





Crustacean Compassion is an animal welfare charity 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

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.

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Foreword

When Crustacean Compassion launched The Snapshot in 2022, decapod crustacean welfare was still widely – and wrongly – treated as an optional extra in seafood supply chains. In just a few years, this benchmark has helped transform that perception.

Voluntary welfare improvements by major retailers and seafood suppliers have been accompanied by legislative advances. Today, with the government confirming it will issue guidance to clarify how the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (WATOK) Regulations 2015 apply to crabs, lobsters, prawns, nephrops and shrimp, it is clearer than ever that humane treatment is not a matter of choice but of compliance, accountability, and ethics. Although the guidance had not yet been published at the time of writing, the government's new Animal Welfare Strategy for England (published December 2025) gave advance warning that boiling alive is not an acceptable method of killing decapods.

Furthermore, experts responsible for advising ministers on the treatment of sentient animals have joined the call for sharper legal clarity. In a letter dated January 2026, members of the Animal Sentience Committee urged the government to revisit the legal definition of 'animal' and include decapod crustaceans in all animal welfare legislation.

By finally addressing the lack of parity between decapods and other animals in the food system similarly capable of feeling pain, fear, and joy, the law is simply following industry's lead. The Snapshot 2025 demonstrates how rapidly industry practice can move once expectations are visible, comparable, and grounded in science.

This year is a watershed. In 2025, yet more companies realised that commitments to better decapod welfare are not only morally necessary; they are commercially astute. As investors, retailers, and diners become more sensitive to animal welfare, companies that can demonstrate robust policies, measurable progress, and transparent reporting are better placed to protect their reputation and market share. As standards change and baselines are set, the undercutting of prices will end. The businesses at the top of this benchmark are already showing what it looks like to raise the ceiling. And will benefit as a result.

The task ahead is twofold. First, every company in this report must move quickly to ensure that no decapod in its supply chain is boiled, dismembered, frozen, or otherwise killed while conscious. Second, the sector as a whole must broaden its focus beyond slaughter to encompass the full lived experience of these animals – from capture at sea or on farms, through holding, transport and any mutilations, to the point of death. The Snapshot provides the structure and the metrics to support that journey, but real change depends on leadership within businesses and on continued pressure from policymakers, investors, civil society, and the public.

Every sector in the sea-to-plate journey has a role to play in ensuring better welfare outcomes for decapods. Just as leaders within the retail, processing, fishing, and aquaculture sectors have made strides forward, it is time for the hospitality industry to take responsibility for the practical and cultural impact it has on crustacean consumption. Chefs and restaurants, especially those enjoying high-profile positions in the public consciousness, have a duty to understand and meet their ethical obligations over the sourcing, handling, and killing of decapods. We have shown our commitment to working collaboratively across the supply chain with the launch last year of our Kinder Kitchens campaign, which aims to support chefs' transition to higher welfare practices.

Crustacean Compassion exists to ensure that sentient animals who have long been invisible to the law are no longer invisible to decision makers. The progress captured in this 2025 report shows what determined collaboration between NGOs, experts, and industry can achieve in a short time. It should also stiffen our resolve. With legal expectations becoming clearer, and welfare science unequivocal, there is no justification for inaction. The companies that choose to move with the tide will not only protect animals; they will help define what a humane, future ready seafood sector looks like.

Dr Ben Sturgeon
Chief Executive Officer
Crustacean Compassion

Introduction

Despite being legally recognised as sentient in the UK since 2022, no further legislative or statutory safeguards have followed for decapod crustaceans, meaning that until recently their welfare had still been largely viewed as a voluntary matter for the seafood industry. However, in December 2025, the government took its biggest step towards enforcing higher welfare standards since the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act¹ four years ago by confirming it will issue new guidance on the current law around humane slaughter of decapods².

By issuing clear guidance on which slaughter methods for decapod crustaceans such as crabs, lobsters, prawns, nephrops and crayfish comply with the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulations 2015³ (WATOK) and, crucially, which do not, the UK government would finally remove long-standing uncertainty about which stunning and slaughter methods are considered humane in the eyes of the law.

While the announcement that boiling alive, for example, is not a legally acceptable means of killing sent shockwaves through much of an industry that had still been relying on common but inhumane methods of slaughter, such as boiling, dismembering and freezing while alive and conscious, for many of the companies featured in The Snapshot, it prompted no surprise or concern. For those businesses, the law simply underscored the ethical decisions they had already taken some time ago.

Conceived in 2022 with expert consultants Chronos Sustainability, The Snapshot was designed as a collaborative tool to provide accountability and guidance for companies in the seafood industry. Assessing 30 retailers, producers, processors and foodservice companies – including all major UK supermarkets – the benchmark considers both wild-caught and farmed decapods. The assessment is focused on their welfare at the following stages of the supply chain: capture and handling, holding and storage, transport, mutilations, stunning and slaughter. See **pages 7 and 37** for a full list of companies covered by the benchmark.

Although The Snapshot's main function is to monitor and report on welfare policies in the food industry, it has also served as a roadmap for businesses that want to drive up standards in their own operations, ahead of their competitors and the law. With a record number of companies committing in 2025 to adopt electrical stunning and eliminate inhumane practices from their supply chain, those enterprises are now

enjoying the commercial benefits sparked by increased accountability and scrutiny.

As the industry's collective approach evolves, so too must the benchmark methodology adapt to ensure companies are assessed on the most relevant metrics and held to account for the welfare objectives and targets they have set. In early summer 2025 Crustacean Compassion held a public consultation on The Snapshot assessment framework, inviting feedback on proposed changes to some questions, along with open comments on any aspect of the methodology.

The consultation resulted in some minor changes to the scoring framework, including how companies report on the proportion of decapods humanely stunned and slaughtered, and not subjected to mutilations. An outcome of these changes was an increase in total points available in the assessment and as a result, some companies received lower overall point scores, not because their welfare standards declined, but simply due to the expanded scoring system. See the **Benchmark Structure section on page 6** and the **Methodology section on page 39** for more information.

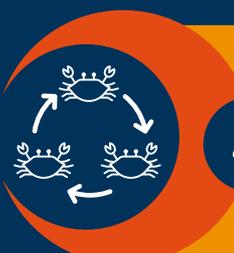
With new legal guidance expected, alongside ever more demanding welfare expectations from consumers and business partners alike, those companies still not taking action on decapod welfare will find it increasingly difficult to justify their failure to move with the tide.



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 decapods as food. Instead, it welcomes good practice in the food industry and believes that all decapods – 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 171 points is available.**



**80 points available
(47% 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 policy, 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
(29% 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.



**26 points available
(15% 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 performance

⬆️ Indicates how many tiers the company has moved up or down
 ⊕ Improved score but not changed Tier

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
Marks and Spencer Group PLC ⊕	Associated Seafoods ⊕	Ocado Retail Ltd	ALDI UK (ALDI SOUTH Group) ⬆️	Amazon UK
NEW New England Seafood International - Paignton	Hilton Food Group ⊕	The Co-operative Group Ltd ⊕	Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF) ⬇️	Andrew Marr International
Sykes Seafood ⬆️⬆️	J Sainsbury PLC ⊕	Whitby Seafoods ⬆️	Compass Group UK & Ireland	ASDA Stores Ltd
Young's Seafood	Lyons Seafoods ⊕		Iceland Foods Ltd ⬆️	Bidfresh
	Macduff Shellfish Group		Lidl GB ⊕	Brakes
	NEW Orkney Crab		Wm Morrison ⊕	MacNeil Shellfish
	Seafresh Group ⊕			Northcoast Seafoods
	Tesco PLC			Thai Union
	Waitrose Ltd			

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):

Since The Snapshot 2024 report was produced, The Blue Sea Food Company has been acquired by New England Seafood International. This has resulted in the new entrant New England Seafood International - Paignton.

We understand that since the assessment was carried out in September 2025, Lyons Seafoods has been offered for sale. However, the company remained under the ownership of Labeyrie Fine Foods at the time of the assessment.

Orkney Fishermen's Society was originally assessed in 2022 and 2023 before it was acquired by Orkney Crab, a subsidiary of PDK Shellfish – this led to PDK Shellfish becoming the assessed entity in 2024. We have been informed that Orkney Crab Ltd is now a separate company and so replaced PDK Shellfish as a new assessed entity in 2025.

Maruha Nichiro, parent company of Northcoast Seafoods, has changed its name to Umios.

See **Appendix II** for company scores.



Key findings

Key finding

1

Decapod crustacean welfare remains a hot topic for the UK food industry

For the first time, a processor leads the scoring as four companies achieve top tier status

The overall average company score has increased to 46% - compared to 14% in 2022

Nearly half of companies (13, 43%) improved their score in 2025

Key finding

2

Policy change is led by commitments to humane stunning and slaughter

Nearly two thirds of companies (63%) now commit to address inhumane practices at the time of killing

More companies are investigating how to address welfare at slaughter for species such as cold water prawns and nephrops

Key finding

3

Producers and processors continue to outperform retailers

Suppliers outnumber supermarkets in the top two tiers as the performance gap between sectors widens

Processors continue to invest more resources in innovation and welfare research than retailers

Key finding

4

Transparency must continue to improve

Performance and impact reporting has increased but is still the lowest scoring area of the benchmark

It is crucial that companies demonstrate how they are meeting their policy commitments by reporting on their impact

Key finding

5

Companies should be more ambitious about their welfare strategies

The number of companies setting targets for the management of decapod welfare has risen to 53%, an improvement of 7%

However, there is a continued reluctance to take ownership of the issue with eye-catching consumer communications

Key finding

1

Decapod crustacean welfare remains a hot topic for the UK food industry

Far from being a flash in the pan, decapod welfare continues to gain momentum as a business issue. Supermarkets, processors and foodservice companies are demanding more from their suppliers, driving industry welfare standards upwards yet again.

This cross-industry momentum is clearly seen in the 2025 benchmark results as, for the first time, a processor has moved into the lead with the highest company score. The number of companies in Tier 1 has doubled to four (13%) and only one of those is a retailer.

From the moment of harvest to the end of life, the welfare experience of many decapods in the UK food supply chain is continuing to improve. For the third consecutive year, The Snapshot 2025 reveals that company performances overall show steady, sustained progress – across the board of welfare policy areas, as well as much of the company field. Individually, some notable changes have occurred since the last assessment, with the new leader's performance being the most improved of all.

Some may have assumed the UK legal recognition of decapod sentience in 2022 would make brief headlines before fading into the background. However, from autonomous business activity to the broader industry picture, this animal welfare issue shows no sign of disappearing. In fact, the push for better decapod welfare is only growing stronger, with rising public awareness and strengthened industry commitments to research and innovation.

The impact is not just being felt in the domestic supply chain. With more retailers and processors insisting on higher standards from sea (or farm) to plate, suppliers all over the world are now facing demands for better welfare if they want to stay competitive in the UK market. Species now covered by various areas of welfare policy by numerous companies include warm water prawns (*vannamei* and *monodon*), Canadian and European lobsters, and Australian spiny lobsters – while some businesses are also pressing suppliers to address welfare risks for species including cold water prawns and Argentinean red shrimp.

A rising tide lifts all boats

This upward movement is highlighted by some key elements of The Snapshot 2025's data. For example, the overall average company score rose from 40% in 2024 to 46% in 2025 (Figure 1). This figure has now more than trebled since The Snapshot's inception in 2022, when it stood at just 14%.

