



Scallop Closed Season

Have Your Say

The Review of the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw & the Diving Permit Byelaw

What's the purpose of this information gathering exercise?

D&S IFCA is in the process of reviewing the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw and is about to begin reviewing the Diving Permit Byelaw. The Byelaws must be reviewed after five years and the reviews and drafting work will extend into 2021. The reviews of each Byelaw provide an opportunity for the associated permit conditions to be examined. Giving you the opportunity to have your say is part of these review processes.

D&S IFCA is inviting you to have your say on the existing scallop closed season that applies in July, August and September each year. The closure is a permit condition that is relevant to commercial fishers that have a Category One Mobile Fishing Permit or commercial fishers that have a Category One Diving Permit.

D&S IFCA is directly contacting everyone on our mailing list and all stakeholders can respond even if they don't conduct fishing activity relevant to the scallop closed season. This document explains how you and others can participate in the process. Your view is important, and D&S IFCA encourage you to forward this information if you know others that may have an interest.

This information gathering exercise is based around some topics and questions that are set out after some background information; however, you are free to express your thoughts and expand your response beyond the questions.

Background Information – What is the scallop closed season and why it is in place?

D&S IFCA must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its District. This is specified within the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009. The scallop closed season originated in a legacy byelaw (2002) inherited from Devon Sea Fisheries Committee. Quota management measures which were introduced prior to April 2002 caused an increase in the fishing effort upon the scallop grounds. This led to scallops being fished all year round instead of just seasonally. Due to the increased effort, CEFAS scientists suggested that a closure period during the breeding season would be beneficial for scallop stocks. A closed season byelaw was introduced that prohibited any person removing scallops during July, August and September each year from a defined area on the south coast of Devon.

- **The scallop closed season is not a restriction that has been implemented to protect features on the seabed from fishing activity.**

When the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw was introduced in 2014 the scallop closed season restriction was incorporated into the Mobile Fishing Category One Permit Conditions; however, the area of the closure was expanded to the whole of the District. When the Diving Permit Byelaw was introduced in 2015, the same restriction was applied within the Category One Diving Permits. The closed season does not apply to recreational divers as these fishers have a daily catch limit that applies every day of the year.

Topics & Questions:

Topic 1: Your Interests

- a) What interest do you have regarding the scallop closed season?
 - b) Are you a fisher with a mobile fishing permit, a diving permit or someone else with a different interest?
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The following topics and questions act as a guide to help you prepare your response.

Topic 2: Benefits and disadvantages of the scallop closed season

- c) What is your view on having a scallop closed season in place?
- d) What are the benefits for the fishery?
- e) What are the benefits to you and others?
- f) What are the disadvantages to you and others?

Topic 3: Length and dates of the scallop closed season

- g) What is your view on the length of the three-month scallop closed season?
- h) What is your view on when the scallop closed season should apply?

Topic 4: Alternatives

- i) What alternatives suggestions do you have to the scallop closed season?
- j) What are the benefits or disadvantages of your suggestions for yourself or others?

Topic 5: Other information

- k) If you have more to say regarding the scallop closed season, please tell us.
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How will your information help us?

We will collate the information you provide, and this may help our Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee in their decision making. During 2020 and 2021, work will continue re-drafting the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw, the Diving Permit Byelaw and the associated permit conditions. There will be further consultation in 2021 when each Byelaw is re-made. When the revised Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw and the revised Diving Permit Byelaw are at an advanced state they will be subjected to a formal period of consultation and stakeholders will have the opportunity to support or object to them.

How you can have your say

1. Contact us via email – consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk
2. Write to us

Devon and Severn IFCA

Brixham Laboratory,

Freshwater Quarry,

Brixham,

TQ5 8BA.

- This information gathering exercise ends on Friday 9th October 2020.

Further Information

Further detail about our byelaw review and the work conducted by our Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee can be found in a [guide](#) that is posted on D&S IFCA's website or available upon request.

Reports presented to and discussed by the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee can be found on the D&S IFCA website in the [Resource Library](#) or are available upon request.

Minutes of Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee meetings can be found on the D&S IFCA website in the [Resource Library](#) or available upon request.

How to follow our work?

If you are not already on our mailing list, then you can get yourself added by [contacting D&S IFCA](#) or by using this [link](#). You will then be directly notified of all our consultations. You will also receive our free e-newsletter.

Keep an eye on our [consultation page](#) on our website to read about other work being done and how you can get involved and have your say.

Follow our [latest news items](#) displayed on our website or our face book page.

Explore our website [Resource Library](#) for an extensive range of our information and publications. It's all free.

What do we do with your information – Privacy Policy

We protect any personal data that you may provide. Personal data submitted in this information collecting process will be securely stored and may be shared with other organisations including Defra and the Marine Management Organisation. The content of responses will be summarised and anonymised where appropriate for documenting in reports that will be presented to the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee and published on our website.

D&S IFCA has a privacy policy which can be found by visiting our website (home page) www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

- You can change your preferences at any time.
- We have a duty to consult with D&S IFCA Permit Holders.

You can manage your preferences by contacting D&S IFCA.

End.