





Crustacean Compassion is a not-for-profit animal welfare organisation which campaigns for the legislative protection and humane treatment of decapod crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs, prawns and nephrops, based on the scientific evidence of their sentience. Crustacean Compassion does not campaign against the use of decapod crustaceans as food. Instead, it welcomes good practice in the food industry and believes that all decapod crustaceans should have their species-specific needs met.

For more information visit

[www.crustaceancompassion.org](http://www.crustaceancompassion.org)

Crustacean Compassion commissioned Chronos Sustainability to develop The Snapshot.



Chronos Sustainability was established in 2017 to deliver transformative, systemic change in the social and environmental performance of key industry sectors. Chronos is involved in a wide range of global transformation projects across the sustainability spectrum and develops tools and strategies to enable its clients to accelerate action and effect real-world outcomes at scale.

For more information visit

[www.chronossustainability.com](http://www.chronossustainability.com)

## Contents

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
Aims of The Snapshot	5
Benchmark structure	6
Company rankings	7
Key findings	9
Industry insight	16
Results in detail	18
Recommendations for companies	29
Next steps	30
Appendices	31
Glossary	44
References	46

# Foreword

## Welcome to The Snapshot 2023, the second report of an ongoing review into the status of decapod crustacean welfare within organisations throughout the UK food industry.

Since the enactment of the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022<sup>1</sup> in the UK – which legally recognised the ability of decapod crustaceans such as crabs, lobsters, prawns and nephrops to feel pain, fear and pleasure – we have seen the formation of the Animal Welfare Sentience Committee. There have also been internal and external reviews of wider industry practices, and commitments from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Home Office and the devolved nations to reconsider the treatment of decapod crustaceans.

To facilitate and further enhance knowledge, Crustacean Compassion has published *Sea-to-Plate: The welfare journey of decapod crustaceans* report<sup>2</sup> evaluating welfare compromises at each stage of the industry chain, along with welfare-led Crustacean Compassion Codes of Practice<sup>3</sup>, public and consumer consultations on welfare, and launched the Crustacean Industry Welfare Hub (CIWH ([www.ciwhub.org](http://www.ciwhub.org))).

In the year since the first Snapshot report was published, some companies have been seen to take ownership of their approach to welfare, resulting in some significant improvements in policy and procedure that are reflected in this year’s scoring. These organisations should be rightly applauded for their efforts to improve welfare standards and encouraged to keep driving the industry forward to achieve the highest possible welfare outcomes for decapods.

Whilst we have seen some improvements and commitments to change, there remains a substantial proportion of industry where there has been no or minimal change. We accept this is an ongoing process but in this iteration of The Snapshot those companies with poorer scores will be highlighted alongside those who have taken positive action on this issue.

As our Sea-to-Plate report and CIWH demonstrate, the improvement in policy and procedure does not only

lead to an improvement in welfare, but also to a better and more valuable product. It aids with consumer trust, fulfils legislative requirements, protects the individual and company from challenge, and promotes the wider social benefit from boat owners through to industry leaders and communities whilst protecting these increasingly fragile species and biodiverse environment.

The Snapshot is an opportunity for all stakeholders to evaluate change, to review and compare policies, and importantly, take the initiative in identifying and adopting welfare-leading practices.

We hope you find the report informative and that it raises questions about how improvements can be built into daily practices. We will continue to engage with each company, offer feedback and where requested provide further information and opportunities to improve and align to wider public and legislative expectations by improving animal welfare.

There has been recent discussion across the seafood industry on the need to tell consumers a better story about where their food comes from. High animal welfare standards should be a core pillar of any sustainability strategy and boost positive associations for consumers. We look forward to the next Snapshot with great anticipation and enthusiasm to see what further advances can be made. In the meantime, we will continue to work with companies to help fulfil their potential by prioritising decapod crustacean welfare, for the benefit of the billions<sup>4</sup> of animals involved, and ultimately for the planet.

**Dr Ben Sturgeon**  
CEO  
Crustacean Compassion

**A corporate benchmark is a tool used to evaluate how companies are approaching and managing a particular issue, whilst also providing a clear set of expectations for companies as to how to improve their policies and performance on the issue.**

# Introduction

**Following their inclusion in the UK Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022<sup>1</sup>, decapod crustaceans were legally recognised as sentient with the ability to feel fear, pain and pleasure. Yet a lack of effective legal protections means billions<sup>4</sup> of these vulnerable animals still endure unnecessary suffering every year to supply the UK market alone.**

Working with expert consultants Chronos Sustainability, in 2022 Crustacean Compassion developed The Snapshot, the first benchmark on decapod crustacean welfare standards in the UK food industry. By objectively assessing and scoring 30 retailers, producers and processors – including all major supermarkets – The Snapshot established a much-needed baseline of information about the current status of decapod crustacean welfare in the UK seafood industry, from capture to slaughter.

The benchmark was designed to provide an overview of how companies across the supply chain are approaching decapod welfare, as well as a collaborative tool for monitoring positive progress and identifying areas for improvement. It focuses on both wild-caught and farmed decapod crustaceans, including crabs, lobsters, prawns and nephrops. The assessment is focused on their welfare at the following stages of the supply chain: capture and handling, holding and storage, transport, mutilations, stunning, slaughter and killing. **See pages 7 and 31 for a full list of companies covered by the benchmark.**

Now in its second year, The Snapshot 2023 report reveals how decapod welfare standards and industry communication around this issue progressed in the 12 months since the first assessment.

## What's new in The Snapshot 2023?

To compile the fullest picture of welfare standards at the time, for the first Snapshot report only, companies were permitted to submit unpublished data for assessment along with publicly available information. In the interests of consistent and fair scoring, companies have now been assessed exclusively on information that was in the public domain during the assessment period of July 2023. **To enable like-for-like comparisons with 2022 results, this report refers to scores based on publicly available information only, not the data in the 2022 public report results section.**

Individual company scores were not published in the 2022 report to allow businesses more time to understand decapod welfare expectations and formalise their policies. To promote transparency around decapod welfare and provide meaningful insight into the progress being made in the industry, company scores for 2023 are shared in this report. Thank you to the 18 companies that engaged in the assessment process.

**See page 32 for a detailed explanation of the benchmark's methodology and approach.**



**Crustacean Compassion commissioned this benchmark and works to encourage and enable food retailers to sell higher welfare products across their decapod crustacean product ranges. It does not campaign against the use of decapod crustaceans as food. Instead, it welcomes good practice in the food industry and believes that all decapod crustaceans – including crabs, lobsters, prawns and nephrops (langoustines) – should be treated humanely, determined by their species-specific needs.**

# Aims of The Snapshot

The goal of the benchmark is to improve the welfare of decapods, by ensuring that all decapods are humanely captured, handled, transported and slaughtered. Its objectives are:

-  1 To ensure that decapod crustacean welfare becomes an integral part of food companies' procurement policies.
-  2 To define key expectations of food companies on decapod crustacean welfare.
-  3 To drive transparency on the welfare of decapod crustaceans through regular reporting by seafood producers and retailers.
-  4 To encourage company efforts to continuously improve decapod crustacean welfare while eliminating inhumane practices from the supply chain.
-  5 Measure and report regularly on key decapod welfare issues to equip consumers and other stakeholders with information allowing them to identify companies with the best practices aimed at improving decapod crustacean welfare.

# Benchmark structure

Companies are assessed on their management of decapod welfare using 22 distinct criteria organised across four key pillars: Management Commitment and Policy; Governance and Management; Innovation and Leadership; and Performance Reporting and Impact. **A total of 165 points is available.**

**80 points available  
(49% of overall score)**

## Management Commitment and Policy

Acknowledgment of the welfare of decapod crustaceans as a business issue.

An explicit commitment to the welfare of decapod crustaceans within an animal welfare policy or within an overarching corporate sustainable sourcing, with a clear explanation of geographic, decapod crustacean species and product scope.

A clear commitment to reduce the negative effects of capture method on decapod crustacean welfare.

A clear commitment to reduce bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing.

A clear position on the avoidance of non-therapeutic mutilations of decapod crustaceans.

A clear position on appropriate species-specific holding conditions (during post-capture, holding for processing and retail stage) that takes account of each species' physical, physiological and behavioural needs.

A clear position on appropriate species-specific conditions during transport that takes account of each species' physical, physiological and behavioural needs.

A clear position on the avoidance of long-duration live transportation of decapod crustaceans.

A clear position requiring all decapod crustaceans to be humanely stunned and slaughtered.

A clear position on the avoidance of live sale of decapod crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers.

**50 points available  
(30% of overall score)**

## Governance and Management

Defined day-to-day management as well as senior management responsibility for the welfare of decapod crustaceans.

Objectives and targets for the management of decapod crustacean welfare, including reporting on their progress.

A description of internal processes for ensuring that a policy on decapod crustacean welfare is effectively implemented.

A description of how a policy on decapod crustacean welfare (or equivalent) is implemented through the supply chain.

**15 points available  
(9% of overall score)**

## Innovation and Leadership

Company involvement in projects dedicated to advancing the welfare of decapod crustaceans within the industry.

Promotion of decapod crustacean welfare to consumers through education and/or awareness-raising activities.

**20 points available  
(12% of overall score)**

## Performance Reporting and Impact

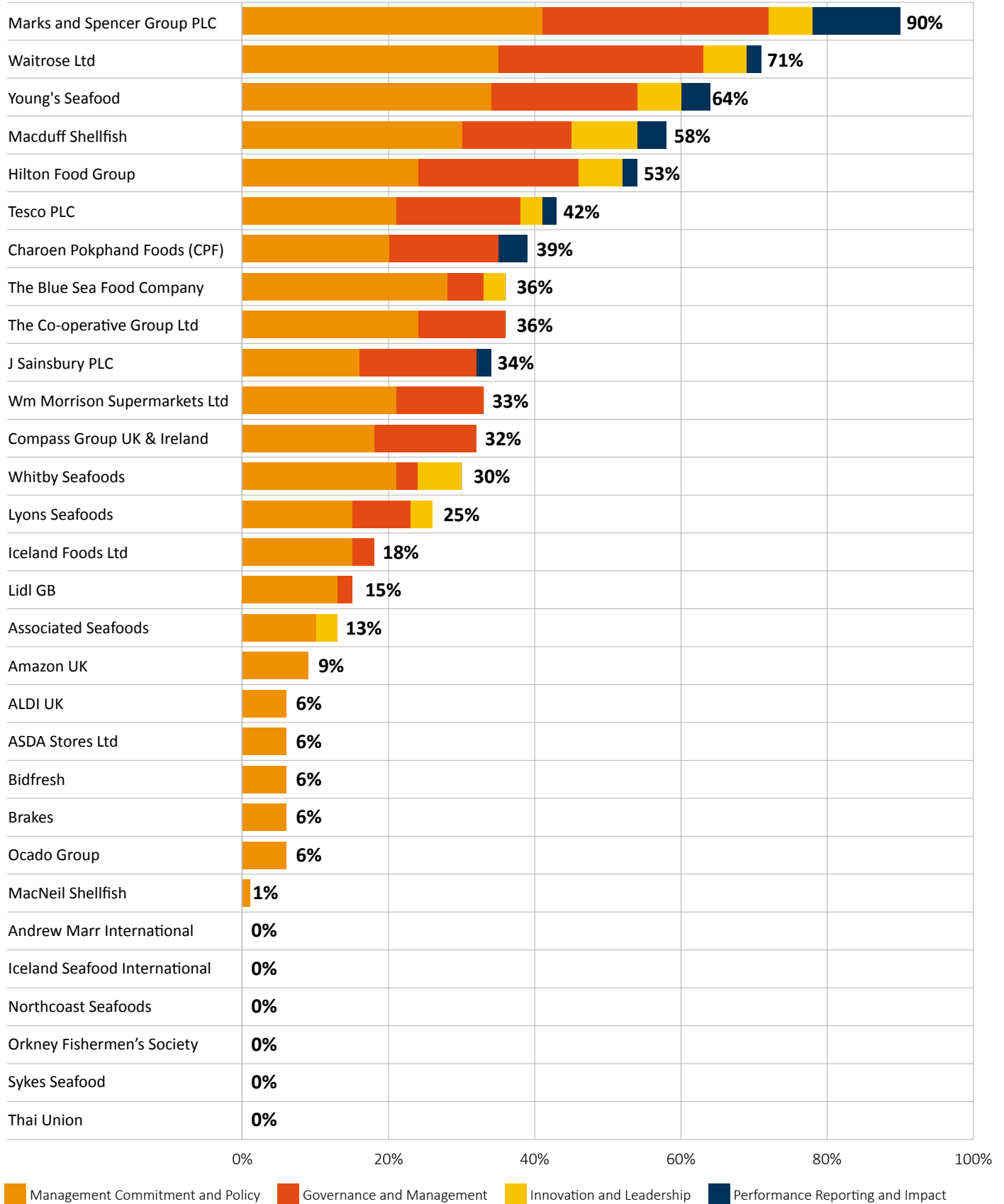
Reporting on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain that are humanely stunned and slaughtered.

Reporting on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations.

Reporting on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain transported within specified transport times.

Reporting on the proportion of decapod crustaceans captured using specified capture methods.