For the first time in The Snapshot's history, there are now four companies in Tier 1 (scoring 81% or above), which is categorised as companies leading the way on decapod welfare management and disclosure. Last year's leader, retailer Marks & Spencer, and processor Young's Seafood are now joined by New England Seafood International - Paignton and a new highest scorer, Sykes Seafood – which leaped up two tiers and claimed the top spot.

Three other companies – Iceland, ALDI and Whitby Seafoods – moved upwards by one tier, which represents a step in the right direction towards making decapod welfare integral to their sourcing policies. New entrant Orkney Crab joined the benchmark in Tier 2, categorised as companies that treat decapod welfare as an integral part of their business strategy.

At the lower end of the table, the number of companies in the bottom tier (scoring between 0% and 20%) fell from 11 in 2024 to eight in 2025. Only one company, producer Andrew Marr International, remains on 0%. Thirteen companies (43%) improved their score and half of the cohort (15 companies) earned over 50% of the total available points, compared to 13 (43%) last year.

Eight companies (27%) retained the same score as last year and seven (23%) saw their scores decrease. Reductions and stasis were mostly due to the new Snapshot scoring methodology for 2025 rather than significant drops in welfare provision.

Across all the four core pillars of the benchmark – Management Commitment and Policy, Governance and Management, Innovation and Leadership, and Performance Reporting and Impact – the average company score has continued to rise, with the most improvement seen this time in the formation, publication and management of welfare policy. This means more companies are getting on board with decapod welfare and increasing transparency around how they intend to meet welfare objectives and targets.

Figure 1: Average scores 2022 – 2025 (%)

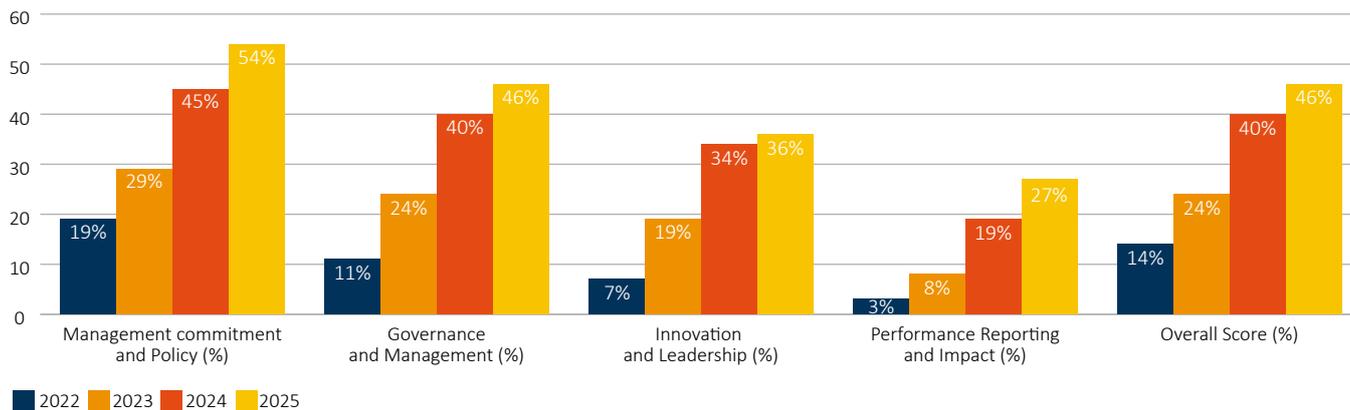
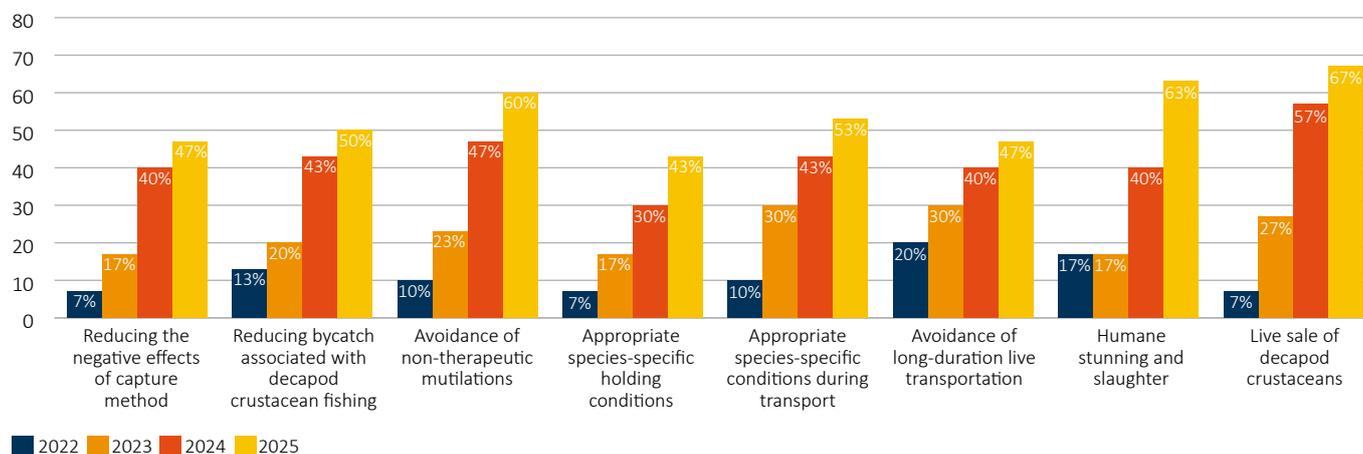


Figure 2: Percentage of companies with policies on key decapod welfare issues 2022 – 2025



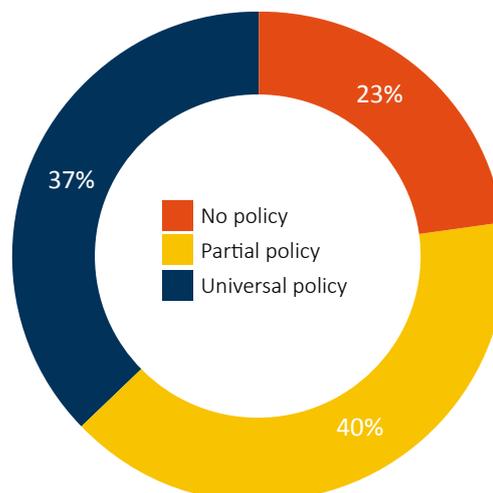
As in 2024, every key welfare issue – from capture method through to live sales to the public – has attracted more published company policies than the previous year (see the **Results in Detail** section for full information). Four of these key areas – reducing bycatch, the avoidance of non-therapeutic mutilations, transport conditions and humane stunning and slaughter – are now addressed with at least partial policies by over 50% of companies for the first time (Figure 2). The number of companies banning live sales of decapods to the public was already over 50% in 2024 and has seen a further increase this year.

Falling behind the crowd is harder to justify

Those companies that have remained in Tier 5 for four consecutive years – including one major supermarket, ASDA – will face tougher questions from consumers and other stakeholders if their position does not improve soon. Now that 37% of companies have a decapod welfare policy that is universal in scope (Figure 3) – compared with 30% in 2024 – the pressure is on outliers

to step up the pace. With competitors and suppliers proving there is both the will and the way to reduce animal cruelty in the seafood industry, excuses for failing to keep up will prove elusive and unconvincing.

Figure 3: Scope of decapod welfare policies



Key finding

2

Policy change is led by commitments to humane stunning and slaughter

Long before Defra announced it would issue new guidance on existing laws around animal slaughter, many seafood companies have listened to the growing call for what should be a basic right for all sentient animals: humane and dignified treatment at the time of their death.

The latest Snapshot assessment was carried out in September 2025, three months before the government announced it would be clarifying that slaughter practices such as boiling alive are not acceptable under WATOK regulations². Yet nearly two thirds of benchmarked companies had already made public commitments to humane stunning and slaughter for decapods (currently defined as electrical stunning before slaughter*), with 19 (63%) publishing a full or partial policy on this welfare area.

Recognition of humane stunning and slaughter as an important business issue has rocketed since The Snapshot first looked at industry approaches in 2022. In the first assessment, just five companies (17%) had addressed the problem, yet by 2024 this had leapt to 12 companies (40%), with a further large increase in 2025.

Among the 19 companies that have published a commitment to humane stunning and slaughter, existing requirements most commonly cover crab and lobster.

- Ten companies (33%) already electrically stun 100% of crab in their supply chain, while 10 companies (33%) electrically stun all lobster.
- Eight businesses (27%) had plans to trial or implement electrical stunning for at least some of their warm water prawn supply by 2028 at the latest.
- Two companies intend to investigate electrical stunning for crayfish in 2026, while one expressed interest in engaging with suppliers about humane stunning and slaughter for cold water prawns and Argentinian red shrimp.

Technology plays a key role

Innovation was increasingly highlighted as a key element for companies' decapod welfare ambitions, with more companies working towards a broader use of electrical stunning once the right technology becomes available and / or has been scientifically verified for each species.

These companies have already done the groundwork to stay ahead of legal expectations. Conversely, businesses that have not been observing the direction of travel, both in the industry and at government level, will now be having to play catch-up with their more forward-looking rivals.

This acceptance of the need for high welfare, high-tech solutions to ensure humane deaths for decapods also turns the spotlight on another area of welfare policy. Now the government has confirmed that it is not legal to boil decapods alive, the case for ending sales of live decapods to the public could not be stronger. WATOK regulations cover individuals in private homes as well as businesses; with most members of the public unable to provide humane slaughter methods, live sales should immediately cease for the protection of the animals, suppliers and consumers alike.

The number of companies with a published ban on selling live crustaceans to the public rose from 17 (57%) in 2024 to 19 (63%) in 2025. ASDA remained the only major supermarket chain that had failed to do so.

Defining 'humane' handling and slaughter practices

Where references are made to 'humane' handling, stunning and slaughter practices, these are taken from Crustacean Compassion Code of Practice for the Welfare of Decapod Crustaceans in the Food Chain: from Capture to Killing⁴. This is 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 crustaceans⁵. For example, based on the currently available evidence, it is only humane to kill decapods by inducing instantaneous stunning that persists until death occurs. 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.

Key finding

3

Processors and producers continue to outperform retailers

For the second consecutive year, producers and processors are leading retailers in forging a higher welfare path for the UK food industry.

Marks & Spencer has consistently been at the forefront of the benchmark since 2022 and remains one of the welfare leaders, along with established strong performer Young's Seafood. However, with the addition of New England Seafood International - Paignton and new highest scorer Sykes Seafood into Tier 1, the supply side now outnumbers retailers at the cutting edge of decapod welfare. There are three retailers in Tier 2 alongside six producers and processors.

Producers and processors have reversed the trend seen in 2022 and 2023, and widened the gap seen in 2024, now achieving a higher average company score of 49% compared to retailers' 42%. Both groups improved from 2024, when scores were 40% and 39% respectively.

Retailers now trail suppliers on three of the benchmark's four key pillars, holding a slight edge only in Governance and Management, with an average of 48% compared to 45% for producers and processors (Figure 4). Possible reasons for this may include greater agility on the part of producers and processors, or the capacity for more direct influence over their supply chains. Implementing universal reporting can also be more challenging for retailers who stock branded goods, however, this is mitigated in the Performance Reporting and Impact section by a focus on retailers' own-brand products.

