level of surveillance effort has been reduced in recent years. |
| Landings values (£) by ICES rectangle | MMO (2013 to 2022) | Provides information on landings of UK registered vessels by species and method. The dataset includes UK fishing vessels of all sizes.<br>The data has been presented as a five-year annual average from 2018 to 2022, and as a ten-year dataset from 2013 to 2022 to determine annual variations. It is noted that the effects of COVID-19 may have had an impact on the landings in 2020.<br>Data is provided at a spatial scale of ICES rectangles. As fishing activity is not evenly distributed across the area of a given rectangle, the information provided at this scale may not fully represent the spatial distribution of activity within Morven North and Morven South.<br>This dataset does however provide a good indication of the principal species targeted and fishing methods used in the study areas.<br>Landings values of under £1,000 per ICES rectangle are not displayed to prevent skewing of the other displayed values. |

| Data and information source | Source and coverage | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) integrated with logbook data | MMO (2013 to 2021) | The dataset provides information on the activity of UK fishing vessels of 15m and over in length based on VMS records integrated with logbook data<br>The data is provided using a grid based on 0.05-degree sub-rectangles.<br>The data included in this report is presented in terms of value (£).<br>This data does not currently encompass fishing activity for commercial fishing vessels of less than 15m and therefore does not capture activity by the majority of the inshore commercial fishing fleet, as this typically comprises vessels in the under 10m length category.<br>VMS data beyond 2021 was not available at the time of writing of this report. |
| Gridded fisheries data within Scottish waters for Scottish fishing vessels under 12m overall length | Marine Directorate (2018 to 2022) | Contains a latitude and longitude position declared by owners or masters of Scottish fishing vessels under 12m overall length on each fishing day indicating where the majority of the catch was taken. This data has been recorded since 2016 for vessels submitting Fish 1 forms and from 2018 onwards for vessels submitting paper logbooks.<br>This dataset aggregates the positions declared between 2018 and 2022, along with the associated catch weight and values, into C-Squares of 0.05 x 0.05 decimal degrees. The data is grouped into sectors of:<br>pots and traps – (e.g. creels for crabs, lobsters, or Nephrops; whelk pots; or wrasse traps);<br>bottom trawls – (e.g. bottom trawls for Nephrops, squid, or demersal fish);<br>dredges – (e.g. dredging for bivalve molluscs such as scallops and surf clams);<br>rod and lines- (e.g. handlines or jigging for mackerel; set lines for demersal fish);<br>set nets – (e.g. set nets for demersal fish or crustaceans);<br>diving or hand gathering – (e.g. scallop diving, but excluding the razor fish trial);<br>other – (e.g. anything else).<br>Data is derived from positions self-declared by fishers. These positions have not been verified by other sources. |
| Fisheries Plotter Data* | Scottish Whitefish Producers Association (SWFPA) | Provides an indication of fishing grounds within and immediately surrounding the Morven North and Morven South Boundaries from SWFPA collated plotter data. Fishing methods captured in this data include Pair Trawls, Demersal Trawls and Seine Nets. |
| Fisheries Plotter Data* | Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association (SPFA) | Provides an indication of fishing grounds in the areas relevant to Morven North and Morven South from SPFA collated plotter data. The plotter data provided is shown in Figure 5.4.<br>The shapefile provided by the SPFA includes other offshore wind project boundaries and, as such, these are shown in Figure 5.4. |

* Data displayed in this report with permission from the SPFA. Data not timestamped and provides a record of presence/absence only.

# 4 Fisheries management and restrictions

## 4.1 Background

4.1.1.1 Following the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union (EU) in 2020, the Common Fisheries Policy is no longer applicable to UK fisheries. Fishing in the UK is now governed by the Fisheries Act (2020). Furthermore, the UK and the EU have agreed to a Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), applicable on a provisional basis from 01 January 2021. The TCA sets out fisheries rights and confirms that from 01 January 2021 and during a transition period until 30 June 2026, UK and EU vessels will continue to access respective EEZs (12nm to 200nm) to fish. In this period, EU vessels with historic access rights will also be able to fish in specified parts of UK waters between the 6nm to 12nm limits.

4.1.1.2 The UK government allocates fish quotas between the four UK administrations (Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland). In Scotland, the Marine Directorate subsequently allocates Scottish quota to licensed fishers, primarily through fish Producer Organisations. For vessels that are not Producer Organisation (PO) members, quotas are managed directly by the Marine Directorate. For the over-10m fleet, quotas are assigned on the basis of historic rights.

4.1.1.3 At the local and regional level, the Regional Inshore Fisheries Groups (RIFGs) work to improve the management of Scottish inshore fisheries (up to the 12nm limit). RIFGs are non-statutory bodies established in 2016 to replace the Inshore Fishing Groups structure.

4.1.1.4 Morven North and Morven South are located beyond the 12nm limit and therefore outside of RIFGs' remit. However, the North and East Coast RIFG , which covers the area between Durness on the north coast of Scotland to Burnmouth on the east coast of Scotland, by the border with England, overlaps with a small section of the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (within the section of rectangle 42E8 that is located inside of the 12nm limit).

## 4.2 Spatial and temporal restrictions

4.2.1.1 The following spatial and temporal restrictions to commercial fisheries are directly applicable to the Morven North and Moven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Areas:

- Fishing for sandeel (*Ammodytes tobianus*) is prohibited in all Scottish waters (including Morven North and Moven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Areas) following a period of consultation in summer 2023 (the Sandeel (Prohibition of Fishing) (Scotland) Order 2024);
- During January and from 01 April until 31 December the catch, retention, transhipment and landing of bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in the ICES division IVb and IVc using fixed gillnets or hooks and lines is only permitted following authorisation from the MMO (MMO, 2025).

4.2.1.2 In addition to the restrictions listed above, there are a range of other restrictions that apply to inshore areas in the vicinity of the Morven North and Moven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Areas, however they show no overlap with them. These are described and illustrated in Figure 2.1.

## 4.3 Restrictions associated with management measures in Marine Protected Areas

4.3.1.1 The Firth of Forth Banks Complex Marine Protected Area (MPA) is located in rectangle 42E8 and therefore within Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area. However, as shown in Figure 4.1, the MPA is adjacent to a small section of Morven North but shows no overlap with it. Within this MPA, the use of demersal mobile gear (except seines) is banned within three hatched areas (Figure 4.1) (Scottish Government, 2025).

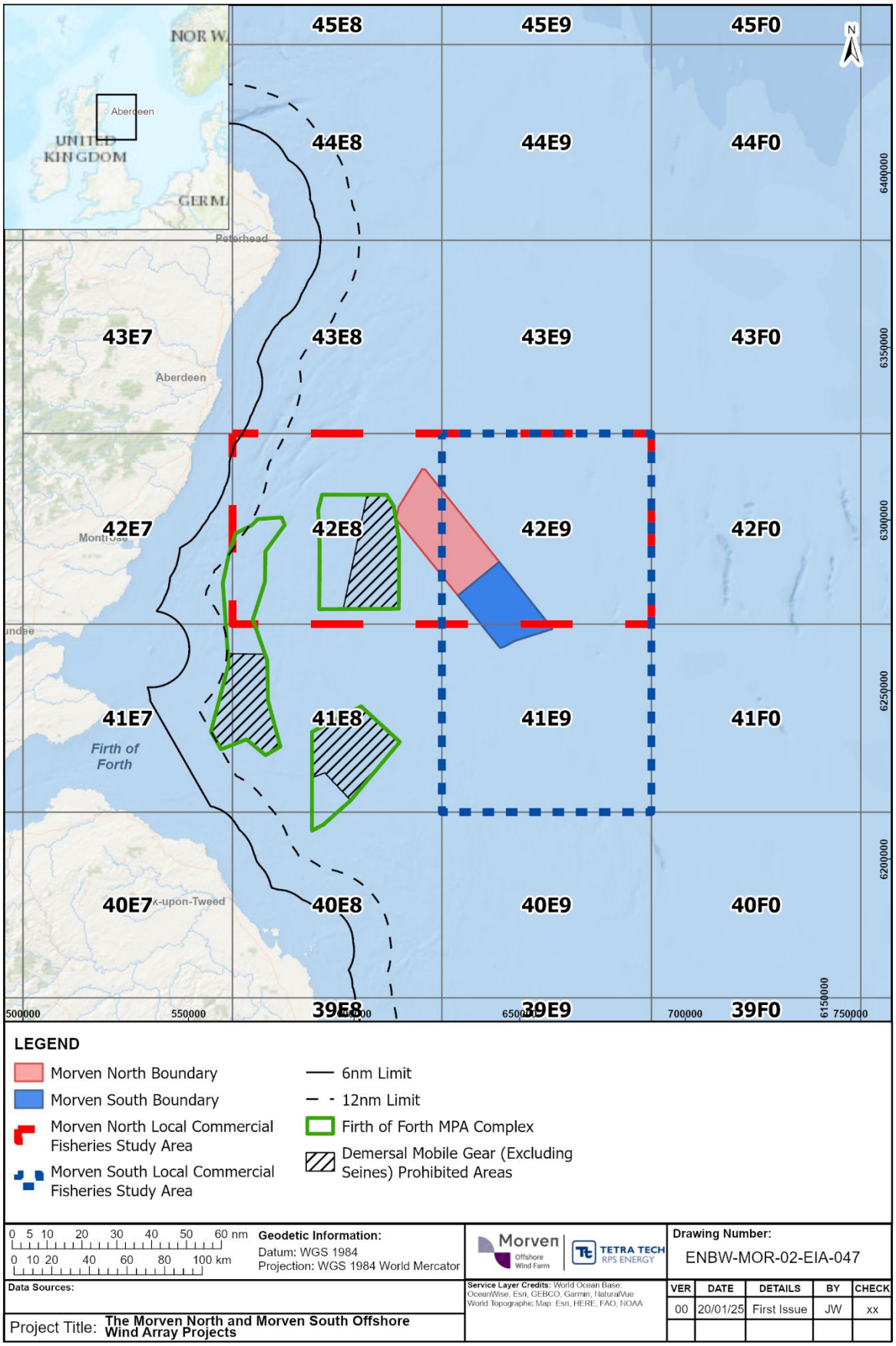



**Figure 4.1: Firth of Forth Marine Protected Area complex and fisheries management areas**

# 5 Consultation to inform the baseline

5.1.1.1 In addition to the review of publicly available information, the commercial fisheries baseline has been informed through direct consultation with fisheries stakeholders via meetings and through the circulation of consultation questionnaires. The approach to consultation to inform the baseline was discussed during the Scoping workshop on 18 March 2023 and in a fisheries engagement meeting held on 14 January 2024.

5.1.1.2 Consultation questionnaires were issued on 17 April 2025 to key fisheries organisations of relevance to Morven North and Morven South (Figure 5.1). In addition, hard copies of questionnaires were shared with local fishers during port visits in Newbiggin-on-Sea on the 28 April 2025 and Fraserburgh and Peterhead on the 27 May 2025. A sample of the questionnaire used during consultation is provided in Appendix 2. Completed questionnaires were received from five fishers. The outputs from the questionnaire are included in Figure 5.3.

5.1.1.3 Together with the questionnaires, fisheries stakeholders were provided with charts to annotate their fishing grounds. The information on the location of fishing grounds provided was anonymised and georeferenced and is presented in Figure 5.1 to Figure 5.3. Of the five individual fishers that returned a questionnaire, none reported grounds within Morven North and Morven South (Figure 5.1 to Figure 5.3). However, information provided by the Scottish Whitefish Producers Association (SWFPA) during consultation noted the presence of fishing activity within Morven North and Morven South by some SWFPA members. Figure 5.4 provides an indication of fishing grounds in the areas relevant to Morven North and Morven South from Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association (SPFA) collated plotter data. Information provided by the SPFA during consultation suggests their members' vessel movements may be limited to the Morven North and Morven South Boundaries for transit.

5.1.1.4 A follow up meeting was held with the SFF and the SWFPA on 24 June 2025 to discuss the fisheries information collected to inform the baseline, including available information from publicly available datasets as well as that collected via questionnaires.

5.1.1.5 Consultation is on-going and will continue after submission of the EIA Report. A comprehensive account of all consultation undertaken to inform the commercial fisheries assessment is provided in Volume 3, Chapter 12: Commercial Fisheries.

**Table 5.1: Consultation via questionnaires**

| Role/organisation | Consultation date | Issue |
|---|---|---|
| SFF | 17/04/2025 | Email |
| SWFPA | 17/04/2025 | Email |
| National Federation of Fishermen (NFFO) | 17/04/2025 | Email |
| Scottish Seafood Association (SSA) | 17/04/2025 | Email |
| Communities Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA) | 17/04/2025 | Email |
| Orkney Fisheries Association | 17/04/2025 | Email |
| North East of Scotland Fishermen's Organisation (NESFO) | 17/04/2025 | Email |
| Shetland Fishermen's Association | 17/04/2025 | Email |
| Newbiggin-on-Sea Fisherman | 28/04/2025 | Port visit |
| Fraserburgh Fisherman | 27/05/2025 | Port visit |
| Peterhead Fisherman | 27/05/2025 | Port visit |

| Role/organisation | Consultation date | Issue |
|---|---|---|
| Peterhead Fisherman | 27/05/2025 | Port visit |
| SPFA | 16/07/2025 | Email |

**Table 5.2: Vessel and Gear Specifications from Consultation Questionnaires**

| Consultee | Fishing Method | Vessel Length | No. of fleets | Typical Distance Steamed | Gear no. per fleet | Fleet Length | Depth Fished | Soak Time | Headings/ patterns | Species Targeted |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fisher 1 | Demersal Pair Trawl | 25m | -[1] | 150nm | - | - | - | - | - | Haddock |
| Fisher 2 | Pelagic Trawl | 80m | - | 100nm | - | - | - | - | - | Herring/ Mackerel |
| Fisher 3 | Static Gear | 9.4m | 18 | 6nm | 30/40 | 0.25m | 0.5 - 22 fathoms | 1/2 days | N | Crabs/ Lobster/ Prawn |
| Fisher 4 | Pelagic Trawl | 78m | - | 100nm | - | - | - | - | - | Herring/ Mackerel |
| Fisher 5 | Demersal Pair Trawl | 25m | - | 150nm | - | - | - | - | - | Haddock |

[1] A hyphen (-) indicates that no information was provided.

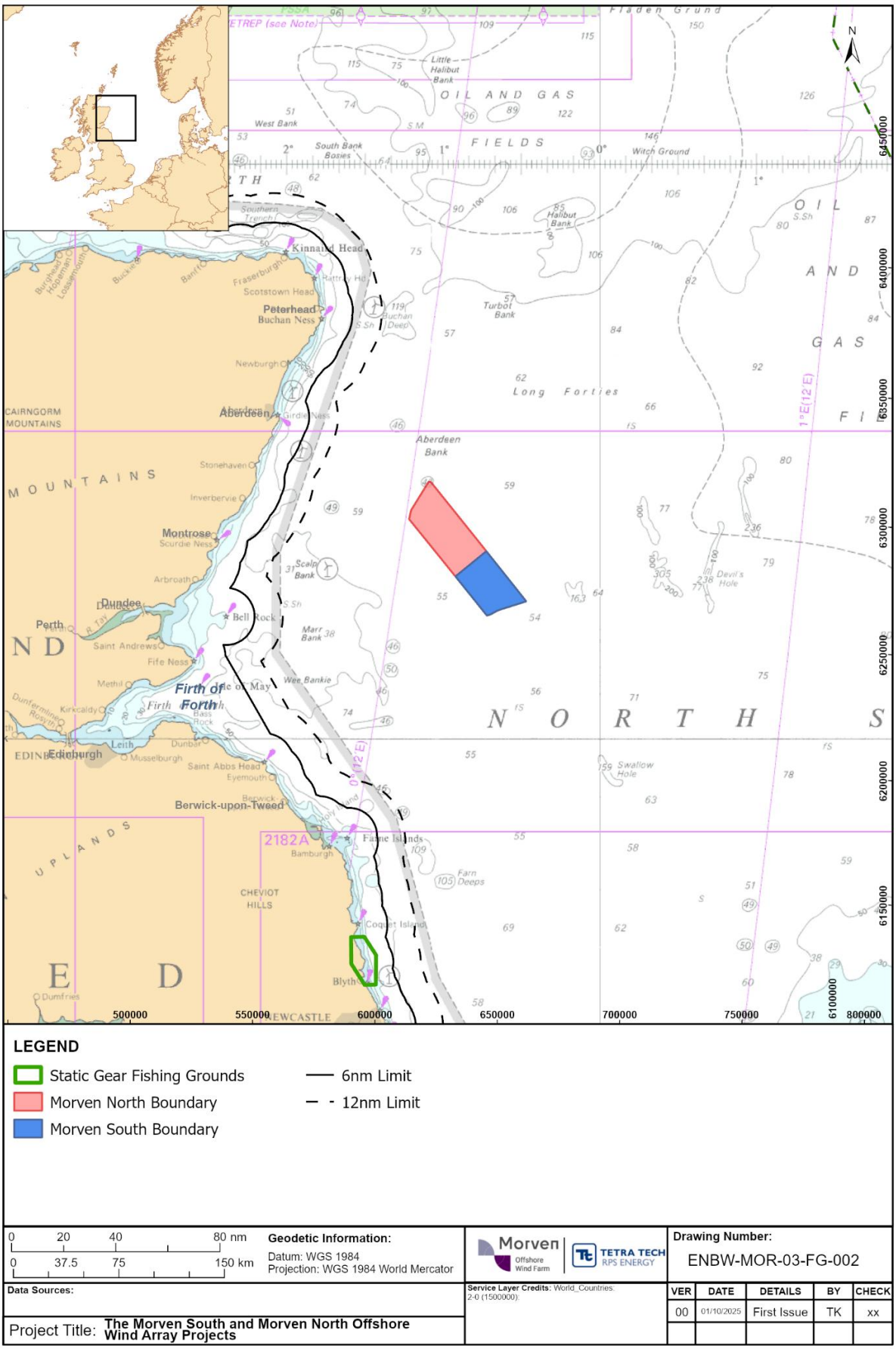



**Figure 5.1: Static gear fishing grounds from consultation with local fishers**

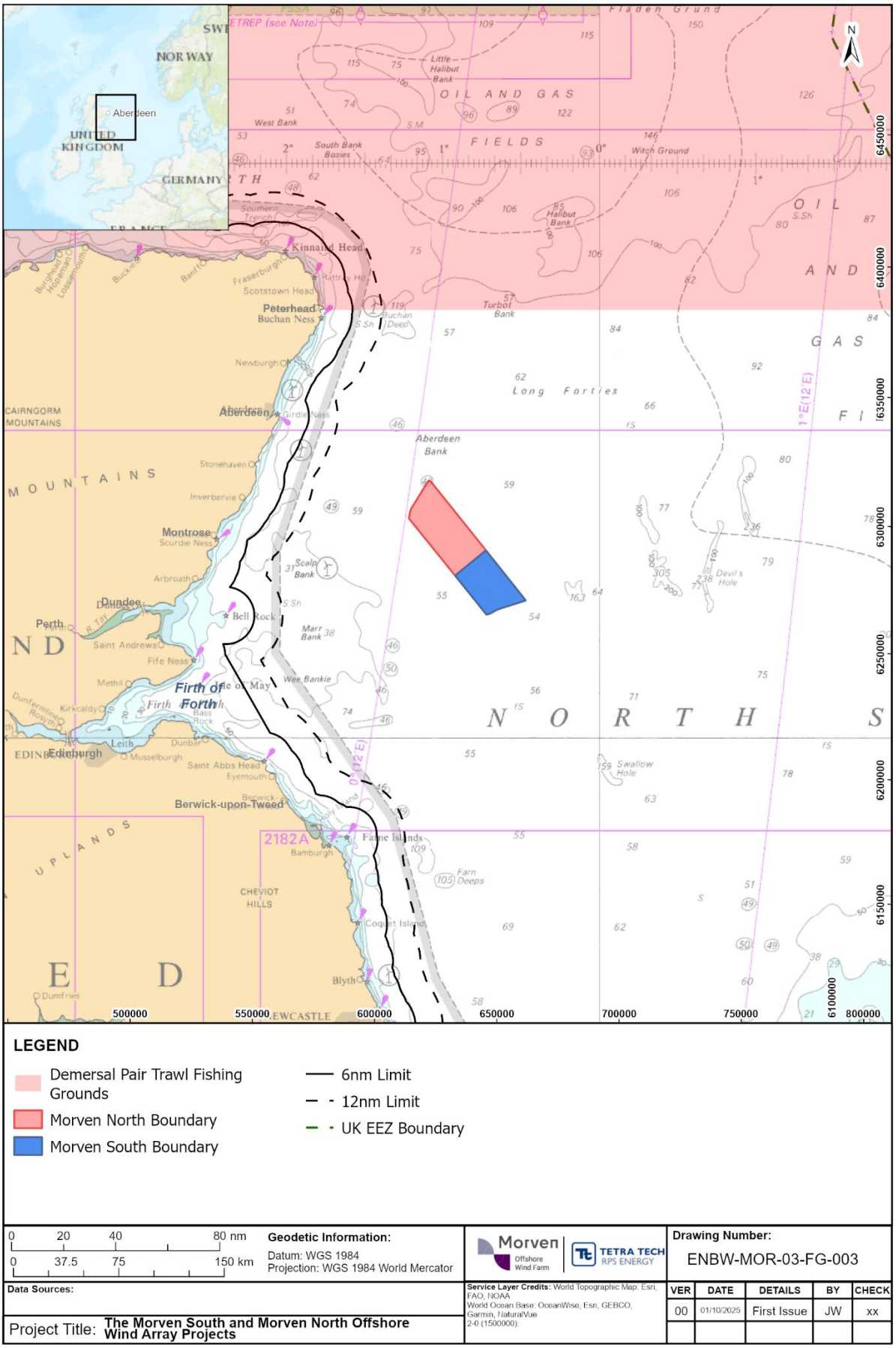



**Figure 5.2: Demersal trawl fishing grounds from consultation with local fishers**

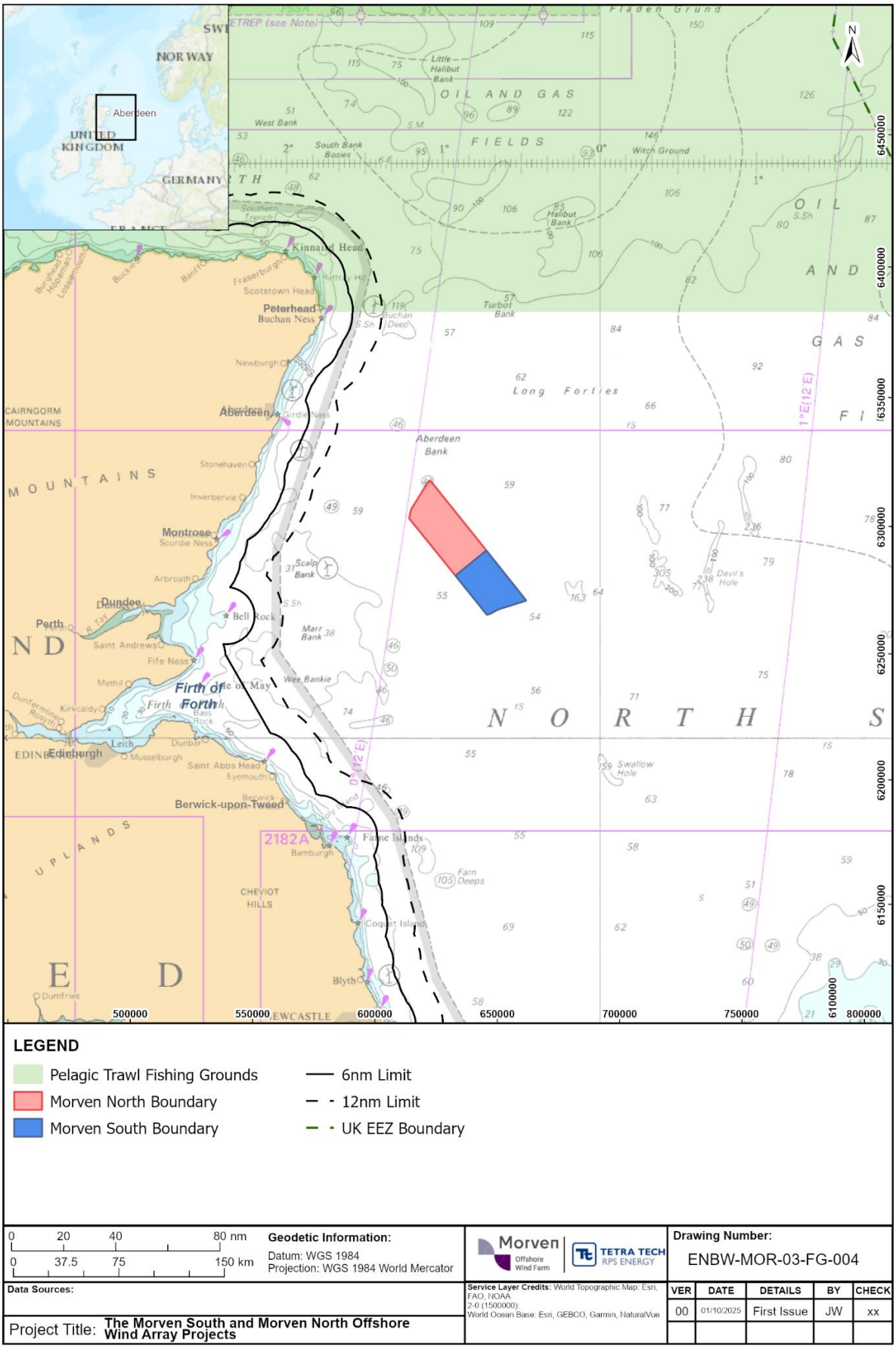



**Figure 5.3: Pelagic trawl fishing grounds from consultation with local fishers**

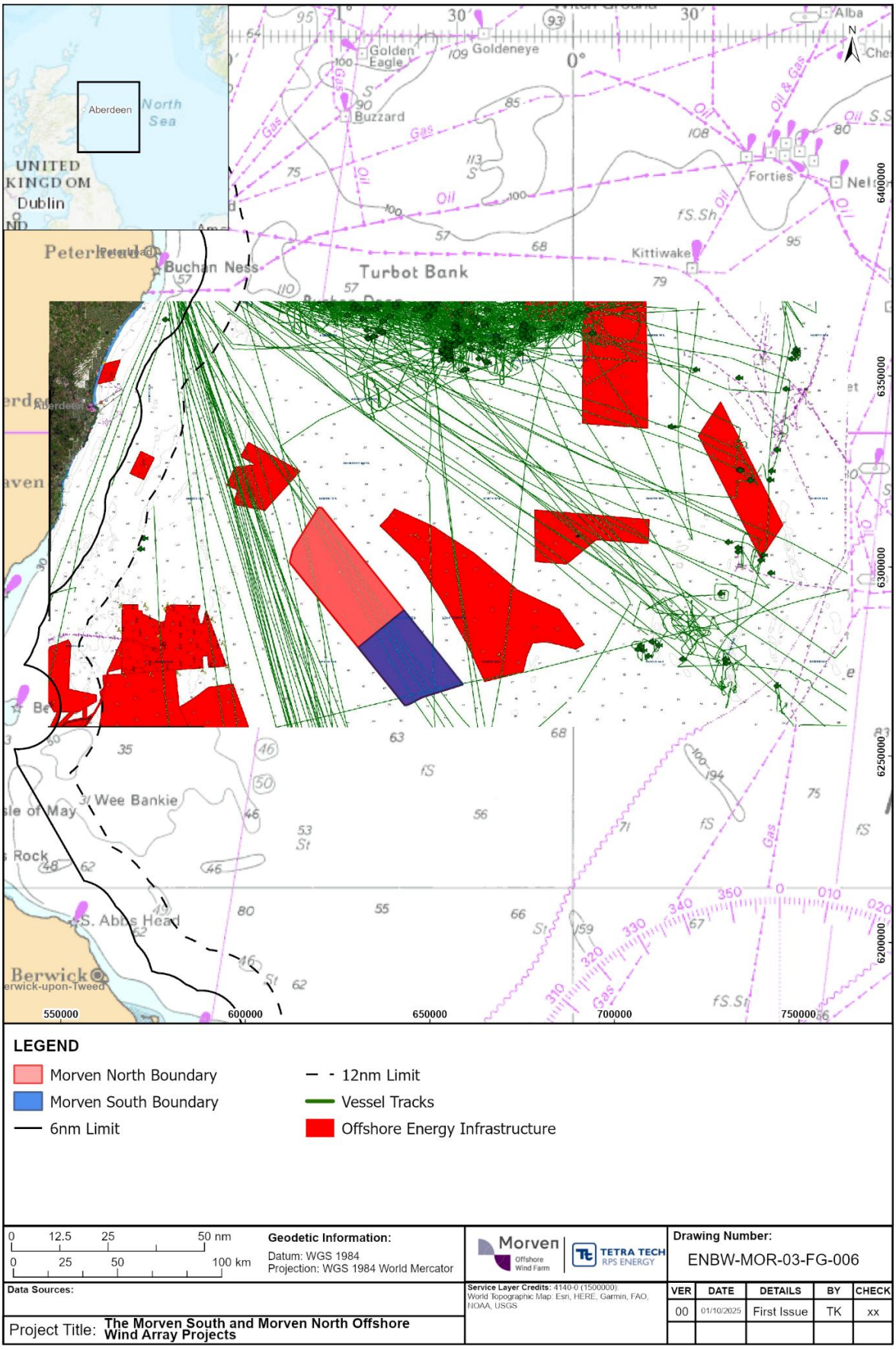



**Figure 5.4: Pelagic trawl fishing grounds – data displayed as provided by the Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association**

# 6 Commercial fisheries baseline

## 6.1 Overview

### 6.1.1 Morven North

6.1.1.1 The Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area supports a range of commercial fishing activities. As shown in Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1, scallop dredgers account for the majority of surveillance sightings recorded in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, followed by creelers (potters/whelkers[2]).