# Company rankings



Tier 1 81% to 100%	Tier 2 61% to 80%	Tier 3 41% to 60%	Tier 4 21% to 40%	Tier 5 0% to 20%
Marks and Spencer Group PLC <b>90%</b>	Waitrose Ltd <b>71%</b> Young's Seafood <b>64%</b>	Macduff Shellfish <b>58%</b> Hilton Food Group <b>53%</b> Tesco PLC <b>42%</b>	Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF) <b>39%</b> The Blue Sea Food Company <b>36%</b> The Co-operative Group Ltd <b>36%</b> J Sainsbury PLC <b>34%</b> Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd <b>33%</b> Compass Group UK & Ireland <b>32%</b> Whitby Seafoods <b>30%</b> Lyons Seafoods <b>25%</b>	Iceland Foods Ltd <b>18%</b> Lidl GB <b>15%</b> Associated Seafoods <b>13%</b> Amazon UK <b>9%</b> ALDI UK (ALDI Süd) <b>6%</b> ASDA Stores Ltd <b>6%</b> Bidfresh <b>6%</b> Brakes <b>6%</b> Ocado Group <b>6%</b> MacNeil Shellfish <b>1%</b> Andrew Marr International <b>0%</b> Iceland Seafood International <b>0%</b> Northcoast Seafoods <b>0%</b> Orkney Fishermen's Society <b>0%</b> Sykes Seafood <b>0%</b> Thai Union <b>0%</b>

**Tier 1:** Companies are leading the way on decapod crustacean welfare management and disclosure

**Tier 2:** Decapod crustacean welfare is an integral part of companies' business strategies

**Tier 3:** Companies are on the way to incorporating decapod crustacean welfare into their business strategies but there is more work to be done

**Tier 4:** Companies have begun to formalise their approach to decapod crustacean welfare but need to address key welfare issues

**Tier 5:** Companies appear to have taken few or no steps towards addressing decapod crustacean welfare in their supply chains

#### Notes on companies (correct at time of writing):

Due to its acquisition by Sykes Seafood, The Big Prawn Co. is no longer assessed as a standalone entity. A new company to The Snapshot this year is Compass Group UK & Ireland, which is the first foodservice business to be featured (note that this company has been classed as a Retailer and Wholesaler when required for the purposes

of sector comparison). Since the assessments took place, Iceland Seafood International has sold its UK processing arm and Orkney Fishermen's Society has been acquired by Orkney Crab Ltd. These companies' scores have been retained in this report as the data forms part of the UK decapod welfare landscape as it stood in July 2023.





# Key findings

## Key finding

1

**Decapod crustacean welfare as a business issue has advanced significantly with the number of companies publishing policies on key welfare areas more than doubling.**

In 2022 only 43% of companies had a decapod welfare policy but in 2023, this increased to 57%. While last year just one company had a universal policy covering all relevant decapod species, that figure has risen to three companies (10%).

At least twice as many companies now publish specific decapod welfare policies covering capture method, mutilations, holding and transport conditions, and the sale of live decapods to the public.

## Key finding

2

**Some clear leaders are emerging across the retail and producer sectors.**

Eight companies have more than doubled their score since the first Snapshot assessment.

The 10 most improved companies have increased their overall scores by between 55% and 13% of the available total.

## Key finding

3

**Despite the progress seen, most companies are still failing to take meaningful action on decapod crustacean welfare.**

Although significant policy commitments have been seen among companies in the top tiers compared to 2022, 16 companies (53%) have scored less than 20% of the total available score.

Only five companies achieved more than 50% of the total available score.

## Key finding

4

**Retailers continue to outperform processors and producers in all areas except for Innovation and Leadership.**

Retailers achieved an average score of 29% compared to producers and processors whose average was 20%.

Producers and processors scored an average of 25% in the Innovation and Leadership section while retailers' average score was 12%.

## Key finding

5

**More action is needed on humane stunning and slaughter methods for decapods.**

For the second year, only five of the 30 companies (17%) have published a commitment to adopting or expanding the use of electrical stunning technology.

## Key finding

# 1

**Decapod crustacean welfare as a business issue has advanced significantly with the number of companies publishing policies on some key welfare areas more than doubling.**

The first Snapshot report, compiled in July 2022, found that 17 companies (57%) did not have a formal published welfare policy, and only 12 companies (40%) had a partial policy that was limited in scope to certain species, geographies and/or products. Just one company had a universal welfare policy that covered all relevant species, geographies and products. In 2023 these scores improved: three companies (10%) publicly published a universal welfare policy, while the number with a partial policy increased to 14 (47%) and the companies with no policy at all reduced to 13 (43%, Figure 1). Over two-thirds of companies (23, 77%) acknowledged decapod welfare as a business issue in 2023 compared to 21 companies (70%) in 2022.

In 2022, the top overall score for an individual company based on publicly disclosed information was 42%. One year later, Marks & Spencer leads the assessment rankings with a score of 90%, clearly demonstrating the viability and importance of investing in decapod crustacean welfare as an area for meaningful policy commitment and practical action by high-profile UK food businesses.

The overall average score across all 30 companies – based on publicly available information only – was 24%, a notable increase on last year's average of 14%.

### Key welfare issues gain attention

Significant improvements have also been seen in the number of companies publishing policies on almost all key decapod welfare issues (Figure 2). Eight companies (27%) committed to not selling live decapods to the public, compared with just two (7%) last year. The number of companies publishing policies on appropriate species-specific conditions during transport tripled from three companies (10%) in 2022 to nine companies (30%) in 2023, while the number of companies publishing policies on reducing the negative effects of capture method (two companies, 7% in 2022 to five, 17% in 2023), avoidance of non-therapeutic mutilations (three companies, 10% in 2022 to seven, 23% in 2023) and appropriate species-specific holding conditions (two companies, 7% in 2022 to five, 17% in 2023) more than doubled.

Improvements have also been seen in the number of companies committing to reducing bycatch associated with decapod fishing (four companies, 13% in 2022 to six, 20% in 2023) and the avoidance of long-duration live transportation (six companies, 20% in 2022 to nine, 30% in 2023).

The assessment also found that more companies were taking action to advance decapod welfare standards through research work and industry projects. More than a quarter (27%) of companies publicly stated that they were involved in research and development (R&D) projects dedicated to improving the welfare of decapods, compared with just 13% in 2022. Meanwhile, the number of companies taking part in industry initiatives to improve decapod welfare – such as roundtables, working groups and government consultations – increased from 7% to 23%.

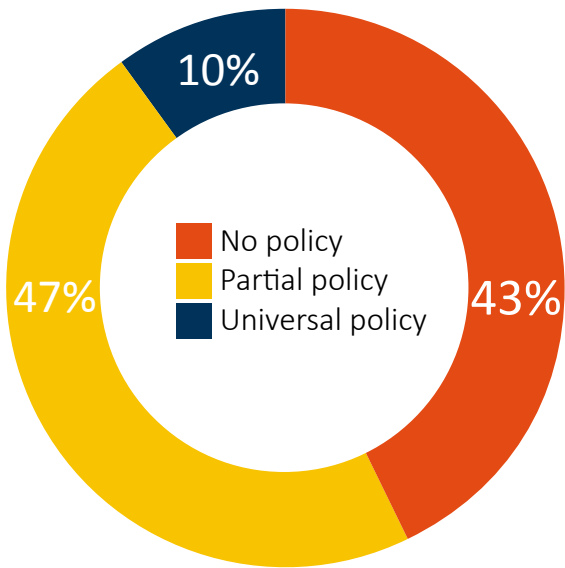
### Improvements across all pillars

Average company scores have increased across all four assessment categories. The average score for the Management Commitment and Policy section rose from 19% in 2022 to 29% in 2023, while for Governance and Management it improved from 11% to 24% and Innovation and Leadership saw a leap from 7% to 19%. The smallest gain was seen in the Performance Reporting and Impact section with a modest move from 3% to 8%. However, as many companies are in the early stages of the improvement process, it is to be expected that there will be greater focus on developing formal policies, the impact of which should be seen in companies' reporting in the coming months and years.

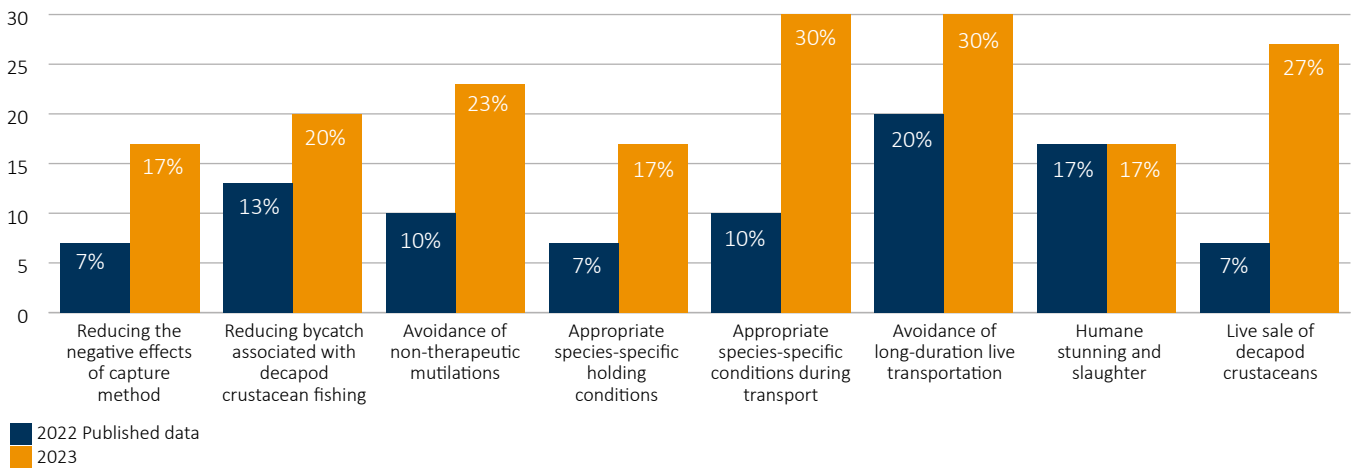
These positive changes in many companies' commitment to decapod welfare is highly encouraging, as is their increased communication about their policies and practices. This signposts an irreversible pathway towards higher welfare requirements for all decapods in the UK food supply chain.



**Figure 1:**  
Scope of company decapod welfare policies



**Figure 2: Percentage of companies with policies on key decapod welfare issues 2022 - 2023**



## Key finding

### 2

#### Some clear leaders are emerging across the retailer and producer sectors.

Individual company scores were not published in the first iteration of The Snapshot in 2022, in recognition of the relative immaturity of this animal welfare issue. While the confidentiality of the first year's scores will continue to be respected, it is clear some companies made impressive strides towards adopting higher welfare policies and practices, and/or improving their transparency on this matter.

'Leadership' in this context does not mean that a company has perfected its decapod welfare policy or has no further work to do to improve welfare outcomes. However, leading companies in this benchmark have demonstrated strong policies, well-developed management systems, a focus on innovation and valid reporting on performance in decapod welfare.

Compared with scores based on published information, eight companies more than doubled their score since the first Snapshot assessment. By publicly sharing their attitudes on this issue, companies are helping to raise awareness of decapod welfare across the marketplace while illustrating the industry's capacity to adapt to evolving market requirements.

The broad spectrum of scores across all 30 companies, from 0% to 90%, serves to illustrate both the significant opportunities available to companies that want to improve their decapod welfare standards, and the reputational challenges that will be increasingly faced by those who choose not to take them. Ownership and sub-sector are not barriers to adopting higher welfare policies – the top four scoring companies comprise two retailers and two producers, while two public companies and three private firms make up the top five: Marks & Spencer, Waitrose, Young's Seafood, Macduff Shellfish and Hilton Food Group.

The 10 most improved companies increased their overall scores by between 55% and 13% of the available total. Of these, four companies are retailers and six are producers or processors.



**M&S commits to... use our voice for good globally to lead and drive change and improvements in all seafood welfare matters especially decapod crustaceans.**

Marks & Spencer



## Key finding

## 3

## Despite the progress seen, most companies are still failing to take meaningful action on decapod crustacean welfare.

Although there have been significant policy commitments among the six companies in the top three tiers, 16 businesses (53%) have scored less than 20% with six scoring 0%. Only five companies achieved more than 50% of the available score.

The notable diffusion of scores across even the top 10 ranked companies illustrates the breadth of commitment level and/or communication around decapod crustacean welfare in the UK food industry. While more companies are publishing policies and setting targets, they are often limited in scope. The average company score for the Performance Reporting and Impact section has increased slightly from 3% in 2022 to 8% in 2023, with the most reported metric being the number of decapods that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations (typically, eyestalk ablation for warm water prawns). However, based on last year's Snapshot results, some companies would have received higher scores in 2023 if they had publicly disclosed internal information that was shared with assessors for the 2022 report. It is understandable that many companies are at an early stage of formalising policies, but this demonstrates how much work is still to be done.

Some companies have cited commercial sensitivity as a reason for not publicly disclosing policies, targets and development projects connected to decapod welfare. Others have expressed an intention to wait until industry-led Codes of Practice<sup>5</sup> – still in development by seafood industry bodies at the time of writing – are published before formalising or publicly sharing all their relevant welfare positions.

To avoid unnecessary suffering for decapods, however, reform of current working practices is urgently needed. Decapod crustaceans were recognised as sentient in UK law in April 2022. Since then, billions<sup>4</sup> of crabs, lobsters,

prawns and nephrops in the UK supply chain alone have continued to suffer each year from inhumane practices that were not designed with welfare in mind. Some companies have already proactively chosen to reassess their policies from a welfare perspective and change their working practices based on compelling scientific evidence.

As the 2023 results show, the disparity between those companies taking available opportunities to improve decapod welfare outcomes and those appearing to take little or no action is stark – an impression that will not be lost on consumers, investors and other stakeholders. Where challenges to implementing higher welfare standards currently exist, companies are encouraged to take a pre-competitive, industry-wide approach to innovation to help overcome obstacles and raising standards as a collective effort throughout the supply chain. This would enable the industry to move forward as a whole and unleash the benefits of higher welfare for decapods, businesses and consumers alike.



