



Annual Report 2019 - 2020

For period: 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

31st October 2020

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Overview

An Annual Report must be produced as a requirement of Section 178 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This Annual Report meets that requirement and is focussed on the workstreams undertaken by D&S IFCA between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020 as set out in D&S IFCA's Annual Plan 2019-20.

The monitoring of identified workstreams and documenting which tasks remain on-going or are incomplete has been fundamental in the creation of D&S IFCA's 2020-21 Annual Plan.

Aims of the Annual Report:

1. To be easy to understand and to be effective as a means of reporting;
2. To demonstrate the status of workstreams as compared to those identified in D&S IFCA's 2019-20 Annual Plan;
3. To highlight which work streams, have been completed by 31st March 2020, or remain on track for completion by the original deadlines;
4. To highlight why some workstreams were not completed or not progressed;
5. To provide a more in-depth account of specific key tasks (case studies).

Construction of the Annual Report

This Annual Report is divided into core work areas. For each of these areas, tables have been produced which demonstrate the workstreams that have been completed and those that are incomplete or still on-going. A further table has been included under each core work area, which documents other workstreams that were not included in the original plan but have required a significant amount of officer time and resources to deliver.

These sections are colour coded:

Completed Work:



In-complete or Not Progressed Work:

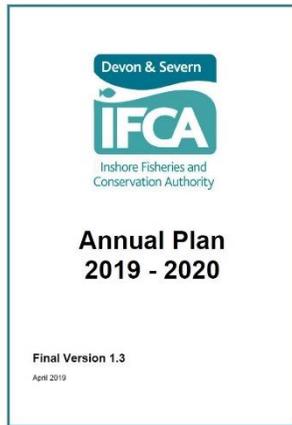


Additional Work:



Context

The Annual Report for the period 2019-20 can be read in conjunction with D&S IFCA's 2019-20 Annual Plan (and Annexes) by using the links provided below:



[The 2019-20 Annual Plan](#)

[Annex 1: D&S IFCA Metrics](#)

[Annex 2: Budget Summary \(2019-20\)](#)

[Annex 3: Success Criteria](#)

[Annex 4: Risk Assessment Matrix](#)

[Annex 5: Abbreviations & Definitions](#)

[Annex 6: Staff Structure \(2019-20\)](#)

As well as the production of the Annual Report, quarterly reports were produced throughout 2019-2020. These contain greater detail relating to the sub-tasks associated with overarching workstreams and specific officers' work that has been highlighted in multiple news & information items published on D&S IFCA's website. The following quarterly reports have been embedded (hyperlinked below):

Quarterly Reports:

[\(April to May 2019\)](#)



[\(June to August 2019\)](#)



[\(September to December 2019\)](#)



Table 1a Management of Fishing Activities (Completed Workstreams)

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To continue with the Three-Year Review of the Diving Permit Conditions	To document the findings of consultation into a supplement report for B&PSC.	To enable decision making and potential changes to Diving Permit conditions.	Supplement Report to be completed by 26th April 2019.	The Supplement Report was completed on 23 rd April 2019.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b)(d); S.154
	To report the findings of the final stage of consultation to the B&PSC.	Requirement of process/transparency. B&PSC can consider changes to Diving Permit Conditions.	Supplement Report to be presented on 16th May 2019.	Supplement Report presented to the B&PSC on 16 th May 2019. The B&PSC agreed to multiple changes to the Diving Permit Conditions.	
	Potential changes to Diving Permit Conditions.	To reflect decision by B&PSC.	All final changes made by 31 st May 2019.	Not achieved by original deadline. Delayed as the changes to documentation including Annexes and Application forms took longer than expected.	
	Issue new Diving Permit Conditions.	To complete process and introduce potential new restrictions.	New permits to be issued by end of June 2019.	Not achieved by original deadline; however, new permits were issued with an enforce date of 1 st August. The amended date reflected the large amount of administration work required to complete the task, coupled with the development of new application forms and the development of a new on-line permit application facility.	
	To create a final Development (Process) Report to accompany the introduction of the new Diving Permit Conditions.	Transparency with information and to document complete process in a single reference document.	Final Development Report to be completed and published by end of June 2019.	Report completed on 25 th July 2019 and then published on the D&S IFCA website.	