6.1.1.2 Surveillance sightings of scallop dredgers are concentrated in the western half of ICES rectangle 42E8, in the western section of the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, showing no overlap with the Morven North Boundary. Similarly, activity by creelers within the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area has been recorded predominantly in the western section of in rectangle 42E8, with no overlap with the Morven North Boundary.

6.1.1.3 Demersal trawling vessels in the Moven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area have been sighted predominantly in ICES rectangle 42E9, however, all sightings are located outside of Morven North, with the exception of one sighting recorded at the edge of its eastern boundary.

6.1.1.4 An indication of the nationality of commercial fishing vessels active in Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is provided in Figure 6.2 based on analysis of sightings by country. As shown, the majority of surveillance sightings (207: 97% of the total) are of UK fishing vessels. Only a very limited number of non-UK vessels (six, accounting for 3% of the total) have been recorded in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area. Of these, only one was recorded within the Morven North Boundary (one French trawler recorded in 42E8 at the edge of the Morven North Boundary) (Figure 6.2). Fishing by non-UK vessels within Morven North is therefore expected at negligible levels.

**Table 6.1: Surveillance sightings recorded in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

| Nationality | Method | No. of sightings within the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area | % of total sightings |
|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | Scallop Dredger | 174 | 82% |
| | Potter/Whelker | 23 | 11% |
| | Demersal Stern Trawler | 4 | 2% |
| | Long Liner | 2 | 1% |
| | Other Dredges | 2 | 1% |
| | Pair Trawler | 2 | 1% |
| | UK Total | 207 | 97% |
| All Other Nationalities | Total | 6 | 3% |

[2] Creelers are referred to as “potters and whelkers” in the surveillance sightings dataset.

### 6.1.2 Morven South

6.1.2.1 Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area contains very few records of surveillance sightings (14 in total). As shown in Figure 6.1, Figure 6.2 and Table 6.2, these include UK trawlers (4), scallop dredgers (2) and creelers (2) as well as few sightings of non-UK vessels (6).

6.1.2.2 The few sightings recorded in Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area are all located outside of Morven South Boundary.

**Table 6.2: Surveillance Sightings Recorded in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

| Nationality | Method | No. of sightings within the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area | % of total sightings |
|---|---|---|---|
| United Kingdom | Demersal Trawler | 4 | 28.58% |
| | Potter/Whelker | 2 | 14.29% |
| | Scallop Dredger | 2 | 14.29% |
| | UK Total | 8 | 57.14% |
| All Other Nationalities | Total | 6 | 42.86% |

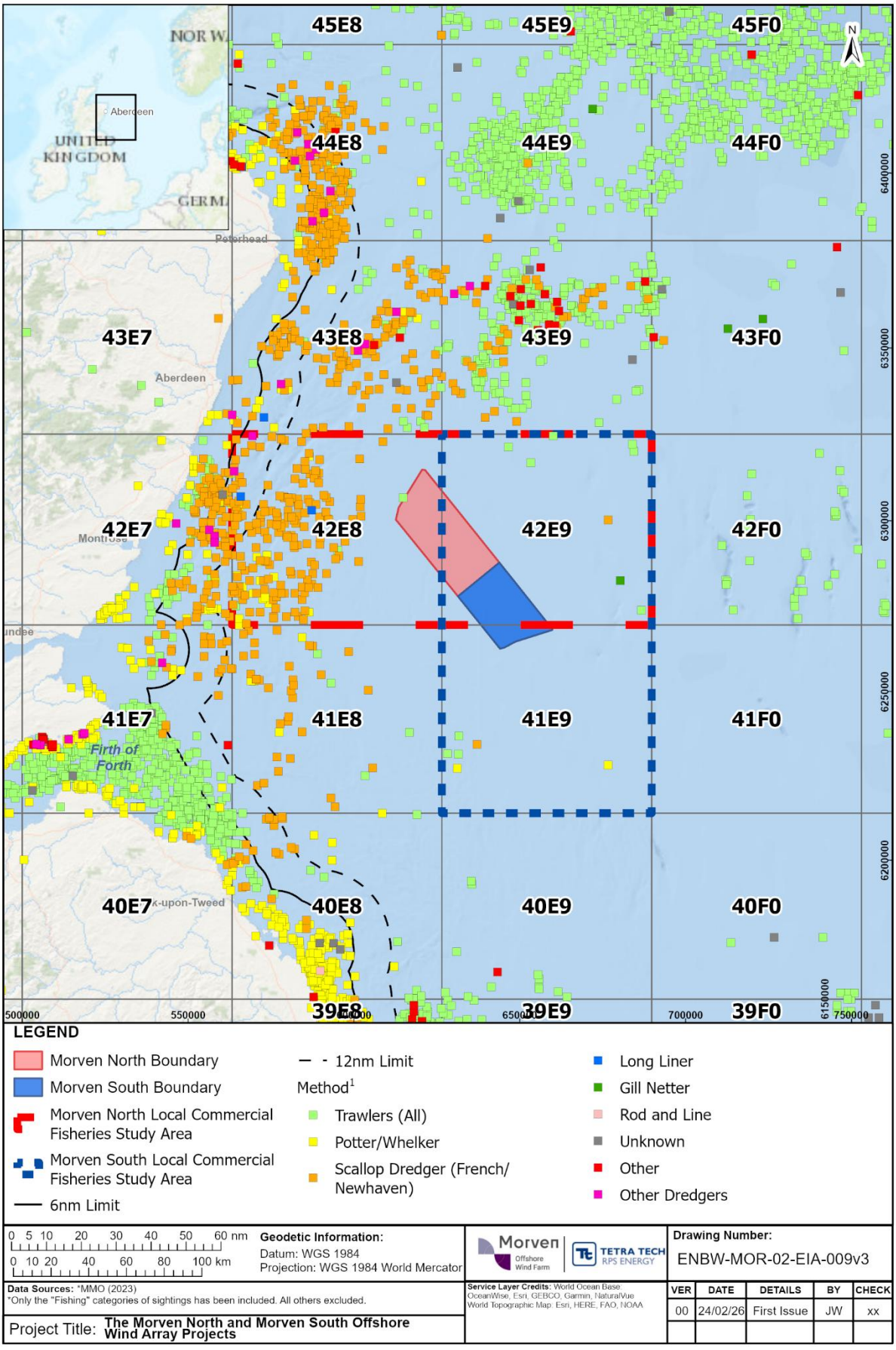



**Figure 6.1:Surveillance sightings by method (2013 to 2022)**

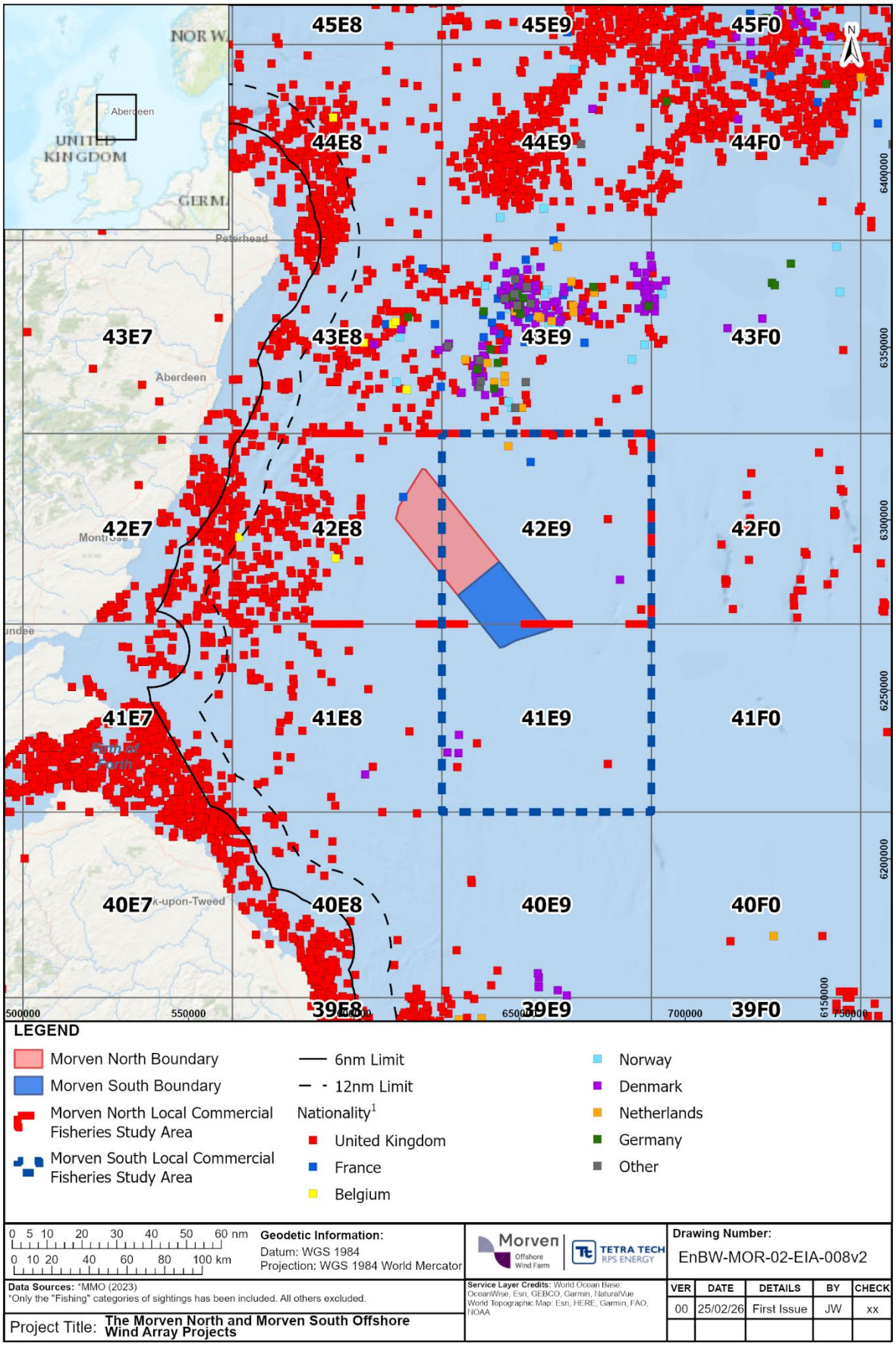



**Figure 6.2: Surveillance sightings by nationality (2013 to 2022)**

## 6.2 Landings by species, method and vessel length

### 6.2.1 Morven North

6.2.1.1 An indication of the main fishing methods and species targeted in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is provided in Figure 6.3 to Figure 6.9 and Table 6.3 to Table 6.4 based on analysis of landings data by value (£) (annual average 2018 to 2022).

6.2.1.2 As illustrated in Figure 6.3 and Figure 6.4, landings from the ICES rectangles that form the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area are relatively low in comparison to some adjacent areas in Scotland. In ICES rectangle 42E8, which comprises the western section of the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, scallop dredgers and to a lesser extent creelers (pots and traps[3]) targeting predominantly lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) and edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*), represent the main fisheries in terms of value. In contrast, in ICES rectangle 42E9, which comprises the eastern section of the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, demersal trawls targeting haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) are responsible for the majority of landings value.

6.2.1.3 In line with the above, the analysis of annual landings from the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area by method and species for a ten year period (2013 to 2022) provided in Figure 6.6 and Figure 6.7 suggest that scallop dredging and demersal trawling have consistently accounted for the majority of activity in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area.

6.2.1.4 As illustrated in Figure 6.9, vessels in the larger size categories (over 15m) account for the majority of the landings by value in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, where scallop dredging and demersal trawling are the main methods used.

### 6.2.2 Morven South

6.2.2.1 As illustrated in Figure 6.3 and Figure 6.4, landings from the rectangles that form the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area are very low in comparison to the adjacent areas in Scotland. In rectangle 42E9, which comprises the northern section of the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, demersal trawlers targeting predominantly haddock, represent the main fisheries in terms of value. In contrast, in rectangle 41E9, which comprises the southern section of the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, creelers targeting edible crabs and lobsters are responsible for the majority of landings value.

6.2.2.2 In line with the above, the analysis of annual landings from the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area by method and species for a ten year period (2013 to 2022) provided in Figure 6.6 and Figure 6.8 suggest demersal trawling accounts for the majority of activity in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, and that landings value in this rectangle have decreased since 2014.

6.2.2.3 Landings in northern section of the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, where the main activity is demersal trawling, are derived predominantly from the larger class of vessels (over 15m) (Figure 6.9). In contrast, in the southern section of the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, where the main activity is creeling (pots and traps), the majority of landings by value are of smaller vessels (under 15m).

[3] Creels are referred to as “pots and traps” in the landings dataset.

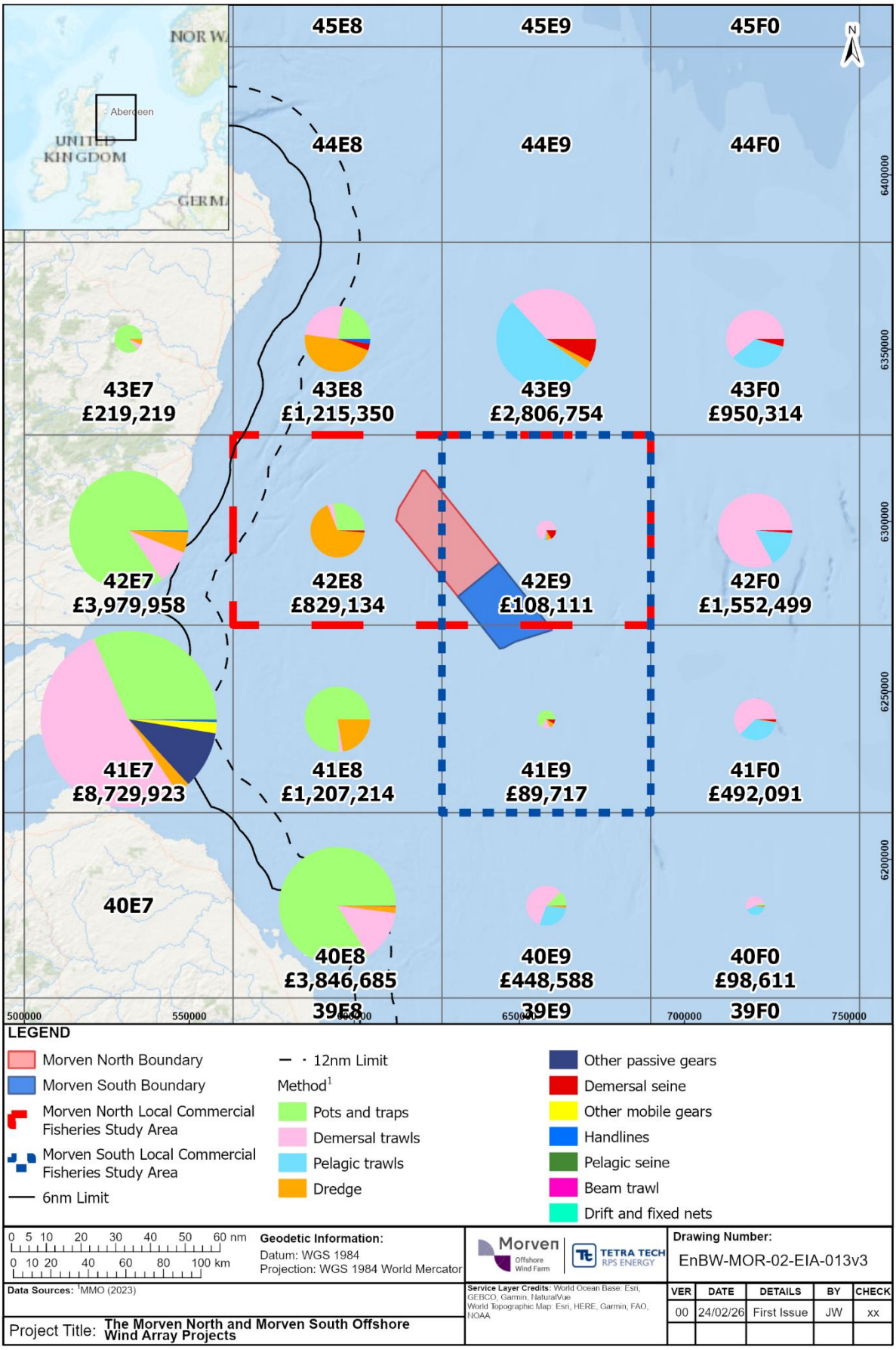



**Figure 6.3: Annual average UK landings value (£) by method (2018 to 2022)**

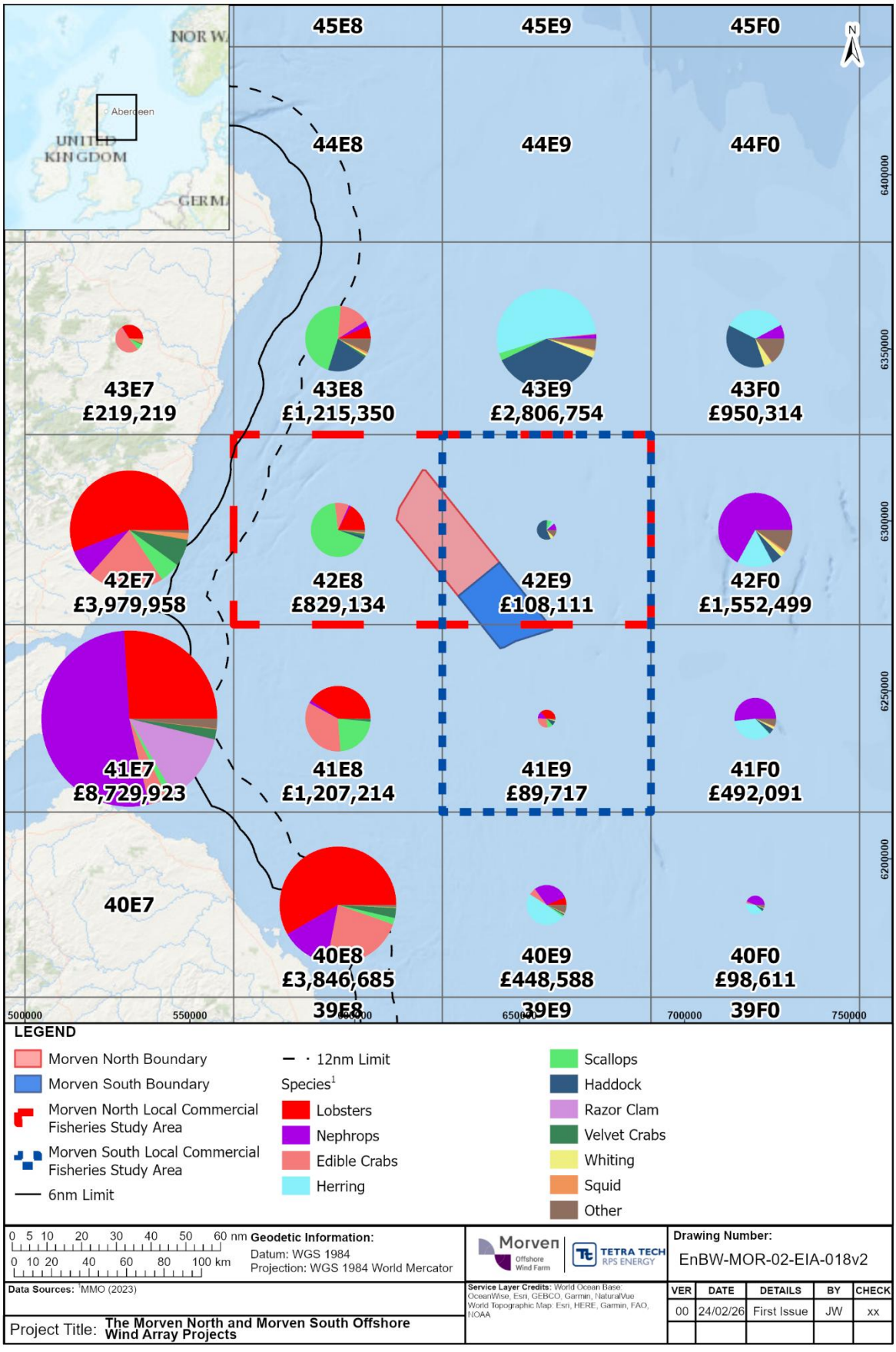



**Figure 6.4: Annual average landings values (£) by species (2018 to 2022)**

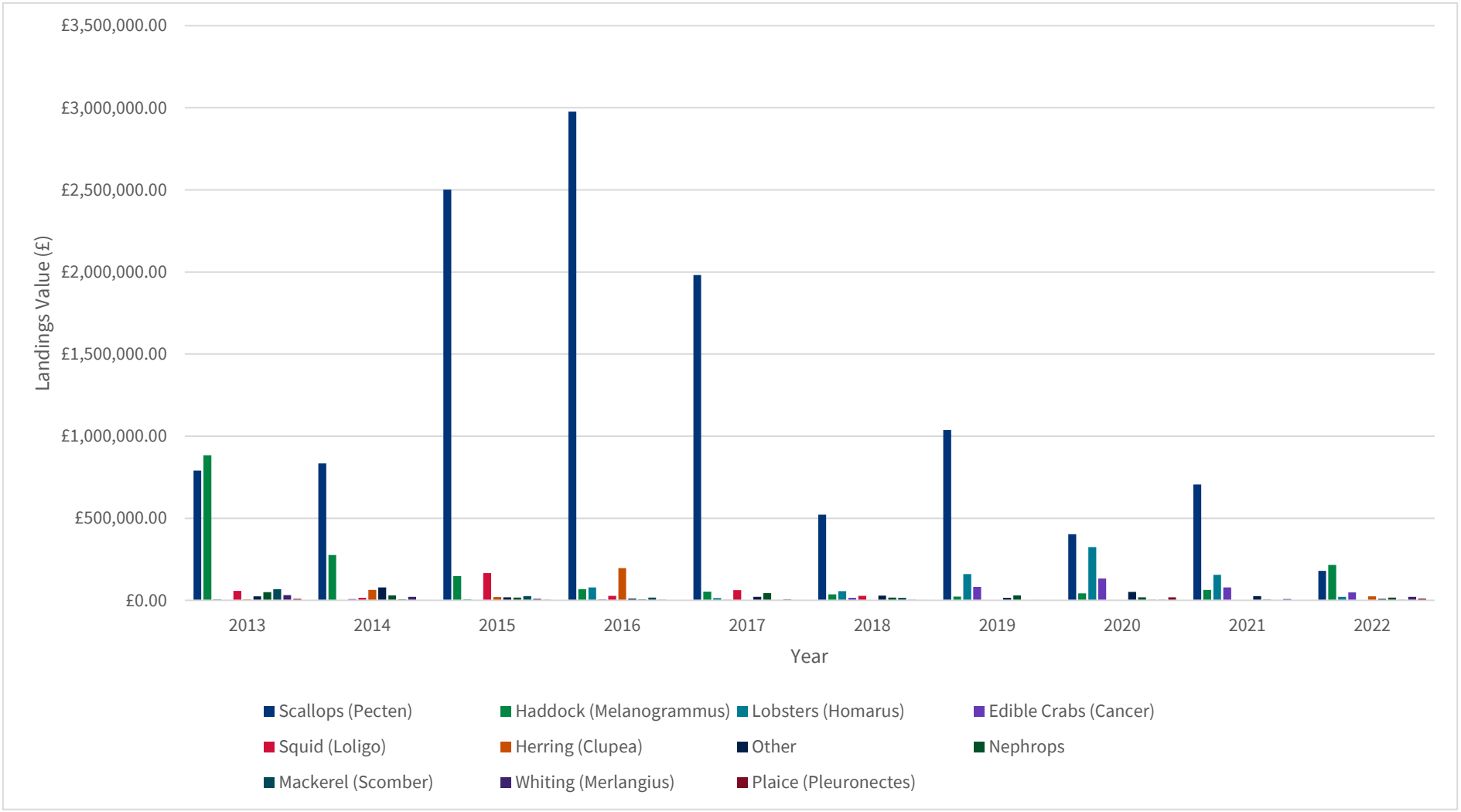



**Figure 6.5: Landings values (£) of top ten species in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

**Table 6.3: Landings values (£) of top ten species in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

| Year | Scallops (Pecten) | Haddock (Melanogrammus) | Lobsters (Homarus) | Edible crabs (Cancer) | Squid (Loligo) | Herring (Clupea) | Other | Nephrops | Mackerel (Scomber) | Whiting (Merlangius) | Plaice (Pleuronectes) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | £789,691.78 | £884,214.84 | £6,979.84 | £2,406.75 | £57,526.81 | £6,289.12 | £23,772.60 | £50,239.61 | £68,192.88 | £31,871.96 | £8,998.14 |
| 2014 | £834,086.71 | £275,778.65 | £1,455.07 | £8,417.19 | £14,782.09 | £63,576.23 | £78,378.51 | £30,427.34 | £5,820.09 | £21,325.33 | £1,646.59 |
| 2015 | £2,501,576.23 | £148,679.20 | £6,272.15 | £1,653.29 | £165,363.10 | £19,781.41 | £18,226.54 | £17,363.84 | £26,042.22 | £8,852.29 | £3,276.37 |
| 2016 | £2,976,973.11 | £67,845.37 | £78,064.73 | £6,058.10 | £27,117.71 | £195,974.15 | £11,065.72 | £6,794.02 | £16,588.94 | £3,146.55 | £764.45 |
| 2017 | £1,981,992.47 | £53,176.25 | £13,964.09 | £2,510.90 | £62,696.29 | £0.00 | £21,358.86 | £43,995.86 | £2,098.59 | £5,622.88 | £2,469.57 |
| 2018 | £521,246.69 | £36,237.29 | £55,732.81 | £15,616.62 | £27,067.72 | £0.00 | £28,995.42 | £17,245.60 | £15,913.99 | £2,575.24 | £2,263.94 |
| 2019 | £1,037,313.64 | £23,023.56 | £160,187.47 | £82,370.80 | £505.31 | £0.00 | £14,783.84 | £30,721.68 | £0.00 | £1,904.06 | £852.97 |
| 2020 | £402,437.53 | £42,338.85 | £323,838.69 | £132,919.32 | £2,386.51 | £0.00 | £50,998.67 | £18,331.22 | £3,132.01 | £3,482.36 | £17,681.56 |
| 2021 | £705,750.89 | £64,217.15 | £154,854.88 | £78,299.25 | £942.97 | £0.00 | £25,930.20 | £4,515.59 | £2,348.44 | £7,456.18 | £1,457.56 |
| 2022 | £180,212.09 | £215,202.51 | £21,199.33 | £47,837.12 | £559.80 | £24,502.40 | £8,909.72 | £16,150.90 | £3,182.84 | £21,113.16 | £11,069.27 |