**After research proved that decapod crustaceans... are sentient (they have the capacity to experience feelings such as pleasure or pain) during 2022, we welcomed the UK government passing legislation that recognises them as sentient beings. Waitrose is committed to ensuring all of our sourced shellfish, including decapod crustaceans, are responsibly sourced and that we continuously improve animal welfare standards in our supply chains.**

Waitrose

## Key finding

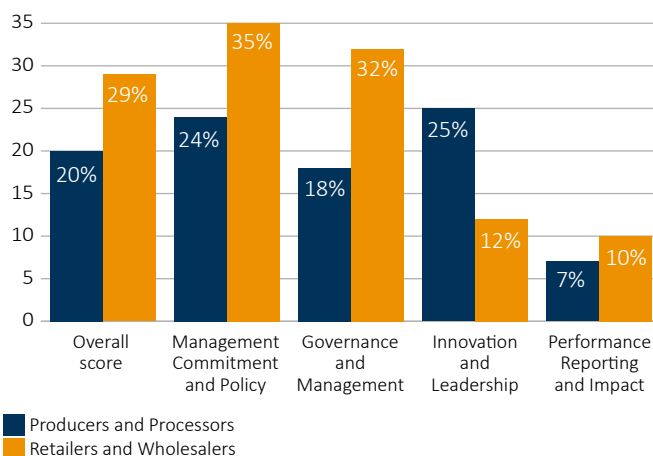
4

## Retailers continue to outperform processors and producers in all areas except for Innovation and Leadership.

Based on average scores across all companies in a sector, as in 2022 retailers and wholesalers scored more highly in three of the four assessment categories. Under the Management Commitment and Policy section, as an average, retailers scored 35% while producers and processors scored 24%. On average, retailers showed a greater level of commitment to publishing decapod welfare policies and defining clear positions on welfare requirements. The Governance and Management section saw retailers again achieving a higher average score (32%) compared with producers and processors (18%) with those policies being supported by the setting of targets and objectives, descriptions of management responsibilities and information about how policies are implemented and monitored. Retailers scored an average of 10% in the Performance Reporting and Impact section, a small lead over producers and processors (7%), with more reporting on the proportion of decapods that are caught using specified capture methods, transported within specified timelines, free from non-therapeutic mutilations, and humanely stunned and slaughtered.

However, producers and processors achieved a higher average score (25%) in Innovation and Leadership – which assesses research and development (R&D), industry initiatives and consumer awareness activity – than retailers (12% (Figure 3)).

**Figure 3: Average score by sector (%)**



Looking at performance across the board, producers and processors achieved an average overall score of 20%, compared to 10% in 2022, while the overall average score for retailers and wholesalers rose from 18% in last year's assessment to 29% this year. Although it is encouraging to see this improvement, these averages do reflect a low baseline for decapod welfare standards and highlight how much work still needs to be done by the majority of benchmarked companies.

Despite some retailers demonstrably pursuing higher welfare standards in a variety of policy areas, only two of the 30 companies actively promoted decapod welfare through consumer-facing activities or information and these were both processors – Macduff Shellfish and Hilton Food Group.



**Macduff carries out internal research and development on decapod handling, storage and transport to ensure decapods are treated humanely and appropriately.**  
Macduff Shellfish



**This was a two-year project which resulted in the first commercial trial and the adoption of electric stunner in warm water prawns (*P. vannamei*). The electric stunner for finfish had to be modified to fit prawn production.**  
Hilton Food Group

## Key finding

### 5

#### More action is needed on humane stunning and slaughter methods for decapods.

A policy area in which no change has been observed is humane stunning and slaughter. Only five of the 30 companies (17%) published a commitment to adopting or expanding the use of electrical stunning and slaughter practices for decapods – this figure has not changed since the 2022 Snapshot assessment. These policies were all partial commitments that were limited in scope by species, geographies and/or products. However, three companies (10%) reported on the proportion of decapods humanely stunned and slaughtered, compared to just one company in 2022.

In the first Snapshot report, which considered both information in the public domain and unpublished data, companies were found to be primarily concentrating their welfare efforts on farmed decapod species with less attention paid to wild-caught species. Some are now showing commitment to solving knowledge gaps and addressing the wider issue.

Companies including Young's<sup>7</sup>, Whitby Seafoods<sup>8</sup> and Marks & Spencer<sup>9</sup> are supporting an industry project to develop and trial an electrical stunning and mechanical tailing system for nephrops, which is currently a highly neglected area of decapod welfare.

Areas of concern include the fact that ice slurry and asphyxiation on ice are still being widely used as stunning and slaughter techniques across the industry, despite scientific evidence definitively showing that these are not humane methods for decapod crustaceans.

Many companies are still in the early stages of developing their decapod welfare policies, so it is encouraging to see some commitments to moving humane stunning technology forward. However, as a key welfare issue for sentient animals, it is clear more work needs to be done even among high-scoring companies to ensure that all decapod crustaceans are humanely stunned and slaughtered when the solutions to enable this are already available (see box). Growing awareness among both consumers and retailers means that humane treatment will inevitably become a widespread sourcing requirement. Companies that do not insist on humane stunning and slaughter practices will face public criticism, reputational damage and commercial disadvantage if they fail to raise their standards in line with competitors.

“ From January 2023 we will not approve/ source any new species of decapod crustacean which are not electrically stunned prior to kill.

Marks & Spencer



### Defining 'humane' handling and slaughter practices

Where references are made to 'humane' handling, stunning and slaughter practices, these are taken from Crustacean Compassion welfare policies<sup>2, 3</sup>. These welfare policies and positions are based on scientific evidence, including those referenced in the 2021 London School of Economics and Political Science report '*Review of the evidence of sentience in cephalopod molluscs and decapod crustaceans*'.<sup>6</sup> For example, based on the currently available evidence, Crustacean Compassion concludes that electrical stunning prior to mechanical killing is the only humane method of stunning and slaughter for decapod crustaceans. While acknowledging the importance of setting species-specific parameters for all welfare policy areas, such as long-distance transport and holding conditions, the first benchmark in 2022 established baseline data on existing company practices and The Snapshot continues to assess any company efforts to address welfare during transport and storage. The benchmark will include clearer definitions in future iterations as knowledge develops and as best industry practice comes to light.

## Industry insight

The Snapshot 2023 report has revealed a mixed picture of the industry's progress on decapod crustacean welfare standards between 2022 and 2023. On the one hand, companies that made clear and extensive commitments to higher welfare standards are in a minority compared with those that are either still at the start of their decapod welfare journey and/or have chosen not to disclose that information. However, among those that are leading the way, it is a positive finding to see public recognition of the importance of decapod welfare as a business and ethical issue and an interest in tackling challenges to adopting higher welfare policies.

For example, several companies – including Marks & Spencer<sup>9</sup> (M&S), Young's<sup>7</sup> and Whitby Seafoods<sup>8</sup> – shared their involvement in trials to develop more humane stunning and slaughter methods for nephrops destined for the scampi market. Concerted industry efforts to eliminate inhumane live 'tailing' practices are both welcome and necessary, if the UK seafood industry wants to ensure social acceptability for scampi in the long term.

### Marks & Spencer leads the way

As the top ranked company in The Snapshot 2023 assessment, Marks & Spencer demonstrated that many opportunities exist to address decapod welfare at every stage of the supply chain, from capture or harvest through to slaughter, and that improved welfare for these vulnerable creatures is not only possible but commercially desirable. With a total overall score of 90%, it is clear this retailer has grasped many of those opportunities to go above and beyond poor yet still commonly accepted welfare standards. This was evidenced by M&S's extensive decapod welfare sourcing policy<sup>9</sup> that sought to eliminate or phase out many inhumane practices, set and report on targets and objectives, define allocation of welfare responsibilities within the business and express intentions to pursue alternatives to current low-welfare practices.

Commitments outlined in M&S's Aquaculture and Wild-Caught Decapod Welfare document included:

- pledges to reduce the negative effects of capture methods on decapod crustacean welfare;
- reduce bycatch associated with decapod fishing; a series of targets and trials to increase the proportion of decapod species that are electrically stunned before slaughter;
- support for a project to develop electrical stunning and tailing technology for nephrops and a commitment to adopt the solution once it has been identified;
- reducing the percentage of crab sourced from vessels that use claw nicking and working to understand available alternatives.

Waitrose is ranked in second place with an overall score of 71%. The retailer has published an extensive crustacean welfare policy<sup>10</sup> covering many key welfare areas, from capture and harvest to slaughter. Leadership is also being seen in the processing sector, with Young's Seafood ranked in third place (64%). Young's' crustacean welfare policy<sup>7</sup> included a commitment to increase the percentage of warm water prawns that are electrically stunned to 100% as soon as possible and to eliminate eyestalk ablation from the supply base. The policy also explained the organisational responsibility structure for decapod welfare and described supplier requirements to reduce bycatch in crustacean fisheries.





## Company viewpoints

“ It has been helpful to have Crustacean Compassion coordinating an effort to assess the welfare of a section of the seafood industry that is not well-understood. We've used the excellent Snapshot framework as a basis for conversations with our suppliers about decapod welfare. Improving welfare standards not only results in a better experience for the animals but also significant quality improvements, better yield and higher income for fishers. As an industry, we can either wait to be told to change, or we can take the initiative and identify areas for improvement now. Marks & Spencer has chosen to be proactive on this issue and the amount of engagement we've had from our supply chain in a relatively short space of time has been really encouraging.

Linda Wood, Aquaculture & Fisheries Manager, Marks & Spencer

“ Young's Seafood has a focus on all aspects of responsible seafood sourcing and we have taken the step in 2023 to extend more public facing detail on our crustacean welfare positions within our Fish for Life sourcing principles and associated policies. We are working further on a number of welfare improvements and trials in our wild and farmed supply chains, and look forward to sharing further information once these are established. Reducing unwanted bycatch of crustaceans and fish are ongoing CSR activity and in September 2023 we spent time at the Flume tank in Denmark facilitated by Seafish to learn more on gear behaviour and how we can implement some improvements.

Will Davies, Group CSR Manager, Young's Seafood

“ Waitrose and Partners aims to drive positive change in a wide array of sustainability and ethical issues relating to aquaculture and fisheries. As members of the Sustainable Seafood Coalition (SSC), we follow the SSC codes of conduct and we'll work only with fisheries and aquaculture farms that share our commitment to responsible sourcing and animal welfare. This strong stance on animal welfare and responsible sourcing applies to all seafood we sell - including decapod crustaceans. We recognise that as sentient beings, decapod crustaceans have the ability to both feel pain and experience positive emotions such as joy and pleasure. We consider crustacean welfare to be an important business issue, and our customers expect us to do the right thing. We will continue to work closely with the farmers and fishermen in our supply chains to implement our decapod welfare policy in a meaningful and robust way.

Abbie Topping, Partner & Aquaculture & Fisheries Specialist, Waitrose

“ Following the inclusion of lobsters and crabs in the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act last year, we were one of the first in the foodservice industry to expand the scope of our animal welfare policy to include decapod crustaceans, beginning with a commitment to ban eyestalk ablation in our prawn supply chain from 1st January 2024. Additionally, by following Marine Conservation Society's 'Good Fish Guide' and sourcing only 1-3 rated crustaceans, we ensure to only source products with the lowest risk of bycatch and habitat damage, a commitment we have outlined in our animal welfare policy... We are committed to building on our policy as species-specific guidance is made available, including in areas such as slaughter, transport and storage and will update on progress annually within our animal welfare policy.

Rachel Eyre, Sustainable Procurement Manager, Foodbuy UK, part of Compass Group UK & Ireland



# Results in detail

## Management Commitment and Policy

This section assesses companies' policies on decapod crustacean welfare, including specific commitments on ensuring appropriate species-specific handling conditions, avoiding mutilations, avoiding long-distance live transportation and ensuring humane slaughter. As the most heavily weighted section of the benchmark – companies can achieve up to 49% of the overall score (80 points) in this section – the Management Commitment and Policy criteria explore whether companies have made clear and explicit commitments to improving decapod welfare standards.

A positive finding is that over three-quarters of companies (23, 77%) acknowledged the welfare of decapod crustaceans as a business issue, via an animal welfare policy or statement that either clearly included decapods or did not appear to exclude them. However, only 17 companies (57%) published an explicit commitment to decapod welfare within a policy statement or equivalent document; of these, 12 (40%) included a description of the processes in place to ensure the policy is effectively implemented. The majority of these policies were partial in scope. Only three companies (10%) — Marks & Spencer, Young's Seafood and The Blue Sea Food Company – had universal policies that applied to all species, geographies and products in their range.

Retailers outperformed producers and processors in this section, scoring an average of 35% (25% in 2022) compared to 24% (15% in 2022). All retailers published an explicit commitment to decapod welfare with the exception of ASDA, Aldi, Ocado and Amazon UK. Most companies had not made a commitment to reduce the negative effects of capture method on decapods (25, 83%) or to reduce bycatch associated with decapod fishing (24, 80%). However, this is an improvement since 2022 when the results were 93% and 87% respectively.



**We believe an alternative solution can be found to crab claw nicking as an industry and we will push to progress this solution.**

Marks & Spencer

### Humane stunning and slaughter

Five companies (17%) published a partial requirement for decapods to be humanely stunned pre-slaughter with the use of electrical stunning – Marks & Spencer, Waitrose, Young's Seafood, Macduff Shellfish and Hilton Food Group. The amount of companies has not changed since the 2022 assessment, when comparing published information only.