Changing the game

This is an important finding because it reflects a changing landscape in terms of the availability of higher welfare decapod products for seafood buyers. In past

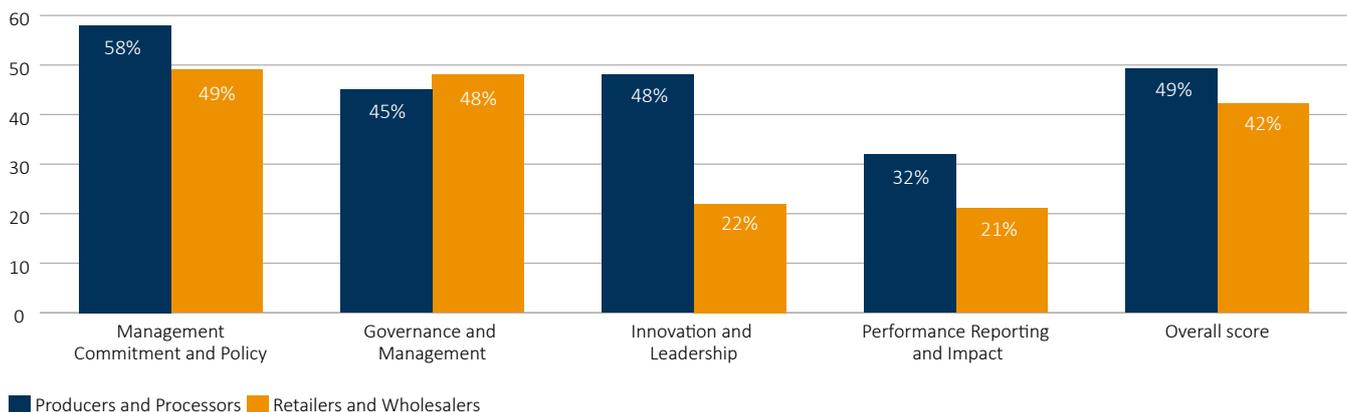
years, low demand and low availability in the supply chain were cited as major reasons for retailers to delay switching to a high welfare sourcing model. Just as influential supermarkets can exert pressure on suppliers by tightening their welfare standards, processors and producers can also change the game by putting more high welfare pieces on the board.

Seven of the UK's leading supermarket chains assessed improved their score this year and only one, ASDA, remains in the bottom tier (scoring under 20%). So, the many chain and independent retailers not assessed by The Snapshot should be paying attention to the big players' attitudes to decapod welfare. These positive changes are made possible by the availability, or commitment to create availability, of decapods that have been captured, handled and slaughtered in humane ways.

Six producers and processors saw increased scores, with two moving up at least one tier. However, while fewer companies in this sector improved in 2025 compared to retailers, the most improved company this year was a processor, Sykes Seafood.

Cross-industry collaboration is essential if the seafood industry is to innovate, inspire and influence all sectors to embrace a higher welfare future. Sectors should not be in competition with each other, rather they should work together and empower each other to keep all stages of the supply chain moving in step. This will create huge opportunities for the UK seafood industry to boost its reputation, while also putting pressure on those retailers who still refuse to provide their customers with quality, ethically produced seafood they can feel good about buying and eating.

Figure 4: Average scores by sector (%)



Key finding

4

Transparency must continue to improve

Seafood production, both wild and farmed, has attracted rigorous criticism in recent years, from consumers, media, scientists, animal welfare advocates, and environmentalists. There is much debate within the industry about how its operators can tell a better sea-to-plate story, reassure consumers about the health and ethical benefits of eating seafood, and rebuild trust in ocean-based commerce as a whole. Many different factors come into play in that complex picture, however, transparency must be at the heart of any truly sustainable business.

When The Snapshot was initiated by Crustacean Compassion in 2022, it was in response to a lack of transparency around this historically opaque food system. As the UK government enshrined decapods’ right to humane treatment in law with the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act¹, it became clear that standards must be monitored and shared with the public. Yet there was very little baseline information publicly available about what methods were used by seafood companies and how they impacted decapod welfare.

The Snapshot set out to not only collect that baseline data, but also to provide a tool for following the movement of welfare standards across the industry in years to come. Part of that transparency requires public commitments to principles, objectives and targets; however, reporting on progress towards those ambitions is just as important to hold companies accountable for the pledges they have made.

Demonstrate impact through reporting

Performance Reporting and Impact has always been the lowest scoring of the benchmark’s four pillars, which has been somewhat explicable due to the immature nature of decapod welfare as a business issue. However, with self-imposed target deadlines looming for many companies within the next few years, companies must demonstrate they are staying on track through regular, transparent reporting.

Clarity on management systems improved in 2025, with more companies providing details about target setting, senior management oversight and enforcement

of welfare policies (see the **Results in Detail** section for more information.) Since 2022, the overall average company score for Performance Reporting and Impact has shown steady, even accelerating improvement; between 2024 and 2025, this rose from 19% to 27%.

To boost the insight provided by reporting activities, in 2025 the benchmark assessment was changed to add two sub-questions to the Performance Reporting and Impact section. These asked not only *whether* companies reported on the proportion of their decapod supply chain that experienced humane stunning and slaughter, and was free from non-therapeutic mutilations, but also *what percentage* of the supply chain was affected. This adaptation offers greater clarity on how these welfare commitments are currently applied and in future years, will highlight positive progress, even if the company has not published targets for those policy areas.

However, with too few companies currently backing up welfare pledges with regular, detailed progress reports, the industry risks losing consumer faith in its promises to keep driving welfare standards forward.



Key finding

5

Companies should be more ambitious about their welfare strategies

Decapod welfare continues to advance up the agenda of pressing challenges in the food industry, with more research, policy pages and trade conference time devoted to it year on year. However, despite general improvement and a few companies taking a visible lead on the issue, there is still reluctance even among the top performers to launch high profile, eye-catching publicity campaigns around decapod welfare.

In 2025, the number of companies setting welfare targets and objectives increased to 16 (53%), a gain of 7% on the previous year. Although the number of companies communicating with consumers or business customers about decapod welfare saw an appreciable boost from 17% to 30%, there is still very little information to be seen on supermarket shelves, television screens or billboards.

There is evidence of ambition among certain industry actors to tackle some outstanding welfare problems. Alongside companies' in-house projects to trial and expand humane practices for more species and supply lines, there are also bigger-picture efforts to develop

pre-competitive, cross-sector solutions that could change the face of the crustacean industry. Meanwhile, certification schemes are widening their remit to include animal welfare standards in aquaculture and wild capture (see the **Industry Insight** section for more detail).

With so much work going on to improve the sea-to-plate story, and in light of Defra's impending guidance on what constitutes humane stunning and slaughter for decapods bringing the possibility of legal action against violators, there is a clear need for brighter, bolder communication with those people who need to know about it – the consumers.

Although uncertainties remain about some areas of welfare best practice and humane alternatives, the industry must accept its key responsibilities in this area: to acknowledge accountability, to work towards the elimination of inhumane practices from the supply chain, and to share both uncomfortable truths and positive progress with those on whom it relies for a sustainable, thriving future.



Industry insight

Initiated by the legal recognition of decapods' sentience in the UK four years ago, there has been a growing momentum within some parts of the seafood industry that has accelerated over the 12 months since the previous Snapshot assessment. While some quarters have focused on opposing the reality of decapod sentience, others have taken a more forward-thinking approach and ploughed their energy into the only possible solution: innovation.

Innovation was the buzzword for the decapod industry in 2025 as one key project picked up the pace and another, potentially game-changing idea sparked a new pre-competitive collaboration to tackle another widespread welfare challenge.

Innovate to survive

When the 2024 assessment was carried out, a project to develop a humane alternative to live tailing of nephrops at sea was already underway. To supply the scampi industry, live nephrops are commonly torn apart and left to die, without stunning or consideration for their ability to feel pain and distress. This economically important industry faced a quandary: innovate to survive, or face an inevitable public outcry over a practice that causes unnecessary suffering to millions of nephrops every year.

Led by Fisheries Innovation and Sustainability, a coalition of seafood businesses and trade organisations – including benchmarked companies Marks & Spencer, Young's Seafood, Macduff Shellfish, Sainsbury's, Associated Seafoods and Whitby Seafoods – has continued to drive this project forward. A prototype stunning and automatic tailing machine was successfully trialled in May 2025 and in September, it was announced the project had been awarded nearly £172,000 by Northern Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to upgrade the prototype to a full capacity automated system, in time for further sea trials planned for spring 2026⁶.

In November, the project won the inaugural Catch Welfare Innovation Award from the Catch Welfare Platform⁷, another organisation set up in the last few years to drive research and innovation around the welfare of wild-caught aquatic animals.

Claw nicking under scrutiny

The practice of nicking claws, primarily of crabs, is carried out to prevent live decapods from fighting and

injuring crew during holding and transport. By fracturing the apodemes and cutting the tendons of the dactyls of the claws, they are prevented from functioning. This process has been shown to lead to blood loss, infection and death, as well as preventing the animals' ability to express natural behaviours.

Concerned by the potential impact of growing welfare concerns around claw nicking, Dutch fisherman Stefan Tijssen started innovation company Pot Fishing Agency in 2020 and his inventions have included the Clawbinder Pro⁸. By using heat to wrap foil around crabs' claws, he discovered the animals could be immobilised without causing the pain and open wounds brought about by claw nicking.

Claw binding of any kind can cause welfare problems but the industry's work towards eliminating claw nicking is a step in the right direction. After connecting with the UK's Marks & Spencer, Stefan's invention is now at the centre of a new innovation project that could potentially have huge implications for the fishing sector.

For these projects to lead to successful, viable solutions that can be adopted by all decapod suppliers, the industry must commit to pushing through challenges and educating its stakeholders on the importance of decapod welfare. Importantly, market-ready technology must be accessible to all businesses, both financially and logistically, if it is to truly eliminate unnecessary suffering and create an ethical seafood supply chain.

Certification helps level the playing field

Having taken part in the advisory welfare working group at the certifier's request, Crustacean Compassion was pleased to see the Aquaculture Stewardship Council's Farm Standard⁹ – launched in May 2025 – include shrimp welfare requirements that address two key areas of harm. The standard does not permit shrimp to be processed alive, and electrical stunning followed by ice immersion is one of only two permitted slaughter methods, along with ice slurry immersion.

In 2025 Crustacean Compassion was also invited to join the fisheries and aquaculture working groups for the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST)'s animal welfare dialogue process. With a focus on greater data collection around how decapods are farmed, captured, handled, stored, transported and slaughtered, the GDST's framework should contribute to making seafood a more transparent and accountable industry globally.

Crustacean Compassion's industry leaders

With nearly half of all companies (13, 43%) improving their score in 2025, competition has been strong among those seeking to demonstrate meaningful progress on decapod welfare.



Leading the field – Sykes Seafood

Processor Sykes Seafood stands out as the most improved company in The Snapshot 2025 and the overall top scorer. The leap of two tiers to join the vanguard in Tier 1 reflects new (or newly communicated) welfare policies and strengthening of existing policies – for example, suppliers being required to meet welfare standards rather than ‘encouraged’ – along with the setting of welfare targets and associated reporting, and increased transparency around management and governance processes.