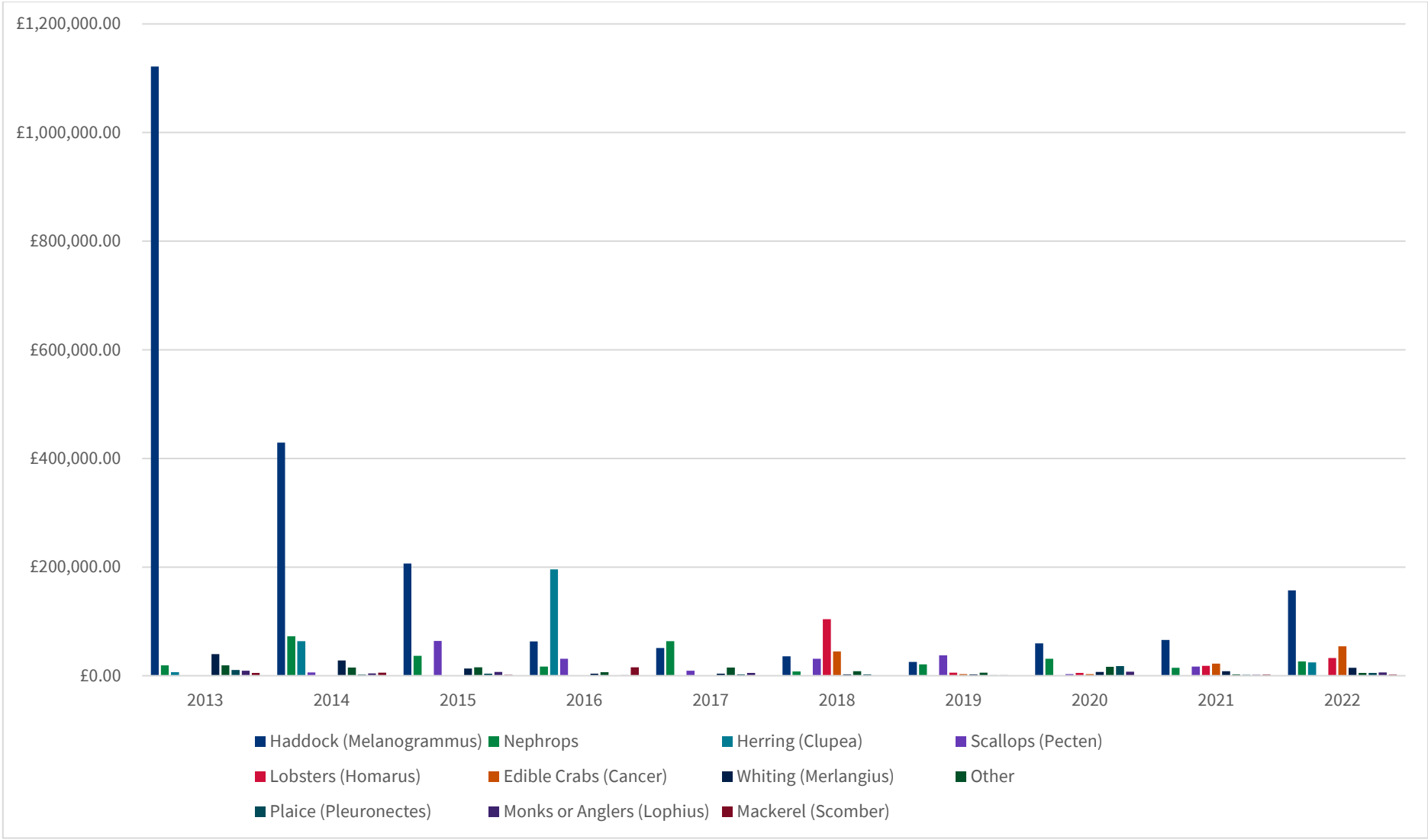
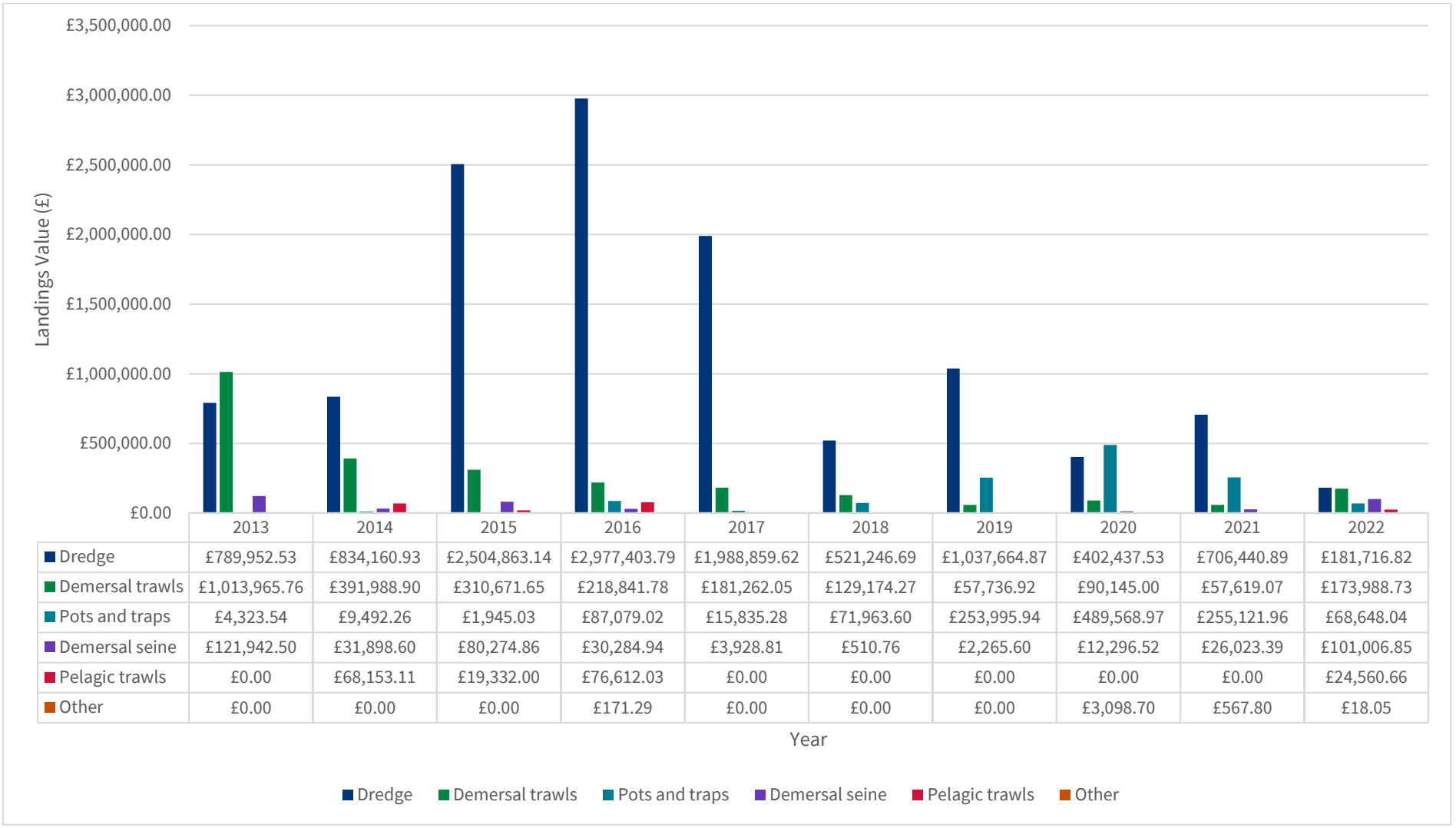



**Figure 6.6: Landings values (£) of top ten species in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

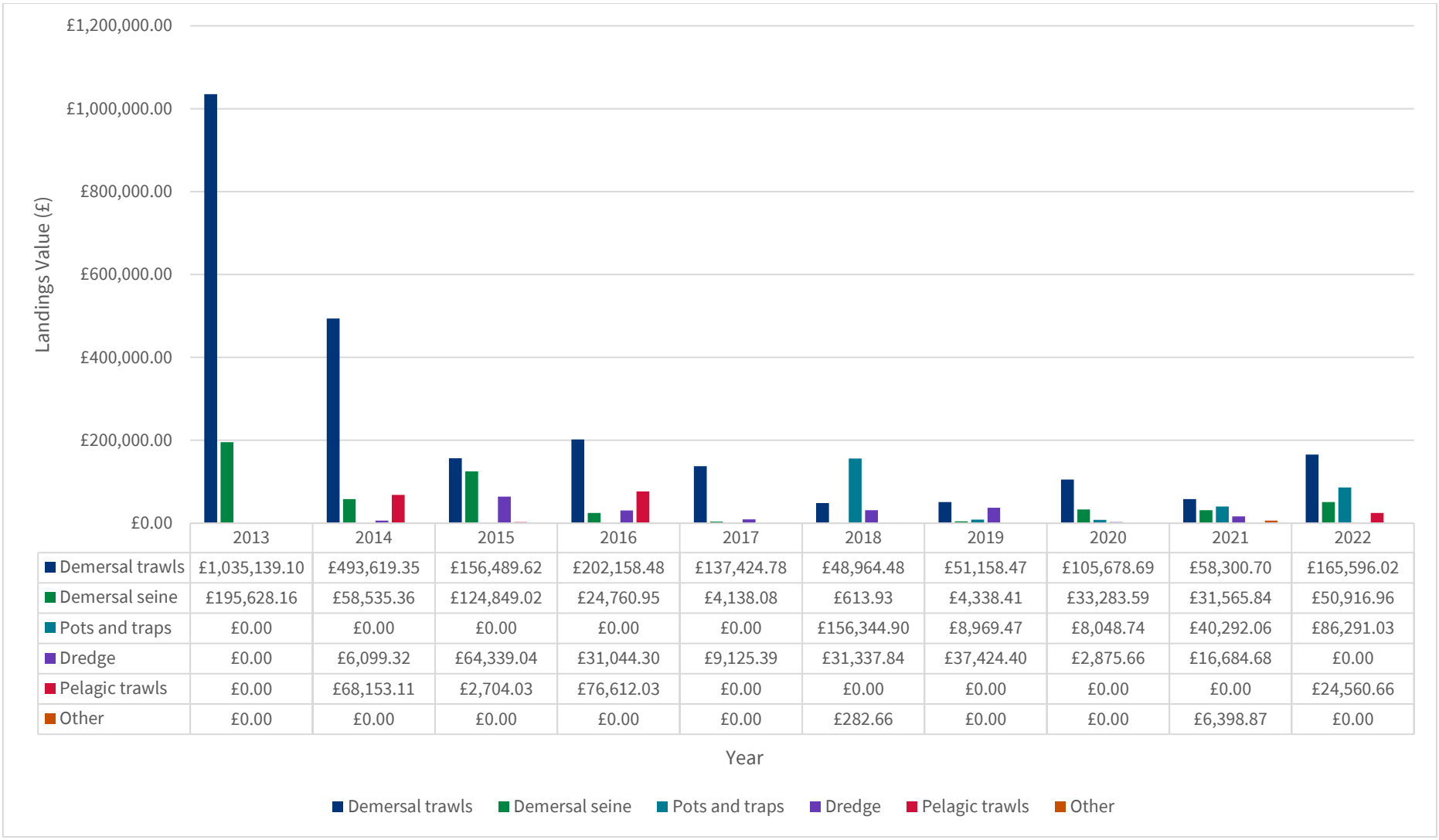
**Table 6.4: Landings values (£) of top ten species in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

| Year | Haddock (Melanogrammus) | Nephrops | Herring (Clupea) | Scallops (Pecten) | Lobsters (Homarus) | Edible crabs (Cancer) | Whiting (Merlangius) | Other | Plaice (Pleuronectes) | Monks or anglers (Lophius) | Mackerel (Scomber) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | £1,121,627.00 | £18,960.87 | £6,289.12 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £39,689.31 | £19,117.83 | £10,649.42 | £9,240.65 | £5,192.57 |
| 2014 | £429,198.30 | £72,413.15 | £63,576.23 | £6,099.32 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £28,042.00 | £15,135.96 | £2,173.39 | £4,213.90 | £5,554.89 |
| 2015 | £206,510.56 | £36,616.36 | £0.00 | £64,076.54 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £13,317.99 | £15,467.40 | £3,886.17 | £7,038.69 | £1,468.00 |
| 2016 | £63,143.75 | £17,025.03 | £195,592.15 | £31,044.30 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £3,838.11 | £6,608.67 | £830.18 | £1,090.65 | £15,402.92 |
| 2017 | £51,199.93 | £63,714.67 | £0.00 | £9,125.39 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £3,729.19 | £15,012.48 | £2,621.35 | £5,285.24 | £0.00 |
| 2018 | £35,677.34 | £7,644.12 | £0.00 | £31,337.84 | £104,146.52 | £44,883.39 | £2,586.44 | £8,484.04 | £2,266.63 | £137.24 | £380.25 |
| 2019 | £25,539.80 | £20,973.49 | £0.00 | £37,424.40 | £5,378.14 | £2,767.61 | £2,204.08 | £5,417.34 | £994.67 | £1,191.22 | £0.00 |
| 2020 | £59,653.76 | £31,177.23 | £0.00 | £2,875.66 | £5,226.10 | £2,822.64 | £6,861.44 | £16,194.01 | £17,762.91 | £7,279.62 | £33.31 |
| 2021 | £65,861.21 | £14,736.11 | £0.00 | £16,684.68 | £18,005.77 | £22,286.29 | £8,306.43 | £2,217.16 | £1,491.51 | £1,568.55 | £2,084.44 |
| 2022 | £156,990.54 | £26,367.55 | £24,502.40 | £0.00 | £32,371.61 | £53,919.42 | £14,677.61 | £5,158.98 | £5,234.56 | £6,214.00 | £1,928.01 |




| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dredge | £789,952.53 | £834,160.93 | £2,504,863.14 | £2,977,403.79 | £1,988,859.62 | £521,246.69 | £1,037,664.87 | £402,437.53 | £706,440.89 | £181,716.82 |
| Demersal trawls | £1,013,965.76 | £391,988.90 | £310,671.65 | £218,841.78 | £181,262.05 | £129,174.27 | £57,736.92 | £90,145.00 | £57,619.07 | £173,988.73 |
| Pots and traps | £4,323.54 | £9,492.26 | £1,945.03 | £87,079.02 | £15,835.28 | £71,963.60 | £253,995.94 | £489,568.97 | £255,121.96 | £68,648.04 |
| Demersal seine | £121,942.50 | £31,898.60 | £80,274.86 | £30,284.94 | £3,928.81 | £510.76 | £2,265.60 | £12,296.52 | £26,023.39 | £101,006.85 |
| Pelagic trawls | £0.00 | £68,153.11 | £19,332.00 | £76,612.03 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £24,560.66 |
| Other | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £171.29 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £3,098.70 | £567.80 | £18.05 |

**Figure 6.7: Landings values (£) by gear type in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area by method (2013 to 2022)**




| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Demersal trawls | £1,035,139.10 | £493,619.35 | £156,489.62 | £202,158.48 | £137,424.78 | £48,964.48 | £51,158.47 | £105,678.69 | £58,300.70 | £165,596.02 |
| Demersal seine | £195,628.16 | £58,535.36 | £124,849.02 | £24,760.95 | £4,138.08 | £613.93 | £4,338.41 | £33,283.59 | £31,565.84 | £50,916.96 |
| Pots and traps | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £156,344.90 | £8,969.47 | £8,048.74 | £40,292.06 | £86,291.03 |
| Dredge | £0.00 | £6,099.32 | £64,339.04 | £31,044.30 | £9,125.39 | £31,337.84 | £37,424.40 | £2,875.66 | £16,684.68 | £0.00 |
| Pelagic trawls | £0.00 | £68,153.11 | £2,704.03 | £76,612.03 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £24,560.66 |
| Other | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £282.66 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £6,398.87 | £0.00 |

**Figure 6.8: Landings values (£) by gear type in the Morven South Commercial Fisheries Study Area by method (2013 to 2022)**

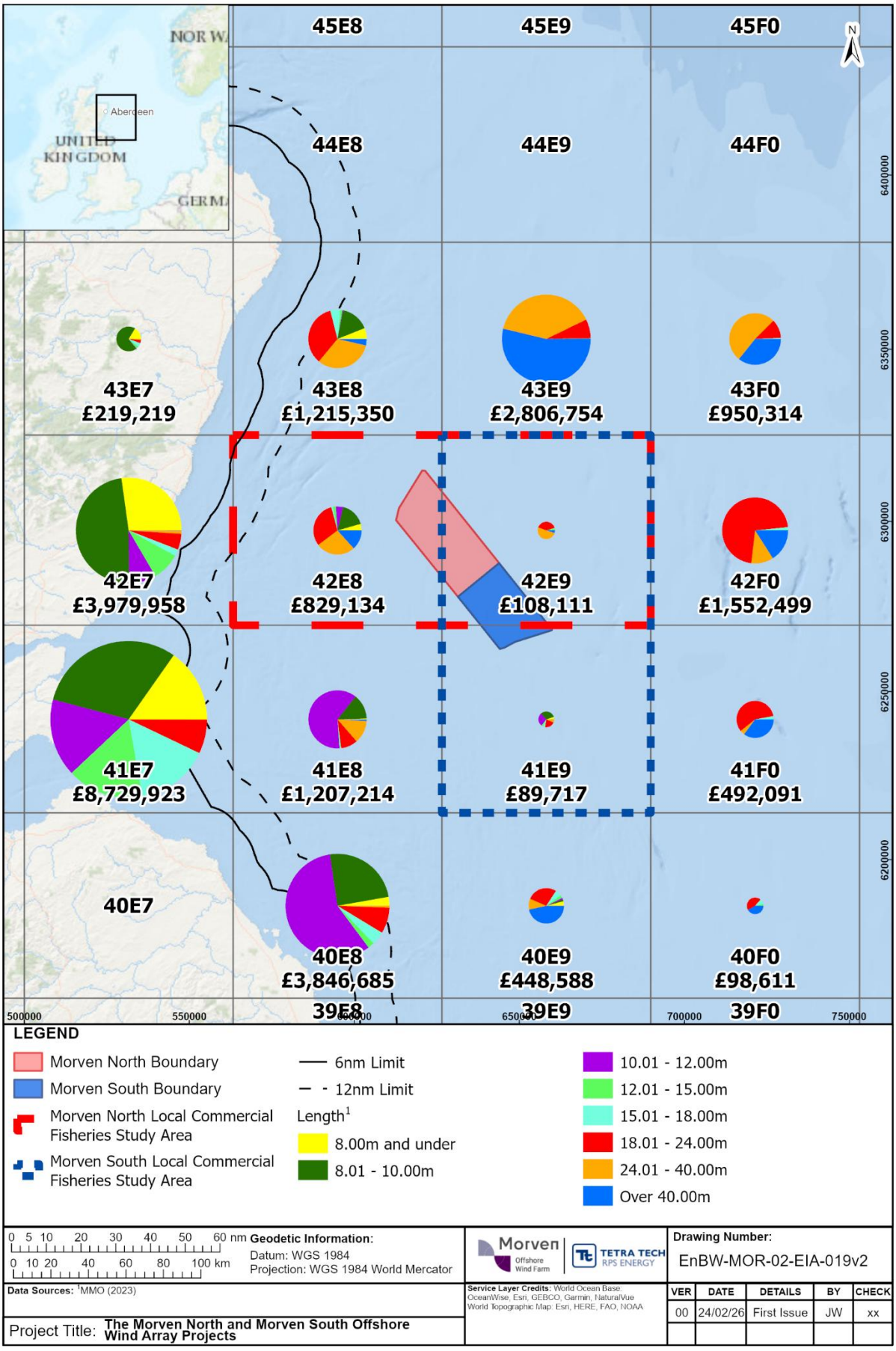



**Figure 6.9: Annual average landings values (£) by vessel length (2018 to 2022)**

## 6.3 Landings by port

### 6.3.1 Morven North

6.3.1.1 An indication of the principal ports that record landings from the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is given in Table 6.5, based on analysis of landings values by port.

6.3.1.2 The highest landings values from the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area are reported from Peterhead, followed by Arbroath and Fraserburgh. Landings into Peterhead represent over half (52.17%) of the total landings from the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area annually, with Arbroath and Fraserburgh recording 19.91% and 11.88%, respectively.

**Table 6.5: Top ports by average annual landings (£) (2018 to 2022) from the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area by UK vessels**

| Port | Average value (2018 to 2022) from Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area | % of annual value in Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2018 to 2022) |
|---|---|---|
| Peterhead | £488,973.19 | 52.17% |
| Arbroath | £186,612.83 | 19.91% |
| Fraserburgh | £111,340.93 | 11.88% |
| Aberdeen | £82,584.21 | 8.81% |
| Stonehaven | £32,561.66 | 3.47% |
| Montrose | £8,259.92 | 0.88% |
| North Shields | £4,948.33 | 0.53% |
| Vlissengen | £4,912.13 | 0.52% |
| Eyemouth | £4,329.64 | 0.46% |
| Whitby | £2,911.16 | 0.31% |
| Other | £9,810.64 | 1.05% |
| Total | £937,244.63 | 100.00% |

### 6.3.2 Morven South

6.3.2.1 The highest landings values from the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area are reported from Peterhead, followed by Eyemouth and St Abbs (Table 6.6). Landings into Peterhead represent almost half (46.59%) of the total landings from the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area annually, with Eyemouth and St Abbs recording 14.65% and 12.73%, respectively.

**Table 6.6: Top ports by average annual landings (£) (2018 to 2022) from the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area by UK vessels**

| Port | Average value (2018 to 2022) from Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area | % of annual value in Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2018 to 2022) |
|---|---|---|
| Peterhead | £92,176.39 | 46.59% |
| Eyemouth | £28,986.71 | 14.65% |
| St Abbs | £25,182.90 | 12.73% |
| Fraserburgh | £17,088.32 | 8.64% |
| Hartlepool | £7,035.80 | 3.56% |
| Dunbar | £5,250.50 | 2.65% |
| Vlissengen | £4,912.13 | 2.48% |
| Blyth | £4,580.64 | 2.32% |
| Amble | £3,091.98 | 1.56% |
| Whitby | £2,911.16 | 1.47% |
| Other | £6,610.86 | 3.34% |
| Total | £197,827.41 | 100.00% |

# 7 Main fisheries

## 7.1 Scallop dredging

### 7.1.1 Fishing gear, vessels and operating practices

7.1.1.1 The Scottish scallop fishery is split into two main fleets; one composed of smaller vessels (generally under 15m in length) that work in inshore areas, and one of larger vessels (generally above 15m in length) that work further offshore, and are more transient in nature (Cappell, *et al*., 2013; Cappell, *et al*., 2018). The nomadic component of the scallop fleet has larger operational ranges and can therefore move around the UK targeting scallop grounds in peak abundance. The main species targeted by scallop dredgers in areas of relevance to Morven North and Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is the king scallop (Pecten maximus).

7.1.1.2 The 'Newhaven' scallop mechanical dredge is typically used by the larger scallop fishing fleet. It compromises heavy steel tow bars with toothed dredges used to flip scallops out of the seabed. These dredges are connected to a collector bag dragged on the seabed behind the teeth (Figure 7.1) (Catherall and Kaiser, 2014).

7.1.1.3 Scallop dredging vessels require a license and are restricted by the number of dredges they can use, depending upon the distance they are operating from the coast. Vessels fishing outside the 12nm limit are allowed up to 14 dredges per side; between 6nm and 12nm up to ten dredges per side are permitted; and up to eight dredges per side inside 6nm. The minimum landing size for scallops is 105mm in all areas around Scotland with the exception of the Irish Sea and Shetland.

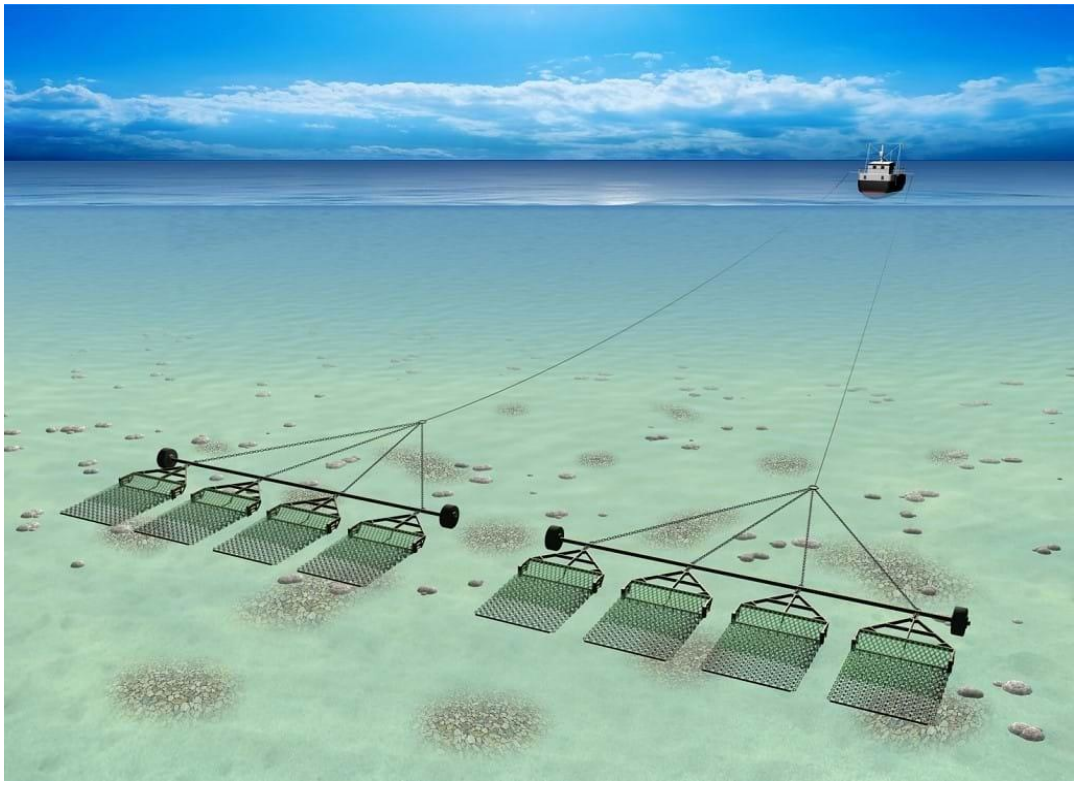


**Figure 7.1: Example of a scallop dredge[4]**

### 7.1.2 Seasonality and annual variation

***Morven North***

7.1.2.1 The average landings values per month of scallops in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area are illustrated in Figure 7.2. As shown, landings value appears to peak in April and June, before declining steadily into the winter months.

7.1.2.2 The scallop fishery is seasonal in nature, and productive grounds rotate around the UK on a seven to eight-year cycle (Cappell *et al*., 2018). An indication of the annual variation of the scallop fishery in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is given in Figure 7.3. This shows the landings value of scallops peaking from 2015 to 2017, before declining in 2018.