Marks & Spencer stated that 100% of its brown crab is electrically stunned pre-slaughter and the company aims to source only electrically stunned lobster by April 2025. Over the next two years, M&S will complete trials into implementing electrical stunning for all its white leg and black tiger prawn supply. Macduff Shellfish demonstrated a partial commitment by electrically stunning all brown crab in its product range, while the company stated it welcomes researchers to visit its facility to assist in the development of innovative solutions to address gaps in decapod welfare technology provision. Waitrose's policy required all own-label crab to be electrically stunned and is working with suppliers to explore a move towards the same for warm water prawns. Hilton Food Group electrically stunned 100% of its wild-caught crab and lobster and 80% of its warm water prawn supply. Young's policy stated the company is working towards 100% electrical stunning for its warm water prawn supply base.

All eight (27%) of the companies awarded points for participating in research and development to advance decapod welfare mentioned projects to investigate humane stunning and slaughter methods, with seven (23%) specifying electrical stunning solutions. In the meantime, ice slurry continues to be a widely used method of stunning and/or slaughter. Of the nine companies (30%) that published any information on stunning/slaughter policies or report on this issue, five (17%) mentioned ice slurry or thermal shock as a method that is currently being used for decapod species.

Overall, scientific evidence indicates that wet/ice chilling should not be used as a killing method for decapod crustaceans, being largely ineffective for temperate species, associated with serious risk to welfare for all species and failing to deliver instantaneous insensibility or death to any species.

### Avoidance of non-therapeutic mutilations

Less than a quarter of companies (seven, 23%) published a partial policy on the avoidance of non-therapeutic mutilations, all of which featured eyestalk ablation – either in terms of specified targets to eliminate the practice from their supply chain or an expression of interest in doing so. No company published a universal policy on this issue and the majority had no policy at all. One company (Young’s Seafood) published a policy banning the declawing of live crabs and two others (Marks & Spencer and Compass Group UK & Ireland) acknowledged that claw nicking occurs within their supply chain and stated an interest in finding more humane alternatives. As in 2022, retailers outperform producers and processors on mutilation policies.

### Decapod welfare during holding and transport

The number of companies publishing positions on appropriate species-specific conditions during holding and transport increased since 2022 (see Figure 2), although all policies were partial in terms of species, product or geographic scope and/or did not have a clearly defined scope, or stated compliance with current low-welfare industry standards without outlining a clear company commitment to decapod welfare.

Marks & Spencer made a clear and universal commitment to avoid long-duration live transportation for all decapods in their supply chain, with 100% maximum transport times of under eight hours. However, the majority of companies (21, 70%) had no published policy on the avoidance of long-duration live transportation of decapods.

### Avoidance of sale of live crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers

Based on scientific evidence, effective electrical stunning followed by swift slaughter by a trained professional is the only humane method of killing decapod crustaceans. Bearing in mind electrical stunning requires specialist equipment, it is highly unlikely that members of the general public can humanely stun and slaughter decapod crustaceans at home. So, the practice of selling live decapods to the public should cease on welfare grounds. Most UK supermarket chains do not sell live decapods but they are still sold live by other types of retailer and the practice is common in other countries, so a clear commitment is required here.

In 2022 only two companies (7%) had a published policy barring the sale of live decapods to the public. This year the number increased to eight companies (27%), yet only four of these are major supermarkets – Marks & Spencer, Waitrose, The Co-operative Group and Morrisons.

## Governance and Management

This section of the benchmark assessed companies on their internal governance and management processes for ensuring the effective implementation of company policies, including a description of management responsibility for decapod welfare, setting targets or objectives, reporting on progress and specifying decapod welfare as part of supplier auditing. Policy commitments must be backed up by robust processes within the company to ensure that compliance is monitored and consequential action is taken if policies are violated.

Once again, retailers made significantly more progress in this area than producers and processors, with an average score across the category of 32% (up from 18% in 2022) while producers and processors scored an average of 18% (compared to 7% in 2022).

While 12 companies (40%) described the day-to-day management responsibility for decapod welfare and 11 companies (37%) outlined the senior management responsibility, the setting of and reporting on welfare targets and objectives was less widespread. Only seven

companies (23%) set objectives or targets for decapod welfare and of these, only five (17%) reported on progress against at least one of them.

Targets set by companies included 100% electrical stunning for all lobsters by April 2025 (Marks & Spencer), the elimination of eyestalk ablation from farmed warm water prawn supply by December 2023 (Waitrose), electrical stunning of 100% of brown crab across all sites with annual reporting (Macduff Shellfish), 100% electrical stunning of all animals including those produced by aquaculture (Hilton Food Group) and 100% of prawns free from eyestalk ablation by 2024 (Sainsbury’s and Compass Group UK & Ireland).

Going forward, we will expect to see more policies and reporting on welfare issues throughout companies’ supply chains, along with more detail on internal processes and how policies are implemented throughout the supply chain. There should also be more target-setting and reporting for other mutilations suffered by decapods, such as declawing.

## Innovation and Leadership

Scores in this section of the benchmark were awarded to companies based on their involvement in research and development (R&D) projects and industry initiatives directed at improving the welfare of decapod crustaceans, and on their promotion of decapod welfare to consumers. The average score across all 30 companies for this section rose from 7% in 2022 to 19% in 2023, but the sector breakdown (Figure 3) gives a clearer picture of who is driving this progress. Producers and processors scored an average of 25%, compared to retailers at 12%, demonstrating that once again producers and processors are taking more initiative to improve welfare standards in their part of the supply chain.

R&D projects described included advances towards the implementation of electrical stunning for both aquaculture species and wild-caught species, and technology for the electrical stunning, killing and mechanical tailing of nephrops. Companies have also been involved in industry initiatives such as the development of the industry-led Codes of Practice for decapod welfare.

However, communication with consumers to raise awareness of decapod welfare remained low with only two companies taking steps to promote the issue to the public, through social media posts (Macduff Shellfish) and engagement at events with retail partners (Hilton Food Group).

## Performance Reporting and Impact

As in 2022, this section remained the lowest scoring category with an average company score of 8% (up from 3% in 2022). This is to be somewhat expected as decapod crustacean welfare is still considered a relatively new animal welfare issue in UK law and many companies are still in the early stages of formalising and implementing their policies. However, in addition to having clear policy commitments and management practices, companies are expected to maintain measurement criteria for decapods in their supply chain and to report on their performance.

Retailers outperformed producers and processors by a small margin (average sector score of 10% versus 7%), with the most reported metric being the proportion of warm water prawns that are free from eyestalk ablation.

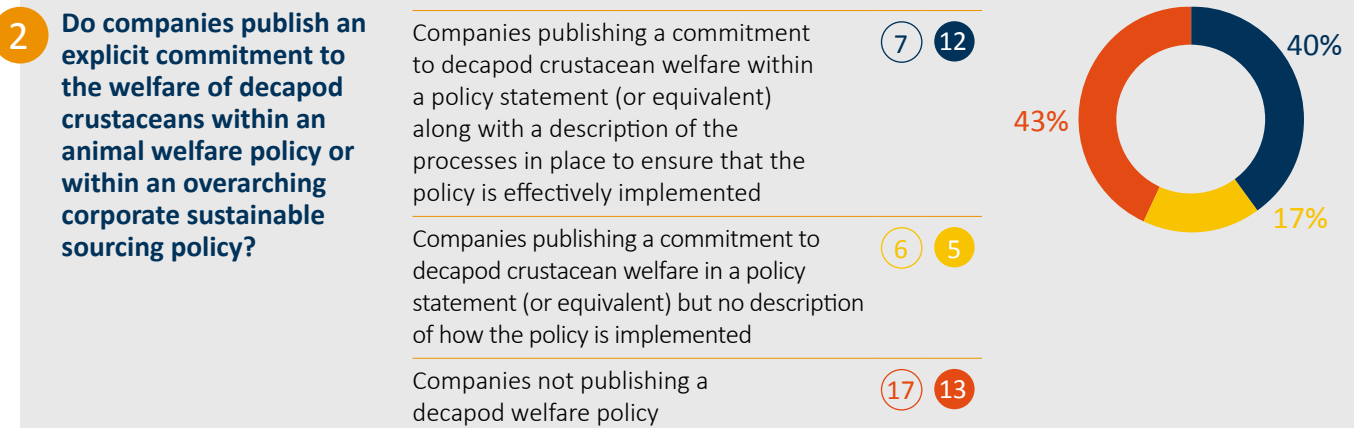
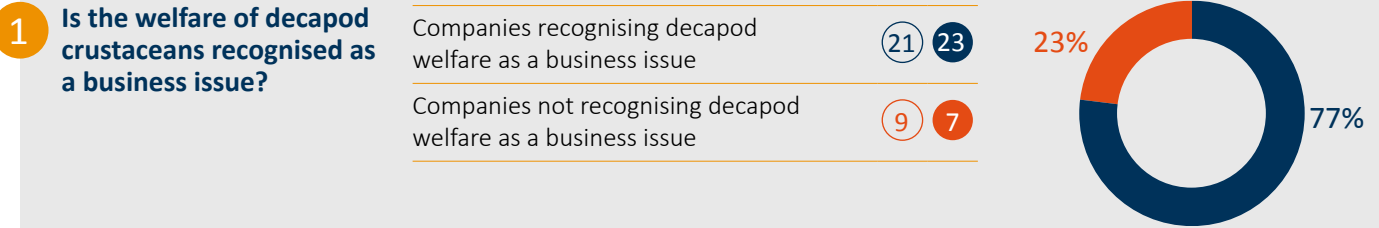
Only three companies (10%) reported fully or partially on the proportion of decapods that are humanely stunned and slaughtered, and also on the proportion captured using specific methods, while just two (7%) reported fully or partially on the proportion of decapods transported within specified times.

Improved disclosure of company performance should be expected as the welfare issue matures and companies make progress towards achieving their welfare targets and objectives.

\*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and may therefore not add up to 100%. The 2022 results are based on publicly available information only, not the data in the 2022 public report results section.