Key areas of improvement:

Negative impact of catch method and bycatch

Suppliers are required to demonstrate a clear commitment to mitigating these welfare issues.



Mutilations

Eyestalk ablation is set to be entirely phased out by May 2029 with interim targets to be met along the way to ensure steady progress.



Holding and transport

Welfare controls during holding and transport are required to meet decapods' species-specific needs. These include stocking density, temperature, salinity, humidity and ensuring that appropriate crates are being used.



Long-duration transport

Maximum duration of eight hours for live transport is specified, with exceptions only permitted through an approved prorogation.



Humane stunning and slaughter

100%

lobster are electrically stunned

50%

warm water prawn supply to be electrically stunned by 2028

Seeking innovation around electrical stunning for crayfish



Reporting

Sykes publicly reports on progress towards its targets including the removal of eyestalk ablation, and towards the expansion of electrical stunning. Detailed figures are shared for the proportion of decapods free from mutilations, and the proportion humanely stunned and slaughtered, along with transport duration times and catch methods used.



“ We are deeply honoured to receive recognition from Crustacean Compassion for our contributions to advancing the welfare of decapod crustaceans. This achievement reflects not only our organisation’s commitment to ethical innovation but also the dedication of our suppliers who have worked tirelessly to transform industry practices.

Over the past years, we have implemented welfare standards that prioritise the reduction of stress and pain in crustaceans throughout their handling, transport, and processing. From fostering alternate approaches to the use of non-therapeutic mutilation such as eyestalk ablation and implementing stunning technologies that ensure humane treatment to developing evidence-based guidelines adopted across our industry, we have sought to lead by example and prove that commercial viability and compassionate practice can coexist.

There is still much work to be done, and we remain committed to ongoing research, transparency, and continuous improvement in crustacean welfare standards.

Danny Zabhi, Technical & CSR Director- Sykes Seafood



Setting the example – Marks & Spencer

Retailer Marks & Spencer continues to demonstrate sector-leading commitment to decapod welfare, retaining its Tier 1 position for a third consecutive year. The company further strengthened its performance in 2025 and improving its score again, maintaining strong leadership across policy, target setting, reporting and innovation.

The consistency and commitment to ongoing improvement are valuable qualities for companies that intend to make a meaningful, robust and resolute difference to the welfare experience of decapods in the food supply chain.

Agility is also an important attribute for any company that wants to thrive in a challenging, ever-evolving industry such as seafood. The ability to move with the times and know how to embrace positive change are qualities that can also mark a company out as a welfare leader, even if they are not at the top of the score table. Companies showing greater agility this year include Whitby Seafoods, ALDI and Iceland, which all moved up one tier.



Consistency in commitment – Young’s Seafood

Once again, Young’s Seafood appears in Tier 1 having shown a consistent approach to improving welfare standards across all key welfare areas.



New entrant - New England Seafood International - Paignton

These companies were joined in Tier 1 by new entrant, New England Seafood International - Paignton.



Results in detail

Management Commitment and Policy

Total points available: 80 points, 47% of overall score

	2022*	2023	2024	2025
Average overall company score	19%	29%	45%	54%
Range of company scores	0%-61%	0%-85%	0%-95%	0%-95%
Average score for Producers & Processors	15%	24%	46%	58%
Average score for Retailers & Wholesalers	25%	35%	45%	49%

*Based on published information only



On average, companies have improved the most in this section – the average score is now **54%**



77% of companies have a decapod welfare policy – up **7%** since 2024

Many policies have been improved with these welfare areas now addressed by at least **50%** of companies for the first time:

- Reducing bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing
- Avoidance of mutilations
- Species-appropriate transport conditions
- Humane stunning and slaughter

This section assesses companies' policies on decapod 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, the Management Commitment and Policy criteria explore whether companies have made clear and explicit commitments to improving decapod welfare standards.

While the overall average score also improved in each of the four pillars of the benchmark, the strongest boost was seen in the Management Commitment and Policy (up from 45% to 54%).

Almost all companies (28, 93%) now acknowledge decapod welfare as a business issue, a huge increase from 70% (21 companies) in 2022 when The Snapshot began. With new entrant Orkney Crab recognising decapod welfare as a business issue this year, that leaves only Andrew Marr International and MacNeil Shellfish without such an acknowledgment.

Meanwhile, the number that published a specific decapod welfare policy rose from 21 companies (70%) to 23 (77%). Of these, 20 companies (67%) have published policies that include a description of the processes in place to ensure the policy is effectively implemented, such as a description of management responsibility, action in case of non-compliance and supply chain monitoring. Some companies' policies only applied to farmed decapods; this includes Tesco, which stated a wild caught decapod policy was in development. However, 11 companies (37%) now published a universal welfare policy covering all products, species and geographies (Figure 3), up from nine (30%) in 2024.

“ **Young’s believes that fish and crustacea are sentient beings and that consideration of their welfare is an important aspect of raising and dispatching them for human food purposes.**

Young’s Seafood

For the second consecutive year, all eight key welfare areas saw increases in the number of companies publishing full or partial policies covering these risks (Figure 2). **Four of these areas are now addressed by at least 50% of companies for the first time:**

- reducing bycatch associated with decapod fishing (15 companies (50%), up from 13 (43%))
- avoidance of non-therapeutic mutilations (18 companies (60%), up from 14 (47%))
- appropriate species-specific transport conditions (16 companies (53%) up from 13 (43%))
- humane stunning and slaughter (19 companies (63%), up from 12 (40%))

Of the remaining key policy areas, appropriate species-specific holding conditions saw the strongest increase, rising from nine companies (30%) publishing commitments in 2024 to 13 (43%) in 2025. The number of companies publishing policies on reducing the negative effects of capture method and the avoidance of long-duration live transport both increased from 12 (40%) in 2024 to 14 (47%). More companies had published a universal policy banning the sale of live decapods to the public than in 2024, up from 17 businesses (57%) to 19 (63%).

With all welfare threats steadily gaining more attention from businesses, the most significant increases in the number of published policies have applied to humane stunning and slaughter (19 companies (63%) compared to 12 (40%) in 2024) and the avoidance of non-therapeutic mutilations (18 companies (60%) publishing policies, up from 14 (47%) in 2024).

Humane stunning and slaughter

In 2025 the number of companies publishing commitments to trial, implement or expand the use of humane stunning and slaughter methods (currently defined as electrical stunning prior to slaughter) has seen a greater increase than any other individual policy area. The benchmark assessment found that 19 companies (63%), an additional seven since 2024, had made some form of full or partial commitment to address humane stunning and slaughter. Those companies that had not published commitments to electrical stunning, either full or partial, are: ASDA, Amazon, ALDI, Andrew Marr International, Brakes, Charoen Pokphand Foods, Compass Group UK & Ireland, MacNeil Shellfish, Northcoast Seafoods, Thai Union and Whitby Seafoods. Although it was noted that Whitby Seafoods has been involved in an industry project to develop a humane stunning and slaughter method for nephrops at sea, the company has not published a specific objective to remove that method from its supply chain.

Only two companies – New England Seafood International - Paignton, formerly known as The Blue Sea Food Company, and Orkney Crab – had a universal policy to ensuring humane electrical stunning covering 100% of their products, which is limited to brown crab. However, among those companies with partial policies, there was extensive coverage of humane slaughter methods for crab and lobster. Of the 19 companies with published policies, 10 (33%) required electrical stunning for brown crab and 10 (33%) insisted on lobster being electrically stunned.

Marks & Spencer also electrically stunned 100% of its Australian rock lobster. Commitments to extend electrical stunning to other species were stated, including implementation for crayfish and the completion of trials for monodon prawns by the end of 2026. The retailer also committed to complete trials regarding humane slaughter on vannamei prawns by December 2025 and to have engaged with cold water prawn and Argentinian red shrimp suppliers on the issue by the end of 2026.



Companies that require electrical stunning for 100% of its crab supply include:

Associated Seafoods

Hilton Food Group

Macduff Shellfish

Marks & Spencer

New England Seafood International - Paignton

Orkney Crab

Seafresh Group

Young's Seafood



Those whose policies specify electrical stunning for 100% of lobster include:

Associated Seafoods

Hilton Food Group

Lyons Seafoods

Marks & Spencer

New England Seafood International - Paignton

Orkney Crab

Seafresh Group

Sykes Seafood

Young's Seafood

Among those companies pledging to explore the adoption of humane stunning and slaughter for other species are Sykes Seafood, which targets electrical stunning for 50% of its warm water prawn supply by January 2028, and Sainsbury's, which aims to complete trials for warm water prawns by the end of 2026. Companies committing to apply electrical stunning to 100% of its own brand warm water prawn supply include Morrisons (2027), Iceland (2027), Co-op (2027), Ocado (2025) and Waitrose (2026). Tesco pledged to electrically stun all vannamei prawn by 2026 and explore its use for monodon, while Lidl stated it would use methods including electrical stunning for all prawn supply from January 2026.

Seafresh Group aimed to complete trials for crayfish in 2026, while Young's highlighted its contribution to an industry project on humane stunning and slaughter for nephrops. Ocado stated it asks its nephrops suppliers to consider moving to electrical stunning.



At Ocado, we recognise that ... decapod crustaceans are sentient and as such, have the capacity to feel pain and suffer... We are committed to their welfare throughout the supply chain.

Ocado Retail

With an increased number of companies making commitments to at least trial the use of electrical stunning across a growing range of species, and many targets due to be achieved within the next two years, these findings reveal a significant and committed movement to improve decapod welfare within the UK food industry.

Decapod welfare during holding and transport

While acknowledging the importance of setting species-specific parameters for all welfare policy areas, 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. In the meantime, companies are encouraged to share their approaches to safeguarding welfare during the transportation of live decapods based on their species-specific needs.

Results from the 2025 assessment reveal that the conditions under which live decapods are stored and transported are receiving greater attention than in previous years. The number of companies publishing policies on species-specific holding conditions saw the strongest improvement, from nine (30%) in 2024 to 13 (43%) in 2025, while those addressing appropriate species-specific conditions during transport jumped from 13 (43%) to 16 (53%). Policies on the avoidance of long-duration transport have also been formalised by yet more companies, up from 12 (40%) to 14 (47%) this year.



Companies who have set maximum transport times for crab include:

Marks & Spencer (24 hours)

New England Seafood International - Paignton (24 hours)

Sainsbury's (8 hours)

Waitrose (24 hours)



Those specifying maximum transport times for lobster include:

Lyons Seafood (8 hours)

Marks & Spencer (36 hours)

Sainsbury's (8 hours)

Waitrose (24 hours)

Under new scoring methodology (see **Appendix III** for details) for 2025, which was developed following a public consultation, companies are no longer required to report on the percentage of decapods transported within a specified duration. Instead, the assessment simply asks whether companies report on the duration of travel for decapods. This demonstrates that companies are paying attention to journey duration as one of the factors that may negatively affect decapods during transport.

Marks & Spencer and Lyons Seafoods both set maximum durations for crayfish – 24 hours and eight hours respectively – and both Tesco and Charoen Pokphand Foods state live prawns must be transported within eight hours. Lyons Seafoods does not permit any live transport for prawns between pond and factory.