[4] Source: Seafish, 2025

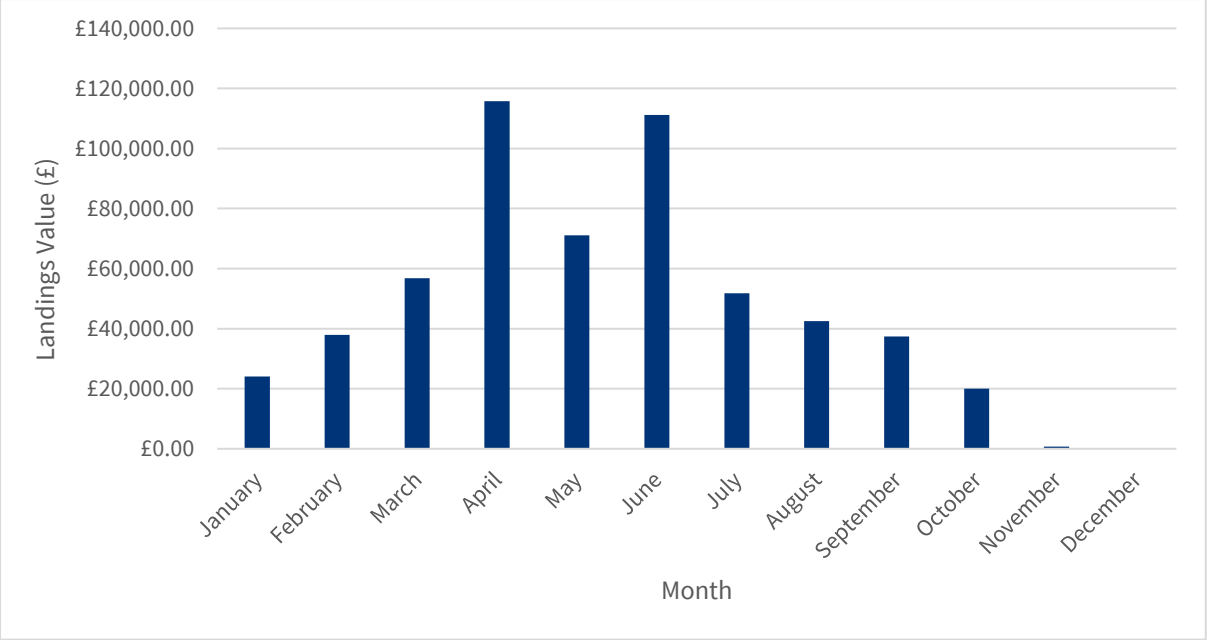



**Figure 7.2: Monthly scallop landings in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (annual average 2018 to 2022)**

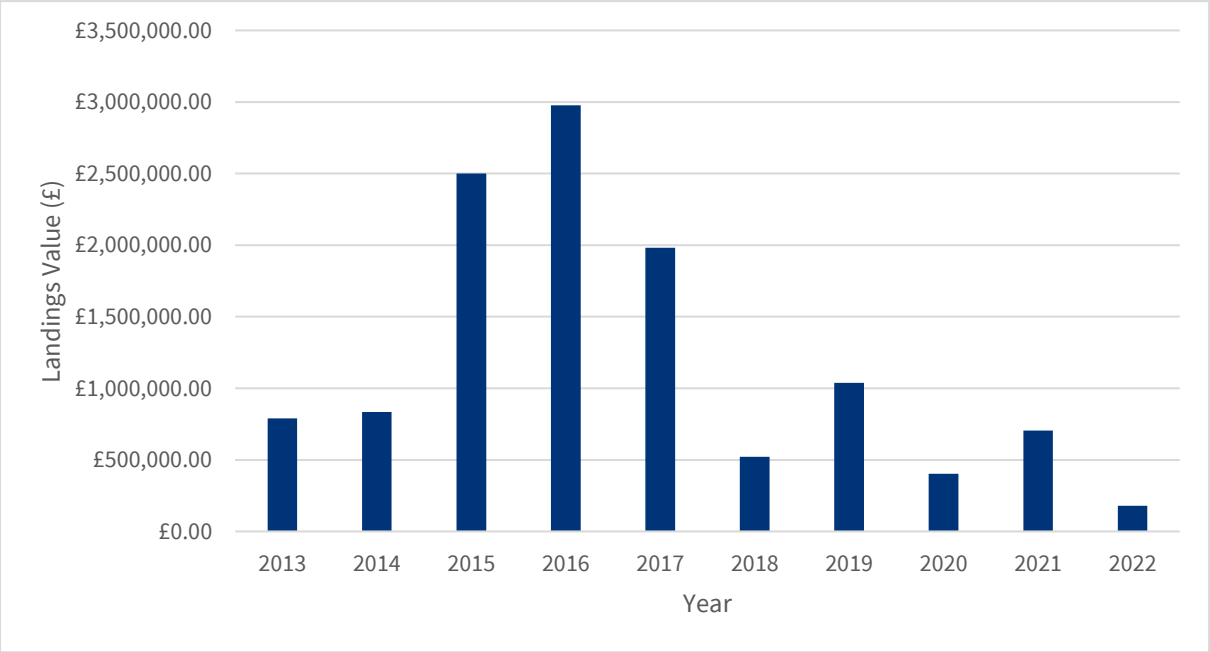



**Figure 7.3: Annual landings of scallops in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

### *Morven South*

7.1.2.3 As shown in Figure 7.4, landings of scallop in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area are recorded at very low levels and have higher values between April and June. There are no records of landings of scallops from the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area between October and March.

7.1.2.4 An indication of the annual variation of the scallop fishery in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is given in Figure 7.5. This shows that landings of scallops are consistently low in this area and vary widely from year to year with some years recording no landings at all.

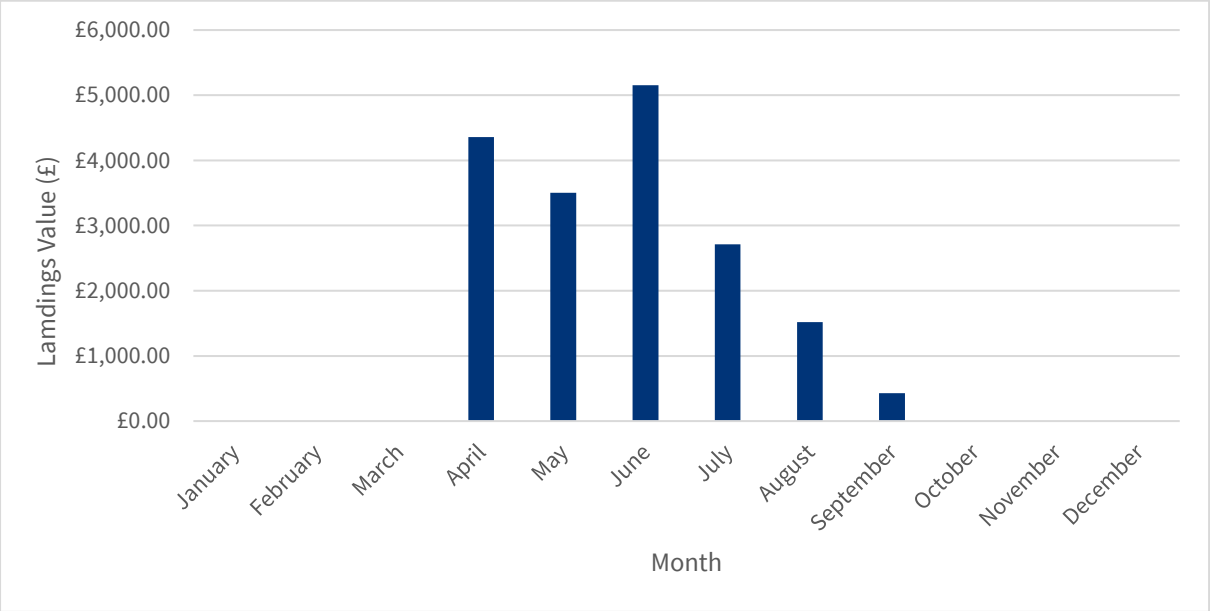



**Figure 7.4: Monthly scallop landings in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (annual average 2018 to 2022)**

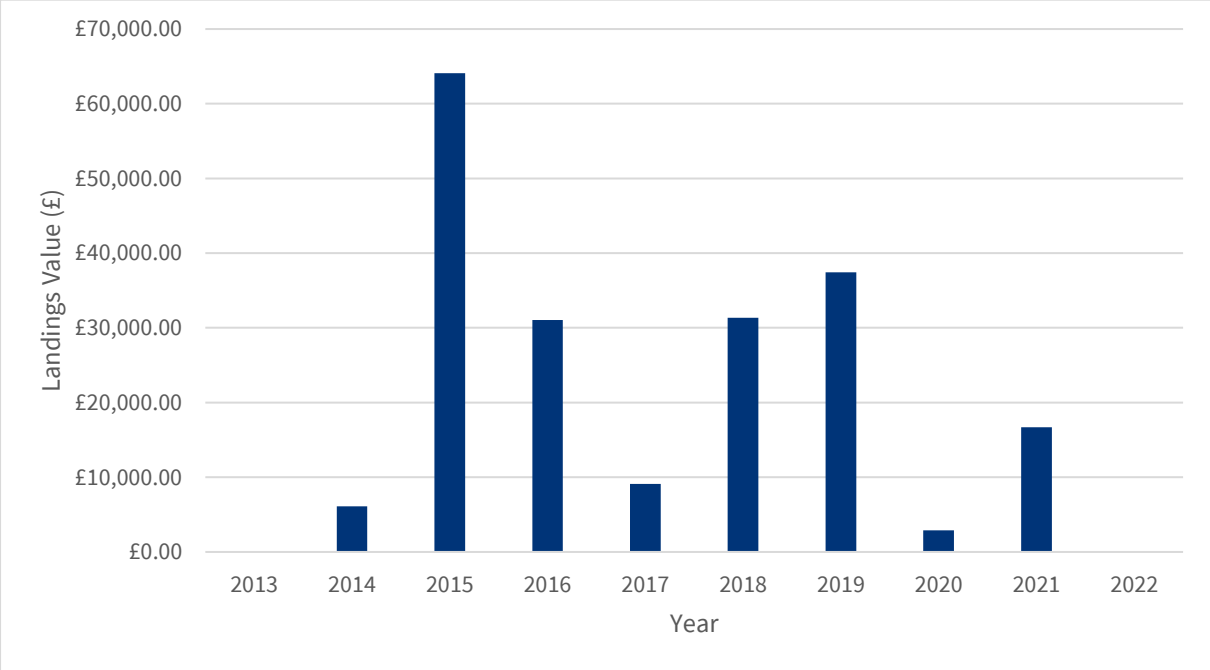



**Figure 7.5: Annual landings of scallops in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

### 7.1.3 Distribution of fishing activity

***Morven North***

7.1.3.1 An indication of the spatial distribution of scallop dredging activity within the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is provided in Figure 7.6 to Figure 7.10.

7.1.3.2 Surveillance sighting and landings data (Figure 7.6 and Figure 7.7 respectively) show that the majority of dredging activity occurs within ICES rectangle 42E8, which comprises the western section of the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, with negligible landings value derived from 42E9 (which comprises the eastern section of the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area).

7.1.3.3 It is important to note, however, that whilst scallop dredging has been recorded within the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area , surveillance sightings indicate that there is negligible activity within the Morven North Boundary, with observations of scallop dredgers being concentrated west of the boundary and with no overlap with it (Figure 7.6).This is in line with evidence from the analysis of VMS data and gridded scallop dredging data for under 12m vessels, included in Figure 7.8 and Figure 7.9, which further illustrates the lack of scallop dredging activity within the Morven North Boundary.

***Morven South***

7.1.3.4 Surveillance sighting and landings data (Figure 7.6 and Figure 7.7 respectively) shows that there is negligible activity by scallop dredgers within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area. Evidence from the analysis of VMS data and gridded scallop dredging data for under 12m vessels, included in Figure 7.8 and Figure 7.10, further illustrates that scallop dredging activity within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is negligible, and that there is no overlap with the Morven South Boundary.

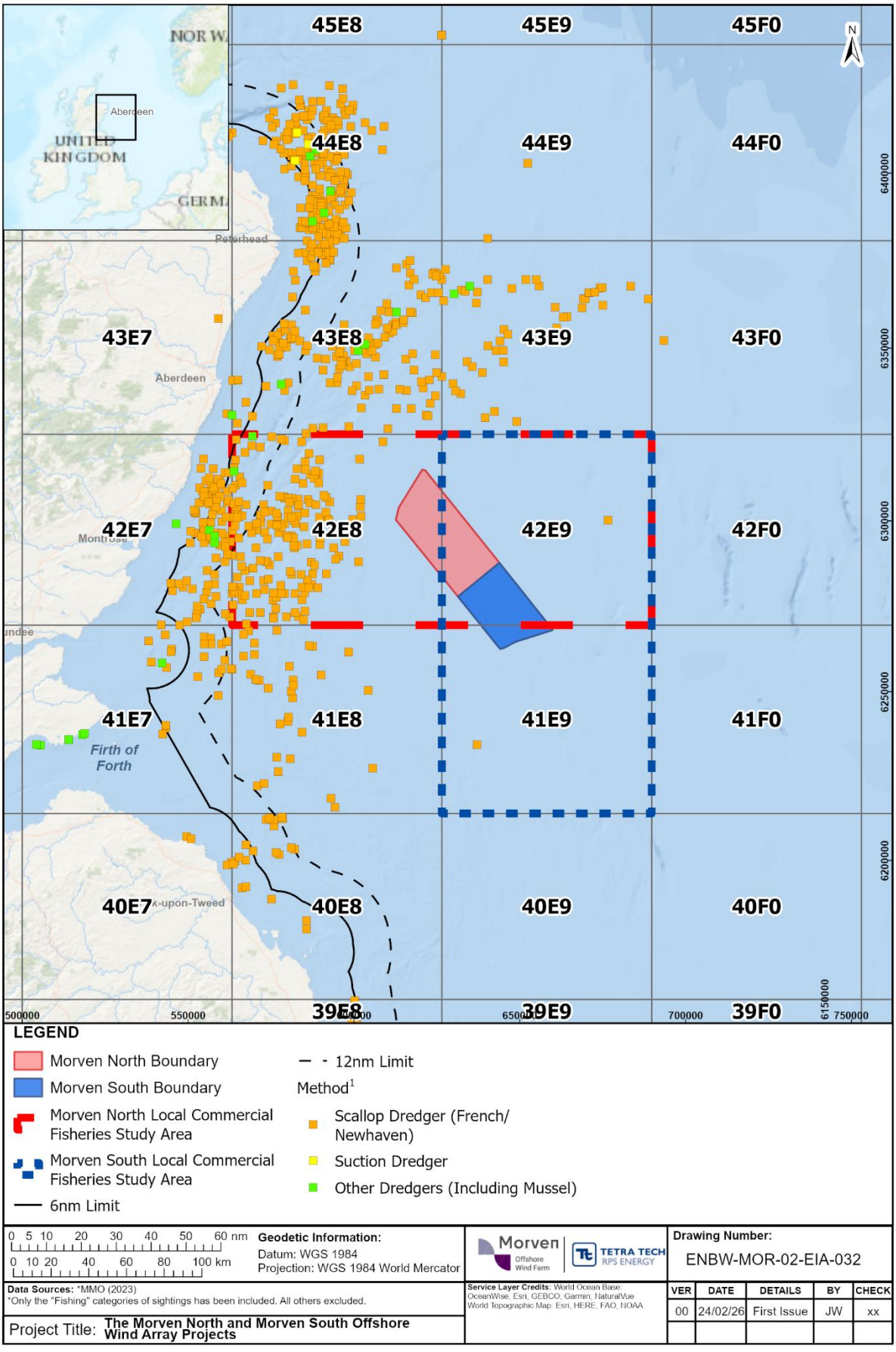



**Figure 7.6: Surveillance sightings of dredgers (2018 to 2022)**

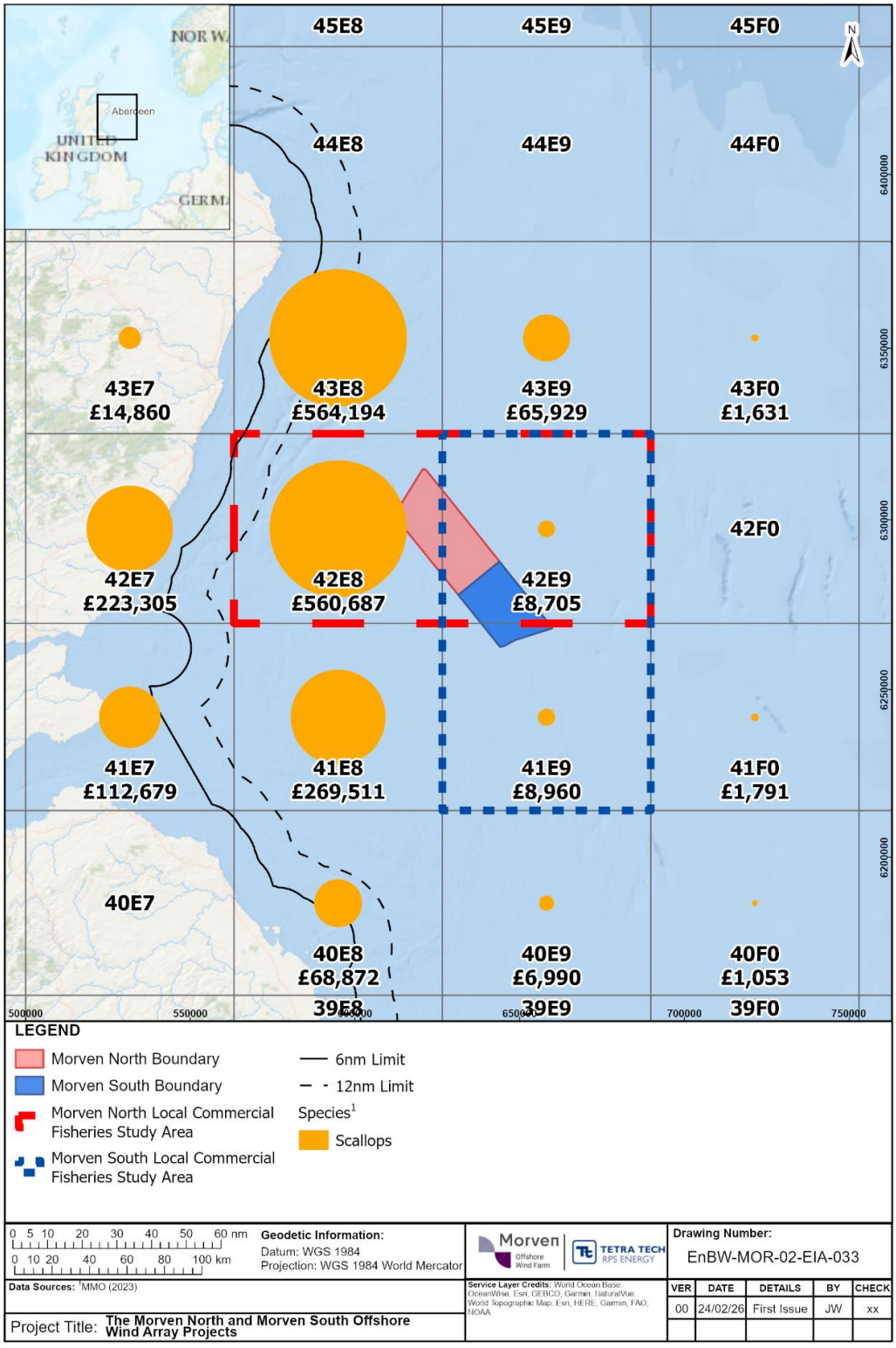



**Figure 7.7: Annual landings value (£) of scallops (average 2018 to 2022)[5]**

[5] Landings values of less than £1,000 per ICES rectangle are not displayed to prevent skewing of other displayed values.

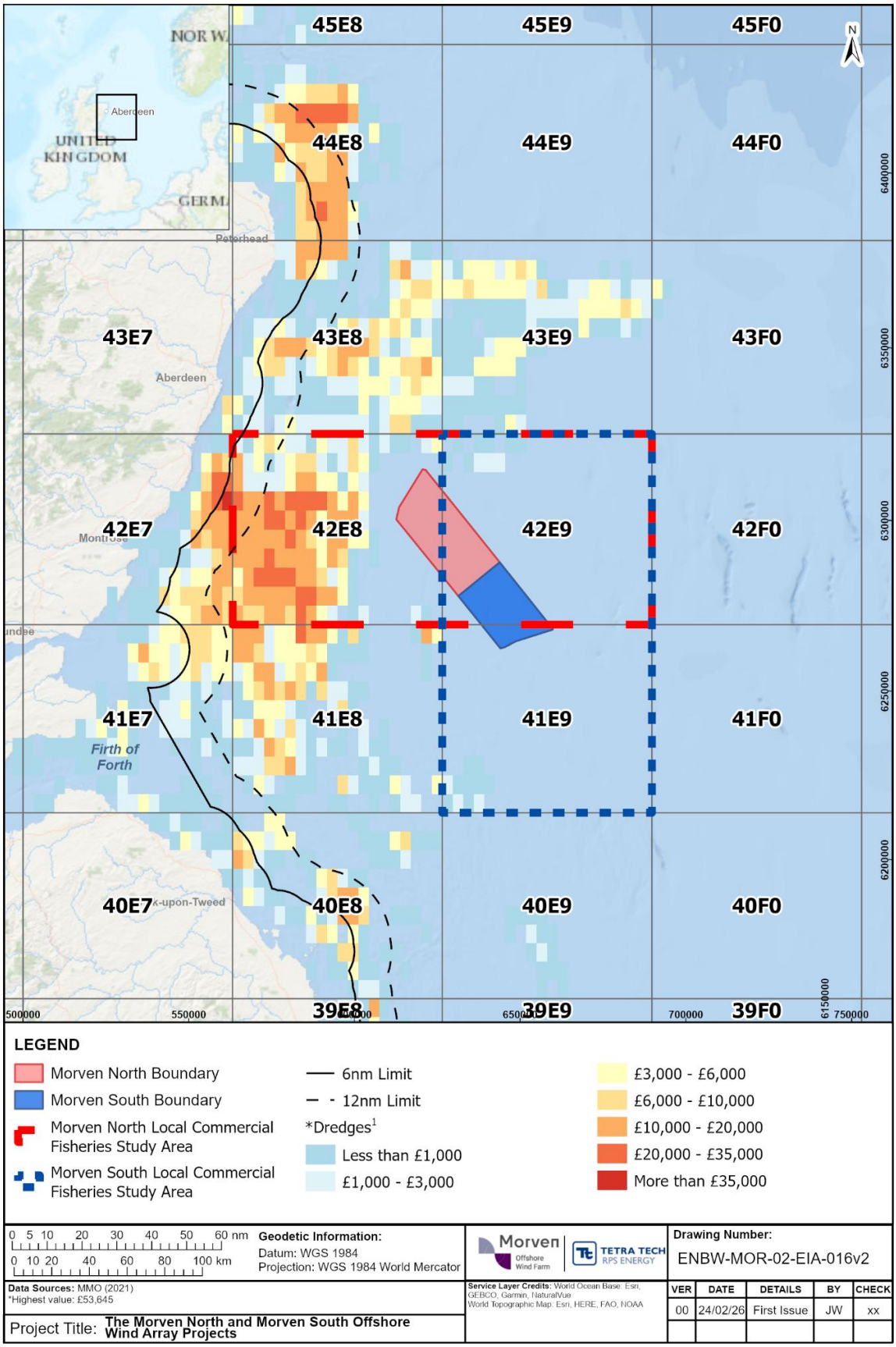



**Figure 7.8: UK Vessel Monitoring System (£) for scallop dredgers (average 2016 to 2020)**

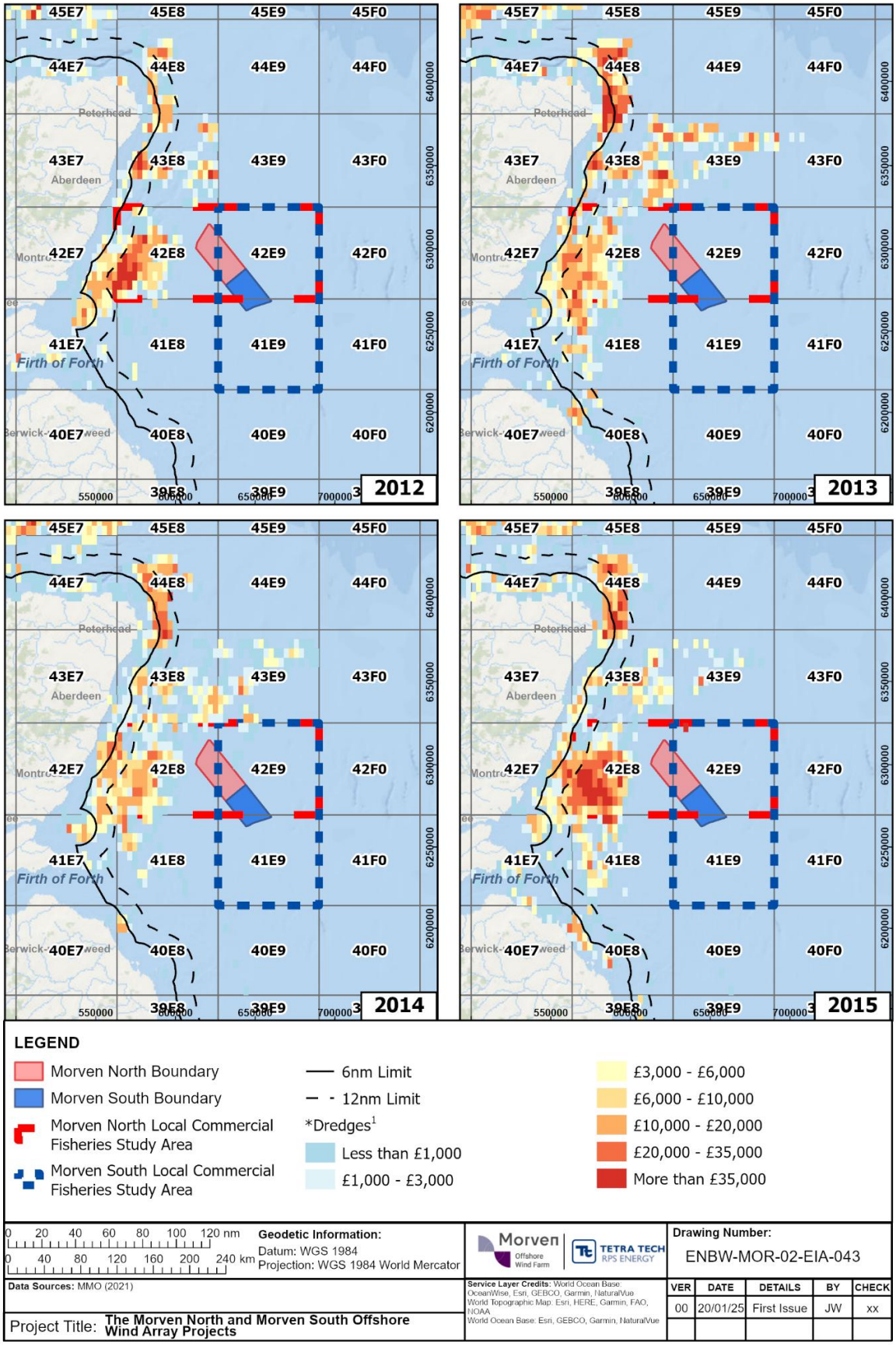



**Figure 7.9: UK Vessel Monitoring System (£) for scallop dredgers (2012 to 2015)**

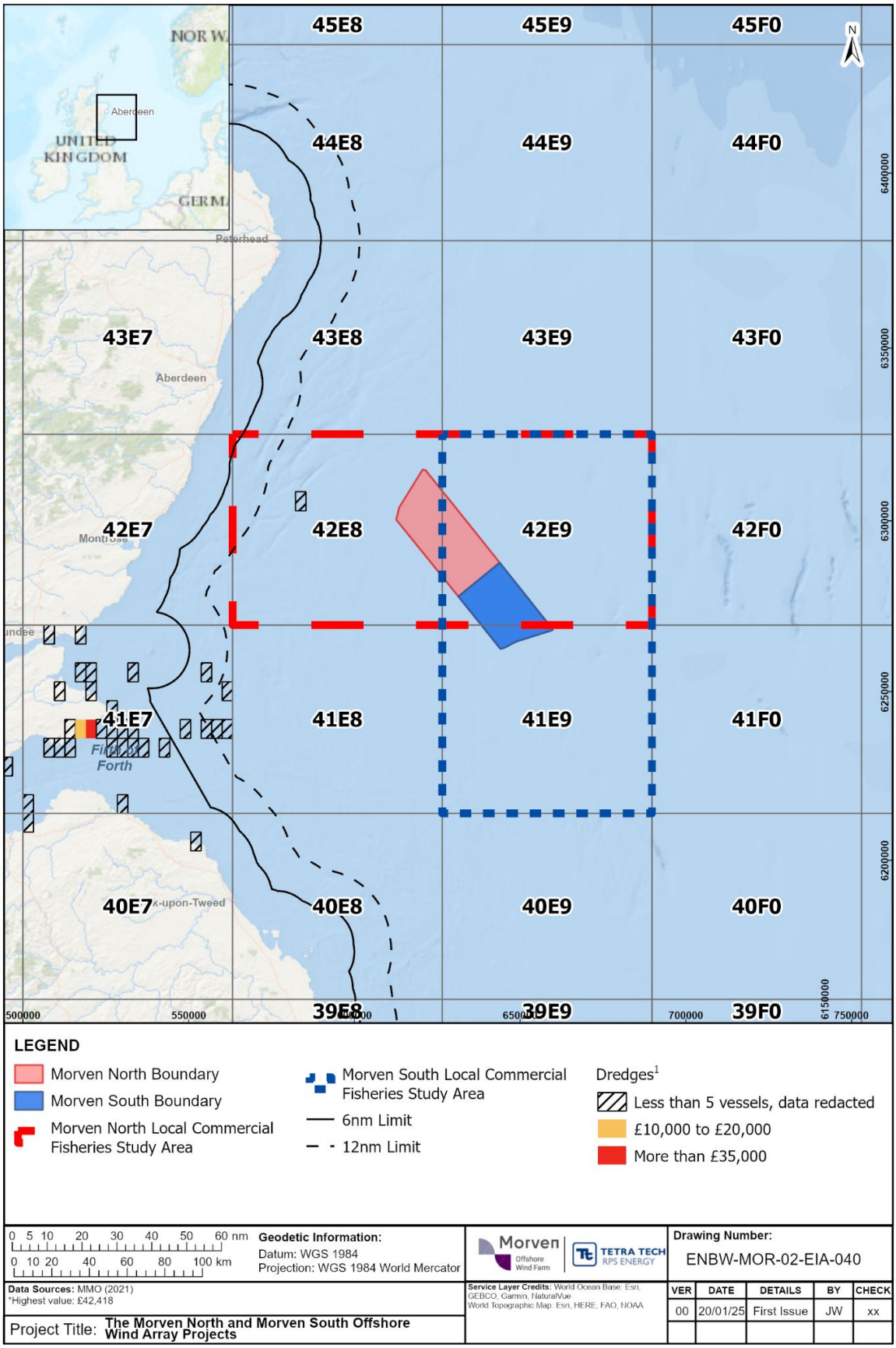



**Figure 7.10: Gridded fisheries data of scallop dredgers under 12m (2018 to 2022)**

## 7.2 Creeling

### 7.2.1 Fishing gear, vessels and operating practices

7.2.1.1 Lobster and edible crab are typically caught in pots/traps called creels. A variety of creels can be used depending on the target species, but parlour creels (Figure 7.11) are the preferred type in the areas relevant to Morven North and Morven South (Marine Scotland Science, 2017). As outlined in Section 5, static gear fishers active in the areas relevant to Morven North and Morven South who responded to the questionnaires stated they operate vessels under 10m in length, and fish within the 6nm imit.