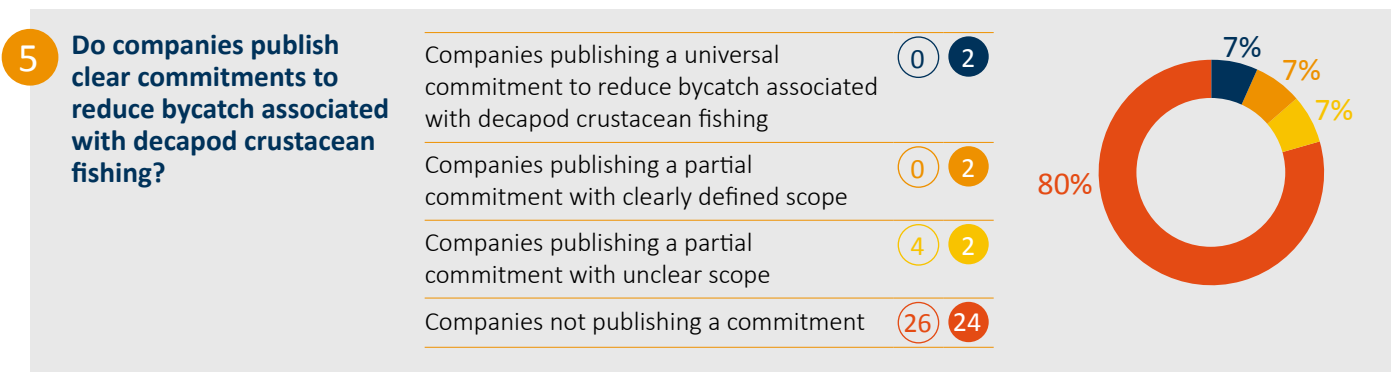
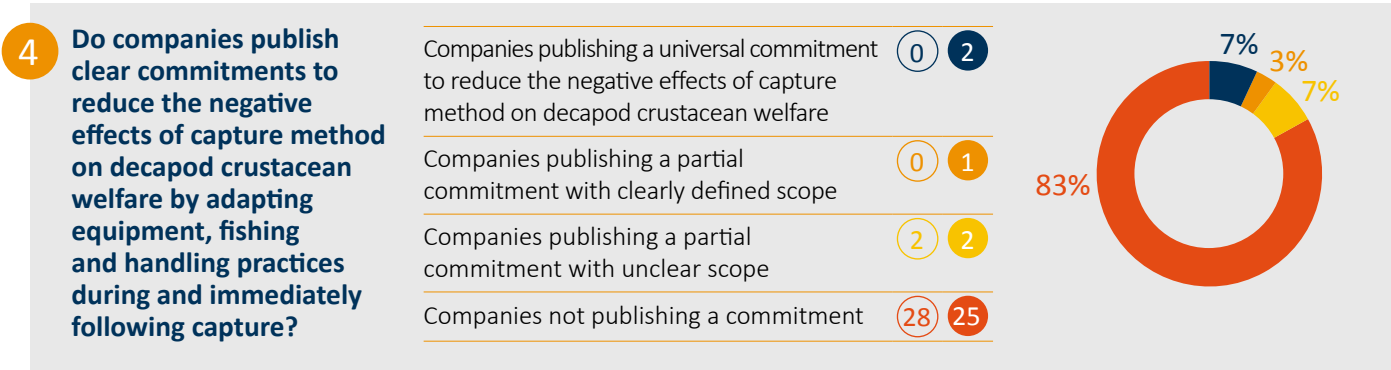
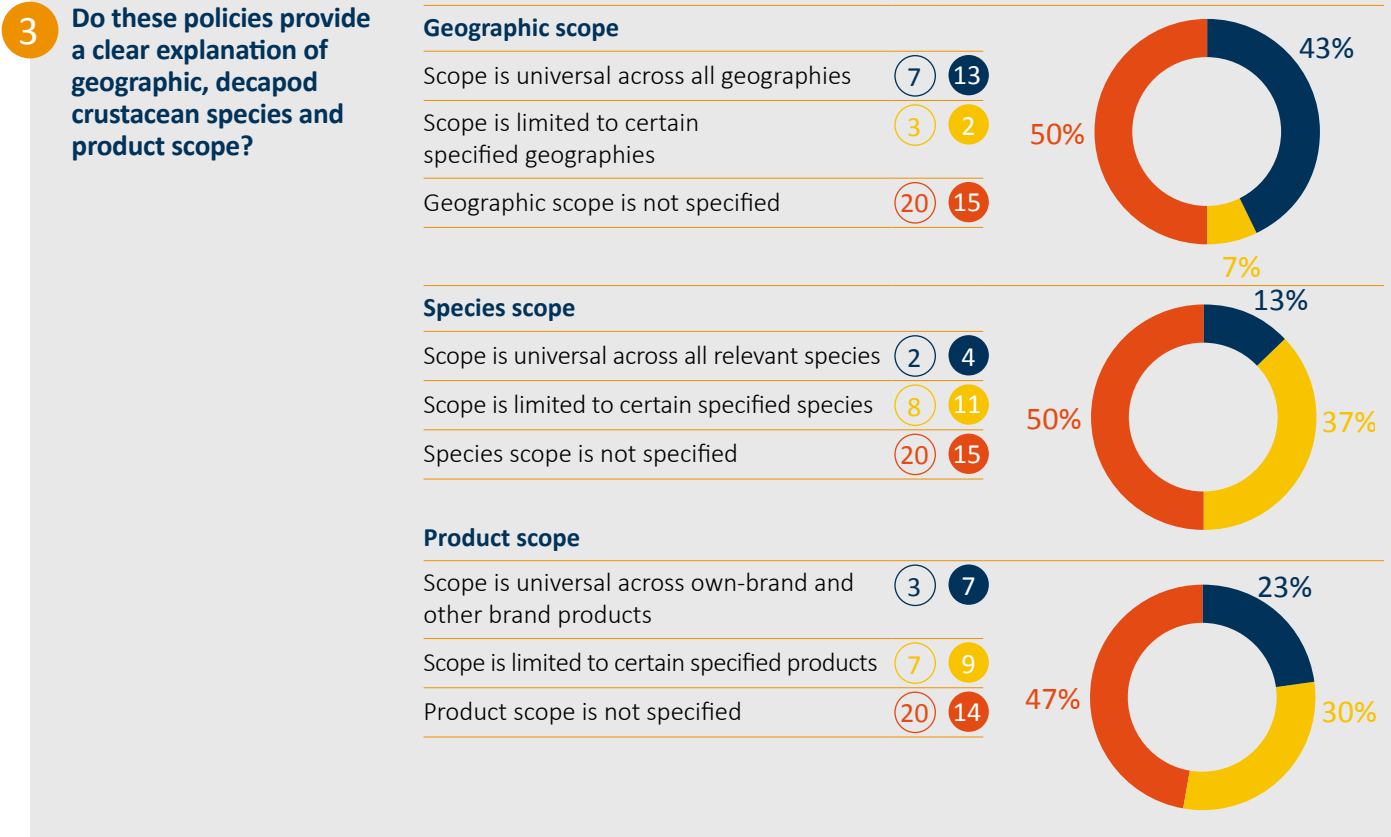
ⓧ Number of companies - 2022 results    ⓧ Number of companies - 2023 results

## Management Commitment and Policy



(x) Number of companies - 2022 results    (x) Number of companies - 2023 results

**Management Commitment and Policy**



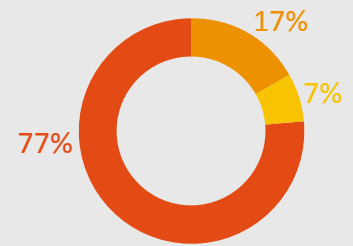
(X) Number of companies - 2022 results    (X) Number of companies - 2023 results

## Management Commitment and Policy

**6** Do companies publish clear positions on the avoidance of non-therapeutic\* mutilation of decapod crustaceans, which, in the case of wild-caught decapods, includes prohibiting their subsequent return to the ocean?

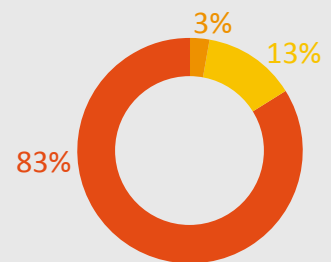
*\*Defined as not having a direct welfare benefit for the animal*

Companies publishing a universal commitment to the avoidance of mutilations	0	0
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	1	5
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	2	2
Companies not publishing a commitment	27	23



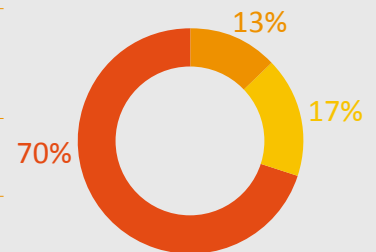
**7** Do companies publish clear positions on appropriate species-specific holding conditions (during post-capture, holding for processing and retail stage) that take account of each species' physical, physiological and behavioural needs?

Companies publishing a universal commitment ensuring appropriate species-specific holding conditions	0	0
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	0	1
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	2	4
Companies not publishing a commitment	28	25



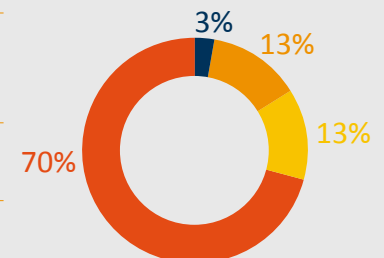
**8** Do companies publish clear positions on appropriate species-specific conditions during transport that take account of each species' physical, physiological and behavioural needs?

Companies publishing a universal commitment ensuring appropriate species-specific conditions during transport	0	0
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	0	4
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	3	5
Companies not publishing a commitment	27	21



**9** Do companies publish clear positions on the avoidance of long-duration live transportation of decapod crustaceans?

Companies publishing a universal commitment to avoid/reduce long-duration live transportation	0	1
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	4	4
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	2	4
Companies not publishing a commitment	24	21

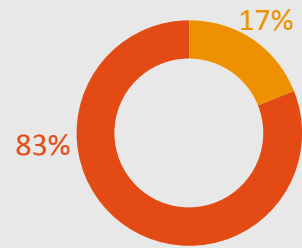


(x) Number of companies - 2022 results    (x) Number of companies - 2023 results

### Management Commitment and Policy

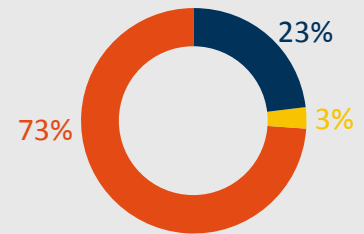
**10** Do companies publish clear positions requiring all decapod crustaceans to be humanely stunned and slaughtered, using methods that result in instantaneous insensibility to pain and distress or where insensibility is induced without causing pain and distress and is maintained until death occurs?

Companies publishing a universal commitment requiring all decapod crustaceans to be humanely stunned and slaughtered	0	0
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	1	5
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	4	0
Companies not publishing a commitment	25	25



**11** Do companies publish clear positions on the avoidance of live sale of decapod crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers?

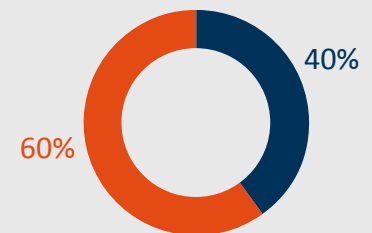
Companies publishing a universal commitment to avoid the live sale of decapod crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers	1	7
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	0	0
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	1	1
Companies not publishing a commitment	28	22



### Governance and Management

**12** Do companies define management responsibility for the welfare of decapod crustaceans?

Companies describing day-to-day management responsibility	6	12
Companies not describing day-to-day management responsibility	24	18



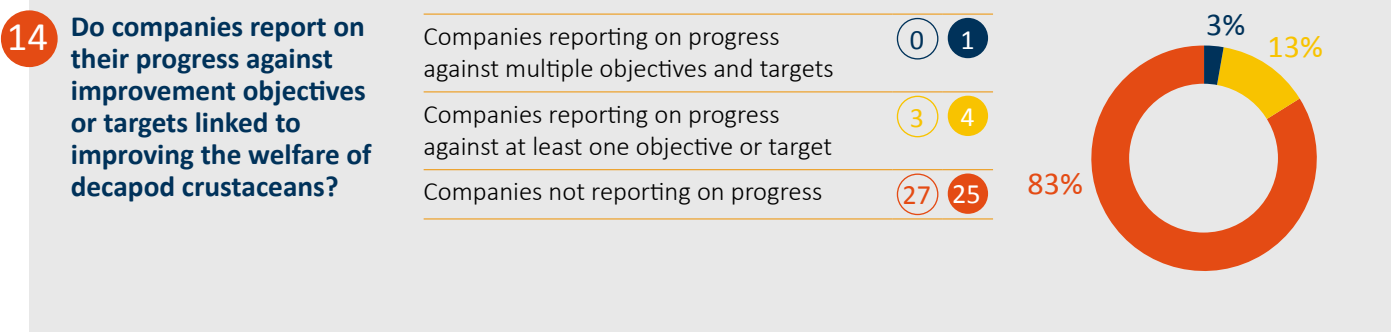
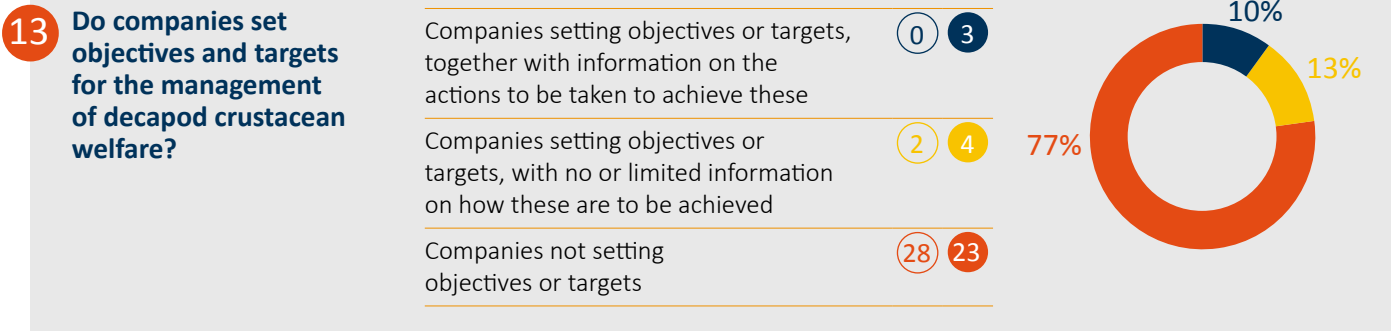
Companies describing senior management responsibility	5	11
Companies not describing senior management responsibility	25	19





ⓧ Number of companies - 2022 results    ⓧ Number of companies - 2023 results

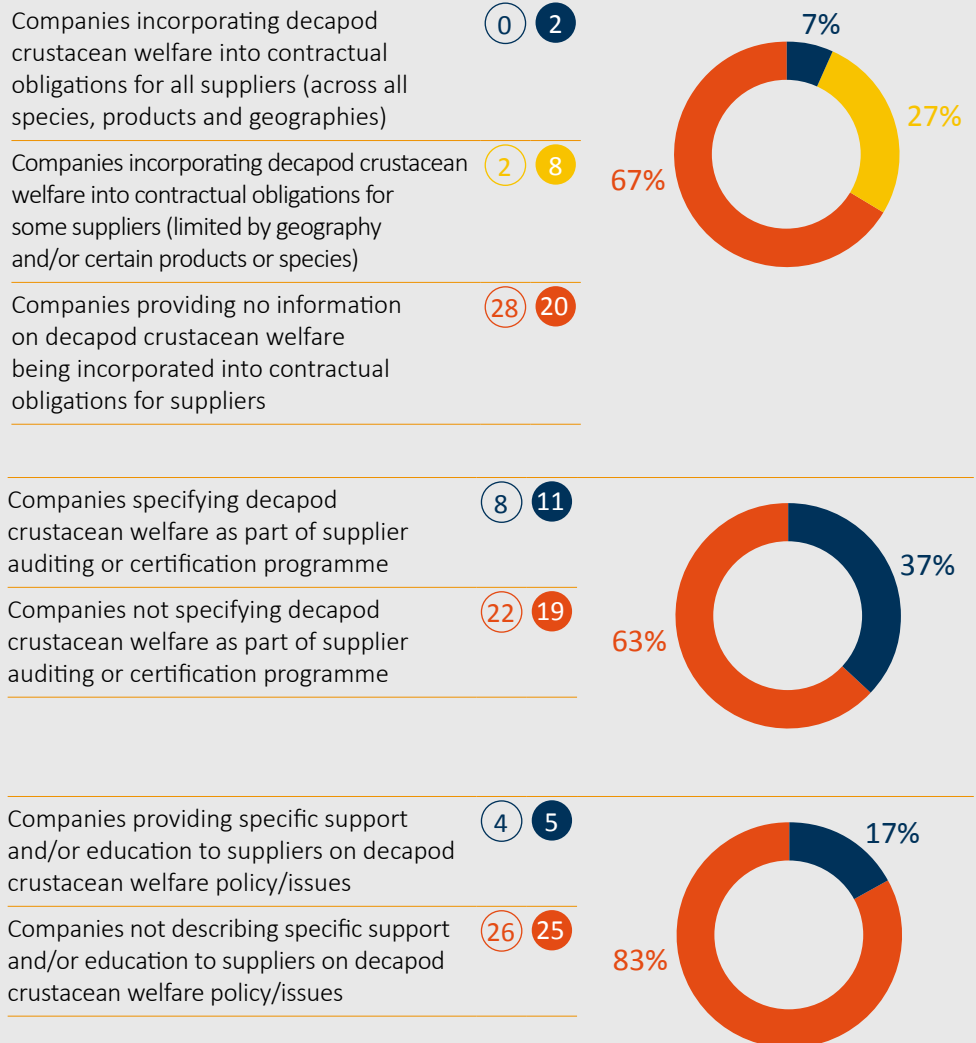
**Governance and Management**



(x) Number of companies - 2022 results    (x) Number of companies - 2023 results

**Governance and Management**

**16 Do companies describe how they implement their policies on decapod crustacean welfare (or equivalent) through their supply chains?**



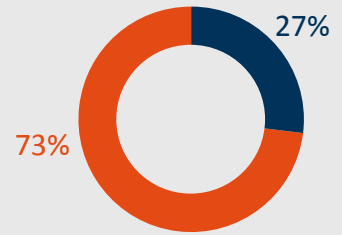
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**Innovation and Leadership**

**17** Are companies currently investing in projects dedicated to advancing the welfare of decapod crustaceans within the industry?