Mutilations

The alteration of decapods’ bodies for non-therapeutic reasons is one of the key welfare areas that saw the greatest rise in engagement in 2025. Companies with policies on this issue rose from 14 (47%) in 2024 to 18 (60%). Historically, eyestalk ablation has been the most-addressed issue among benchmarked companies. In 2024, five companies (17%) had set targets to eliminate the practice no later than 2026. In 2025, this situation had changed significantly – 17 companies (57%) now have policies addressing eyestalk ablation of farmed prawns. Of these, nine companies (30%) have banned eyestalk ablation from their supply chain while seven (23%) have targets to remove the practice with deadlines between 2025 and 2029, or as an ongoing aim. In the case of most retailers, these commitments apply to own-brand products.

Declawing of live crab is prohibited by Young’s Seafood and Marks & Spencer. Claw nicking is now more widely

recognised as an inhumane practice. Seven companies (23%) stated an interest in removing claw nicking from their supply chain, compared to five companies (17%) in 2024. Marks & Spencer highlighted its active involvement in an industry project to develop a humane alternative to claw nicking (see the **Industry Insight** section for more details).

Avoidance of sale of live decapods to the public or untrained handlers

With the government already having confirmed live boiling does not conform to WATOK regulations², it is clear that decapods should not be sold alive to members of the public. Home cooks are unlikely to possess an electrical stunner, or to be highly trained professionals with the knowledge and knife skills to expertly kill a crab or lobster mechanically. By opting not to sell live decapods to the public, food companies play an important role in removing this welfare threat from the supply chain and supporting a culture change within the seafood industry.

The 2025 assessment found two more companies had published policies banning the sale of live decapods to the public since the previous year: ALDI and Orkney Crab. This means 19 companies (63%) are now helping to restrict the slaughter of live decapods to professional settings. The companies that had not publicly committed to this were: ASDA, Andrew Marr International, Bidfresh, Brakes, Charoen Pokphand Foods, Compass Group UK & Ireland, Iceland Foods, MacNeil Shellfish, Northcoast Seafoods and Thai Union. Amazon UK scored partial points for this question due to a policy relating to its subsidiary, Whole Foods Markets, but had not published a commitment to ban the live sale of decapods on its main UK commerce platform.

Governance and Management

Total points available: 50 points, 29% of total available score

	2022*	2023	2024	2025
Average overall company score	11%	24%	40%	46%
Range of company scores	0%-66%	0%-100%	0%-100%	0%-100%
Average score for Producers & Processors	7%	18%	37%	45%
Average score for Retailers & Wholesalers	18%	32%	44%	48%

*Based on published information only



This is the only section in which the Retail sector leads



More than half of companies (53%) have set targets to improve decapod welfare



Eyestalk ablation and humane stunning and slaughter dominate the targets being set

This section 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.

Across all companies in the benchmark the overall average score rose from 40% in 2024 to 46% in 2025. This has more than quadrupled since the benchmark began in 2022 when the average was just 11%, demonstrating how far company policies have travelled in terms of the management detail now being shared in the public sphere.

Governance and Management was the only section in which retailers continued to outperform producers and processors in 2025, with an overall average company score across each sector standing at 48% and 45%

respectively. However, producers and processors are closing the gap and showed the fastest improvement in this area, with their overall average score rising by 8% this year, compared to a 4% increase by retailers.

The number of companies describing the day-to-day responsibility for decapod welfare in their business rose by 7% since 2024, to 67% (20 companies), while the number of companies describing who is responsible at senior management or board level rose from 53% (16) to 63% (19). Information about how decapod welfare policies are managed through supplier contracts and education, and what happens when welfare requirements are not met, also increased, although companies providing decapod welfare training to employees remained the same at 11 (37%).

“ We recognise that, like other creatures, fish and crustacea are sentient beings, and we are committed to achieving a better understanding of best practices and ways that we can promote, protect, and improve their welfare within our supply chain and wider industry. ”

Associated Seafoods

Commitments to improve welfare conditions for decapods can only be deemed meaningful if accompanied by detailed, timebound targets. This ensures that a welfare imperative remains dynamic and that progress against the goal can be monitored and shared. In 2024, 46% of companies (14) had set welfare targets and in terms of focus, there was an equal split between targets focusing on the elimination of eyestalk ablation and on the trial, implementation or expansion of electrical stunning (each addressed by policies from seven companies, 23%). The Snapshot 2025 found that 53% of companies (16) had now set welfare targets, with the removal of eyestalk ablation and application of humane stunning continuing to dominate company interest. Fittingly, accountability for welfare objectives had also improved, with 33% of companies (10) now reporting against those targets, compared to 30% (nine) in 2024.

Innovation and Leadership

Total points available: 15 points, 9% of overall score

	2022*	2023	2024	2025
Average overall company score	7%	19%	34%	36%
Range of company scores	0%-67%	0%-100%	0%-100%	0%-100%
Average score for Producers & Processors	6%	25%	46%	48%
Average score for Retailers & Wholesalers	8%	12%	21%	22%

*Based on published information only



Retailers are trailing behind producers and processors in innovation



Public communication about decapod welfare has improved



Average scores across all sectors have barely risen since 2024

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 decapods, and on their promotion of decapod welfare to consumers and/or business customers.

Producers and processors have consistently outperformed retailers in this section since The Snapshot began and continue to hold a strong lead this year, with an average sector score of 48% compared with retailers' 22%. However, these scores have minimally changed since 2024 – up by just 1% for retailers and 2% for producers and processors.

Despite a stagnation in scoring in this area, innovation is visibly continuing in the seafood industry. In many cases, the 13 companies (43%) that were actively involved in decapod welfare research and development projects at the time of the 2025 assessment had contributed to projects that were already live in 2024. Two major projects in particular have gained momentum over the last two years, focusing on humane slaughter for nephrops at sea and alternatives to claw nicking for crabs (see the **Industry Insight** section for details).

However, the number of companies involved in industry initiatives – 13 (43%) – has also remained the same since 2024. Part of this slowdown may relate to some companies having participated in the development of industry-led Codes of Practice for decapod welfare¹⁰, a project which concluded in 2024. Despite a flurry of activity around decapod welfare R&D and industry initiatives following the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022¹, the industry should not allow the momentum to drop. In light of further welfare challenges confronting numerous species, and the risk of current R&D projects not resulting in effective or commercially viable solutions, seafood companies should continue to proactively investigate higher welfare alternatives to problematic practices.

Communication with consumers about decapod welfare issues has taken a leap forward this year. For the 2025 assessment The Snapshot scoring methodology was adjusted (see **Appendix III** for details) to consider communications with business customers, primarily for those companies that do not have a consumer-facing element. The question also offers additional points for evidence of multiple or substantial activities promoting decapod welfare, as opposed to at least one example of activity, and communications should be less than 12 months old at the time of assessment.

Nine companies (30%) scored points for communicating about decapod welfare to consumers or business customers, compared to five (17%) in 2024. These activities included presenting at industry conferences, social media posts and news articles.



We recognise the integral role of animal health and welfare in sustainable food production, and we are committed to continue progressing towards delivering the highest welfare standards possible within our supply chains. Our continued commitment to animal welfare has been recognised by leading animal welfare groups and benchmarks including Crustacean Compassion, BFAW and RSPCA.

Marks & Spencer

Performance Reporting and Impact

Total points available: 26 points, 15% of overall score

	2022*	2023	2024	2025
Average overall company score	3%	8%	19%	27%
Range of company scores	0%-30%	0%-100%	0%-75%	0%-96%
Average score for Producers & Processors	4%	7%	21%	32%
Average score for Retailers & Wholesalers	2%	10%	16%	21%

*Based on published information only



More companies are reporting on:

- Capture methods
- Live transport times
- Mutilations
- Humane stunning and slaughter



New sub-questions provide greater insight into how policies impact supply chains



Despite this, the average rate of progress has slowed in this area

This section assesses companies on the reporting of decapod welfare in their supply chains, including the proportion being humanely stunned and slaughtered and the proportion free from mutilations, as well as reporting on transport times and capture methods. This section has historically seen the lowest average company score and continues to be the lowest scoring section of the benchmark. Reasons for this could include the relative immaturity of decapod welfare (compared with other animal welfare issues in the food industry) and the fact that many benchmarked companies have only recently started to develop and implement policies, so have had little to report to date.

Like the other three pillars, score growth slowed slightly in 2025 compared to previous years, with an overall average company score increase of 8% taking it to 27%. The reduced rate of change is not necessarily a cause for concern in itself, as the 2025 figure still represents a significant improvement on the findings of the first Snapshot assessment three years earlier. Also, while more companies set welfare targets and objectives in 2025, those new goals will not be reported on until at least next year.

However, over the coming years the Performance Reporting and Impact section should see a revived pace of change as companies begin to account for their progress against policy commitments.

Although limited, there has been improvement in almost all areas covered by this section. Full or partial reporting on travel durations more than doubled from four companies (13%) to nine (30%), and reporting on the proportion of decapods caught using specified capture methods rose from seven companies (23%) to 10 (33%).

The number of companies reporting on the proportion of decapods humanely stunned and slaughtered increased from nine (30%) in 2024 to 11 (37%) in 2025, while 40% (12 companies) reported on the proportion of decapods free from non-therapeutic mutilations, an increase of 7%.

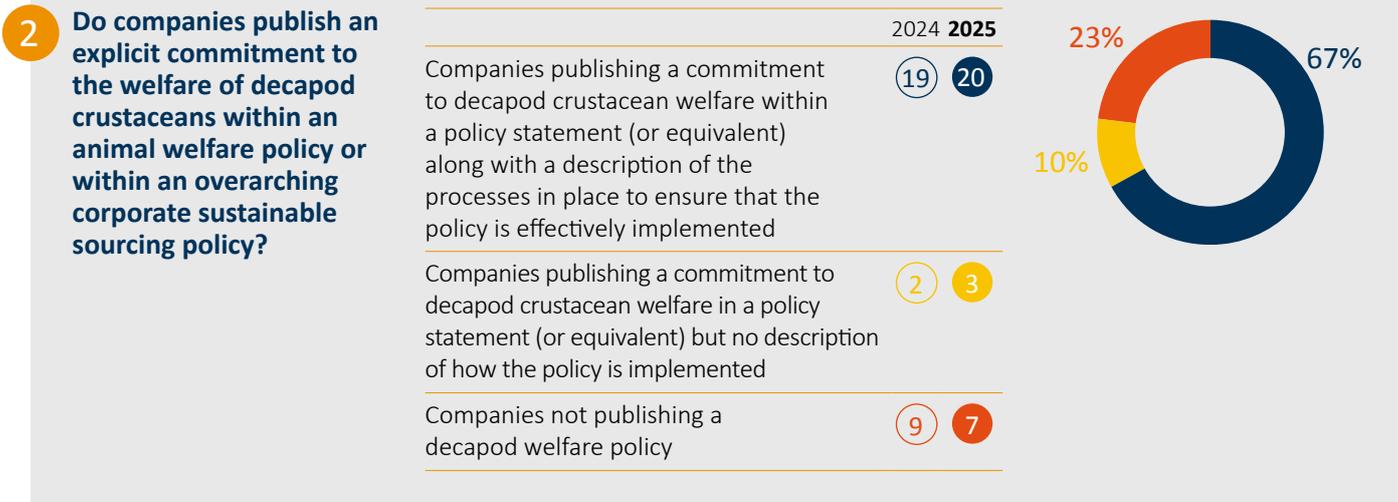
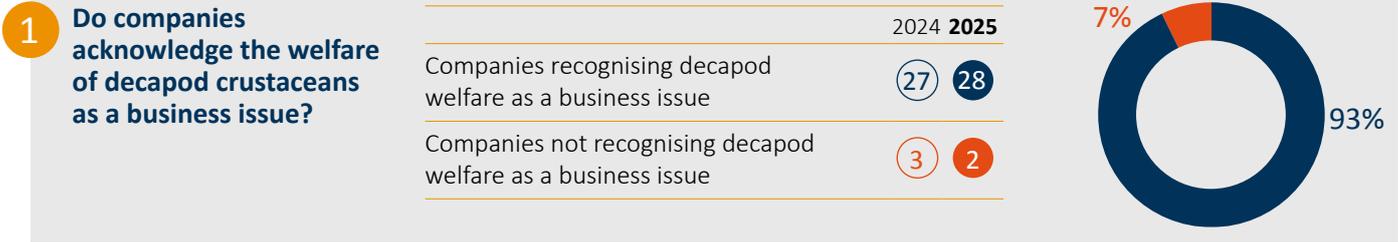
New proportional reporting in 2025

Two new sub-questions (19b and 20b) were introduced in 2025 (see **Appendix III** for details) to expand assessment on humane stunning and slaughter, and on mutilations. These questions award points based on the actual proportions reported.

