

Potting Permit Byelaw

Removal of a Potting Permit Condition



Supplementary Report – A Summary of Response from the Consultation to Remove a Potting Permit Condition (2.5.3)

(8th March 2019 to 12th April 2019)

23rd April 2019

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1. Aim of this Supplementary Report

This supplementary report (April 2019) has been prepared for members of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC). This supplement is intended to assist the decision making of members regarding a change to the Potting Permit Conditions (Version Control 1st August 2018). This supplement report will also be published on the D&S IFCA website and will be available for all stakeholders to read. It includes embedded information (Hyperlinks) that give readers access to additional information. All additional information embedded in this report is freely accessible within different sections of the [D&S IFCA Website Resource Library](#).

On 26th February 2019, the B&PSC were presented with a [progress report](#) of the work undertaken by the Byelaw Technical Working Group (BTWG) on behalf of the B&PSC. The BTWG highlighted an issue associated with the present Potting Permit Conditions that is associated with the [Landing Obligation 2019 – Rules and Regulations](#).

These rules are related to the discarding of certain species of fish. All quota species must be landed and counted against quota unless exemptions apply. Therefore, some species of fish below the Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) must be landed, although they can't be sold for direct human consumption.

- Bass is not subject to the Landing Obligation.
- Prohibited species should be released unharmed if possible.

To reflect the fact that some fish below the MCRS must be landed and can then be sold as bait, the present Potting Permit Conditions would not harmonise with the Landing Obligation.

The B&PSC have taken the view that the resource should be available for those fishers that conduct potting, so it can be purchased and used as bait. A decision was taken by the B&PSC on 26th February 2019 to consult on the removal of Permit Condition 2.5.3 which stated the following:

A permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to use any finfish as bait within the District unless it meets minimum sizes set out in Annex XII, Article 17 of Council Regulation (EC) 850/98.

Process and making use of this supplement report:

1. Members to examine the collated response information from the consultation as set out in this report
2. Members to decide how to proceed with a view to the removal of the Potting Permit Condition 2.5.3

If it is decided to remove Potting Permit Condition 2.5.3

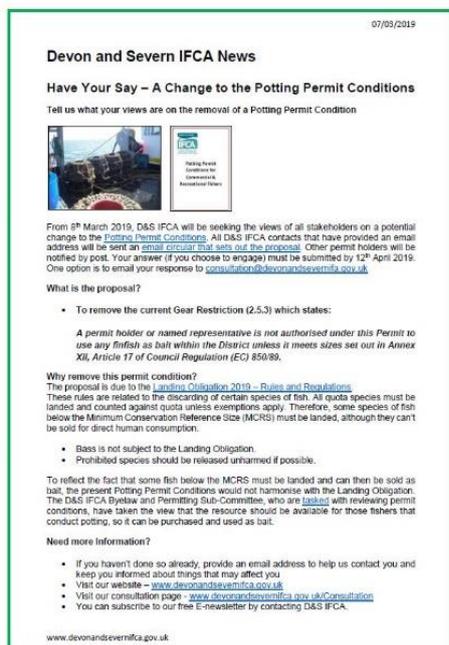
3. Officers will amend the Potting Permit Conditions
4. Amended Potting Permit Conditions will be issued at zero cost to permit holders

2. Engagement with Stakeholders

Information about the proposal was widely circulated. A Call for Information campaign, including use of a Mail Chimp email circular, was conducted between 8th March and 12th April 2019. Over 1000 D&S IFCA stakeholders that had supplied an email address were directly notified of the proposal. Permit holders with no email address were notified by post. All stakeholders were invited to respond and not just those with a Potting Permit.

A news item was posted on the D&S IFCA website throughout the consultation period and four surgery sessions were advertised that provided stakeholders with the opportunity to visit the D&S IFCA Office and talk to an Officer. The [consultation page](#) on the website was used to provide information on the proposal and Facebook and twitter were also used to support the consultation.

- **780 of the mail chimp e mails were opened by stakeholders**



- [Website news item](#)
- [Mail Chimp email Circular](#)

The information circulated and posted on the website explained the following:

- **What the consultation item was**
- **Why the B&PSC proposed to remove the Permit Condition**
- **How to find more information & a link to the 2019 Landing Obligations**
- **A guide to the work of the B&PSC**
- **How to respond using one or more of the multiple options that were available to provide a response**

3. Response from Stakeholders

A total of five responses were received. The content of all the responses was relatively simple and an in-depth summary has not been possible to formulate. All responses were submitted by individual stakeholders, other than a response from the Executive Officer of South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen Ltd. This response was supportive as in their view the amendment to the Potting Permit Conditions will enable potters to utilise fish that, due to the landing obligation, is not fit for human consumption.

Summary of response table

Response No.	Date Received	In Favour of Proposal (Y/N)	Additional Comments taken from the responses
1	07/03/19	Yes	It helps the many problems caused by the discard ban
2	07/03/19	Yes	No additional comments
3	18/03/19	Yes	South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen are supportive as it makes use of the resource
4	19/03/19	No	The industry needs to move away from quotas and sizes. Trawlers should be banned in UK waters to reduce overfishing. Potting should be prohibited within 600 metres of the shore.
5	30/03/19	No	No undersize fish of any description should be landed. Only fish of a suitable condition should be used for bait or human consumption.

Officer Comments

In general, the response was very limited, however this is not untypical when a proposal is, in the view of fishers, considered to be advantageous rather than adding additional restriction. It is also possible that the detail contained within the current Potting Permit Conditions is not fully understood or recognised by those with a permit.

No stakeholders took advantage of the four separate surgery sessions to visit the D&S IFCA Office and talk to an officer. Not all stakeholders that responded indicated which fishing sector (if they are a permit holder) they were from. It is known that at least one of the stakeholders that did not support the proposal has a commercial mobile fishing permit.

4. Further Information & Hyperlinks

All additional information embedded in this report is freely accessible within different sections of the [D&S IFCA Website Resource Library](#).

- [Website news item](#)
- [Mail Chimp email Circular](#)
- [Potting Permit Byelaw](#)
- [Potting Permit Conditions \(Version Control 1st August 2018\)](#)
- [Byelaw Technical Working Group Progress Report \(February 2019\)](#)

End of Supplement