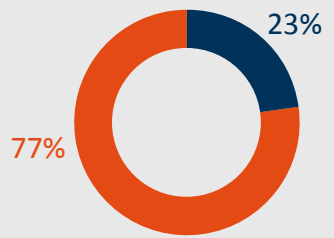
Companies describing involvement in research and development programmes to improve decapod crustacean welfare    4 8

Companies not describing involvement in research and development programmes to improve decapod crustacean welfare    26 22



Companies describing involvement in industry or other initiatives directed at improving the welfare of decapod crustaceans    2 7

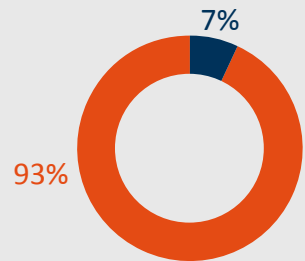
Companies not describing involvement in industry or other initiatives directed at improving the welfare of decapod crustaceans    28 23



**18** Do companies promote decapod crustacean welfare to consumers through education and/or awareness-raising activities?

Companies promoting decapod crustacean welfare to consumers    0 2

Companies providing no evidence of promoting decapod crustacean welfare to consumers    30 28

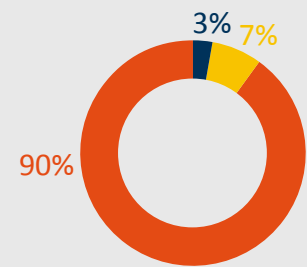


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## Performance Reporting and Impact

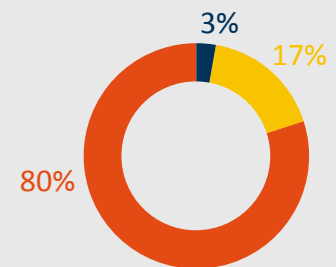
**19** Do companies report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain that are humanely stunned and slaughtered?

Companies reporting fully, across all relevant geographies, species and own-brand products	0	1
Companies reporting partially, limited to certain geographies, species or products	1	2
Companies not reporting	29	27



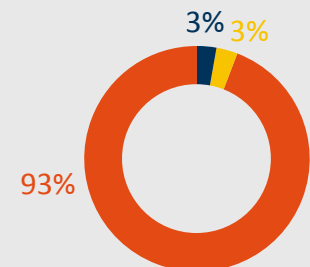
**20** Do companies report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations?

Companies reporting fully, across all relevant geographies, species and own-brand products	0	1
Companies reporting partially, limited to certain geographies, species or products	3	5
Companies not reporting	27	24



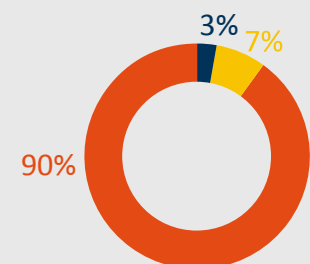
**21** Do companies report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain transported within specified transport times?

Companies reporting fully, across all relevant geographies, species and own-brand products	0	1
Companies reporting partially, limited to certain geographies, species or products	2	1
Companies not reporting	28	28



**22** Do companies report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans captured using specified capture methods?

Companies reporting fully, across all relevant geographies, species and own-brand products	0	1
Companies reporting partially, limited to certain geographies, species or products	0	2
Companies not reporting	30	27



# Recommendations for companies

Companies can advance decapod crustacean welfare standards in their own operations and across the industry by taking the following steps:

-  **1 Publish policy commitments on all key decapod welfare issues** and set objectives for the company's efforts to improve decapod welfare.
-  **2 Report regularly** on the company's progress towards decapod welfare objectives and targets.
-  **3 Adopt higher welfare practices for decapods at every opportunity** and be alert to ways to elevate standards beyond industry minimums.
-  **4 Work together to address challenges as an industry** to raise decapod welfare standards throughout the supply chain.
-  **5 Promote transparency** by communicating with consumers and other stakeholders about decapod welfare.

Guidance on how to improve decapod crustacean welfare standards can be found on the Crustacean Industry Welfare Hub, which includes Crustacean Compassion's Codes of Practice.

[www.ciwhub.org](http://www.ciwhub.org)

## Next steps

The Snapshot will be repeated on a regular basis and will continue to be based exclusively on publicly available information.

Crustacean Compassion understands the iterative nature of benchmarking and that the methodology will need to be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it remains aligned with and reflects current scientific knowledge. For each iteration, the benchmark will publish its methodology as necessary, explaining its assessment approach and commenting on how companies are currently reporting on decapod crustacean welfare.

If you would like your company to be considered for future iterations or for more information on The Snapshot or Crustacean Compassion's work, please contact us on:

[info@crustaceancompassion.org](mailto:info@crustaceancompassion.org)

[www.crustaceancompassion.org](http://www.crustaceancompassion.org)

### Join the Crustacean Industry Welfare Hub (CIWH)

Companies looking to improve decapod welfare standards in their supply chain can find a wealth of helpful information and resources on the Crustacean Industry Welfare Hub. This free, members-only online hub is designed specifically for people working in the seafood industry and related fields.

Visit [www.ciwhub.org](http://www.ciwhub.org) to join today.



# Appendix I

## List of companies covered by the benchmark

	Company	Sector	Ownership	Headquarters (Country)*
1.	ALDI UK (ALDI Süd)	Retailers & Wholesalers	Private	Atherstone, England (HQ in Essen, Germany)
2.	Amazon UK	Retailers & Wholesalers	Public	London, England
3.	ASDA Stores Ltd	Retailers & Wholesalers	Private	Leeds, England
4.	Brakes (subs. of Sysco)	Retailers & Wholesalers	Public	Ashford, England
5.	Iceland Foods	Retailers & Wholesalers	Private	Deeside, Wales
6.	J Sainsbury PLC	Retailers & Wholesalers	Public	London, England
7.	Lidl GB	Retailers & Wholesalers	Private	Tolworth, England (HQ in Neckarsulm, Germany)
8.	Marks and Spencer Group PLC	Retailers & Wholesalers	Public	London, England
9.	Ocado Group	Retailers & Wholesalers	Public	Hatfield, England
10.	Tesco PLC	Retailers & Wholesalers	Public	Welwyn Garden City, England
11.	The Co-operative Group Ltd	Retailers & Wholesalers	Co-operative	Manchester, England
12.	Waitrose Ltd	Retailers & Wholesalers	Private	Bracknell, England
13.	Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd	Retailers & Wholesalers	Private	Bradford, England
14.	Compass Group UK & Ireland (subs. of Compass Group PLC)	Foodservice & Catering	Private	Chertsey, England
15.	Andrew Marr International	Producers & Processors	Private	Hessle, England
16.	Associated Seafoods	Producers & Processors	Private	Buckie, Scotland
17.	Bidfresh (subs. of Bidvest)	Producers & Processors	Public	Southport, England
18.	Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF)	Producers & Processors	Private	Kidderminster, England (HQ in Bangkok, Thailand)
19.	Hilton Food Group	Producers & Processors	Public	Huntingdon, England
20.	Iceland Seafood International	Producers & Processors	Public	Reykjavik, Iceland
21.	Lyons Seafood (subs. of Labeyrie Fine Foods Group)	Producers & Processors	Private	Warminster, England
22.	Macduff Shellfish Group (subs. of Clearwater Seafoods)	Producers & Processors	Private	Mintlaw, Scotland
23.	MacNeil Shellfish	Producers & Processors	Private	Larkhall, Scotland
24.	Northcoast Seafoods (part of Maruha Nichiro Group)	Producers & Processors	Private	Grimsby, England
25.	Orkney Fishermen's Society**	Producers & Processors	Private	Orkney, Scotland
26.	Sykes Seafood (incl. Ruskim Seafoods & The Big Prawn Co.)	Producers & Processors	Private	Knutsford, England
27.	Thai Union	Producers & Processors	Public	Samut Sakhon, Thailand
28.	The Blue Sea Food Company	Producers & Processors	Private	Paignton, England
29.	Whitby Seafoods	Producers & Processors	Private	Whitby, England
30.	Young's Seafood	Producers & Processors	Private	Grimsby, England

\*The benchmark looked at UK operations, as at the time of assessment in July 2023.

\*\*Subsequently acquired by Orkney Crab Ltd

# Appendix II

## Methodology

In March 2022 Crustacean Compassion commissioned Chronos Sustainability ('Chronos') to design and implement an industry benchmark on decapod crustacean welfare. Chronos and Crustacean Compassion reviewed the academic and industry literature and drafted the assessment criteria prior to 'road-testing' the criteria in pilot assessments of five companies. Following a public consultation and engagement with industry representatives in the summer of 2022, Chronos and Crustacean Compassion finalised the benchmark criteria and scope. Based on the feedback received, there was widespread acknowledgement of the need to effectively manage the welfare of decapods as well as broad support for the benchmark as a tool to help drive improvement in company practices.

Additionally, some modifications were made to the benchmark criteria and scope. The most significant change made to the methodology was the decision to assess companies on both published and non-published data, to help build a more complete picture of current company practices and to give companies more time to publish information on their management approaches. It was further decided that individual company rankings would not be published in the first iteration of the benchmark, to enable Crustacean Compassion to collaborate with the industry on its expectations and to learn from the industry about the practical challenges experienced by seafood producers and retailers. However, in line with the benchmark's objective to drive transparency on this issue, it was clearly communicated that future benchmark reports would include company rankings and would focus exclusively on published information.

The first benchmark assessments were carried out in 2022 and the first public report, *The Snapshot 2022*, was released in January 2023. For further detailed information about the development and consultation process for the benchmark, see *The Snapshot 2022* report appendix.<sup>11</sup>

## Assessment approach

The 2023 benchmark assessed 30 UK seafood producers, processors, foodservice companies and retailers on their policies, management and disclosure of decapod crustacean welfare. Companies were selected on the basis of one or more of the following factors: their

market size (i.e. revenue), the estimated proportion of their business related to decapod crustaceans, the scale of their influence within the UK industry or how innovative they appeared to be in addressing decapod crustacean welfare. The focus of the assessment was the corporate entity, rather than subsidiary companies, although evidence available at the subsidiary level was also considered. Whilst the benchmark is focused on the key producers and retailers of decapod crustaceans within the UK market, companies were nonetheless assessed on their global supply chains, i.e. the benchmark assessed companies on products imported into the UK, products exported from the UK and live decapod crustaceans exported from the UK. This was to ensure the same expectations are placed on imported products as on UK products.

In this iteration of the benchmark, companies were assessed on published information only.

## Assessment process

In June 2023 all benchmark companies were sent a copy of *The Snapshot 2023: Preparing for Assessment*, which offered further guidance on the assessment criteria and what assessors would be looking for when compiling scores.

The first step in the assessment process involved a desktop review of company information and the generation of a draft score for each company. This included a detailed review of the content on companies' corporate websites, in annual reports and sustainability reports, and other relevant publications, press releases and social media published by the company directly. The assessment involved a review of parent companies' websites as well as those of their subsidiaries.

Each company assessment report was peer reviewed by the assessment team to ensure consistency in the assessment and scoring approach. Companies were then invited to comment on their preliminary assessment to highlight any information which they felt had been missed or misinterpreted. The assessments were then shared with Crustacean Compassion for a final technical review prior to finalising the reports. The final company assessments, showing individual scores against the criteria and responses to any comments from the company, were shared with the participating companies prior to the launch of the report. The full assessment criteria can be found in Appendix III.



### Comments on the assessment approach

The following high-level comments provide explanations on how company information was assessed against the criteria. The aim of this section is to clarify what the assessors are looking for and to help companies to understand how data is interpreted and scored.

### Acknowledgment of decapod welfare as a business issue (Q1)

This question was looking for an acknowledgment from the company that the welfare of decapod crustaceans is a relevant business issue. This could be a statement on the company's webpage, in a sustainability or annual report or as part of a wider animal welfare policy (either through explicit inclusion of decapods or a lack of obvious exclusion from policies covering their product ranges).