For humane stunning and slaughter, 11 companies (37%) reported this proportional data. Of these, one company (3%) reported that less than 50% of one or more species in their supply chain had been humanely slaughtered while eight companies (27%) reported that 51% to 100% of one or more species had been. Only two companies (7%), New England Seafood International - Paignton and Orkney Crab, reported that 100% of all supplied species had been humanely stunned and slaughtered. Nineteen companies (63%) did not report on this metric for any species.

For mutilations, 12 companies (40%) reported on the proportion of decapods in their supply chain that were free from non-therapeutic mutilations. One (3%) reported that less than 50% of one or more species were free of mutilations; 10 companies (33%) reported 51% to 100% of one or more species, and only one company (3%), Lyons Seafoods, stated that 100% of all supplied species were free from mutilations, leaving 18 companies (60%) not reporting on this metric.

Management Commitment and Policy



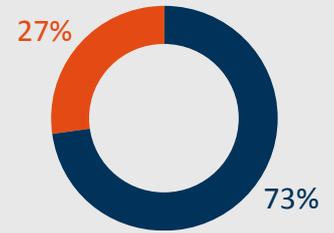
*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and therefore may not add up to 100%.



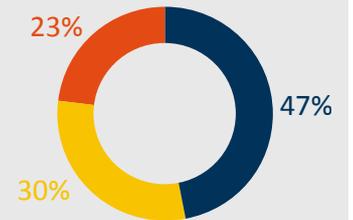
Management Commitment and Policy

3 Do these policies provide a clear explanation of geographic, decapod crustacean species and product scope?

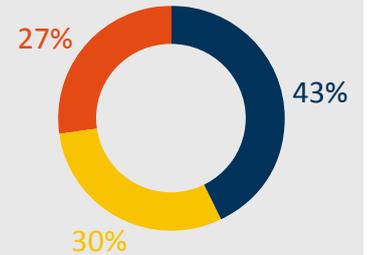
	2024	2025
Geographic scope		
Scope is universal across all geographies	19	22
Scope is limited to certain specified geographies	1	0
Geographic scope is not specified	10	8



	2024	2025
Species scope		
Scope is universal across all relevant species	13	14
Scope is limited to certain specified species	7	9
Species scope is not specified	10	7

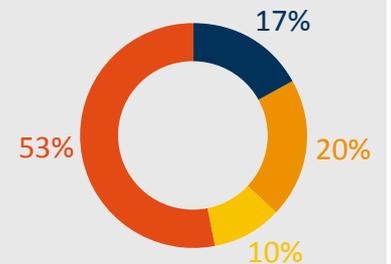


	2024	2025
Product scope		
Scope is universal across own-brand and other brand products	12	13
Scope is limited to certain specified products	8	9
Product scope is not specified	10	8



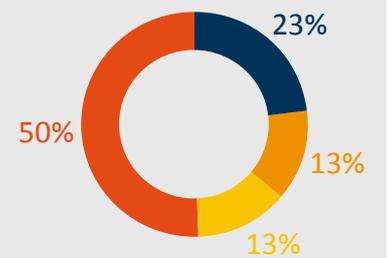
4 Do companies publish clear commitments to reduce the negative effects of capture method on decapod crustacean welfare by adapting fishing equipment, fishing and handling practices during and immediately following capture?

	2024	2025
Commitment to reduce negative effects of capture method		
Companies publishing a universal commitment to reduce the negative effects of capture method on decapod crustacean welfare	2	5
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	5	6
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	5	3
Companies not publishing a commitment	18	16



5 Do companies publish clear commitments to reduce bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing?

	2024	2025
Commitment to reduce bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing		
Companies publishing a universal commitment to reduce bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing	5	7
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	2	4
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	6	4
Companies not publishing a commitment	17	15



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

	2024	2025
Companies publishing a universal commitment to the avoidance of mutilations	2	4
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	10	13
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	2	1
Companies not publishing a commitment	16	12

Universal commitment	40%
Partial commitment (clear scope)	43%
Partial commitment (unclear scope)	3%
No commitment	13%

Universal commitment	33%
Partial commitment (clear scope)	43%
Partial commitment (unclear scope)	13%
No commitment	11%

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?

	2024	2025
Companies publishing a universal commitment ensuring appropriate species-specific holding conditions	5	7
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	1	5
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	3	1
Companies not publishing a commitment	21	17

Universal commitment	57%
Partial commitment (clear scope)	17%
Partial commitment (unclear scope)	3%
No commitment	23%

Universal commitment	50%
Partial commitment (clear scope)	17%
Partial commitment (unclear scope)	3%
No commitment	23%

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

	2024	2025
Companies publishing a universal commitment ensuring appropriate species-specific conditions during transport	4	7
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	5	3
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	4	6
Companies not publishing a commitment	17	14

Universal commitment	47%
Partial commitment (clear scope)	20%
Partial commitment (unclear scope)	10%
No commitment	23%

Universal commitment	50%
Partial commitment (clear scope)	10%
Partial commitment (unclear scope)	20%
No commitment	23%

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

	2024	2025
Companies publishing a universal commitment to avoid/reduce long-duration live transportation	3	4
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	7	8
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	2	2
Companies not publishing a commitment	18	16

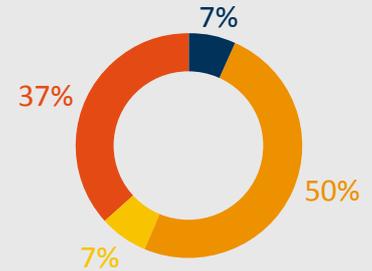
Universal commitment	53%
Partial commitment (clear scope)	27%
Partial commitment (unclear scope)	7%
No commitment	13%

Universal commitment	50%
Partial commitment (clear scope)	27%
Partial commitment (unclear scope)	7%
No commitment	13%

Management Commitment and Policy

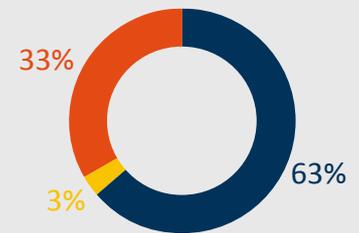
10 Do companies publish clear positions requiring all decapod crustaceans to be humanely stunned and slaughtered, using methods that result in instantaneous insensibility to pain and distress or where insensibility is induced without causing pain and distress and is maintained until death occurs?

	2024	2025
Companies publishing a universal commitment requiring all decapod crustaceans to be humanely stunned and slaughtered	1	2
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	9	15
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	2	2
Companies not publishing a commitment	18	11



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

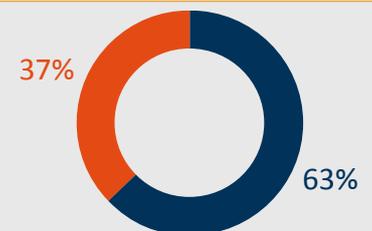
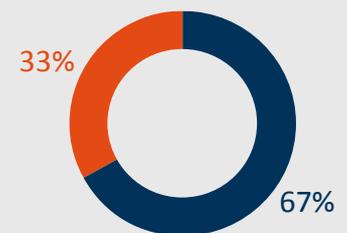
	2024	2025
Companies publishing a universal commitment to avoid the live sale of decapod crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers	16	19
Companies publishing a partial commitment with clearly defined scope	0	0
Companies publishing a partial commitment with unclear scope	1	1
Companies not publishing a commitment	13	10



Governance and Management

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

	2024	2025
Companies describing day-to-day management responsibility	18	20
Companies not describing day-to-day management responsibility	12	10
Companies describing senior management responsibility	16	19
Companies not describing senior management responsibility	14	11



Governance and Management

13 Do companies set time-bound objectives and targets for the management of decapod crustacean welfare?

	2024	2025
Companies setting objectives or targets, together with information on the actions to be taken to achieve these	7	8
Companies setting objectives or targets, with no or limited information on how these are to be achieved	7	8
Companies not setting objectives or targets	16	14

14 Do companies report on their progress against improvement objectives or targets linked to improving the welfare of decapod crustaceans?

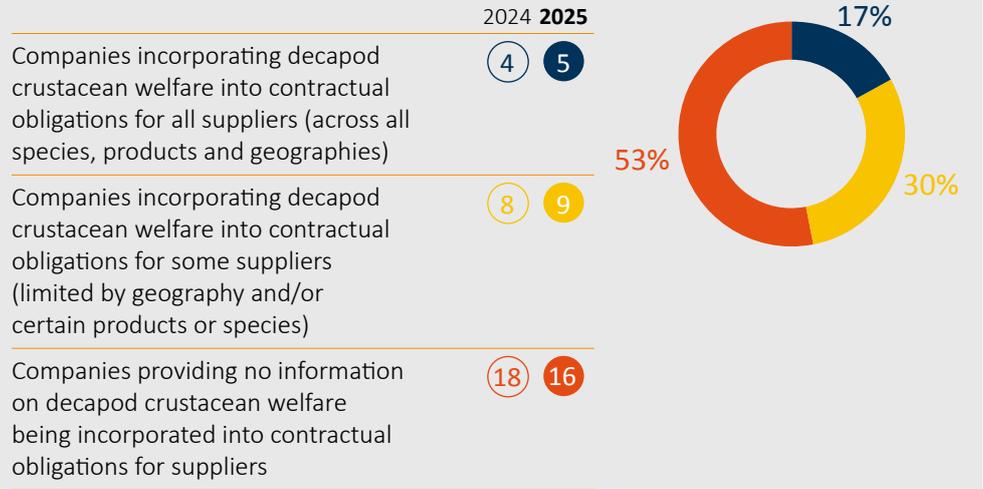
	2024	2025
Companies reporting on progress against multiple objectives and targets	6	7
Companies reporting on progress against at least one objective or target	3	3
Companies not reporting on progress	21	20

15 Do companies describe their internal processes for ensuring that their policies on decapod crustacean welfare are effectively implemented?