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To review management of Hand Working Fishing Activities (hand gathering, crab tiling and bait collection)	Bait Digging: To assemble D&S IFCA environmental evidence and other base line information (including responses from Call for Information campaign) relating to Bait Digging in a supplement report and present to B&PSC.	As part of the on-going review. Report to assist the decision-making process and demonstrate transparency with information.	Supplement Report to compiled by 30th April 2019. Supplement report presented to B&PSC on 16th May 2019.	Supplement Report completed and presented to the B&PSC on 16th May 2019 and used to inform the decision-making process.	MaCAA: S.153(2) (a)(b)(d) S.154 Habitats & Birds Directives and Regulations
	Hand Gathering Activities: To assemble D&S IFCA environmental evidence and other base line information (including responses from Call for Information campaign) relating to Hand Gathering in a supplement report and present to B&PSC.	As part of the on-going review. Report to assist the decision-making process and demonstrate transparency with information.	Supplement Report to be compiled by 31st July 2019. Supplement Report presented to B&PSC on 15th August 2019.	Supplement Report completed and presented to the B&PSC on 15th August 2019 and used to inform the decision-making process.	
	B&PSC to consider Options for Management including potential Introduction of a Hand Working Permit Byelaw.	As part of the process and as set out in overarching panning report.	Decision making expected at B&PSC meeting on 14th November 2019.	An Options for Management Report was produced and presented to B&PSC members for use on 14 th November 2019. The B&PSC concluded that D&S IFCA should develop a Hand Working Permit Byelaw.	

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
Potting Permit Byelaw: The Live Wrasse Pot Fishery	To compile the information used in the 2018/19 formal review into a single overarching reference document.	Accountability and transparency. To document the information presented and the decision-making process followed during the formal review.	Final report to be published by 30th April 2019.	The completion of the report was delayed; however, it was completed on 17 th June 2019 and then published on the D&S IFCA website.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b)(d) Habitats Directive and Regulations
	To present a supplement report for the 2019/20 Comprehensive Review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery to the B&PSC.	To enable members to begin the review management of this fishery after three years and determine future of the fishery.	Supplement Report (with the headline themes of the 2019 research data) to be presented on 14/11/2019. Completed Research Report comparing three-years of data to be presented in February 2020.	It was concluded that a "headline" report would be of limited value to members of the B&PSC to inform decision making. The full report - Three-Year Comprehensive Review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery was completed on 3 rd February 2020 and circulated to B&PSC members for use at the B&PSC meeting on 11 th February 2020. On 11 th February, the B&PSC concluded that additional management is needed for the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. The Potting Permit Conditions will require amendment and circulation in by 16 th June 2020. This will involve several sub-tasks.	
Potting Permit Byelaw	To document the findings of consultation relating to the use of fish for bait into a supplement report for B&PSC.	To enable decision making and potential changes to Potting Permit conditions.	Supplement Report to be completed by 26th April 2019 and presented to the B&PSC on 16th May 2019.	A Supplement Report - A Summary of Response from the Consultation to Remove a Potting Permit Condition (2.5.3) was completed on 23 rd April 2019 and presented to the B&PSC. Members concluded that the Potting Permit Conditions should be amended. This produced additional work, such as re-drafting, communications work and administration tasks to issue amended Potting Permit Conditions (In-force date of 1 st August 2019).	Council Regulation - Landing Obligation 2019

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To implement the Monitoring and Control Plans (M&CPs) for certain activities taking place within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Monitoring programmes will be set up to fulfil the requirements of M&CPs and results will inform any potential changes in management of the fishing activity assessed.	M&CPs have been produced for specific activities in five MPAs to ensure the best available evidence is being used in the IFCA's management decisions and fulfil the IFCA's duty to protect the marine environment from or promote its recovery from the effects of the exploitation of sea fisheries resources.	Monitoring will take place according to the plan throughout 2019-2020.	Lundy Island SAC - Iteration 2.1 completed May 2019. Monitoring has begun and records kept. Torbay MCZ - Iteration 1 completed July 2019. Monitoring work now planned using VMS track data. Plymouth Sound EMS (Allis Shad) - Iteration 1.1 completed July 2019 - Monitoring work underway. Severn SAC (Shad) - Iteration 1 completed August 2019.	MaCAA: S. 153(2)(a) S.154 Habitats Directive and Regulations
Development of a Mariculture Strategy	A Mariculture Strategy will be developed throughout 2019, and in part it will be informed by consultation with the mariculture Industry and interested parties.	The strategy will highlight core areas where the IFCA may have the opportunity to work with the mariculture sector to evaluate and advance mariculture opportunities and provide information to those interested in entering this sector.	Draft Strategy presented at March 2020 Quarterly meeting.	The Mariculture Strategy will be completed by 1 st March 2020 and considered by the members at the main Authority quarterly meeting on 12 th March 2020.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(c)(d) S.172