7.2.1.2 The lobster and crab fishery is not subject to total allowable catch or similar restrictions on the tonnage that can be landed. The primary method to govern landings is through the implementation of Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes to protect juvenile animals. In addition, vessels targeting these species are required to have a shellfish entitlement attached to their licence.

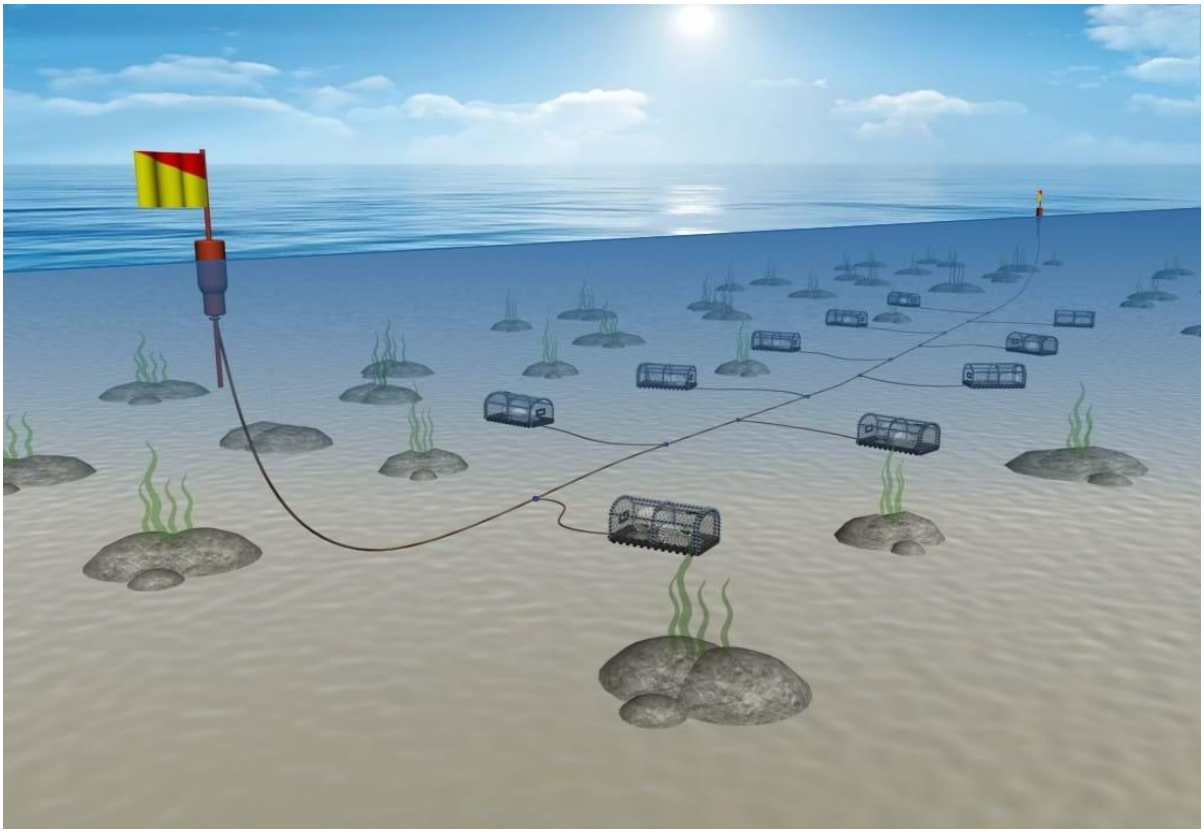


**Figure 7.11: Example of pots on the seabed[6]**

[6] Source: Seafish, 2025

### 7.2.2 Seasonality and annual variation

***Morven North***

7.2.2.1 Monthly landings of crab and lobster are illustrated in Figure 7.12. As shown, landings by value (£) of edible crab remain relatively steady year-round. Similarly, landings of lobsters occur all year, however in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area they reach a peak in August.

7.2.2.2 Figure 7.13 shows the annual variation in edible crab and lobster landings by value in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area over a ten-year period. As shown, landings values were relatively low before 2018, at which point they began to increase significantly, with a peak in 2020.

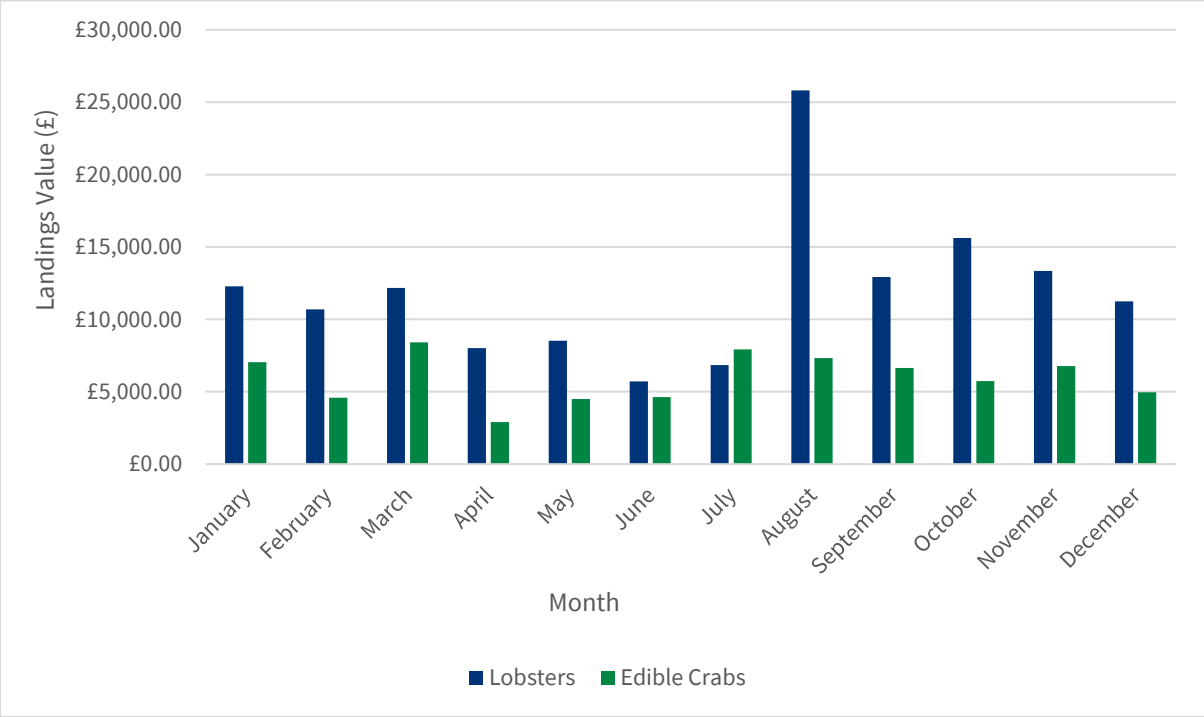



**Figure 7.12: Monthly lobster and edible crab landings in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (average 2018 to 2022) (MMO, 2023)**

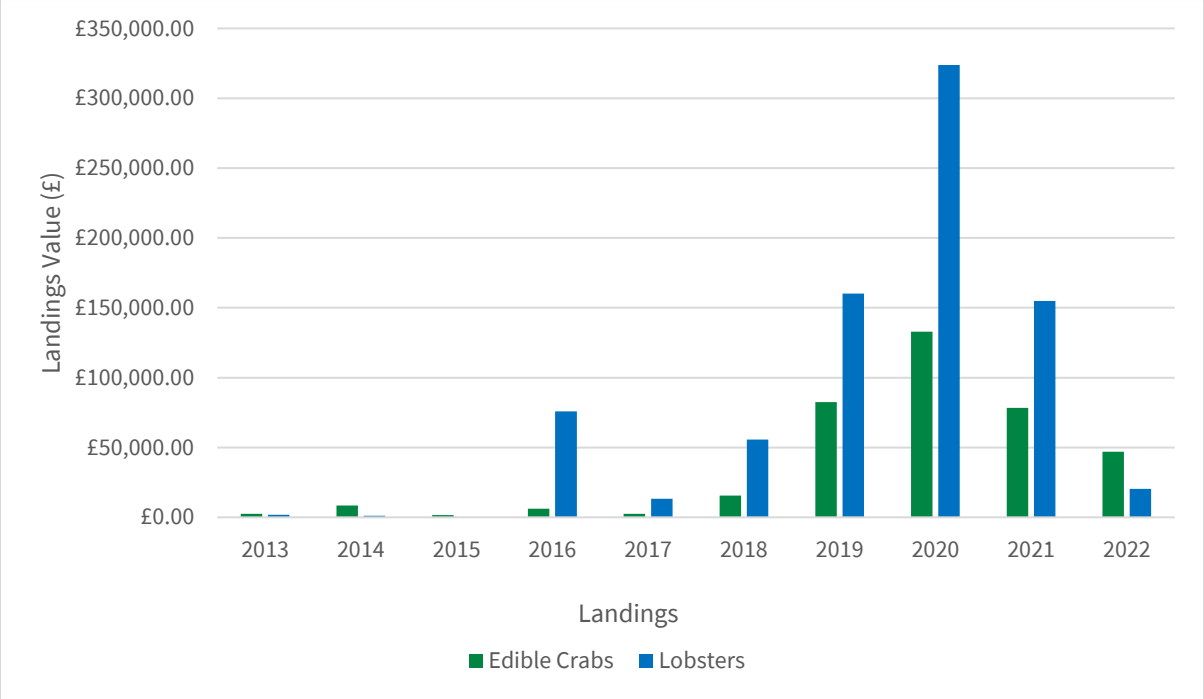



**Figure 7.13: Annual landings of edible crab and lobster in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022) (MMO, 2023)**

### *Morven South*

7.2.2.3 Monthly landings of crab and lobster are illustrated in Figure 7.14. As shown, landings by value (£) of edible crab occur year-round, but peak in June and again in November. Similarly, landings of lobsters occur all year, however in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area they reach a peak in July and August.

7.2.2.4 Figure 7.15 shows the annual variation in edible crab and lobster landings by value in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area over a ten-year period. As shown, landings values were negligible before 2018, at which point they reach a peak before beginning to decline again.

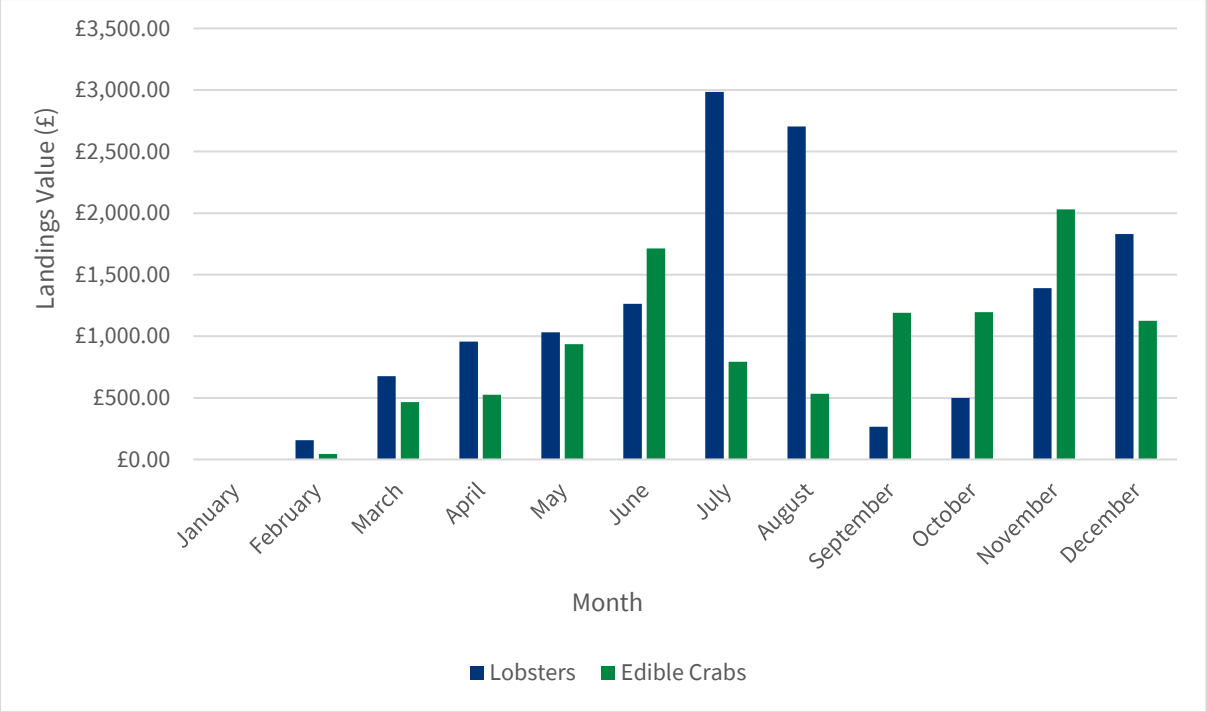



**Figure 7.14: Monthly lobster and edible crab landings in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (Average 2018 to 2022)**

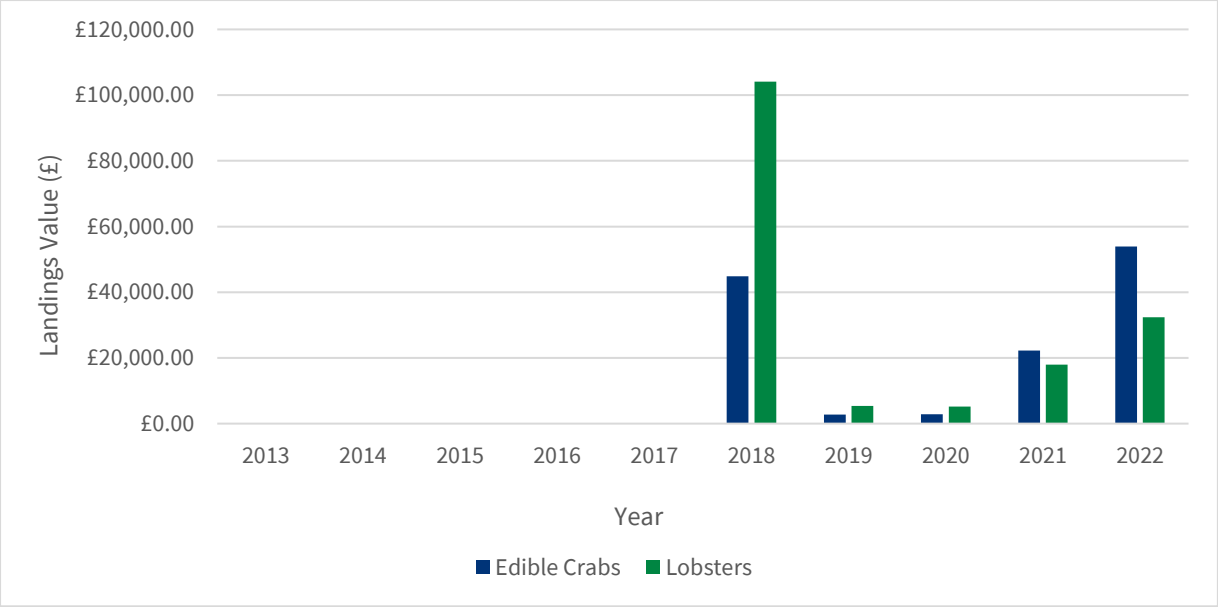



**Figure 7.15: Annual landings of edible crab and lobster in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

### 7.2.3 Distribution of fishing activity

***Morven North***

7.2.3.1 An indication of the spatial distribution of creeling activity is given Figure 7.16 to Figure 7.20.

7.2.3.2 Based on surveillance sightings (Figure 7.16), landings (Figure 7.17), VMS data (Figure 7.18 and Figure 7.19) and gridded fisheries data collected by the Marine Directorate (Figure 7.20), it is apparent that activity by creelers is largely focused inshore, with the highest landings in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area recorded within its western section. As for scallop dredging, however, the activity occurs west of the Morven North Boundary with negligible activity by creelers expected within the boundaries of Morven North.

7.2.3.3 It is also clear from the data presented that the ICES rectangles outside of the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area support a much higher level of creeling activity than those that comprise it. The data and information publicly available suggest that whilst creeling is recorded within the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, there is negligible overlap between this activity and the Morven North Boundary.

***Morven South***

7.2.3.4 Based on surveillance sightings (Figure 7.16), landings (Figure 7.17), VMS data (Figure 7.18 and Figure 7.19) and gridded fisheries data collected by the Marine Directorate (Figure 7.20), it is apparent that activity by creelers within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is very low, with negligible landings recorded in its northern section, where the majority of the Morven North Boundary is located.

7.2.3.5 It is also clear from the data presented that ICES rectangles outside of the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area support a much higher level of creeling activity than those that comprise it. The data and information publicly available suggest that only very low levels of creeling are recorded within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area and that there is negligible overlap between this activity and the Morven South Boundary.