	2024	2025
Companies providing specific training to employees in decapod crustacean welfare	11	11
Companies not describing provision of training for employees in decapod crustacean welfare	19	19
Companies describing action taken in event of non-compliance with decapod welfare policies	11	16
Companies not describing action taken in event of non-compliance with decapod welfare policies	19	14

Governance and Management

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



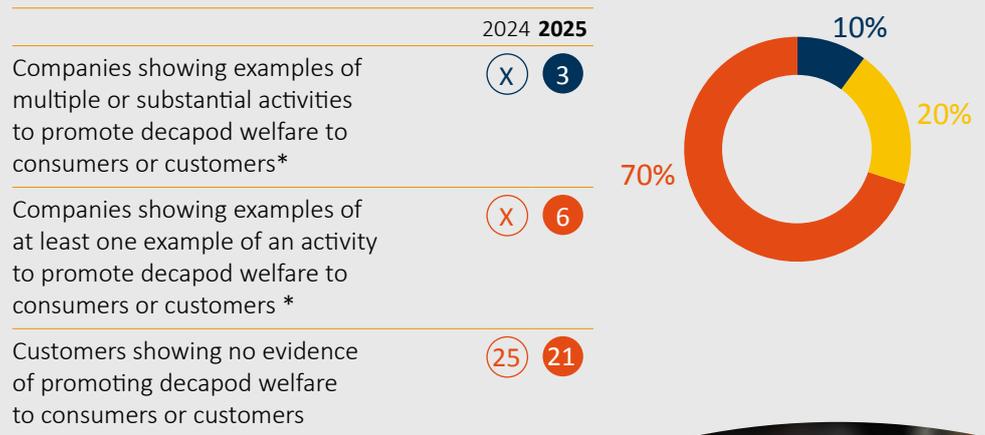
*Question amended in 2025

Innovation and Leadership

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



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



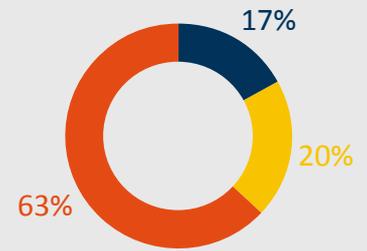
*Question amended in 2025



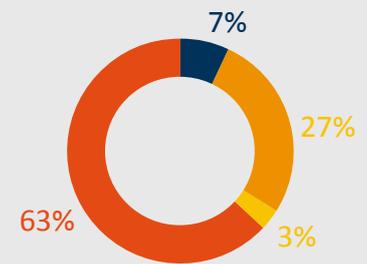
Performance Reporting and Impact

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

	2024	2025
Companies reporting fully, across all relevant geographies, species and own-brand products	3	5
Companies reporting partially, limited to certain geographies, species or products	6	6
Companies not reporting	21	19



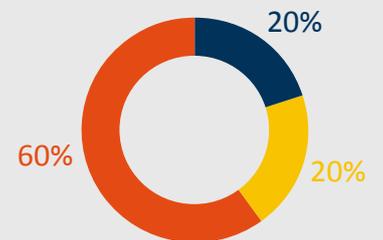
Companies reporting 100% of all supplied species humanely slaughtered*	X	2
Companies reporting 51% to 100% of one or more species humanely slaughtered*	X	8
Companies reporting less than 50% of one or more species humanely slaughtered*	X	1
Companies reporting 0%, or no information on any species*	X	19



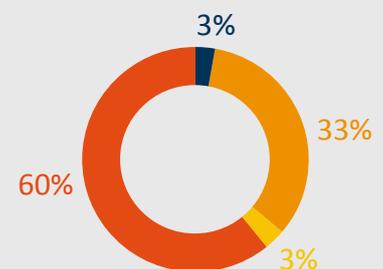
*New question introduced in 2025

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

	2024	2025
Companies reporting fully, across all relevant geographies, species and own-brand products	3	6
Companies reporting partially, limited to certain geographies, species or products	7	6
Companies not reporting	20	18



Companies reporting 100% of all supplied species free from non-therapeutic mutilations*	X	1
Companies reporting 51% to 100% of one or more species free from non-therapeutic mutilations*	X	10
Companies reporting less than 50% of one or more species free from non-therapeutic mutilations*	X	1
Companies reporting 0%, or no information on any species*	X	18



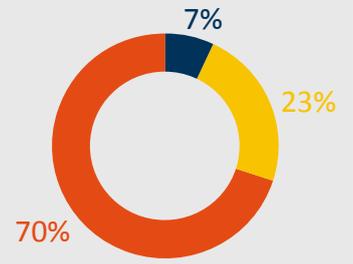
*New question introduced in 2025

Performance Reporting and Impact

21 Do companies report on transport duration for each decapod species in their supply chains?

	2024	2025
Companies reporting fully, across all relevant geographies, species and own-brand products*	1	2
Companies reporting partially, limited to certain geographies, species or products*	3	7
Companies not reporting*	26	21

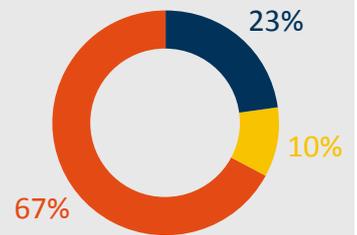
*Question amended in 2025



22 Do companies report on decapod crustacean capture methods for each species in their supply chains?

	2024	2025
Companies reporting fully, across all relevant geographies, species and own-brand products *	4	7
Companies reporting partially, limited to certain geographies, species or products*	3	3
Companies not reporting*	23	20

*Question amended in 2025



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 to address any gaps in the company's welfare provision.



2

Understand what the law means for you to ensure your business complies with humane stunning and slaughter regulations.



3

Invest in innovation by supporting pre-competitive projects that may solve industry-wide problems.



4

Be ambitious about welfare by taking the lead on consumer communications to share your positive progress.



5

Boost transparency with regular reporting about the successes – and failures – of your welfare strategy.



A focus on... legislation

2. Understand what the law means for seafood businesses

In December 2025, the government's new Animal Welfare Strategy for England² confirmed that guidance clarifying how the Welfare of Animals at the time of Killing (WATOK) Regulations³ apply to decapod slaughter will be issued. The document also stated that boiling alive is not an acceptable method of killing decapods.

WATOK regulations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland apply to invertebrates including decapod crustaceans and include the provisions below:

Humane killing

4. — (1) No person engaged in the restraint, stunning or killing of an animal may —

(a) cause any avoidable pain, distress or suffering to that animal; or

(b) permit that animal to sustain any avoidable pain, distress or suffering.

(2) No person may engage in the restraint, stunning or killing of an animal unless that person has the knowledge and skill necessary to perform those operations humanely and efficiently.

The forthcoming guidance from Defra is expected to lay out which methods for killing decapods in England are compliant with WATOK regulations and which are not. Having already specified that boiling alive does not comply with the law, it is likely Defra will come to the same conclusion about other common slaughter practices such as freezing and dismemberment.

How does this impact businesses that handle or source decapods?

By clarifying its interpretation of the law, Defra will help businesses and individuals to understand how to comply with WATOK regulations to minimise pain, distress or suffering for an animal when it is killed.

Those who continue to use slaughter practices that have been deemed incompatible with the law could risk prosecution if they do not follow these and other WATOK requirements.

Those who source processed decapods should also take responsibility in ensuring their suppliers have handled the animals ethically and that they have adhered to the WATOK regulations. For companies selling live decapods to the public, this should extend to ensuring that onwards travel, storage and slaughter are carried out humanely. Due to lack of oversight here, ceasing to sell live decapods to the public would be the most advisable action.



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

www.crustaceancompassion.org



Crustacean Industry Welfare Hub

Working together for decapod welfare

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. Benefits include exclusive webinars and early access to Crustacean Compassion publications.

Visit www.ciwhub.org to join today.



Appendix I

List of companies covered by the benchmark

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

*The benchmark looked at UK operations, as at the time of assessment in August 2025.

Appendix II

Company	2025 Overall score (171 pts)	2025 Overall score
ALDI UK (ALDI SOUTH Group)	52	30%
Amazon UK	15	9%
Andrew Marr International	0	0%
ASDA Stores Ltd	10	6%
Associated Seafoods Ltd	110	64%
Bidfresh (subs. of Bidvest)	29	17%
Brakes (subs. of Sysco)	10	6%
Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF)	69	40%
Compass Group UK & Ireland (subs. of Compass Group PLC)	49	29%
Hilton Food Group PLC	125	73%
Iceland Foods Ltd	49	29%
J Sainsbury PLC	127	74%
Lidl GB	55	32%
Lyons Seafoods (subs. Of Labeyrie Fine Foods Group)	114	67%
Macduff Shellfish (subs. of Seafood Ecosse)	104	61%
MacNeil Shellfish Ltd	3	2%
Marks & Spencer Group PLC	159	93%
NEW New England Seafood International - Paignton	144	84%
Northcoast Seafoods (part of Umios)	10	6%
Ocado Retail Ltd	78	46%
NEW Orkney Crab Ltd	116	68%
Seafresh Group (Holdings) Ltd	114	67%
Sykes Seafood (incl. Ruskim Seafoods)	160	94%
Tesco PLC	125	73%
Thai Union	10	6%
The Co-operative Group Ltd	98	57%
Waitrose Ltd	120	70%
Whitby Seafoods Ltd	98	57%
Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd	63	37%
Young's Seafood Ltd	143	84%

Appendix III

Methodology

Assessment approach

In March 2022 Crustacean Compassion commissioned Chronos Sustainability ('Chronos') to design and implement an industry benchmark on decapod crustacean welfare. Following pilot assessments and a public consultation, 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 II¹.

To give companies more time to formalise and publish information on their management approaches, unpublished information was taken into account for the first assessment, and individual company scores were not published in the inaugural 2022 report. However, in line with the benchmark's objective to drive transparency on this issue, it was clearly communicated that subsequent benchmark reports would include company rankings and would focus exclusively on published information.

The benchmark assessed 30 UK seafood producers, processors, foodservice companies and retailers on their policies, management and disclosure of decapod 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 decapods, the scale of their influence within the UK industry, or how innovative they appeared to be in addressing decapod 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 decapods 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 decapods exported from the UK. This was to ensure the same expectations are placed on imported products as on UK products. Companies were assessed on published information only.

2025 public consultation

From May - June 2025 Crustacean Compassion and Chronos Sustainability conducted a public consultation on the introduction of new Performance Impact and Reporting questions, revisions to the benchmark assessment criteria, and wider reflections on the criteria. This resulted in the following actions:

- the introduction of sub-question 19b about the proportion of decapods in the company's supply chain that are humanely slaughtered;
- the introduction of sub-question 20b, which asked about the proportion of decapods in the company's supply chain that were free of non-therapeutic mutilations;
- the simplification of question 21 to ask whether the company reports on live transport duration for decapods in its supply chain, rather than the proportion of decapods transported within specified durations;
- the simplification of question 22 to ask whether the company reports on capture methods used for decapods in its supply chain, rather than the proportion of decapods captured using specified methods.

The scoring methodology for question 16b was adjusted to grade scoring as to whether companies used supplier contracts, certification schemes and / or supplier auditing programmes to implement its welfare policy, instead of grouping all these activities under one score as in previous years.