Table 1b Management of Fishing Activities (Incomplete/Ongoing Workstreams)

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
The 5 year review the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (including changes to Permit Conditions)	To use the MPA assessment and NE's Formal Advice on mobile fishing activities to inform further management measures. D&S IFCA will also consider undertaking assessments to open areas previously closed under precaution to mobile gear. The remaining assessment on mobile gear in the Skerries Bank MCZ will be undertaken.	The Byelaw must be reviewed after a five-year period. Assessment will be completed to inform management measures under this byelaw. In 2014 areas within MPA were closed under the precautionary principle due to the inability to remotely monitor mobile fishing activity. VMS data are now available and D&S IFCA has indicated it will undertake assessments to possible open these areas up. However, this may be dependent on the outcome of the forthcoming appeal against the conviction brought successfully with the use of VMS data.	Assessments completed by May 2019. Results will be presented to the B&PSC on 15th August 2019.	<p>The review of the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw has begun; however, the sub tasks have been significantly delayed due to several factors.</p> <p>During the review, it was determined that as the separate categories of permit conditions are interlinked with the wording used within the overarching byelaw, they should be reviewed at the same time.</p> <p>During the process, the B&PSC have identified that additional categories of permit conditions are required to manage the activity of sand eel trawling. This has led to further pre-consultation, communication initiatives and subsequent reporting.</p> <p>Decision making on specific spatial access has been deferred until after the re-making of the Byelaw process (including formal consultation) has been completed.</p>	<p>MaCAA: S.153(2) (a)(b)(d) S.154</p> <p>Habitats Directive and Regulations</p>
	To assemble the evidence base and other relevant information related to potential changes in the Byelaw and associated permit conditions in a supplement report	The B&PSC can discuss these and other factors and action the BTWG to formulate potential changes to Mobile Fishing permits.	<p>Supplement report prepared by 31st July 2019.</p> <p>Supplement report to be presented to B&PSC on 15th August 2019.</p>		

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
	and present it to the B&PSC.				
	BTWG to create a modified Mobile Fishing Byelaw and new Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions including Annexes (charts) prior to formal consultation.	To reflect the changes required as agreed by the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee in preparation for the required consultation.	Task of BTWG to be completed by 15th September 2019. Consultation to be completed by end of October 2019. Findings presented to B&PSC on 14th November 2019.		MaCAA: S.153(2) (a)(b)(d) S.154 Habitats Directive and Regulations
	To introduce the amended Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (and permit conditions).	To reflect the changes in the restrictions of this fishing method and complete the process.	Reviewed Byelaw and new Permits to be introduced in January 2020.		
	To assemble a final Development (Process) Report to accompany the introduction of the amended Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (and amended permit conditions).	Transparency with information and to document complete process in a single reference document.	Final Development Report to be completed & published in January 2020.		