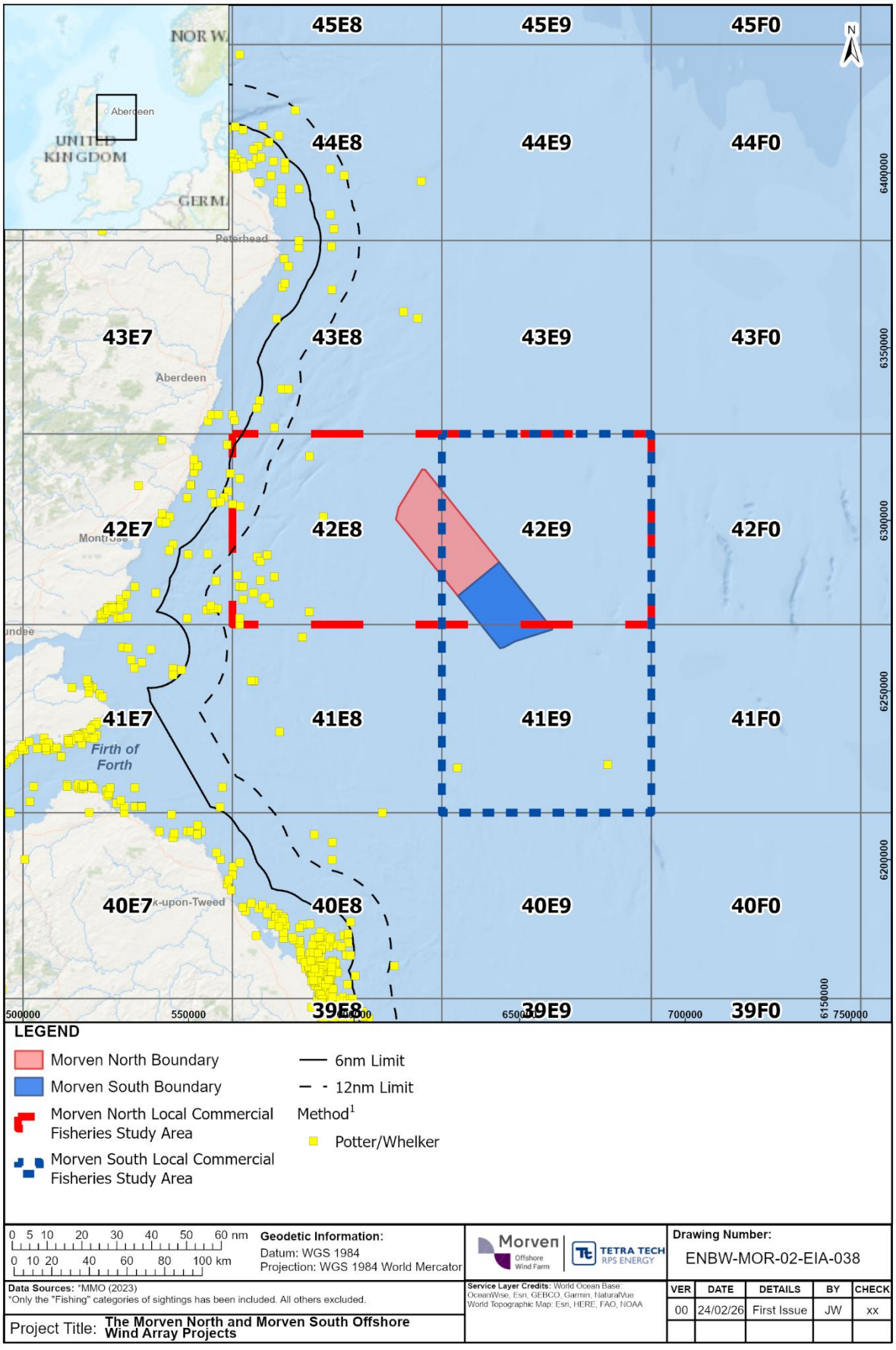



**Figure 7.16: Surveillance sightings of creelers (2013 to 2022)**

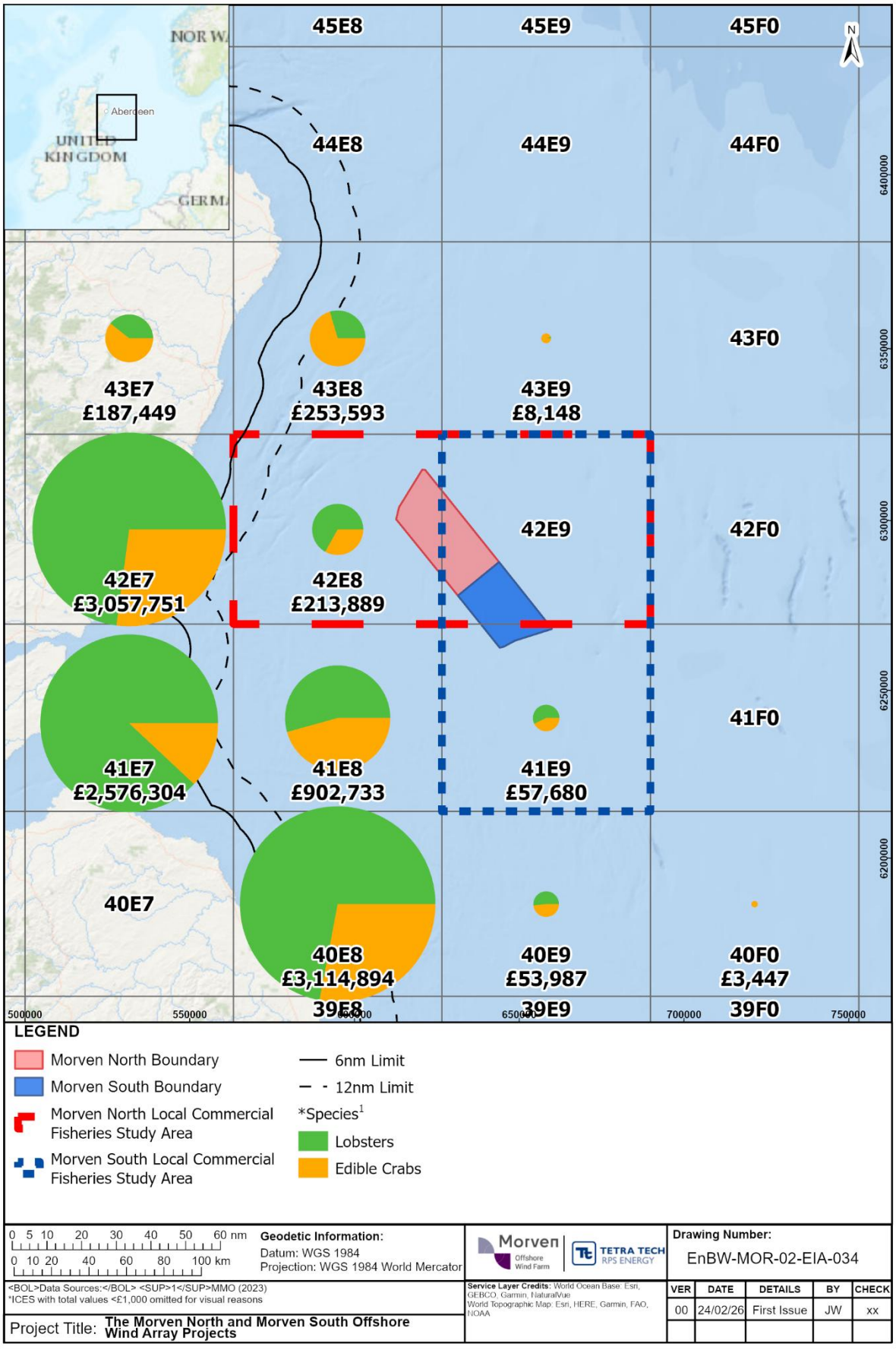



**Figure 7.17: Annual landings for edible crabs and lobster (Average 2017 to 2021)**

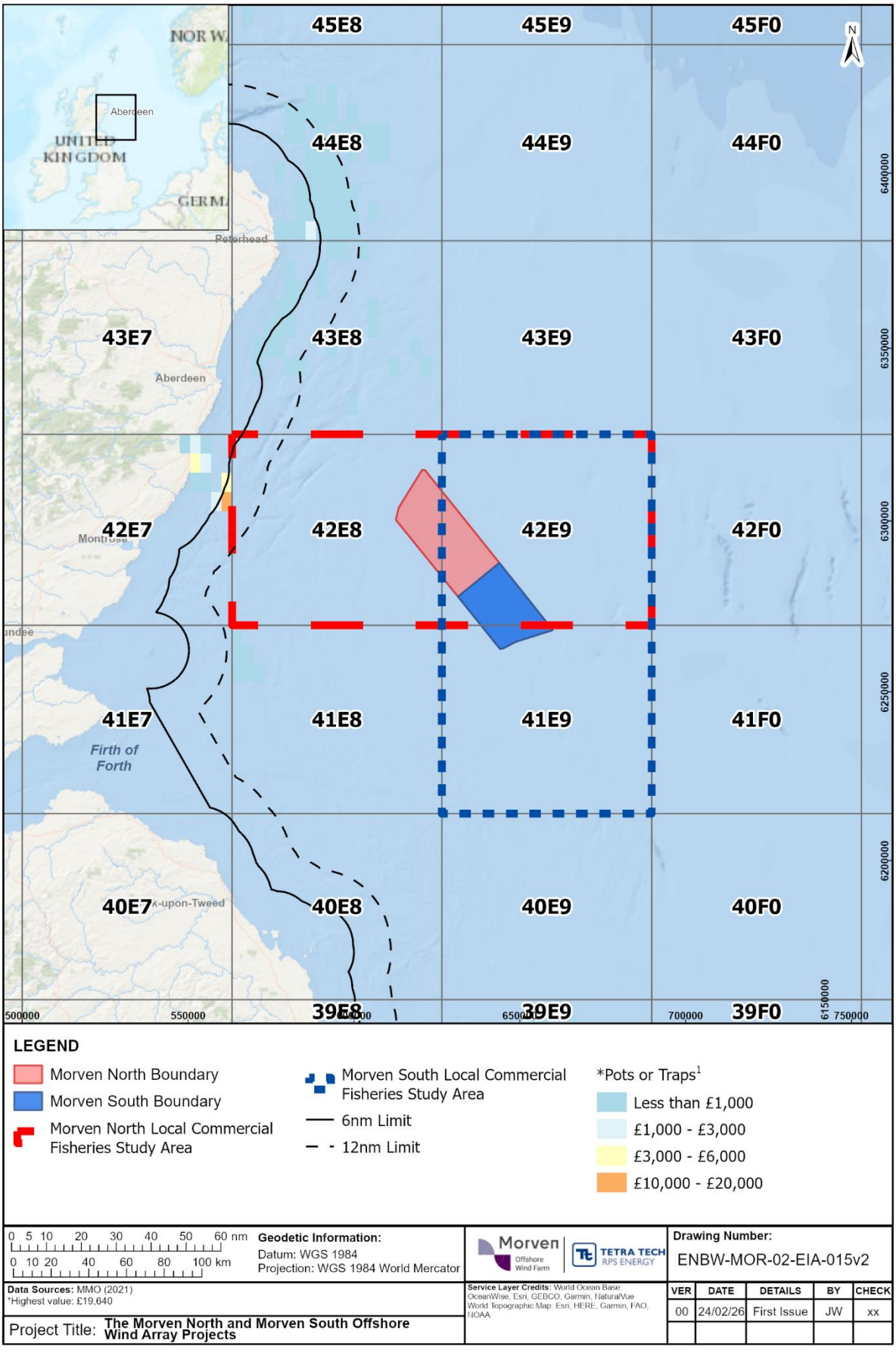



**Figure 7.18: Vessel Monitoring System value (£) for creelers (Average 2016 to 2020)**

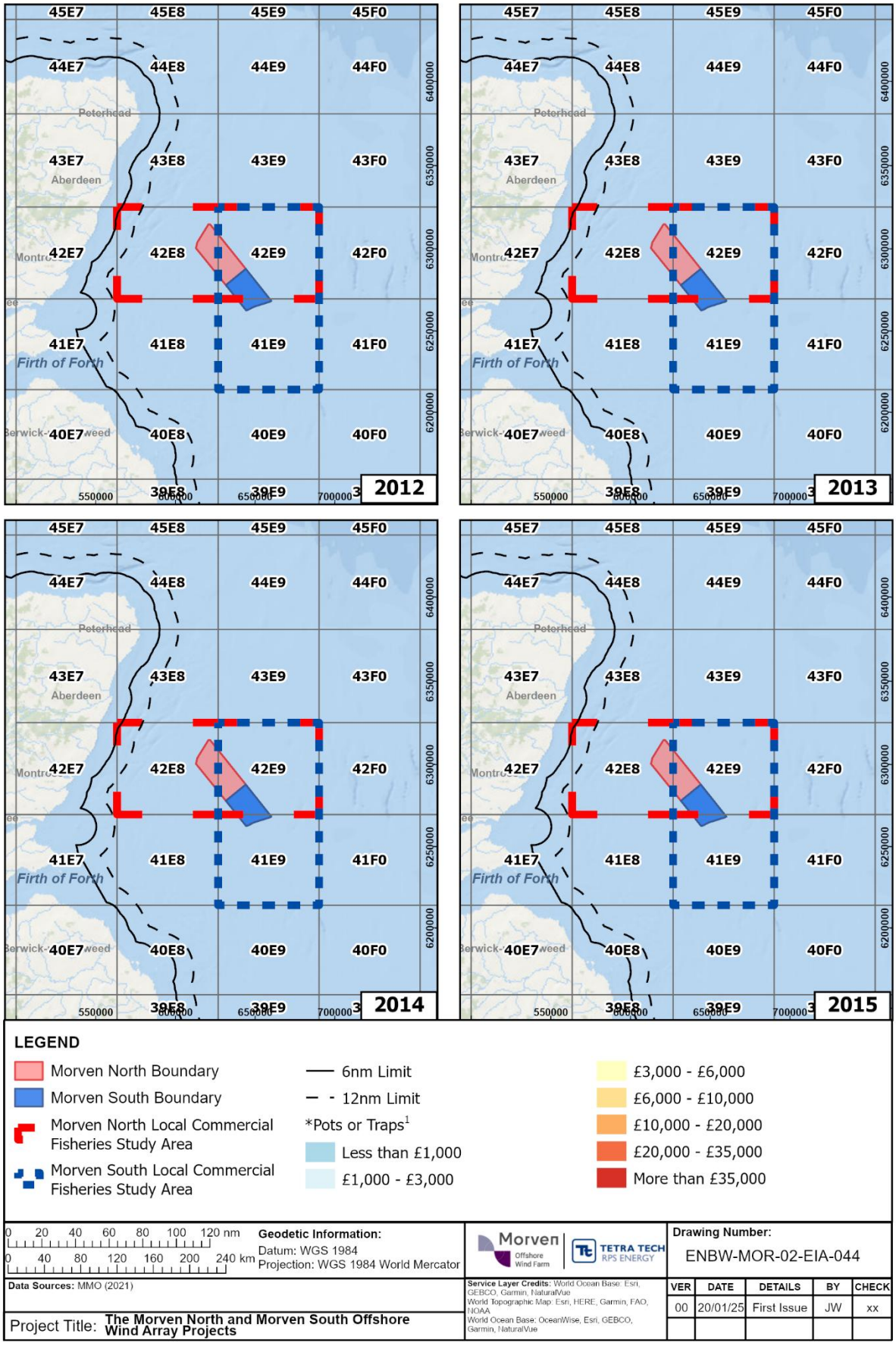



**Figure 7.19: Vessel Monitoring System value (£) for creelers (2012 to 2015)**

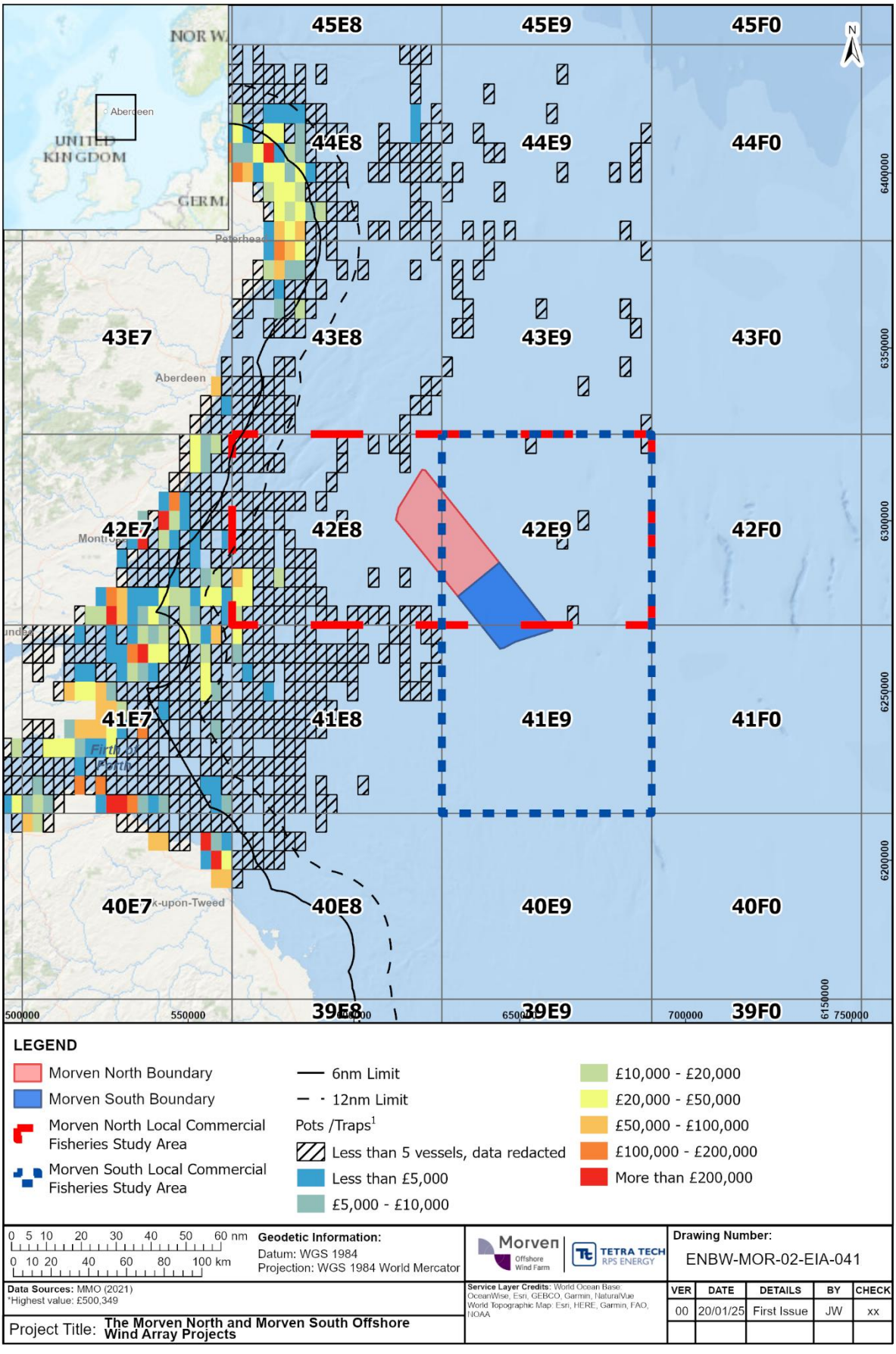



**Figure 7.20: Gridded: fisheries data of creelers under 12m (2018 to 2022)**

## 7.3 Demersal trawling

### 7.3.1 Fishing gear, vessels and operating practices

7.3.1.1 Demersal trawling includes several different types of fishing gear that use a cone-like net with a closed end (cod-end) that holds the catch. The net is towed by one or two boats and held open by boards (trawl doors) or a metal beam (Figure 7.21).

7.3.1.2 Demersal trawlers active in the vicinity of the Morven North and Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Areas predominantly target demersal whitefish such as haddock and crustaceans such as Nephrops (Nephrops norvegicus) and use otter trawl gear. As outlined in Section 5, demersal trawl fishers active in the areas relevant to Morven North and Morven South who responded to the questionnaires stated they operate vessels in the larger size category, and steam approximately 150nm per fishing trip.

7.3.1.3 A review of publicly data sets indicated little to no demersal seine activity within the Local Commercial Fisheries Study Areas.

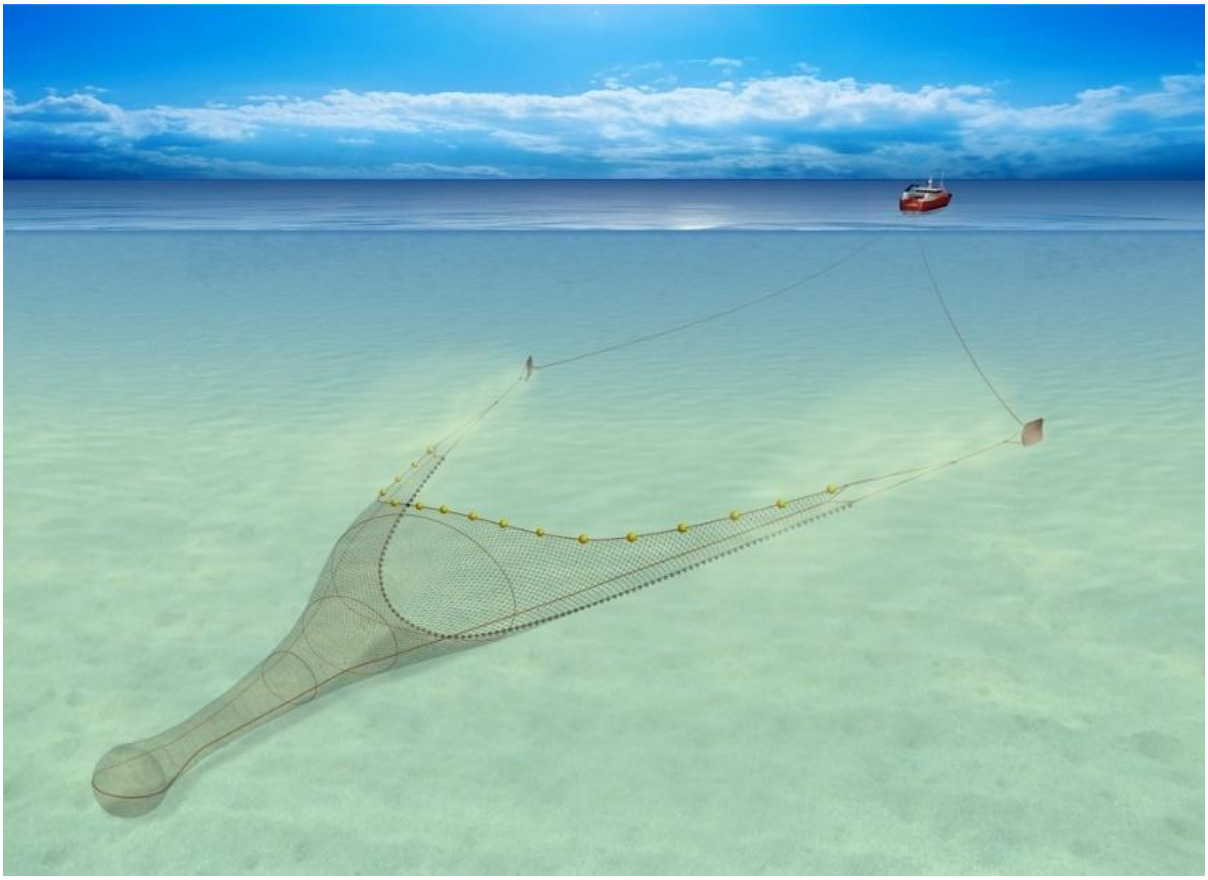


**Figure 7.21: Example of a demersal trawl[7]**

[7] Source: Seafish, 2025

### 7.3.2 Seasonality and annual variation

***Morven North***

7.3.2.1 The average monthly landings of the top ten whitefish species caught in the Morven North are shown in Figure 7.22. As shown, the predominant whitefish targeted by demersal trawls is haddock and to a lesser extent whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*), with landings of both species peaking in May.

7.3.2.2 The annual variation in whitefish landings is shown in Figure 7.23. The landings value of the main species caught in the Morven North Commercial Fisheries Study Area, haddock, peaked significantly in 2013, before a steep decline resulting in relatively low landings between 2015 and 2021, followed by a small increase in 2022.

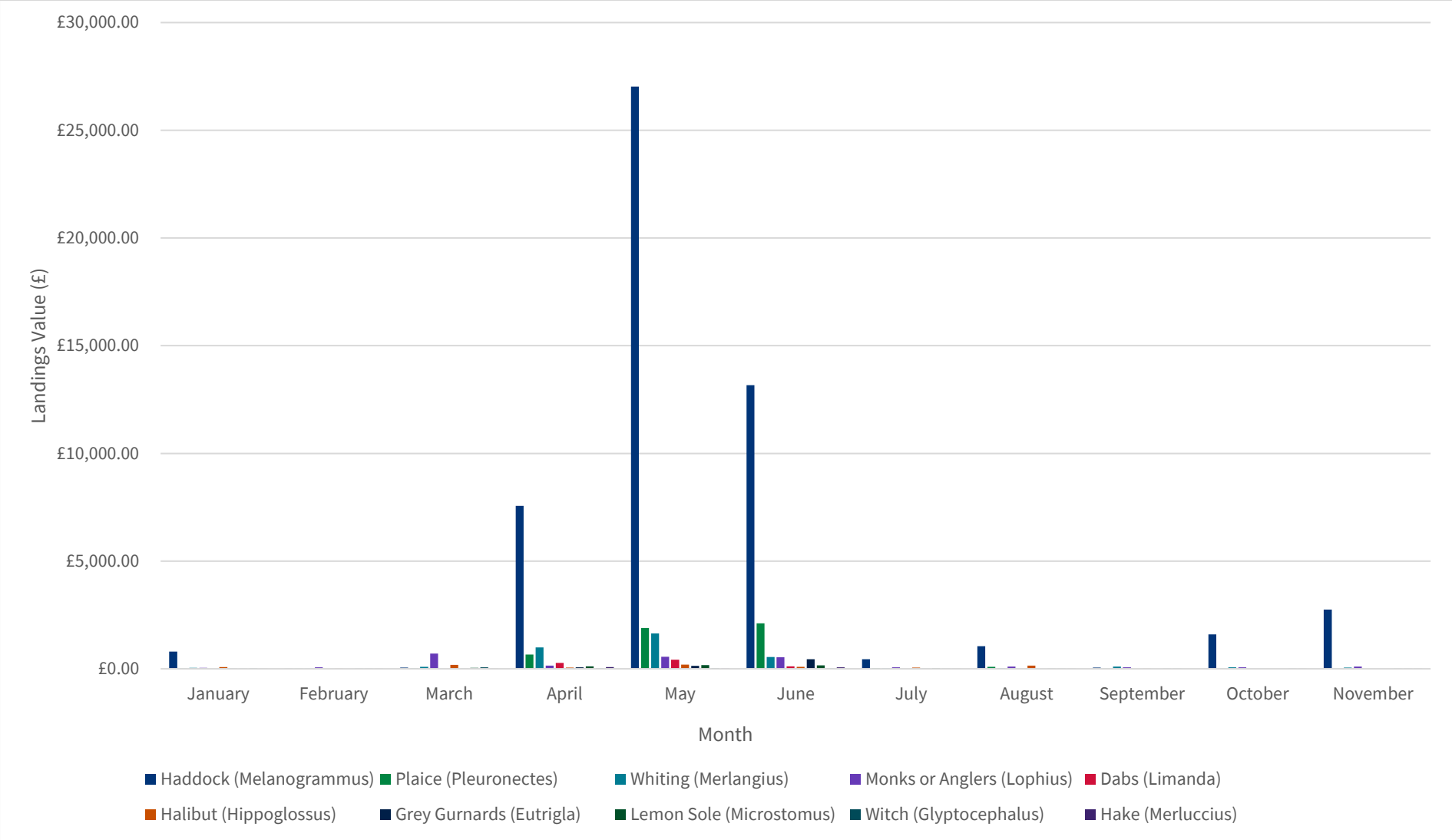



**Figure 7.22: Monthly landings (£) top ten whitefish species caught using demersal trawls in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2018 to 2022)**

**Table 7.1: Monthly landings (£) top ten whitefish species caught using demersal trawls in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2018 to 2022)**

| Month | Haddock (Melanogrammus) | Plaice (Pleuronectes) | Whiting (Merlangius) | Monks or anglers (Lophius) | Dabs (Limanda) | Halibut (Hippoglossus) | Grey gurnard (Eutrigla) | Lemon sole (Microstomus) | Witch (Glyptocephalus) | Hake (Merluccius) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | £796.36 | £12.11 | £40.96 | £49.79 | £0.00 | £83.51 | £16.33 | £5.50 | £18.95 | £1.45 |
| February | £6.97 | £12.93 | £8.95 | £68.47 | £0.00 | £2.37 | £0.00 | £1.05 | £0.67 | £0.26 |
| March | £58.16 | £18.72 | £88.08 | £711.70 | £0.00 | £184.77 | £7.20 | £41.47 | £71.62 | £12.43 |
| April | £7,570.41 | £661.45 | £992.76 | £152.19 | £278.80 | £56.44 | £70.41 | £114.87 | £30.78 | £78.16 |
| May | £27,029.70 | £1,893.72 | £1,639.65 | £555.32 | £427.21 | £199.56 | £139.88 | £167.89 | £35.50 | £19.14 |
| June | £13,170.83 | £2,110.80 | £543.89 | £538.64 | £119.11 | £89.65 | £446.02 | £165.06 | £28.15 | £71.87 |
| July | £439.89 | £35.25 | £24.89 | £73.74 | £0.00 | £55.78 | £3.74 | £32.80 | £4.22 | £16.74 |
| August | £1,049.32 | £95.96 | £37.22 | £107.45 | £0.00 | £146.87 | £0.00 | £16.00 | £15.20 | £7.89 |
| September | £57.86 | £5.00 | £99.08 | £71.69 | £0.00 | £0.88 | £0.00 | £16.00 | £5.63 | £0.00 |
| October | £1,592.12 | £12.00 | £65.39 | £74.33 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £3.48 | £5.20 |
| November | £2,747.64 | £2.47 | £55.58 | £107.57 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.69 | £6.54 | £0.64 |

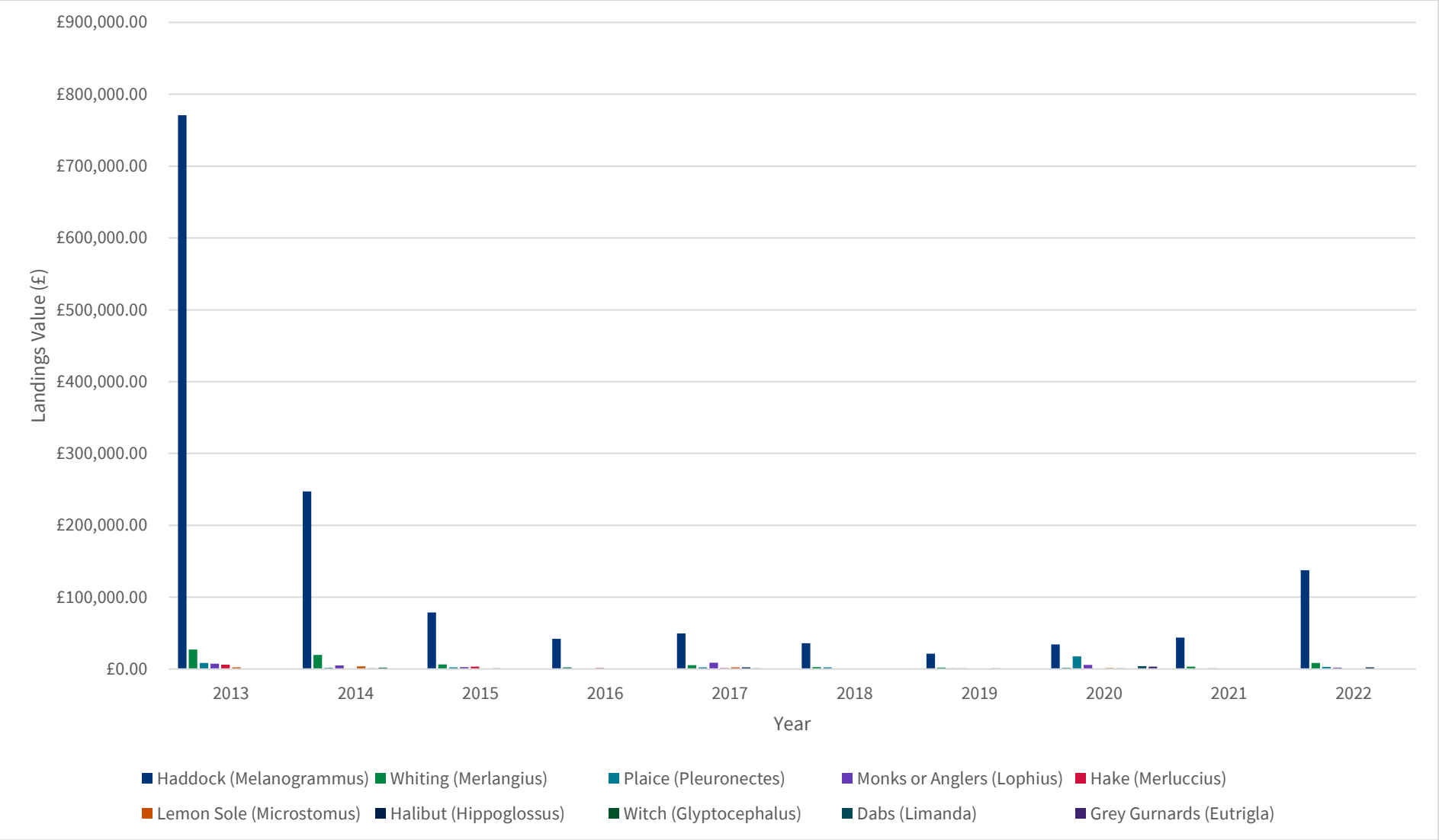



**Figure 7.23: Annual landings (£) top ten whitefish species caught using demersal trawls in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

**Table 7.2: Annual landings (£) top ten whitefish species caught using demersal trawls in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

| Year | Haddock (Melanogrammus) | Whiting (Merlangius) | Plaice (Pleuronectes) | Monks or anglers (Lophius) | Hake (Merluccius) | Lemon sole (Microstomus) | Halibut (Hippoglossus) | Witch (Glyptocephalus) | Dabs (Limanda) | Grey gurnard (Eutrigla) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | £770,870.42 | £27,172.25 | £8,366.74 | £7,389.07 | £6,010.17 | £2,394.16 | £730.11 | £457.67 | £23.65 | £10.00 |
| 2014 | £247,148.75 | £19,530.23 | £1,481.95 | £5,009.68 | £714.50 | £3,796.02 | £963.91 | £1,954.39 | £0.00 | £21.00 |
| 2015 | £78,706.26 | £6,272.29 | £2,309.21 | £2,830.33 | £3,256.04 | £412.25 | £831.14 | £436.01 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| 2016 | £42,211.98 | £2,207.00 | £480.20 | £713.58 | £1,145.36 | £317.98 | £461.79 | £198.16 | £0.00 | £18.13 |
| 2017 | £49,491.34 | £5,378.98 | £2,469.57 | £8,690.92 | £1,145.36 | £2,356.27 | £2,246.58 | £833.99 | £0.00 | £547.80 |
| 2018 | £35,811.86 | £2,534.74 | £2,219.11 | £142.74 | £323.00 | £453.87 | £45.58 | £94.75 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| 2019 | £21,301.82 | £1,838.06 | £852.97 | £829.85 | £153.00 | £705.99 | £867.36 | £60.20 | £0.00 | £95.19 |
| 2020 | £34,186.75 | £1,803.99 | £17,612.17 | £5,592.64 | £145.59 | £1,185.04 | £961.38 | £375.03 | £4,125.61 | £3,228.89 |
| 2021 | £43,769.04 | £3,358.57 | £656.71 | £1,090.37 | £267.72 | £217.74 | £7.55 | £80.63 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| 2022 | £137,524.00 | £8,446.84 | £2,961.07 | £1,985.13 | £127.52 | £215.61 | £2,217.28 | £277.06 | £0.00 | £93.80 |

***Morven South***

7.3.2.3 The average monthly landings of the top ten whitefish species caught in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area are shown in Figure 7.24. As shown, the predominant whitefish targeted by demersal trawls is haddock and to a lesser extent plaice (Pleuronectes platessa), with landings of each species peaking in June and July respectively.

