



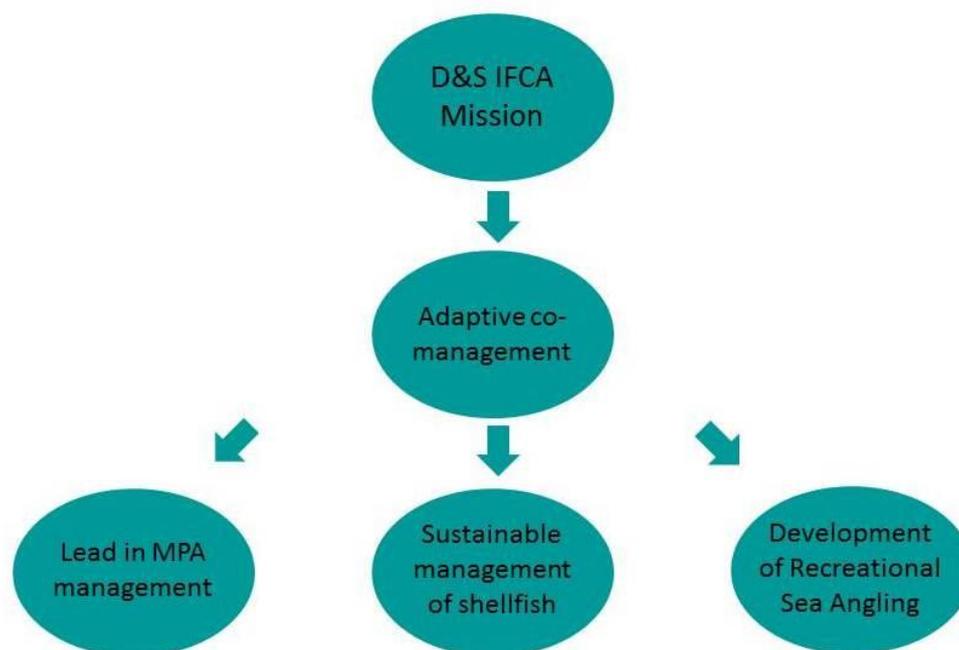
# **Recreational Sea Angling Strategy**

**2014-2016**

## IFCAs and Recreational Sea Angling

The Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority's (D&S IFCA) Recreational Sea Angling (RSA) Strategy is intended to lay out D&S IFCA's commitment to the development of the RSA sector within its district.

D&S IFCA has a duty to seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the district. In the Authority's Annual Plan (2012-2013; 2013-2014) developing the Recreation Sea Angling (RSA) sector is one of the three main objectives.



D&S IFCA was heavily involved in the Sea Angling 2012 project. The Authority's Principal Environment Officer sat on the project's steering group and D&S IFCA officers were involved in the collection of data on the ground, conducting shore based and boat based interviews in South Devon, North Devon and the Severn. The results of Sea Angling 2012 confirm that RSA is an extremely important fishing activity in the South West, contributing significantly to the local economy. D&S IFCA therefore wishes to proactively seek to develop RSA in acknowledgement of these findings.

The RSA Strategy sets out the three core areas where D&S IFCA will work with the RSA sector: Engagement, Management and Development.

## Engagement

*Aim:* To understand the needs and requirements of anglers in our district so that they can be successfully included in the D&S IFCA's decision making process. To ensure that D&S IFCA is recognised and heard within the local angling community. To improve the knowledge of sea anglers with respect to fishing activities and the role of the IFCA within the district in order to improve the angling experience and manage expectations.

*Actions:*

- Engage with local clubs, taking opportunities to attend competitions or AGMs when they are presented;
- Build relationships and communication pathways with national angling bodies
- Publish the Angling Update newsletter to keep anglers in the district up-to-date with developments;
- Work closely with the MMO appointed angling representatives who sit on the Authority;
- Improve engagement with the private and charter boat sectors within the district
- Create a specific RSA section to the D&S IFCA's website so that information relevant to the sea angling sector can be easily accessed;
- Provide information relating to sea angling on signage produced by the estuary fora in the district;
- Produce easy to use information on minimum sizes for prescribed species and to make the RSA sector aware of their other legal obligations to encourage best-practice;
- Promote D&S IFCA's ongoing work towards sustainable fisheries such as newly extended closed areas to mobile fishing gear in European Marine Sites;
- Improve awareness within the recreational angling sector of current restrictions governing static gear fishing activities to reduce conflict and improve the angling experience e.g. through clearer explanation and promotion of byelaws;
- Encourage anglers to report suspected illegal activity within the District.

## Management

*Aim:* To seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fishery resources in the D&S IFCA district.

*Actions:*

- Include angling representatives throughout the IFCA Byelaw review process via membership on the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee;
- Consider management options available to promote the development of the RSA sector;
- Introduce pilot study areas and monitor site-specific activity to gain information on the direct and indirect effects on all sectors from introducing management to promote the RSA sector;
- Consider RSA sector when reviewing legacy netting byelaws.

**Development**

*Aim:* To improve angling opportunities and experiences within the D&S IFCA district.

*Actions:*

- Identify areas where appropriate spatial management may have direct benefits to the RSA sector;
- Develop pilot studies which introduce spatial management using voluntary codes of conduct to explore the possibility of managing fisheries activities to improve RSA opportunities;
- Introduce marking of static gear via permit conditions included in new potting and netting byelaws to enable easy differentiation between nets and pots to improve the angling experience and reduce conflict between fishing sectors;
- Improve access to IFCA officers outside working hours to enable real-time reporting of illegal activity via a new 24hr duty phone system.