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To introduce the Exemptions Byelaw	To create an Impact Assessment (IA) for the Exemptions Byelaw to present to Sub-Committee on 16th May 2019 along with final draft of Exemptions Byelaw.	Impact Assessment must accompany the Byelaw for formal consultation.	IA to be completed by 30th April 2019.	The development and introduction of the Exemptions Byelaw has not been completed as expected due to several factors: The B&PSC agreed to widen the scope of the Exemptions Byelaw 2019, so it linked with IFCA duties specified in MaCAA. Decision making resulted in additional drafting work by the Byelaw Technical Working Group (BTWG).	MaCAA: S.157 S.155
	B&PSC to "make" the Byelaw and subject it to consultation (accompanied by IA).	A requirement of process. Six-week consultation considered to be best practice.	B&PSC vote on 16th May 2019. To complete formal consultation and document objections by 15th July 2019.	The delivery timetable for the sub-tasks fell behind the original expectations. The B&PSC "made" the Byelaw on 13 th June. Formal consultation began in July and finished on 15 th August. Responses from the formal consultation were managed and the required Byelaw Package including a revised "Final" Impact Assessment was submitted to the MMO for quality Assurance which ended on 21 st November. There are differences in legal opinion, regarding the scope and legality of the Byelaw. On 19th December 2019, the MMO submitted the Byelaw to Defra for consideration.	
	To consider and manage objections to the Byelaw and vote to send Byelaw and Final IA to MMO/DEFRA.	A requirement of the process.	B&PSC Meeting on 15th August. Circulate objections report/response by 15th September 2019. Complete Final IA and Byelaw for MMO QA by 30th September 2019.	At time of writing, it is unknown how long the period of consideration will be and what the outcome will be.	
	To make any required changes highlighted in QA process and introduce Byelaw.	To complete the process by the end of the six-month extension period.	New Byelaw introduced by November 2019.		
	To assemble a final Development Report	To document complete process in a single reference document.	Report to be published in November 2019.		

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To review the effectiveness of Skerries Angling Zone	A report on the analysis of the activity survey data for the Skerries Angling Zone will be used as the background for further engagement with all the relevant fishing sectors.	D&S IFCA introduced angling zones as part of its Angling Strategy. The further planned engagement will help determine if the voluntary measures have been enough to promote the development of the RSA sector or whether any more formal measures should be considered.	Report to the Byelaw and Permitting Subcommittee by 14th November 2019. Engagement with stakeholders June to Aug 2019.	Deadlines for other work prevented completion of this workstream as initially planned. A final report on analysis of the data collected: 'Temporal and Spatial Use of the Skerries Bank Angling Zone by Different User Groups: A Baseline Report' was completed in August 2019 and has been published on the D&S IFCA website. A second report focusing on shore activity is being developed. The Baseline Report forms the basis for engagement work and was presented to the Full Authority on 12th September 2019 along with a series of recommendations for on-going work set out in an officer paper. The Authority approved all the recommendations.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(d) D&S IFCA's Sea Angling Strategy
Monitoring and Control Plans (M&CPs) within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	Monitoring programmes will be set up to fulfil the requirements of M&CPs and results will inform any potential changes in management of the fishing activity assessed.	M&CPs have been produced for specific activities in five MPAs to ensure the best available evidence is being used in the IFCA's management decisions and fulfil the IFCA's duty to protect the marine environment from or promote its recovery from the effects of the exploitation of sea fisheries resources.	Monitoring will take place according to the plan throughout 2019-2020.	Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ M&CP is on hold due to external agencies delay in releasing data to inform the plan. D&S IFCA is awaiting habitat mapping data and report from the Environment Agency/Natural England that was expected in November/December 2019.	MaCAA: S. 153(2)(a) S.154
Partner Organisation to EU Interreg Project - EUROHAB	The IFCA will engage with the mariculture sector in the Western Channel and Celtic sea. Officers will attend project meetings and	D&S IFCA is a partner in the EUROHAB project. The project will use satellite imagery to identify harmful algal blooms and develop a web alert system, which industry members can use to help manage their harvesting	Steering group meetings April and November 2019. Reporting to Interreg March 2019 and August 2019.	D&S IFCA pulled out of the project in May 2019 due to the disproportionate administrative burden of the project on officers compared to the actual work undertaken as part of the project. This created an excessive burden on resources removing officers from core workstreams. However, officers remained involved to a much lesser degree in the project – in terms of	MaCAA: S.153(2)(c)

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	organise workshops with industry members to enable discussions and development of a web alert system.	strategy and protect their markets.	Trial the HAB web alert with shellfish industry 2019.	facilitation and liaison between the project and the mariculture industry in the District.	
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Table 1c Management of Fishing Activities (Additional Workstreams)