7.3.2.4 The annual variation in whitefish landings is shown in Figure 7.25. Similarly to the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, the landings value of the predominant species caught in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, haddock, peaked significantly in 2013, before a decline resulting in relatively low landings between 2015 and 2021 and a small increase in 2022. During consultation with the SWFPA it was suggested that this increase in landings value has potentially arisen from a recent increase in market demand for smaller haddock following the effect of Brexit and the Covid 19 pandemic on the market.

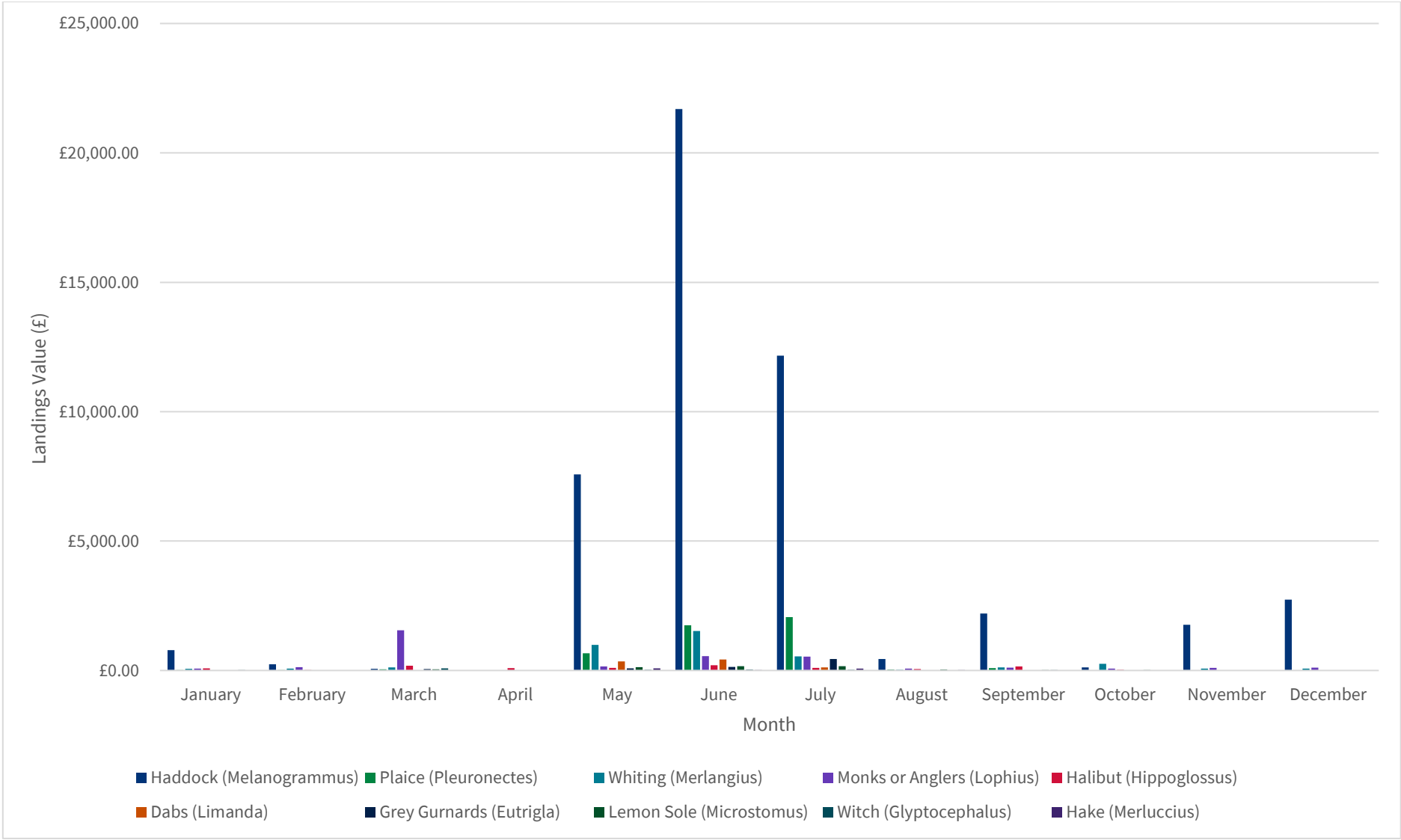



**Figure 7.24: Monthly landings (£) top ten whitefish species caught using demersal trawls in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2018 to 2022)**

**Table 7.3: Monthly landings (£) top ten whitefish species caught using demersal trawls in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2018 to 2022)**

| Month | Haddock (Melanogrammus) | Plaice (Pleuronectes) | Whiting (Merlangius) | Monks or anglers (Lophius) | Halibut (Hippoglossus) | Dabs (Limanda) | Grey gurnard (Eutrigla) | Lemon sole (Microstomus) | Witch (Glyptocephalus) | Hake (Merluccius) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | £784.61 | £15.52 | £67.96 | £76.80 | £81.15 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £3.93 | £19.75 | £0.43 |
| February | £244.38 | £17.47 | £68.92 | £125.33 | £17.95 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £1.82 | £4.00 | £0.00 |
| March | £61.33 | £47.52 | £117.26 | £1,556.68 | £184.77 | £0.00 | £52.08 | £41.47 | £81.26 | £12.43 |
| April | £10.84 | £0.81 | £7.64 | £5.11 | £87.84 | £0.00 | £9.60 | £1.38 | £0.98 | £0.05 |
| May | £7,576.74 | £669.12 | £992.93 | £152.59 | £99.30 | £351.09 | £80.83 | £127.13 | £26.35 | £78.28 |
| June | £21,693.83 | £1,750.84 | £1,522.26 | £553.67 | £199.56 | £427.21 | £139.88 | £168.22 | £35.50 | £19.22 |
| July | £12,165.42 | £2,065.68 | £546.13 | £538.64 | £98.61 | £119.11 | £446.02 | £165.06 | £28.60 | £71.87 |
| August | £439.89 | £35.25 | £24.89 | £73.74 | £55.78 | £0.00 | £3.74 | £32.80 | £4.22 | £16.74 |
| September | £2,202.36 | £94.69 | £118.36 | £107.45 | £152.92 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £16.00 | £14.24 | £7.89 |
| October | £123.06 | £5.00 | £258.72 | £71.69 | £26.54 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £18.17 | £5.63 | £0.81 |
| November | £1,770.78 | £12.00 | £76.17 | £98.45 | £1.22 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £4.15 | £5.45 |
| December | £2,733.42 | £2.77 | £70.58 | £114.96 | £6.53 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.69 | £6.77 | £0.64 |

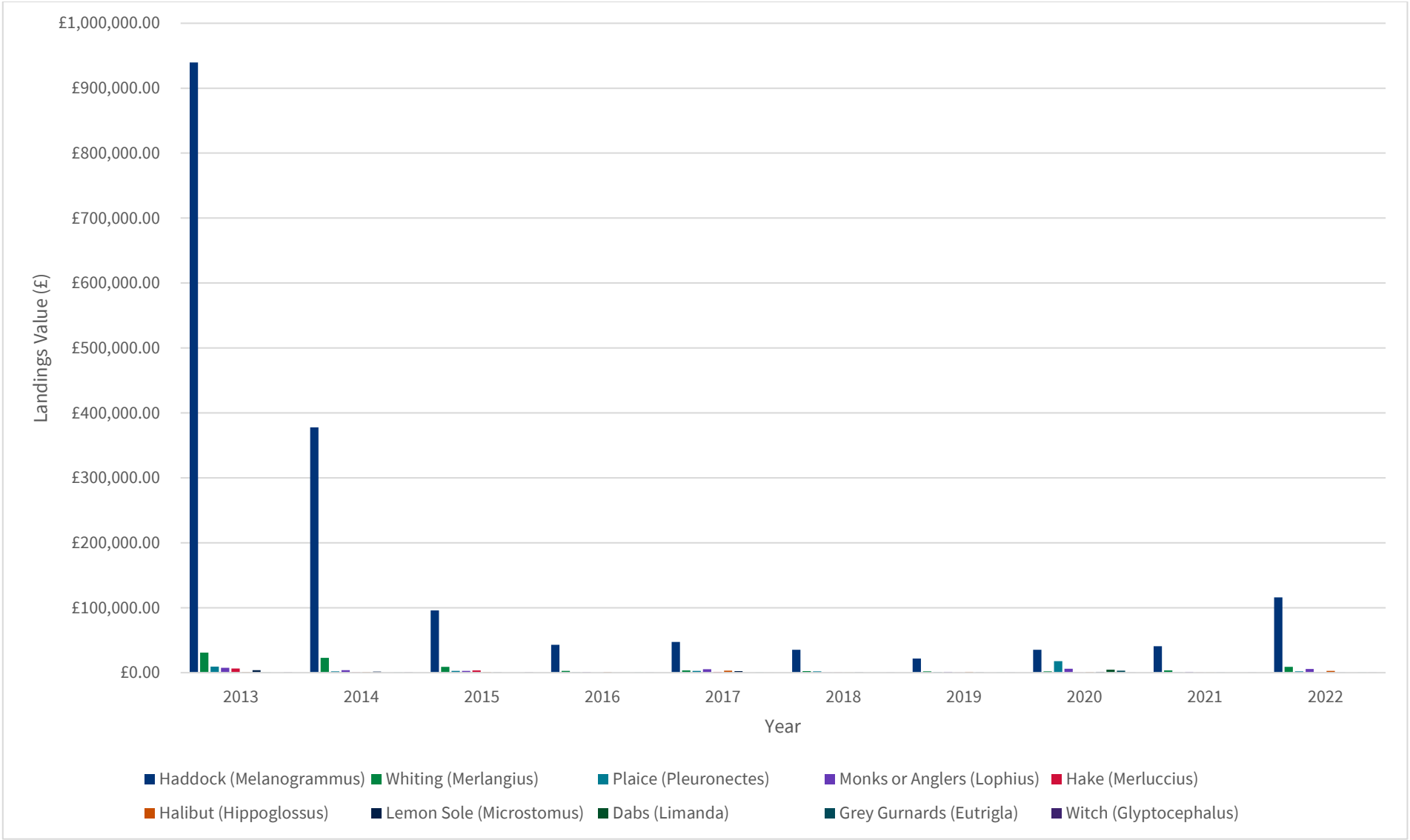



**Figure 7.25: Annual landings (£) top ten whitefish species caught using demersal trawls in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

**Table 7.4: Annual landings (£) top ten whitefish species caught using demersal trawls in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area (2013 to 2022)**

| Year | Haddock (Melanogrammus) | Whiting (Merlangius) | Plaice (Pleuronectes) | Monks or anglers (Lophius) | Hake (Merluccius) | Halibut (Hippoglossus) | Lemon sole (Microstomus) | Dabs (Limanda) | Grey gurnard (Eutrigla) | Witch (Glyptocephalus) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2013 | £939,554.08 | £30,902.98 | £9,269.71 | £7,662.32 | £6,291.89 | £792.73 | £3,715.68 | £23.65 | £0.00 | £429.68 |
| 2014 | £377,564.66 | £23,007.87 | £1,987.28 | £3,925.02 | £466.30 | £1,070.93 | £1,700.35 | £0.00 | £21.00 | £634.48 |
| 2015 | £95,713.37 | £9,088.13 | £2,827.53 | £2,941.07 | £3,514.34 | £921.85 | £455.21 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £506.48 |
| 2016 | £42,832.11 | £2,943.56 | £577.33 | £994.45 | £0.00 | £866.01 | £392.98 | £0.00 | £54.13 | £237.65 |
| 2017 | £47,305.75 | £3,485.29 | £2,621.35 | £5,285.24 | £1,145.36 | £3,114.88 | £2,368.51 | £0.00 | £362.04 | £382.98 |
| 2018 | £35,148.74 | £2,545.94 | £2,221.80 | £137.24 | £323.00 | £90.38 | £453.87 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £96.99 |
| 2019 | £21,814.91 | £2,120.44 | £994.67 | £1,191.22 | £154.27 | £1,226.60 | £706.03 | £0.00 | £132.00 | £64.42 |
| 2020 | £35,377.20 | £2,176.71 | £17,649.39 | £6,107.04 | £145.59 | £904.27 | £1,193.65 | £4,487.08 | £3,281.00 | £361.14 |
| 2021 | £40,749.23 | £3,435.33 | £617.21 | £1,238.30 | £268.53 | £62.69 | £221.82 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £81.52 |
| 2022 | £115,938.02 | £9,080.64 | £2,088.91 | £5,788.00 | £125.58 | £2,685.87 | £275.04 | £0.00 | £247.76 | £333.17 |

### 7.3.3 Spatial distribution of fishing activity

***Morven North***

7.3.3.1 An indication of the spatial distribution of demersal trawling activity in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is given in Figure 7.26 to Figure 7.30, based on surveillance sightings (Figure 7.26), landings (Figure 7.27), VMS data (Figure 7.28 and Figure 7.29) and gridded fisheries data collected by the Marine Directorate (Figure 7.30).

7.3.3.2 As shown, activity by demersal trawlers in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area occurs at relatively low levels compared to other areas in the east coast of Scotland. The majority of activity within the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is recorded by over 15m vessels in rectangle 42E9. Activity within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area has been low across the period of time analysed, however slightly lower levels have been recorded in in recent years (2016 to 2020; Figure 7.28) when compared to activity over the previous five years (Figure 7.29), however in all cases the activity of demersal trawlers concentrates east of the Morven North Boundary, showing very limited overlap with it.

7.3.3.3 With regards to Nephrops, also targeted by demersal trawls, as shown in Figure 7.31, the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area does not overlap with suitable Nephrops habitat. In line with this, Figure 7.32 shows negligible landings of Nephrops from the rectangles that are located within the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area.

***Morven South***

7.3.3.4 Similarly to the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, activity by demersal trawlers in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area occurs at relatively low levels compared to adjacent areas. The majority of activity within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is recorded by over 15m vessels in its northern section. Activity within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area has been low across the period of time analysed, however slightly lower levels have been recorded in recent years (2016 to 2020; Figure 7.28) when compared to activity over the previous five years (Figure 7.29). There are multiple factors affecting demersal trawl activity and insufficient resolution in data to identify the drivers of this limited change. However, in all cases the activity of demersal trawlers concentrates east of the Morven South Boundary, showing very limited overlap with it.

7.3.3.5 Similarly to the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area does not overlap with suitable Nephrops habitat. In line with this Figure 7.32 shows negligible landings of Nephrops from the rectangles that are located within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area.