Finally, the methodology for question 18 was adjusted to allow point-scoring for communicating with business customers, rather than limiting the question to consumers which would be restrictive for companies without a consumer-facing aspect, and to add a requirement that all communications must have taken place within 12 months of the assessment. The scoring methodology for this question was also graded to reflect whether companies could show singular or multiple examples of communication activity around decapod welfare.

Other minor alterations to the scoring criteria and rationale are highlighted in **Appendix IV**.

Assessment process

In July 2025 all benchmark companies were given *The Snapshot 2025: Preparing for Assessment*, which offered further guidance on the assessment criteria¹², the changes resulting from the public consultation 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 IV.**

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 decapods 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 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 reporting of the proportion of decapods in a company's supply chain that were humanely stunned and not subjected to mutilations, also whether companies reported on live transport times and the capture methods used.

For questions 19b and 20b, companies were only awarded points if they reported on the proportion of decapods affected; statements such as 'our decapods' did not qualify for points.



Appendix IV

Assessment criteria

Text highlighted in **green** denotes criteria changes made following 2025 public consultation.

Management Commitment and Policy

Question 1.	Does the company acknowledge the welfare of decapod crustaceans as a business issue?	
Rationale	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.	
Scoring	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
	(Max Score 10)	

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?	
Rationale	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.	
Scoring	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
	(Max Score 10)	

Question 3.	Does the policy statement provide a clear explanation of geographic, decapod crustacean species and product scope?	
Rationale	Understanding the scope of a policy is important to understand the breadth of a company’s commitment to action on decapod crustacean welfare.	
Scoring	3a. Geographic scope	
	Geographic scope is not specified.	0
	Scope is limited to certain specified geographies.	2
	Scope is universal across all geographies.	5
	3b. Species scope	
	Species scope is not specified.	0
	Scope is limited to certain specified species.	2
	Scope is universal across all relevant species.	5
	3c. Product scope	
	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
(Max Score 15)		

Question 4.	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?	
Rationale	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. 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.	
Scoring	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
	(Max Score 5)	

Question 5.	Does the company have a clear commitment to reduce bycatch associated with decapod crustacean fishing?	
Rationale	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 and the methods of handling and return to sea for undersized individuals and non-target species, 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.	
Scoring	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
	(Max Score 5)	

Question 6.	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>	
Rationale	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.	
Scoring	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
	(Max Score 5)	

Question 7.	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?	
Rationale	<p>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.</p> <p>Some of the challenges to decapod welfare during holding or storage can be addressed by reducing duration of storage, introducing specific storage and handling practices, setting and monitoring requirements for water quality and environmental parameters, and monitoring of animal welfare indicators.</p> <p>Companies are expected to describe the specific measures they are taking to ensure decapod welfare during holding (during post-capture, holding for processing and retail stage).</p>	
Scoring	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
	(Max Score 5)	

Question 8.	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?	
Rationale	<p>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.</p> <p>Some of the challenges to decapod welfare during transport can be addressed by introducing specific storage and handling practices, setting and monitoring requirements for water quality and environmental parameters, and monitoring of animal welfare indicators.</p> <p>Companies are expected to describe the specific measures they are taking to ensure decapod welfare during transport.</p>	
Scoring	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
	(Max Score 5)	

Question 9.	Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of long-duration live transportation of decapod crustaceans?	
Rationale	<p>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.</p>	
Scoring	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
	(Max Score 5)	

Question 10.	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?	
Rationale	<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>	
Scoring	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
	(Max Score 10)	

Question 11.	Does the company have a clear position on the avoidance of live sale of decapod crustaceans to the public or untrained handlers?	
Rationale	<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>	
Scoring	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
	(Max score 5)	

Governance and Management

Question 12.	Has the company assigned management responsibility for the welfare of decapod crustaceans to an individual or specified committee?	
Rationale	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.	
Scoring	12a. Management responsibility	
	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
	12b. Board or senior management responsibility	
	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
	(Max score 10)	

Question 13.	Has the company set time-bound objectives and targets for the management of decapod crustacean welfare?	
Rationale	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.	
Scoring	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
	(Max score 10)	

Question 14.	Does the company report on its progress against its improvement objectives or targets linked to improving the welfare of decapod crustaceans?	
Rationale	Companies should provide an explanation of progress against their objectives and targets.	
Scoring	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
	(Max score 5)	

Question 15. Does the company describe its internal processes for ensuring that its policy on decapod crustacean welfare is effectively implemented?		
Rationale	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.	
Scoring	15a. Employee training	
	No information provided on employee training in decapod crustacean welfare.	0
	The company provides specific training to employees in decapod crustacean welfare.	5
	15b. Actions taken in the event of non-compliance	
	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
	(Max score 10)	

Question 16. Does the company describe how it implements its policy on decapod crustacean welfare (or equivalent) through its supply chain?		
Rationale	<p>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).</p> <p>Q16b – companies which have a decapod welfare policy in place and describe the use of certification schemes to support the implementation of the policy can be awarded partial points.</p> <p>Companies which describe how decapod welfare is monitored as part of supplier auditing (with or without certification) can be awarded full points.</p>	
Scoring	16a. Does the company describe how it implements its policy (or equivalent) on decapod crustacean welfare through its supply chain via supplier contracts?	
	No information on how decapod crustacean welfare is included in supplier contracts.	0
	The company describes the use of certification schemes to monitor decapod crustacean welfare in its supply chain.	3
	The company specifies decapod crustacean welfare as part of a supplier auditing programme.	5
	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?	
	No information provided on how supplier compliance with contract conditions is monitored.	0
	The company describes the use of certification schemes to monitor decapod crustacean welfare in its supply chain.	3
	The company specifies decapod crustacean welfare as part of a supplier auditing programme.	5
	16c. Does the company describe how it implements its policy (or equivalent) on decapod crustacean welfare through its supply chain via education and support?	
	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	
	(Max score 15)	

Innovation and Leadership

Question 17.	Is the company currently investing in projects dedicated to advancing the welfare of decapod crustaceans within the industry?	
Rationale	<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. That is, companies have to demonstrate that they are dedicating significant time, resources or expertise to the initiatives in question. Industry initiatives can include roundtables or working groups dedicated to decapod crustacean welfare.</p>	
Scoring	17a. Involvement in research and development	
	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
	17b. Involvement in industry or other initiatives	
	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
	(Max score 10)	



Question 18.	Does the company promote decapod crustacean welfare to consumers or customers through education and/or awareness-raising activities?	
Rationale	<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"> • The provision of information about decapod crustacean welfare on the company’s website (as an integral part of customer communications and engagement). • On-pack or on-shelf labelling – provided this is evidenced on the company’s website, in its published reports or on social media platforms. • Information leaflets or information packs. • Media promotions. • Supporting third party campaigns or programmes on decapod crustacean welfare. • Social media campaigns. • One example of communication, for example a social media post or multiple posts on the same topic will be awarded partial points. • Substantial communication (e.g. an advertising campaign) is given equal scoring to multiple communications. • Social media channels referenced will be reviewed for recent content (less than 12 months old or since the time of last assessment). 	
Scoring	No evidence of promoting decapod crustacean welfare to consumers.	0
	At least one example of activity promoting decapod crustacean welfare to consumers or customers.	3
	Multiple or substantial examples of activities promoting decapod welfare to consumers or customers.	5
	(Max score 5)	

Performance Reporting and Impact

Question 19.	Does the company report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain that are humanely stunned and slaughtered?	
Rationale	<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> <p>For retailers and wholesalers, this question applies to all own-brand products.</p> <p>Q19a and Q19b are looking for reporting on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain that is humanely (electrically) stunned and slaughtered. This may be reported by individual species or grouped.</p>	
Scoring	19a. Does the company report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain that are humanely stunned and slaughtered?	
	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
	19b. What proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company's supply chain are humanely stunned and slaughtered?	
	0%, or no reported information on any species.	0
	Less than 50% of one or more species humanely slaughtered.	1
	51% to 100% of one or more species humanely slaughtered.	2
	100% of all supplied species humanely slaughtered.	3
	(Max score 8)	

Question 20.	Does the company report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company’s supply chain that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations?	
Rationale	<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> <p>For retailers and wholesalers, this question applies to all own-brand products.</p> <p>Q20a and Q20b are looking for reporting on the proportion of warm water prawns in the company’s supply chain that is free from eyestalk ablation and the proportion of crab in the company’s supply chain that is free from claw nicking and de-clawing. This may be reported by individual species or grouped.</p>	
Scoring	20a. Does the company report on the proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company’s supply chain that are free from non-therapeutic mutilations?	
	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
	20b. What proportion of decapod crustaceans in the company’s supply chain are free from non-therapeutic mutilations?	
	0%, or no reported information on any species.	0
	Less than 50% of one or more species free from non-therapeutic mutilations.	1
	51% to 100% of one or more species free from non-therapeutic mutilations.	2
	100% of all supplied species free from non-therapeutic mutilations.	3
(Max score 8)		

Question 21.	Does the company report on transport duration for each decapod species in its supply chain?	
Rationale	<p>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 for reporting on the duration of live decapod transportation for each species of decapod crustacean in the company’s supply chain.</p>	
Scoring	No reporting on transport duration for decapod crustaceans.	0
	The company reports on transport duration for decapod crustaceans, but this reporting is limited to certain geographies, species or products.	3
	The company reports fully on transport duration for decapod crustaceans, covering all relevant geographies, species and products.	5
	(Max score 5)	

Question 22.	Does the company report on decapod crustacean capture methods for each species in its supply chain?	
Rationale	In addition to having clear policy commitments and management practices, companies are expected to maintain measurement criteria for decapod crustaceans in their supply chain. Capture methods vary greatly depending on species, but all have the potential to compromise welfare, including from shifts in barometric pressure, physical trauma, injury and crushing, and exhaustion. Measuring and reporting on capture method is an important step in addressing welfare during capture. This question is looking specifically for reporting on the method(s) of capture for each species of decapod crustacean in the company's supply chain.	
Scoring	No reporting on decapod capture method.	0
	The company reports on decapod capture method, but this reporting is limited to certain geographies, species or products.	3
	The company reports fully on decapod capture method, covering all relevant geographies, species and products.	5
	(Max score 5)	



Glossary

Animal/decapod crustacean welfare	The physical and mental wellbeing of animals/decapod crustaceans and the freedom to express behaviours that are innate to them.
Aquaculture	The farming of aquatic animals, including crustaceans, fish and molluscs.
Benchmark	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.
Bycatch	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.
Cold water prawns	Wild-caught prawns originating from the cold water of the North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean.
Claw nicking	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 ^{4,13} .
Creels and pots	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.
Decapod/Decapod crustacean	An order of crustaceans from the Greek meaning '10-limbed'. They include crabs, lobsters, nephrops, prawns, shrimps and crayfish.
Declawing	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 ^{4,13} .
Eyestalk ablation	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 ^{4,13} .
Food companies	Food businesses including producers, processors, manufacturers and food retailers.
Non-therapeutic mutilations	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 ^{4,13} . Non-therapeutic mutilations are defined as those not having a direct welfare benefit for the animal.

Sentience	To be sentient is to have positive or negative experiences, such as experiences of pain, pleasure, comfort, warmth, hunger, anxiety or joy.
Stunning	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 ^{4,13} .
Electrical stunning	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 ^{4,13} .
Thermal stunning/ ice chilling	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 ^{4,13} .
Warm water prawns	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