Task	Action	Why?	Report	
Co-chair the Inshore Potting Agreement (IPA) Committee to annually inform potential changes in management	D&S IFCA Officers co-chair the IPA annual meeting with the MMO. Fishing representative, who sit on the committee, as well as D&S IFCA permit holders are consulted to provide any proposed changes in the management of the IPA. Agendas and minutes of the meeting are produced. Charts with positional data are produced and disseminated to MMO fishing licence holders and D&S IFCA Permit holders.	The IPA is a conflict resolution management system in South Devon that is national and internally praised. Annual meetings allow fishing industry representative to come together to discuss proposed change to the management system and the chart. This also provides the opportunity to discuss relevant workstreams and future policy drivers to these industry members.	D&S IFCA undertook the consultation prior to the meeting in late November 2019. An agenda was produced for the meeting and proposal discussed although it was agreed by committee members that the IPA chart would remain unchanged for 2020. A chart for 2020 with positional data was produced and circulated to MMO commercial fishing licence holders and D&S IFCA permit holders in December. 2019 Draft minutes have been produced.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(d)
Additional B&PSC Meetings	Additional planning, officer papers, agendas and minutes required.	To enable key decision making of members to progress different phases of byelaw working to a pre-set timetable	<p>Additional meeting of the B&PSC held on 13th June 2019 to enable the Exemptions Byelaw 2019 to be examined and "made" by members and the impact assessment to be approved prior to formal consultation.</p> <p>Additional meeting of the B&PSC held on 12th September 2019 to enable objections and supportive responses to the Exemptions Byelaw to be examined as a requirement of the byelaw making process.</p> <p>Additional meeting of the B&PSC held on 23rd January 2020 to inform the development of the Hand Working Permit Byelaw. Decision making was required to determine the structure of the byelaw and set a series of bag limits in preparation for consultation work.</p>	MaCAA: S.155 S.157
Byelaw Technical Working Group	Meetings: Additional planning and officer drafting papers/packs required for use at the meetings.	The BTWG acts on behalf of the B&PSC to conduct technical aspects of byelaw and permit condition drafting	Meetings are arranged when required to react to the decision making of the B&PSC. Full day meetings are attended by officers, the D&S IFCA prosecuting solicitor and members of the B&PSC who have volunteered to assist. Meetings were held on 16 th July 2019 and 10 th September 2019.	MaCAA: S.155 S.157

Case Study 1: Management of Fishing Activity – Live Wrasse Fishery in Plymouth Sound

A fishery for the live capture of wrasse for use as cleaner fish in Scottish salmon farms developed in &S IFCA's District in 2015. The fishery targets four species using strings of fish traps: ballan (*Labrus bergylta*), corkwing (*Symphodus melops*), goldsinny (*Ctenolabrus rupestris*) and rock cook (*Centrolabrus exoletus*). Demand is typically highest for ballan wrasse, though the fishing method is not thought to be capable of preferentially targeting this species. Management was introduced in 2017 via the D&S IFCA's Potting Permit Byelaw. These early management measures were largely based on best practice identified in the literature and included Minimum and Maximum Conservation References Sizes (MCRSs), a closed season and a cap on effort. The fishery consists of 3-4 vessels at any one time, each using up to 120 fish traps to fish for wrasse in a restricted area of Plymouth Sound. A fully documented fishery was also implemented to assist with management and, as such, an intensive data collection programme has been conducted since 2017, consisting of on-board observer surveys and fishers' landings forms. The data collection and subsequent analyses enable regular review and consideration of the suitability of management measures, which can be adapted following public consultation on new proposals.

During the 2019–20 financial year, D&S IFCA's officers continued with extensive data collection efforts, including 9% coverage of days fished with on-board observer surveys. During these surveys, officers recorded key data on the fish species caught and their sizes, the presence of spawning individuals if seen, and information on the location and intensity of fishing effort. On-board observer surveys have enabled D&S IFCA's officers to assess, in detail, the catch and landings of the fishery on a species-by-species basis. The other primary source of data collected was landings forms, completed and submitted by fishers. These detail the total number of wrasse caught, and the location and intensity of fishing effort; these forms allow D&S IFCA to assess spatial and temporal patterns in reported effort and landings for the fishery as a whole. On the basis of these data, and similar data collected during 2017 and 2018, officers conducted a [Comprehensive Review of the Live Wrasse Fishery for 2017–19](#).