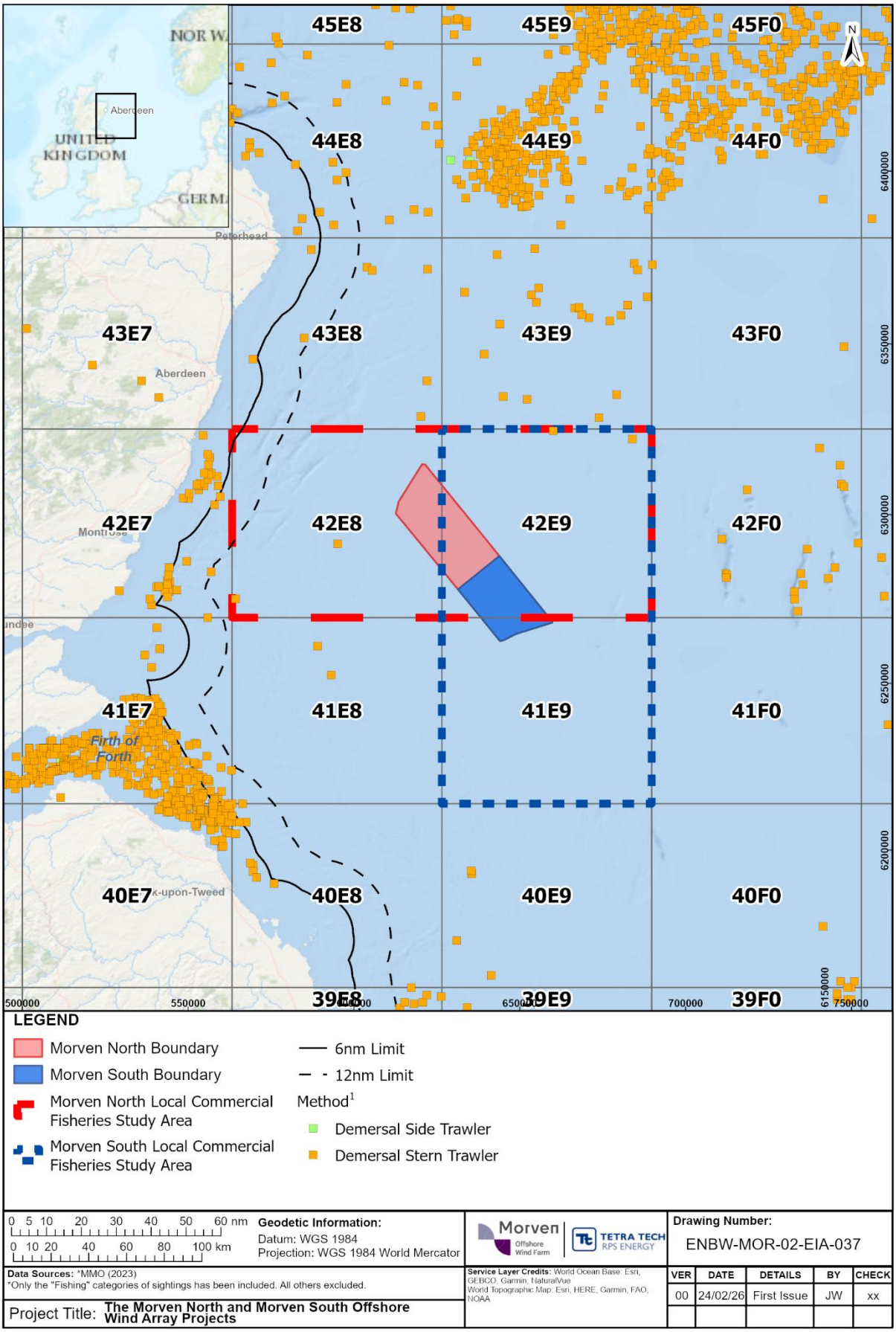



**Figure 7.26: Surveillance sightings of demersal trawlers (2012 to 2021)**

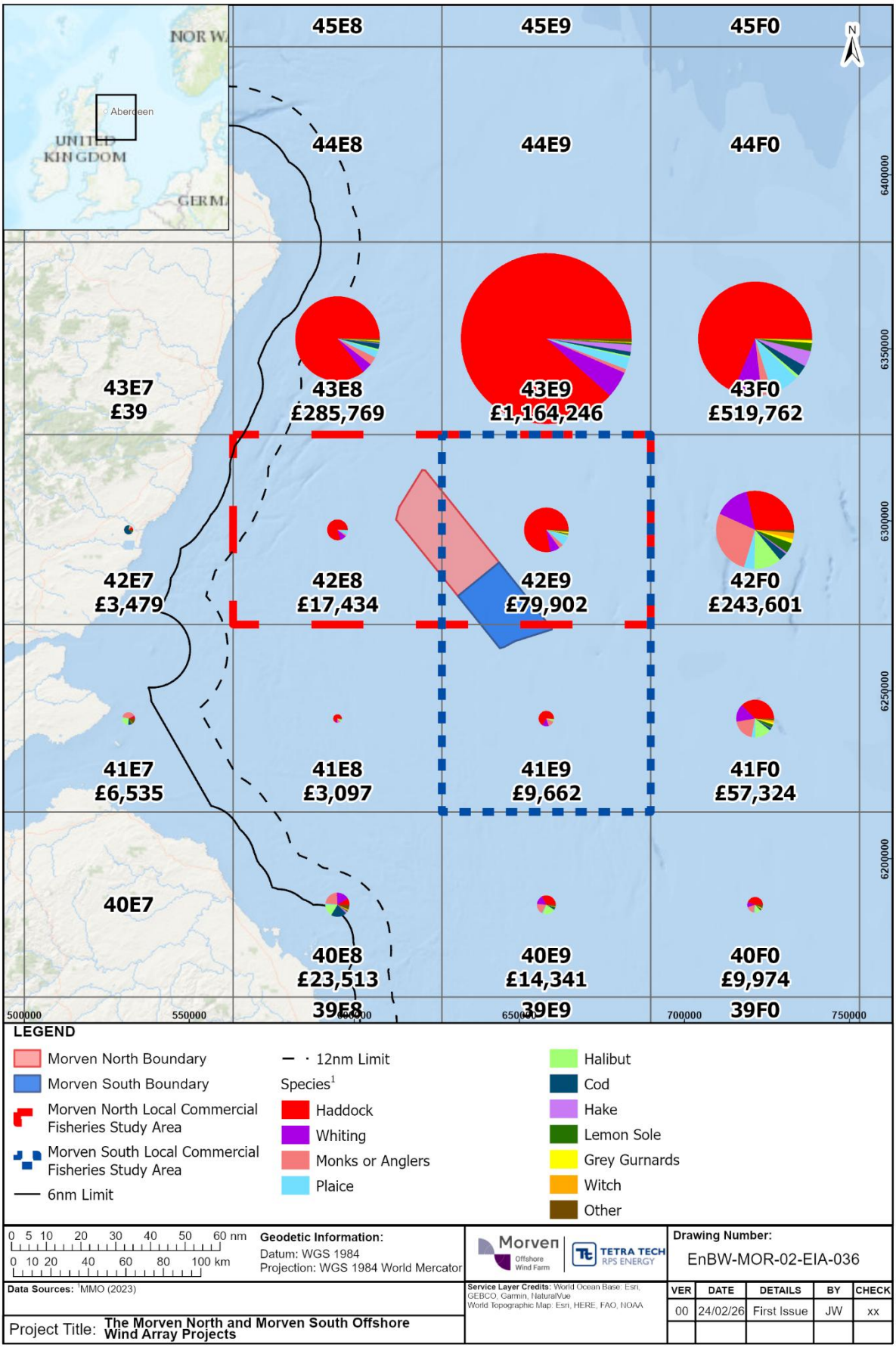



**Figure 7.27: Annual landings value (£) top ten whitefish species caught using demersal trawls (average 2018 to 2022)**

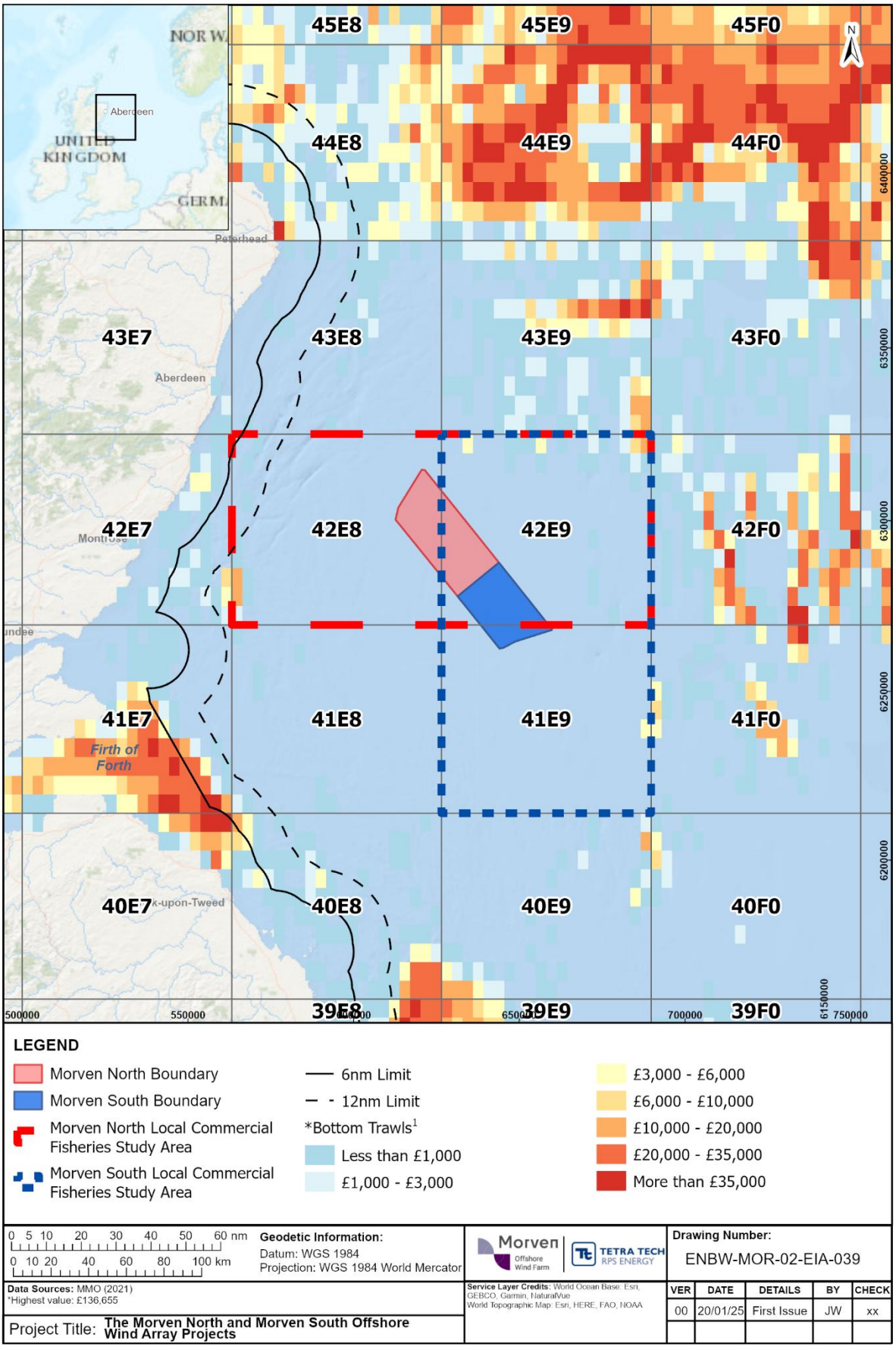



**Figure 7.28: VMS value (£) demersal trawls (Average 2016 to 2020)**

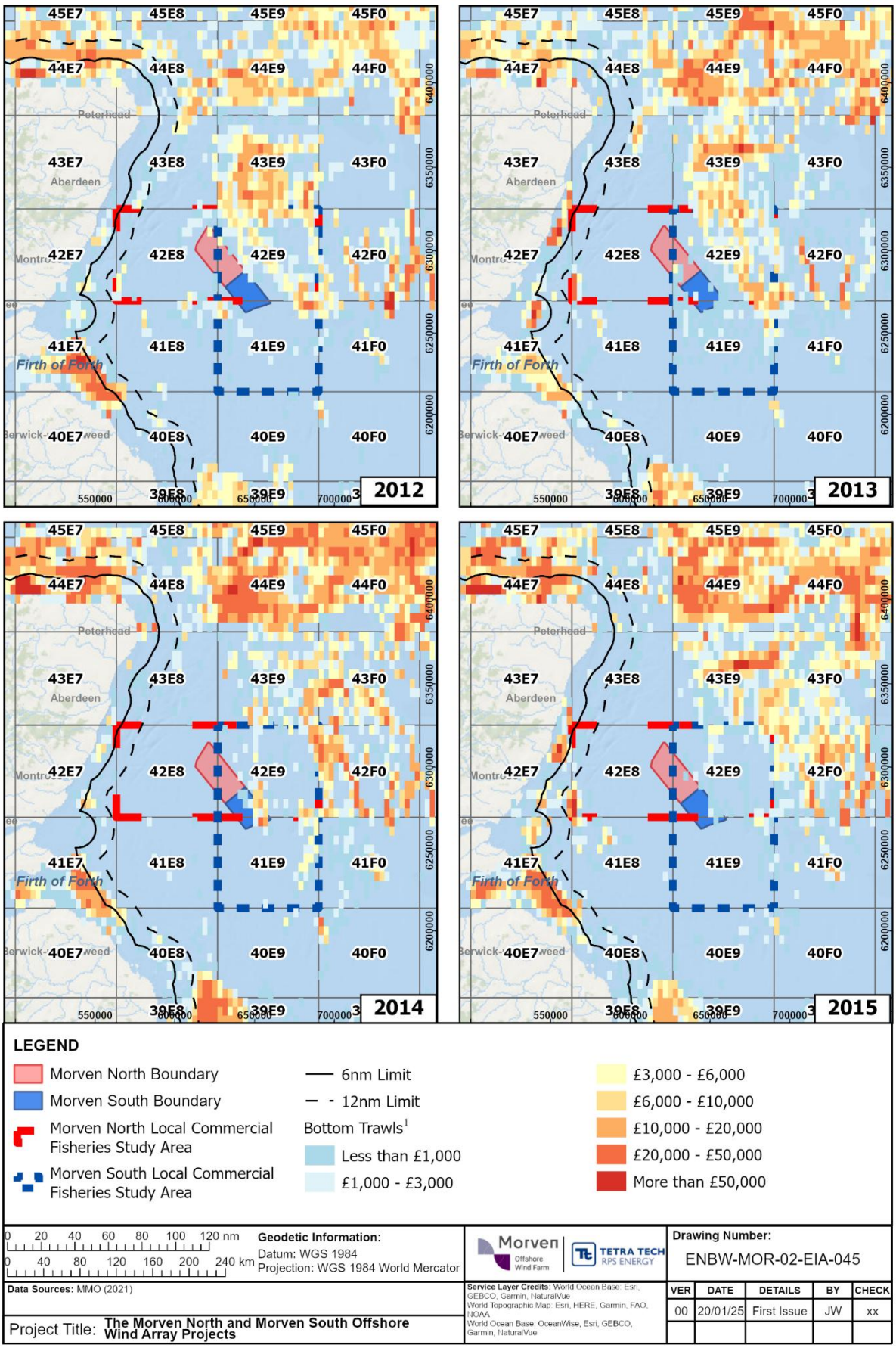



**Figure 7.29: VMS value (£) demersal trawls (2012 to 2015)**

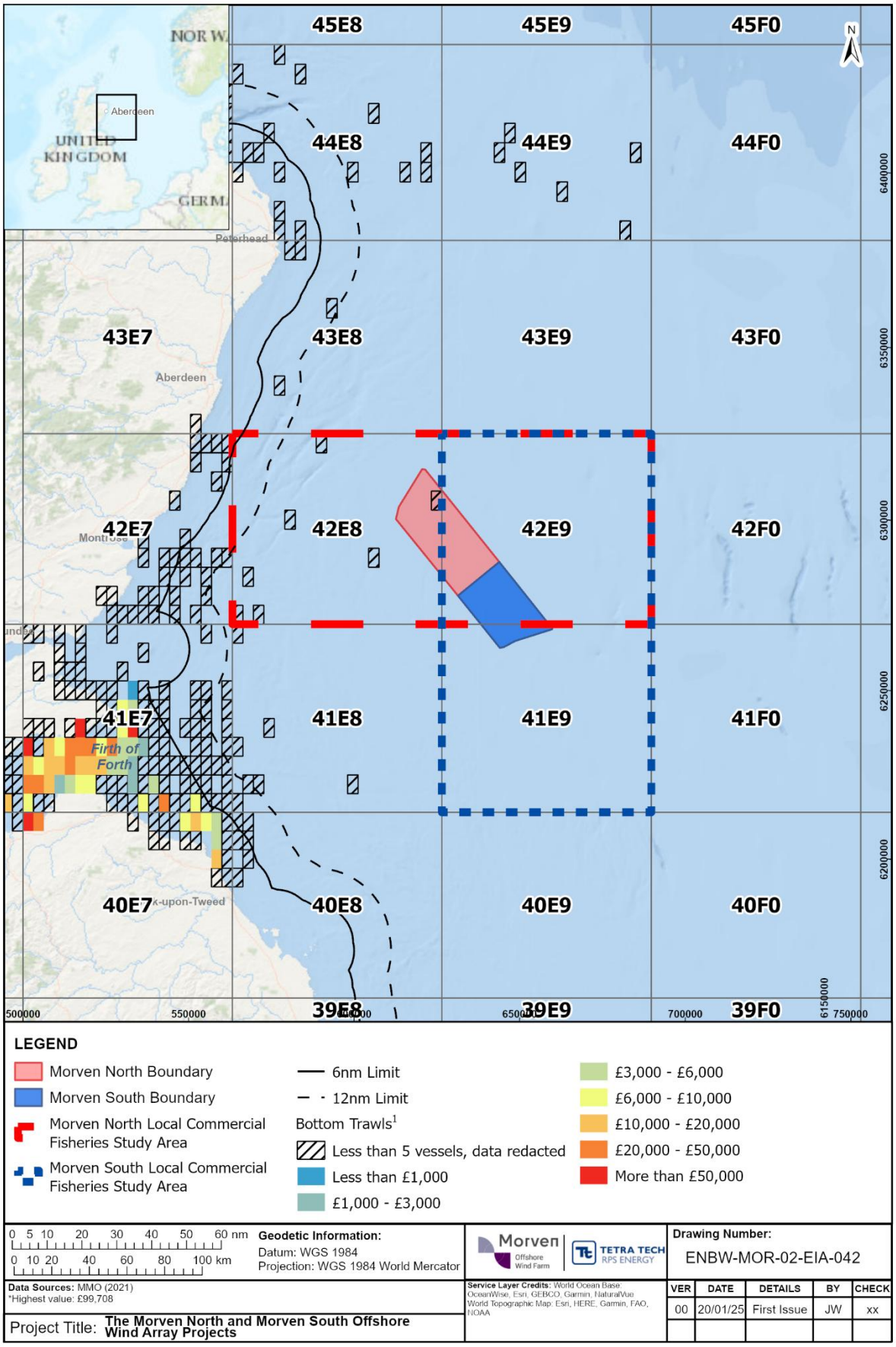



**Figure 7.30: Gridded fisheries data of demersal trawls under 12m (2018 to 2022)**

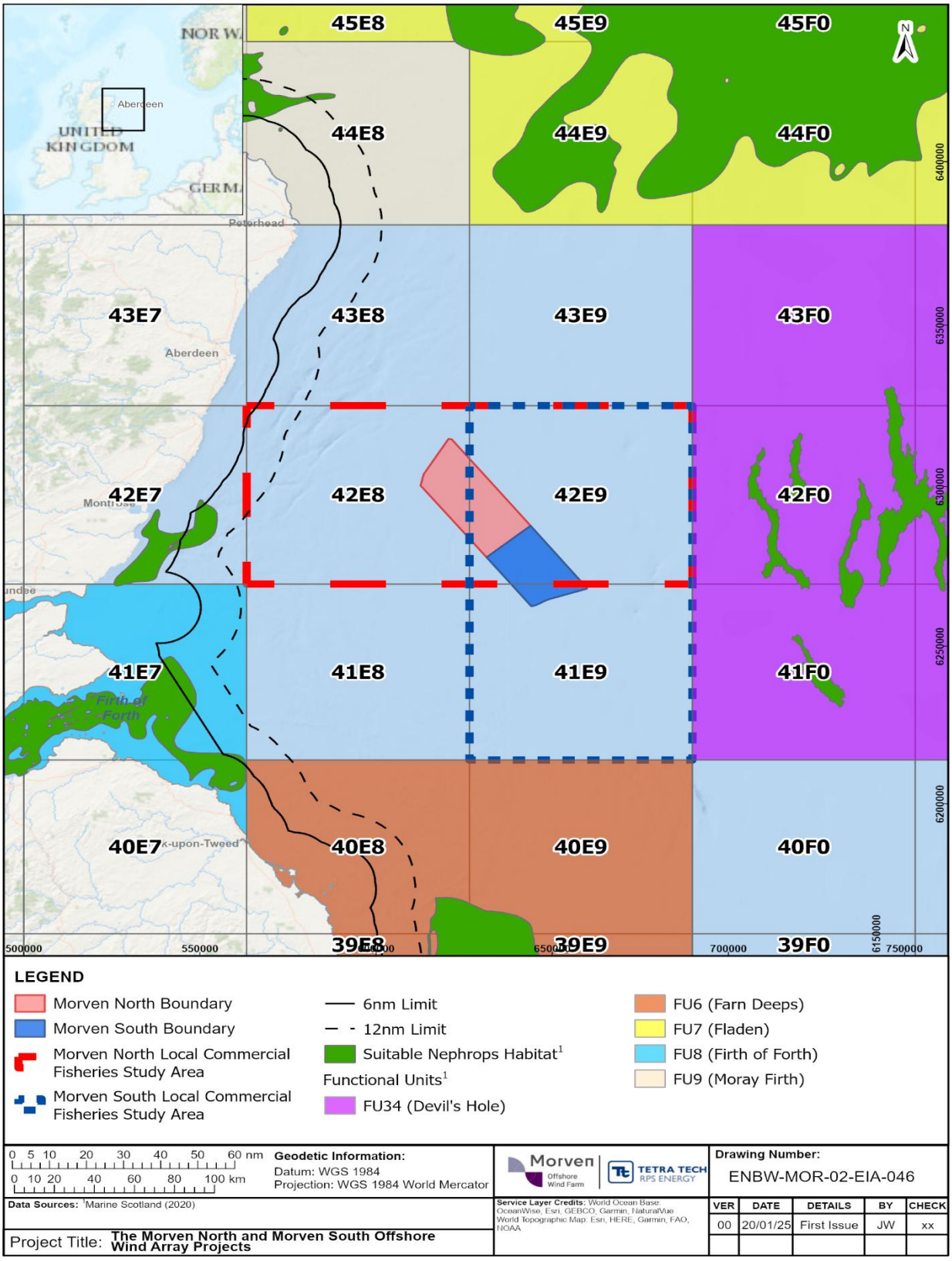



**Figure 7.31: Nephrops functional units and suitable habitats[8]**

[8] Source: Marine Scotland, 2022

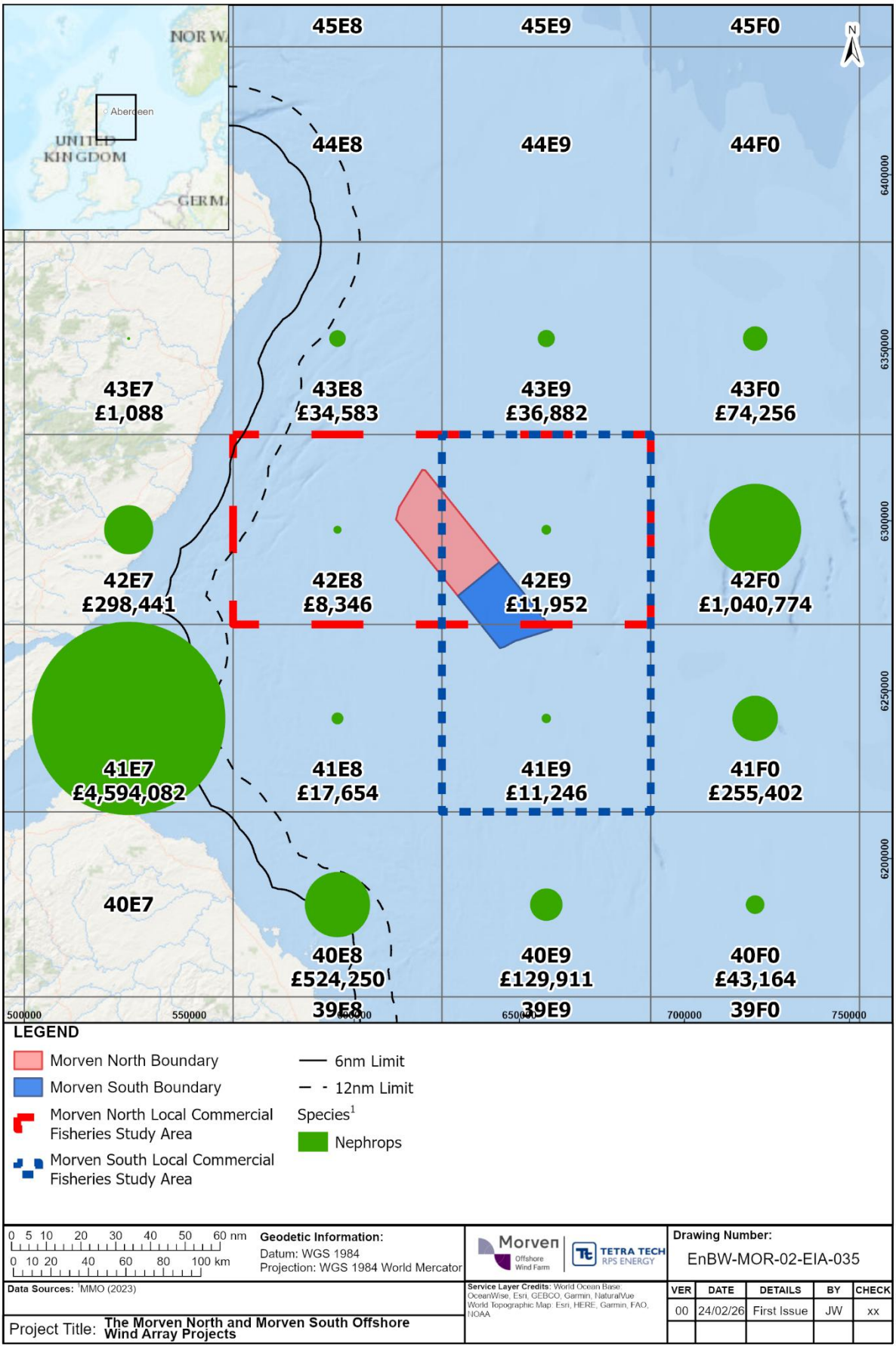



**Figure 7.32: Annual landings value (£) Nephrops (average 2018 to 2022)**

# 8 Summary

***Morven North***

8.1.1.1 Fishing activity in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is predominantly dredging for king scallops, followed by creeling for lobster and crabs.

8.1.1.2 While scallop dredging occurs over the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, as illustrated through the analysis of spatial data provided in Section 7, there is no overlap between this activity and the Morven North Boundary, with scallop dredging predominantly focused in areas west of Morven North in rectangle 42E8.

8.1.1.3 Similarly, creeling has been recorded within the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, however activity appears to also concentrate in areas west of the Morven North Boundary, closer to shore, with negligible levels of activity expected within Morven North.

8.1.1.4 Demersal trawling is also recorded in the Morven North Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, and appears to be focused on rectangle 42E9, which comprises its western section. Demersal trawling in the areas of relevance to Morven North predominantly targets haddock. However, VMS data analysed over a nine-year period suggests that the haddock fishery is declining. In addition, the analysis of spatial data presented in Section 7.3, indicates that the Morven North Boundary does not represent a key ground for demersal trawling.

***Morven South***

8.1.1.5 Fishing activity in the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is comprised predominantly of demersal trawls targeting whitefish and to a lesser extent creeling.

8.1.1.6 Demersal trawling was recorded within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area, and appears to be focused on rectangle 42E9, which comprises its northern section. Whilst Morven South may support low levels of activity by demersal trawlers at times, particularly vessels targeting whitefish, the analysis of spatial data presented in Section 7.3, indicates that the Morven South Boundary does not represent a key ground for demersal trawling.

8.1.1.7 Creeling activity recorded within the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area appears to concentrate in areas west of the Morven South Boundary, closer to shore, with negligible levels of activity expected within the Morven South Boundary.

8.1.1.8 As stated in Section 6.1, fishing activity by non-UK vessels in areas of relevance to the Morven South Local Commercial Fisheries Study Area is expected at negligible levels.

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# Appendix A Fisheries Restrictions

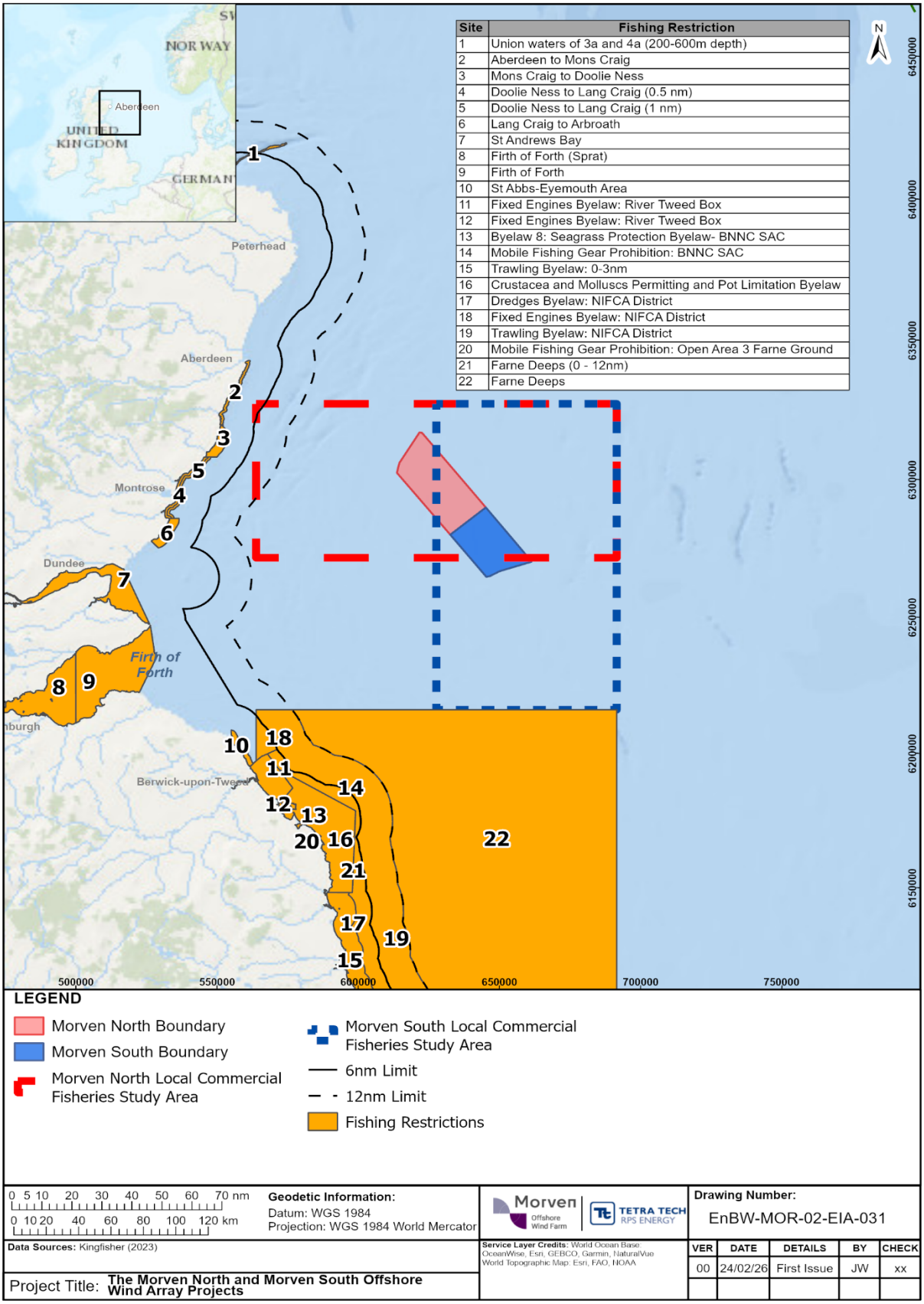



**Figure A.1: Fisheries restrictions in the vicinity of Morven North and Morven South**

**Table A.1: Fisheries restriction in the vicinity of Morven North and Morven South**

| ID | Location | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Union waters of 3a and 4a (200m to 600m depth) | It shall be prohibited to deploy any bottom set gillnet, entangling net and trammel net at any position where the charted depth is greater than 200m. |
| 2 | Aberdeen to Mons Craig | Fishing for sea fish with mobile or active gear prohibited. |
| 3 | Mons Craig to Doolie Ness | Fishing for sea fish with mobile or active gear prohibited. |
| 4 | Doolie Ness to Lang Craig (0.5nm) | Fishing for sea fish with mobile or active gear prohibited (within one half mile of the mean high-water mark of ordinary spring tides) between 1st April to 30th September in each year. |
| 5 | Doolie Ness to Lang Craig (1nm) | Fishing for sea fish with mobile or active gear prohibited (within one mile of the mean high-water mark of ordinary spring tides) between 1st January to 31st March and 1st October to 31st December in each year |
| 6 | Lang Craig to Arbroath | Fishing for sea fish with mobile or active gear prohibited. |
| 7 | St Andrews Bay | Fishing for sea fish with mobile or active gear prohibited. |
| 8 | Firth of Forth (Sprat) | Fishing with any towed gear with a codend mesh size of less than 32mm or static nets less than 30mm mesh size shall be prohibited from 1 January to 31 March, and from 1 October to 31 December. |
| 9 | Firth of Forth | Fishing for any species of sea fish (except herring, mackerel and sprats) is prohibited except from a fishing boat with an overall length not greater than 16.77m. |
| 10 | St Abbs-Eyemouth Area | Fishing for sea fish with mobile or active gear prohibited. |
| 11 | Fixed Engines Byelaw: River Tweed Box | No Person Shall Use A Fixed Engine Within The District That Lies Within The River Tweed |
| 12 | Fixed Engines Byelaw: River Tweed Box | No Person Shall Use A Fixed Engine Within The District That Lies Within The River Tweed |
| 13 | Byelaw 8: Seagrass Protection Byelaw-BNNC SAC | No Person Shall Dig For, Fish Or Take Sea Fisheries Resources Where Seagrass Is Situated Within The Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC. |
| 14 | Mobile Fishing Gear Prohibition: BNNC SAC | A Person Must Not Operate A Relevant Fishing Vessel Using Mobile Fishing Gear within the Berwick and North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation. |
| 15 | Trawling Byelaw: 0 to 3nm | Pair or Simultaneous Trawling Or Towing Prohibited. Purse Seine or Similar Net Prohibited. Single Trawl Fitted With Single Cod-End and One Pair Of Otter Boards. Vessel Must Be Less Than 12m In Overall Length. |
| 16 | Crustacea and Molluscs Permitting and Pot Limitation Byelaw - NIFCA District | A Permit Holder May Not Fish With More Than 800 Pots At One Time. Pots Must Be Individually Tagged. Berried Lobsters May Not Be Retained Or Carried On Board Any Vessel. Vessel Must Be Less Than 12m In Overall Length. |
| 17 | Dredges Byelaw: NIFCA District | No More Than 10 Dredges May Be Used At One Time. A Person Must Not Use A Dredge With A Mouth Exceeding 75cm Wide. |

| ID | Location | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 18 | Fixed Engines Byelaw: NIFCA District | No Person Shall Use A Fixed Engine During The Period 26th March To 31st October Where The Headline Is Less Than 4m From The Surface At Any State Of Tide or In Waters Less Than 7 metres In Depth At Any State Of Tide. |
| 19 | Trawling Byelaw: NIFCA District | Purse Seine or Similar Net Prohibited. Pair or Simultaneous Trawling Or Towing Prohibited. Single Trawl Fitted With Single Cod-End and One Pair Of Otter Boards. Vessel Must Be Less Than 18.3m In Overall Length. |
| 20 | Mobile Fishing Gear Prohibition: Open Area 3 Farne Ground | A Person May Fish With Specified Trawl Gear If Granted Exemption By Authority. |
| 21 | Farne Deeps (0 to 12nm) | Vessels deploying demersal trawls and seines (with the exception of beam trawls) are prohibited from fishing in the Farne Deeps. The prohibition shall not apply to vessels with an engine power of 350 kilowatts or less deploying a single-rig demersal trawl. |
| 22 | Farne Deeps | Vessels deploying demersal trawls and seines (with the exception of beam trawls) are prohibited from fishing in the Farne Deeps. Mesh restrictions apply. |

# Appendix B Consultation Questionnaire

| COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITIES – COVER SHEET | | |
|---|---|---|
| Skipper name | | |
| Vessel name | | |
| Reg. No | | |
| Home port | | |
| VESSEL DETAILS | | |
| Length | | Metres |
| Typical distance steamed per fishing trip | | n.miles |
| FISHING METHODS | | |
| Principal fishing method(s) | | |
| Main species targeted | | |
| Fishing grounds (indicate on chart) | | |
| | | |

| SPECIFIC FISHING GEAR | | |
|---|---|---|
| Static (pots) | | |
| Pot type | | |
| Total number of pots worked | | |
| No. of fleets | | |
| Fleet length | | |
| No. of pots per fleet | | |
| Typical depth fished | | |
| Typical soak time | | |
| Demersal otter trawl | | |
| Net type (e.g. single, twin rig, pair trawl) | | |
| Factors determining tow headings/patterns | | |

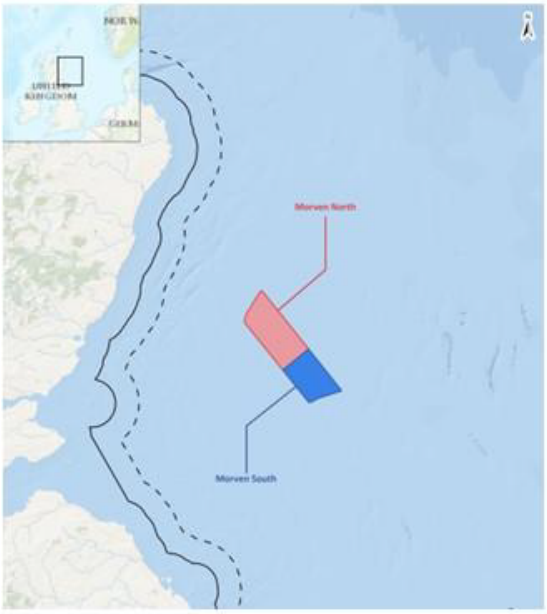
**Table 9.1: Coordinates of Morven North and Morven South**

| Point | Longitude | Latitude |
|---|---|---|
| **1** | 1° 13.169' W | 56° 46.604' N |
| **2** | 1° 12.339' W | 56° 48.515' N |
| **3** | 1° 5.648' W | 56° 54.441' N |
| **4** | 0° 43.560' W | 56° 39.847' N |
| **5** | 0° 28.371' W | 56° 29.305' N |
| **6** | 0° 38.984' W | 56° 27.349' N |
| **7** | 0° 43.370' W | 56° 26.235' N |
| **8** | 0° 55.405' W | 56° 34.518' N |

# Morven Offshore Windfarm

Brown and May Marine are looking to undertake consultation for Morven North and Morven South Wind Array Projects (hereafter "Morven North" and "Morven South") to inform the Technical Report and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs).

Morven North is located approximately 66km from the Aberdeenshire coast (at its closest point) and Morven South is located approximately 97km from the Aberdeenshire coast (at its closest point).




## Purpose of the Questionnaires

Returned questionnaires will be used to create a picture of the fishing activity by local vessels within the baseline and EIA Report Chapters, which will be submitted as part of the Section 36 Consent and Marine License applications.

In order to portray fishing activity as accurately as possible, we ask that you complete the questionnaire with as much information as possible and annotate the charts provided with your fishing methods and grounds. Alternatively, a plotter shot can be provided.

**All the information provided within the questionnaires, as well as the annotated charts and plotter shots will be anonymised.**

Once completed please could these be returned either via WhatsApp, email or post to any of the contacts listed at the bottom of this document. They will then be scanned and can be returned to you if required.

## Contacts

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Rachel Malbon
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Brown & May Marine Ltd.