### Policies on decapod crustacean welfare (Q2)

This question was looking for evidence of companies formalising their approach to animal welfare, and specifically to decapod crustacean welfare in a policy (or equivalent document such as a statement of guiding principles, a code of practice or a sourcing charter). Companies were only awarded points for this question if they had also scored points in Q1 (acknowledging decapod welfare as a business issue).

### Policy commitments on key decapod welfare issues (Q4-11)

These questions were looking for a clear company policy on key decapod welfare issues. Statements referring to legislative requirements were not awarded points unless they also made it clear that this was company policy.

### Performance reporting on decapod crustacean welfare (Q19-22)

These questions looked for evidence of specific reporting of the proportion of decapods in a company's supply chain that were humanely stunned, not subjected to mutilations, transported within specified transport times and captured using specified capture methods. Companies were only awarded points if they reported on the proportion of decapods, statements such as 'our decapods' did not qualify for points.



## Appendix III

### Assessment criteria

#### Management Commitment and Policy

Question 1. Does the company acknowledge the welfare of decapod crustaceans as a business issue?		
<b>Rationale</b>	Acknowledging the welfare of decapod crustaceans as a business issue is an important first step towards implementing a comprehensive approach to the responsible sourcing of nephrops, shrimps, crabs and lobsters. It is good practice for food companies to identify whether and why the welfare of decapod crustaceans is a relevant issue for the business.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No evidence that the welfare of decapod crustaceans is regarded as a relevant business issue.	0
	The company identifies decapod crustacean welfare as a relevant business issue.	10
	<b>(Max Score 10)</b>	
Question 2. Does the company publish an explicit commitment to the welfare of decapod crustaceans within an animal welfare policy or within an overarching corporate sustainable sourcing policy?		
<b>Rationale</b>	It is good practice for companies to formalise their approach to animal welfare, and specifically to decapod crustacean welfare in a policy (or equivalent document such as a statement of guiding principles, a code of practice or a sourcing charter). While the existence of a policy may not provide a guarantee of implementation, the absence of a policy is a clear sign that the welfare of decapod crustaceans is not on the business agenda.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No evidence of a formal policy statement (or equivalent) on decapod crustacean welfare.	0
	The company has a commitment to decapod crustacean welfare in a policy statement (or equivalent) but no description of how the policy is to be implemented.	5
	The company has a commitment to decapod crustacean welfare within a policy statement (or equivalent) and a description of the processes in place to ensure that the policy is effectively implemented.	10
	<b>(Max Score 10)</b>	
Question 3. Does the policy statement provide a clear explanation of geographic, decapod crustacean species and product scope?		
<b>Rationale</b>	Understanding the scope of a policy is important to understand the breadth of a company's commitment to action on decapod crustacean welfare.	
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>3a. Geographic scope</b>	
	Geographic scope is not specified.	0
	Scope is limited to certain specified geographies.	2
	Scope is universal across all geographies.	5
	<b>3b. Species scope</b>	
	Species scope is not specified.	0
	Scope is limited to certain specified species.	2
	Scope is universal across all relevant species.	5
	<b>3c. Product scope</b>	
	Product scope is not specified.	0
	Scope is limited to certain specified products (such as own-brand products).	2
	Scope is universal across own-brand and other brand products.	5
<b>(Max Score 15)</b>		

<b>Question 4.</b>	<b>Does the company have a clear commitment to reduce the negative effects of capture method on decapod crustacean welfare by adapting equipment, fishing and handling practices during and immediately following capture?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	The extent of welfare compromise experienced during capture using trawling, pots, creels or gill nets is significantly affected by the method used but can include exposure to shifts in barometric pressure, salinity and temperature as well as physical trauma/injury/crushing, exhaustion, fear and death. Pots and traps can also cause serious problems if lost or discarded as the lost gear may continue to capture aquatic animals. Some of the challenges posed to the animals can be reduced to some extent through adapting equipment, fishing and handling practices during and immediately following capture, for example, by adjusting mesh size, changing the frequency that pots are checked, or adjusting the design of pots to enable escape.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No stated position.	0
	The company makes a partial commitment to reduce the negative effects of capture method on decapod crustacean welfare but the scope (in terms of geography, species or products) is not clearly defined.	1
	The company makes a partial commitment to reduce the negative effects of capture method on decapod crustacean welfare and the scope of the commitment (in terms of geography, species or products) is clearly defined.	3
	The company makes a universal commitment to reduce the negative effects of capture method on decapod crustacean welfare across all relevant species, own-brand and other brand products and geographies.	5
	<b>(Max Score 5)</b>	

<b>Question 5.</b>	<b>Does the company have a clear commitment to reduce bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	High levels of bycatch can be associated with decapod crustacean fishing, including undersized individuals of the target species and other non-target species of decapod crustacean. Even when returned to the sea alive, many unintentionally caught animals suffer morbidity and mortality as a result of the stressors experienced during the catching and sorting processes. Changes to fishing practices and equipment, for example retrieval of lost pots or the design and materials used for nets and pots, can facilitate a reduction in the level of bycatch. Refinement – and reduced duration – of on-board handling and sorting practices can also help improve the ability of discarded bycatch to survive and thrive on return to the sea.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No stated position.	0
	The company makes a partial commitment to reducing bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing but the scope (in terms of geography, species or products) is not clearly defined.	1
	The company makes a partial commitment to reducing bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing and the scope of the commitment (in terms of geography, species or products) is clearly defined.	3
	The company makes a universal commitment to reducing bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing across all relevant species, own-brand and other brand products and geographies.	5
	<b>(Max Score 5)</b>	

<b>Question 6.</b>	<b>Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of non-therapeutic* mutilation of decapod crustaceans, which, in the case of wild-caught decapods, includes prohibiting their subsequent return to the ocean? <i>*Defined as not having a direct welfare benefit for the animal</i></b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	Decapod crustaceans are subjected to mutilation procedures in farmed/brood stocks and post-capture that alter their bodies, causing unnecessary pain and distress. These include eyestalk ablation, claw nicking and declawing. Mutilation of decapod crustaceans is only permitted if undertaken by a veterinary surgeon for direct benefit to the welfare of the animal.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No stated position.	0
	The company has made a partial commitment to the avoidance of mutilations but the scope (in terms of geography, species or products) is not clearly defined.	1
	The company has made a partial commitment to the avoidance of mutilations and the scope (in terms of geography, species or products) is clearly defined.	3
	The company makes a universal commitment to the avoidance of mutilations across all relevant species, own-brand and other branded products and geographies.	5
	<b>(Max Score 5)</b>	

<b>Question 7.</b>	<b>Does the company have a clear position on appropriate species-specific holding conditions (during post-capture, holding for processing and retail stage) that takes account of each species' physical, physiological and behavioural needs?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	Large numbers of decapod crustaceans are subjected to some form of holding or storage at various stages from the time they are captured in the wild or 'harvested' on farms until they are killed. This includes on-board storage post-capture, during pre-and post-transport periods, prior to killing/processing and while on live display in retail outlets, restaurants and live markets. The duration of storage can vary, sometimes being for several months. The conditions – and associated welfare challenges – are hugely variable. Depending on the species and duration of storage, the animals may be held in water tanks with or without water recirculation, in air at various levels of humidity/moisture and sometimes directly on ice. Hence, the welfare risks to which the animals are exposed during holding/storage include inappropriate and fluctuating temperature, poor water quality (including salinity), exposure to air, light and noise, food deprivation/starvation, overcrowding, mixing with conspecifics and other species, behavioural restrictions (including through claw banding), inability to hide and rough/careless handling, including when 'graded' for size and quality. As a result, the animals can suffer significant stress, physiological and immunological disturbances, hunger, muscle depletion, injury, morbidity and mortality.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No stated position.	0
	The company makes a partial commitment to ensuring appropriate species-specific holding conditions but the scope (in terms of geography, species or products) is not clearly defined.	1
	The company makes a partial commitment to ensuring appropriate species-specific holding conditions and the scope of the commitment (in terms of geography, species or products) is clearly defined.	3
	The company makes a universal commitment to ensuring appropriate species-specific holding conditions across all relevant species, own-brand and other brand products and geographies.	5
	<b>(Max Score 5)</b>	

<b>Question 8.</b>	<b>Does the company have a clear position on appropriate species-specific conditions during transport that takes account of each species’ physical, physiological and behavioural needs?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	Decapod crustaceans are subjected to a broad range of conditions on journeys of widely differing duration, some lasting several days. Common transport practices expose decapod crustaceans to multiple stressors, including inappropriate and/or fluctuating temperatures and other environmental conditions (e.g., water quality), unsuitable packaging/containment, overcrowding, stacking, air exposure, vibration, noise, light and manual handling. Confinement in close proximity to others of the same or sometimes different species also poses welfare challenges. The loading and the unloading processes also involve exposure to stressors such as temperature change, and air and sun exposure. Transport is defined as including loading and unloading.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No stated position.	0
	The company makes a partial commitment to ensuring appropriate species-specific transport conditions but the scope (in terms of geography, species or products) is not clearly defined.	1
	The company makes a partial commitment to ensuring appropriate species-specific transport conditions and the scope of the commitment (in terms of geography, species or products) is clearly defined.	3
	The company makes a universal commitment to ensuring appropriate species-specific transport conditions across all relevant species, own-brand and other brand products and geographies.	5
	<b>(Max Score 5)</b>	

<b>Question 9.</b>	<b>Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of long-duration live transportation of decapod crustaceans?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	When being transported, animals can experience hunger, discomfort, pain, frustration, fear and distress, as well as physical welfare problems including injury, disease and death. For these reasons, transport of live decapod crustaceans should be minimised wherever possible and journeys should be kept as short as possible.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No stated position.	0
	The company makes a partial commitment to avoid/reduce the duration of live transport of decapod crustaceans but the scope (in terms of geography, species or products) is not clearly defined.	1
	The company makes a partial commitment to avoid/reduce the duration of live transport of decapod crustaceans and the scope of the commitment (in terms of geography, species or products) is clearly defined.	3
	The company makes a universal commitment to avoid/reduce the duration of live transport of decapod crustaceans across all relevant species, own-brand and other brand products and geographies.	5
	<b>(Max Score 5)</b>	

<b>Question 10.</b>	<b>Does the company have a clear position on requiring all decapod crustaceans to be humanely stunned and slaughtered, using methods that result in instantaneous insensibility to pain and distress or where insensibility is induced without causing pain and distress and is maintained until death occurs?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Decapod crustaceans should only be stunned using electrical stunning, resulting in instantaneous* insensibility to pain and distress or where insensibility is induced without causing pain and distress. This insensible state must be maintained until death occurs. Stunning methods that are not supported include: chilling, wet/ice chilling, chemical anaesthetics, CO2 gassing.</p> <p>Following effective stunning, slaughter/killing should be performed immediately and using a method where the insensible state persists until death occurs, without pain or distress.</p> <p><i>* within one second</i></p>	
<b>Scoring</b>	No stated position.	0
	The company makes a partial commitment to requiring all decapod crustaceans to be humanely stunned and slaughtered but the scope (in terms of geography, species or products) is not clearly defined.	2
	The company makes a partial commitment to requiring all decapod crustaceans to be humanely stunned and slaughtered and the scope of the commitment (in terms of geography, species or products) is clearly defined.	6
	The company makes a universal commitment to requiring all decapod crustaceans to be humanely stunned and slaughtered across all relevant species, own-brand and other brand products and geographies.	10
	<b>(Max Score 10)</b>	

<b>Question 11.</b>	<b>Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of live sale of decapod crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>The displaying of live decapod crustaceans in retailer outlets and restaurants presents significant welfare and ethical issues. The welfare concerns are further exacerbated by uncertainties about the competency and methodology surrounding the subsequent killing of the animals in such outlets or in consumer homes (in the case of retail outlets).</p>	
<b>Scoring</b>	No stated position.	0
	The company makes a partial commitment to avoid live sale of decapod crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers but the scope (in terms of geography, species or products) is not clearly defined.	1
	The company makes a partial commitment to avoid live sale of decapod crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers and the scope of the commitment (in terms of geography, species or products) is clearly defined.	3
	The company makes a universal commitment to avoid live sale of decapod crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers across all relevant species, own-brand and other brand products and geographies.	5
	<b>(Max score 5)</b>	

**Governance and Management**

<b>Question 12.</b>	<b>Has the company assigned management responsibility for the welfare of decapod crustaceans to an individual or specified committee?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	When looking at the management of decapod crustacean welfare, both oversight and implementation responsibilities are important. Oversight is necessary to ensure that senior management is aware of the business implications of animal welfare and is prepared to intervene when needed (e.g. if there are tensions between the organisation’s animal welfare policy and other business objectives). However, it is often the case that those charged with oversight know relatively little about the specific details of how to effectively manage animal welfare. It is, therefore, important that there are individual(s) responsible for ensuring that the animal welfare policy is implemented and that animal welfare is effectively managed.	
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>12a. Management responsibility</b>	
	No clearly defined management responsibility.	0
	The company has published details of the management position with responsibility for decapod welfare on a day-to-day basis.	5
	<b>12b. Board or senior management responsibility</b>	
	No clearly defined board or senior management responsibility.	0
	The company has published details of how the board or senior management oversees the implementation of the company’s decapod crustacean welfare policy.	5
	<b>(Max score 10)</b>	

<b>Question 13.</b>	<b>Has the company set objectives and targets for the management of decapod crustacean welfare?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	Objectives and targets are the point where policy commitments are translated into substantive action, and where resources and responsibilities are allocated for the delivery of these objectives and targets.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No published objectives and targets.	0
	The company has published objectives and targets but with no or limited information on how these are to be achieved.	5
	The company has published objectives and targets together with information on the actions to be taken to achieve these, the resources allocated and the schedule for the delivery of these objectives and targets.	10
	<b>(Max score 10)</b>	

<b>Question 14.</b>	<b>Does the company report on its progress against its improvement objectives or targets linked to improving the welfare of decapod crustaceans?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	Companies should provide an explanation of progress against their objectives and targets.	
<b>Scoring</b>	The company does not provide an explanation of progress against its objectives and targets.	0
	The company provides an explanation of progress against at least one objective or target.	3
	The company provides an explanation of progress on how it has performed against its multiple objectives and targets.	5
	<b>(Max score 5)</b>	

<b>Question 15. Does the company describe its internal processes for ensuring that its policy on decapod crustacean welfare is effectively implemented?</b>		
<b>Rationale</b>	The effective implementation of an animal welfare policy relies on employees who are competent to oversee the implementation of the policy, and on controls that allow the company to respond quickly and effectively in the event of non-compliance with the policy. Evidence-based training of employees and refresher training of crew/staff on decapod crustacean welfare, based on the latest knowledge of species-specific needs, is important in ensuring knowledge transfer and implementation of the company's policies.	
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>15a. Employee training</b>	
	No information provided on employee training in decapod crustacean welfare.	0
	The company provides specific training to employees in decapod crustacean welfare.	5
	<b>15b. Actions taken in the event of non-compliance</b>	
	The company provides no information on the actions to be taken in the event of non-compliance with its policy on decapod crustacean welfare.	0
	The company describes the actions it takes in the event of non-compliance with its policy on decapod crustacean welfare.	5
	<b>(Max score 10)</b>	

<b>Question 16. Does the company describe how it implements its policy on decapod crustacean welfare (or equivalent) through its supply chain?</b>		
<b>Rationale</b>	Many of the business risks and opportunities associated with animal welfare relate to companies' supply chains. Companies have the ability to influence their suppliers' performance both formally (e.g., through contracts, auditing processes) and informally (e.g., through capacity building and education).	
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>16a. Does the company describe how it implements its policy (or equivalent) on decapod crustacean welfare through its supply chain via supplier contracts?</b>	
	No information on how decapod crustacean welfare is included in supplier contracts.	0
	The company incorporates decapod crustacean welfare into contractual obligations for suppliers, but this is limited by geography and/or certain products or species.	3
	The company incorporates decapod crustacean welfare into contractual obligations for suppliers across all species, products and geographies.	5
	<b>16b. Does the company describe how it implements its policy (or equivalent) on decapod crustacean welfare through its supply chain via monitoring, auditing or certification?</b>	
	No information provided on how supplier compliance with contract conditions is monitored.	0
	The company specifies decapod crustacean welfare as part of supplier auditing or certification programme.	5
	<b>16c. Does the company describe how it implements its policy (or equivalent) on decapod crustacean welfare through its supply chain via education and support?</b>	
	No information on support and/or education provided to suppliers on decapod crustacean welfare.	0
	The company provides specific support and/or education to suppliers on decapod crustacean welfare policy/issues.	5
	<b>(Max score 15)</b>	



**Innovation and Leadership**

<b>Question 17.</b>	<b>Is the company currently investing in projects dedicated to advancing the welfare of decapod crustaceans within the industry?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Decapod crustacean welfare is a collective issue for the food industry as well as being an individual issue for each company in the industry. Making progress and raising standards across the industry requires individual companies to support research and development programmes to improve decapod crustacean welfare, to share their knowledge and expertise with their suppliers and with their industry peers, to play a supportive role in public policy debates, and to support industry and stakeholder initiatives directed at improving decapod crustacean welfare.</p> <p>Only those industry initiatives and research that are explicitly related to improving decapod crustacean welfare and that the company has played a significant role in are eligible to be scored. Industry initiatives can include roundtables or working groups dedicated to decapod crustacean welfare.</p>	
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>17a. Involvement in research and development</b>	
	No evidence of company involvement in research and development programmes to improve the welfare of decapod crustaceans.	0
	Evidence of current company involvement in research and development programmes to improve the welfare of decapod crustaceans.	5
	<b>17b. Involvement in industry or other initiatives</b>	
	No evidence of active company involvement in industry or other initiatives directed at improving the welfare of decapod crustaceans.	0
	Evidence of active company involvement in industry or other initiatives (e.g., working groups, supporting NGO activities, responding to government consultations) directed at improving the welfare of decapod crustaceans.	5
	<b>(Max score 10)</b>	

<b>Question 18.</b>	<b>Does the company promote decapod crustacean welfare to consumers through education and/or awareness-raising activities?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Companies have an important role to play in raising awareness of decapod crustacean welfare among their customers and clients. This, in turn, should contribute to increases in demand for higher welfare products.</p> <p>In order to receive a score of 5 or 10, the focus of activities should be on decapod crustacean welfare. The activities that can be considered in this question include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provision of information about decapod crustacean welfare on the company’s website (as an integral part of customer communications and engagement).</li> <li>• On-pack or on-shelf labelling – provided this is evidenced on the company’s website, in its published reports or on social media platforms.</li> <li>• Information leaflets or information packs.</li> <li>• Media promotions.</li> <li>• Supporting third party campaigns or programmes on decapod crustacean welfare.</li> <li>• Social media campaigns.</li> </ul>	
<b>Scoring</b>	No evidence of promoting decapod crustacean welfare to consumers.	0
	At least one example of promoting decapod crustacean welfare to consumers.	5
	<b>(Max score 5)</b>	

## Performance Reporting and Impact

Question 19.	<b>Does the company report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain that are humanely stunned and slaughtered?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Companies making public commitments to humane stunning and slaughter of decapod crustaceans should report on the proportion that are humanely stunned and slaughtered.</p> <p>Decapod crustaceans should only be stunned using electrical stunning, resulting in instantaneous* insensibility to pain and distress or where insensibility is induced without causing pain and distress. This insensible state must be maintained until death occurs. Stunning methods that are not supported include: chilling, wet/ice chilling, chemical anaesthetics, CO2 gassing.</p> <p>Following effective stunning, slaughter/killing should be performed immediately and using a method where the insensible state persists until death occurs, without pain or distress.</p> <p><i>*within one second</i></p>	
<b>Scoring</b>	No reporting on the proportion of decapod crustaceans that are humanely stunned and slaughtered.	0
	The company reports on the proportion of decapod crustaceans that are humanely stunned and slaughtered, but this reporting is limited to certain geographies, species or products.	3
	The company reports fully on the proportion of decapod crustaceans that are humanely stunned and slaughtered, covering all relevant geographies, species and products.	5
	<b>(Max score 5)</b>	

Question 20.	<b>Does the company report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Companies making public commitments to avoidance of mutilations of decapod crustaceans should report on the proportion that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations. Non-therapeutic mutilations include eyestalk ablation, claw nicking and declawing.</p>	
<b>Scoring</b>	No reporting on the proportion of decapod crustaceans that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations.	0
	The company reports on the proportion of decapod crustaceans that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations, but this reporting is limited to certain geographies, species or products.	3
	The company reports fully on the proportion of decapod crustaceans that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations, covering all relevant geographies, species and products.	5
	<b>(Max score 5)</b>	

<b>Question 21.</b>	<b>Does the company report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company’s supply chain transported within specified transport times?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	In addition to having clear policy commitments and management practices, companies are expected to maintain strict measurement criteria for animals in their supply chain. This question is looking specifically at measures linked to the live transportation of decapod crustaceans in their supply chains.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No reporting on the proportion of decapod crustaceans transported within specified transport times.	0
	The company reports on the proportion of decapod crustaceans transported within specified transport times, but this reporting is limited to certain geographies, species or products.	3
	The company reports fully on the proportion of decapod crustaceans transported within specified transport times, covering all relevant geographies, species and products.	5
	<b>(Max score 5)</b>	

<b>Question 22.</b>	<b>Does the company report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans captured using specified capture methods?</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	In addition to having clear policy commitments and management practices, companies are expected to maintain measurement criteria for decapod crustaceans in their supply chain. This question is looking specifically at measures linked to the capture method used for different species of decapod crustaceans. The many, often severe challenges faced by decapod crustaceans during capture or harvesting are the cause of very significant welfare issues. These are suffered both at the time and also in the longer term, having an impact on the welfare and survival during onward travel and storage. Measuring and reporting on capture method is an important step in addressing welfare during capture and moving to less harmful methods of capture.	
<b>Scoring</b>	No reporting on the proportion of decapod crustaceans captured using specified capture methods.	0
	The company reports on the proportion of decapod crustaceans captured using specified capture methods, but this reporting is limited to certain geographies, species or products.	3
	The company reports fully on the proportion of decapod crustaceans captured using specified capture methods, covering all relevant geographies, species and products.	5
	<b>(Max score 5)</b>	

# Glossary

<b>Animal/decapod crustacean welfare</b>	The physical and mental wellbeing of animals/decapod crustaceans and the freedom to express behaviours that are innate to them.
<b>Aquaculture</b>	The farming of aquatic animals, including crustaceans, fish and molluscs.
<b>Benchmark</b>	A corporate benchmark is a tool used to evaluate how companies are approaching and managing a particular issue, for example, animal welfare or human health. It helps stakeholders (who may include companies, investors, consumers and NGOs) to understand corporate practice on a particular issue by providing a ranking or rating of company performance, whilst also providing a clear set of expectations for companies as to how to improve their policies and performance on the issue.
<b>Bycatch</b>	The incidental capture and morbidity and/or mortality of non-target marine animals during fishing. This includes undersized individuals of the target species and other non-target species of decapod crustacean.
<b>Cold water prawns</b>	Wild-caught prawns originating from the cold water of the North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean.
<b>Claw nicking</b>	The process of claw nicking involves the fracturing of the apodemes and the cutting of tendons in the dactyls of claws to prevent functioning. It is performed on large decapod crustaceans such as crabs and lobsters. Claw nicking is done in preparation for the transport and storage of decapods. Research has shown that the process of claw nicking is extremely harmful to the animals as the painful wounds can lead to blood loss, infection, death. Claw nicking also prohibits freedom to express natural behaviour as claws are essential for natural movement and activity for these animals <sup>2,3</sup>
<b>Creels and pots</b>	Baited pots, traps and creels are commonly used types of fishing gear for capturing decapod crustaceans. They are designed to enable the target species to enter but not to leave the catching chamber.
<b>Decapod / Decapod crustacean</b>	An order of crustaceans from the Greek meaning '10-limbed'. They include crabs, lobsters, nephrops, prawns, shrimps and crayfish.
<b>Declawing</b>	The practice of manually removing one or both claws from live crabs or other decapod crustaceans. There is clear evidence that declawing causes trauma, stress and pain to the animals. There is also evidence that declawed animals show increased morbidity and mortality if returned to the sea following declawing, as they are less able to feed, defend themselves or compete for resources <sup>2,3</sup> .

<b>Eyestalk ablation</b>	A widespread practice of removing one or both eyestalks of (farmed) breeding female shrimps or prawns, often without anaesthetic, in order to increase egg production and reproductive success. There is clear evidence that the practice causes trauma, stress and pain to the animals. Alternative methods to increase reproductive success are available <sup>2,3</sup> .
<b>Food companies</b>	Food businesses including producers, processors, manufacturers and food retailers.
<b>Non-therapeutic mutilations</b>	Mutilations are procedures that destroy, remove or irreparably damage the limbs or other body parts of animals. Decapod crustaceans are subjected to mutilation procedures in farmed/broodstock and post-capture that alter their bodies, causing unnecessary pain and distress. These common practices include eyestalk ablation, claw nicking and declawing <sup>2,3</sup> . Non-therapeutic mutations are defined as those not having a direct welfare benefit for the animal.
<b>Sentience</b>	To be sentient is to have positive or negative experiences, such as experiences of pain, pleasure, comfort, warmth, hunger, anxiety or joy.
<b>Stunning</b>	A process ensuring that an animal is (instantaneously) unconscious and insensible to pain before being slaughtered. Following effective stunning, the slaughter/killing should be performed immediately and using a method where the insensible state persists until death occurs, without pain or distress. Effective stunning, which is guaranteed to last throughout the entire process, must take place prior to slaughter, regardless of the slaughter method used <sup>2,3</sup> .
<b>Electrical stunning</b>	A method of stunning which involves an electrical current being passed through the animal, rendering them insensible prior to slaughter. Evidence indicates that electrical stunning can deliver a quick, effective and humane stun to decapod crustaceans including crabs, lobsters, crayfish and shrimp, when appropriate electrical parameters are applied for the species <sup>2,3</sup> .
<b>Thermal stunning/ice chilling</b>	A process of placing live crustaceans in ice slurry post-capture as a method of stunning and killing. Evidence indicates that use of wet/ice chilling as a stunning method is associated with both welfare concerns and doubts regarding its efficacy. Whilst this process may make the animal appear still, evidence suggests this is due to a paralytic state rather than induction of instantaneous insensibility, therefore it is not considered to be a humane method of stunning or slaughter <sup>2,3</sup> .
<b>Warm water prawns</b>	Prawns, most commonly farmed, originating from warm waters across the world, mostly coming from Asia and Latin America. They include the Black Tiger ( <i>Panaeus monodon</i> ) and Vannamei or Whiteleg shrimp ( <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> ) species.

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Guidance on how to improve decapod crustacean welfare standards can be found on the Crustacean Industry Welfare Hub [www.ciwhub.org](http://www.ciwhub.org)