More detail on the methods and results of the Comprehensive Review, beyond that presented below, is available in the most recent version of the [Comprehensive Review of the Live Wrasse Fishery \(version 1.6\)](#), published in April 2020. Version 1.6 incorporated additional cross-checking and verification of data sources in collaboration with Lauren Henly, a PhD student at the University of Exeter who is studying live wrasse fisheries in southern England. This process resulted in small changes to the results of the data analyses, which are important for clarity and rigour in reporting on this fishery, but do not affect the overall results and conclusions on which the B&PSC based their decisions using [version 1.3 \(February 2020\)](#).

The primary analyses in the Comprehensive Review focused on Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) and Landings Per Unit Effort (LPUE). CPUE is calculated as the number of fish caught per fish trap, for each string of traps, while LPUE is the number of landable fish per trap (CPUE minus those fish that were above or below the Maximum and Minimum CRSs). Over the fishery, wrasse CPUE and LPUE remained stable over the 2017–2019 period. This suggested that the fishery, as a whole is not overexploited and that the management measures already in place were

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an effective way, to manage the fishery. However, the fishery-level measures of LPUE and CPUE masked other patterns at the species level. Species-level changes are evident in changes to the assemblage composition (proportions of the four wrasse species seen in catches) over the 2017–2019 period, which reflects declines in catches of rock cook, and increases in catches of corkwing. Both LPUE and CPUE declined for rock cook, which is a cause for concern for this species, particularly as the fishery to date has been targeting the larger size classes. Over the 2017–2019 period, corkwing LPUE remained stable, but corkwing CPUE increased. In addition, LPUE and CPUE of both ballan and goldsinny wrasse appear to have remained stable through 2017–2019, suggesting no detrimental effects of fishing on corkwing, ballan or goldsinny wrasse in the District.

The Comprehensive Review (version 1.3) was presented to the D&S IFCA's Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) in February 2020. The minutes of this meeting are available [here](#). After reviewing and discussing the findings of the report, the B&PSC recommended:

- That D&S IFCA continues to manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery using permit restrictions and the continuation of the Fully Documented Fishery (research), whilst having regard to changes in permit conditions relating to rock cook wrasse.
- That the Potting Permit Conditions are to be examined by the Byelaw Technical Working Group (BTWG) and amended in such a way as to require all rock cook wrasse to be returned to the sea
- To continue the onboard observer programme appropriate to the resources available to D&S IFCA and proportionate to the continued commitment to the conservation objectives of the fishery.

Following the B&PSC meeting, and in keeping with paragraph 28 of the Potting Permit Byelaw, D&S IFCA's officers prepared information and planned communication initiatives to undertake a formal consultation on proposed changes to the Potting Permit Conditions. Officers were able to prepare draft Potting Permit Conditions to recognise the expectations of the B&PSC to afford additional protection to rock cook wrasse, without the need of a full BTWG meeting. The proposals included adding rock cook wrasse to an established list of species within the Potting Permit Conditions that are prohibited for removal from a fishery within the D&S IFCA District, and recognising that the minimum and maximum size of rock cook as set out in the Permit Condition 2.6.2 would no longer be applicable.

A four-week formal consultation was conducted from 16th April 2020, including communications through the Authority's Website, Facebook page and e-mail correspondence. The response from the formal consultation was documented in a [report](#) that was presented to the B&PSC on 18th June 2020. The consultation received 11 responses, the majority of which were supportive of the proposals, but not necessarily supportive of the continuation of the fishery. Along with the formal consultation response report, officers presented a separate [report](#) which provided an analysis

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of the consultation response, clarification of several points raised in the consultation responses, and a series of proposals ('Resolutions') for the B&PSC to consider. After reviewing and discussing the findings of the reports, the B&PSC [agreed](#) the following:

- That the proposals for amendments to the Potting Permit Conditions are applied and amended permits circulated before 15th July 2020 (the end of the closed season for this fishery).
- That the Habitat Regulation Assessments relevant to the Live Wrasse Fishery are reviewed by officers and submitted to Natural England for formal advice, with any formal advice received to be considered by the B&PSC at the earliest opportunity.

Overall, the ongoing monitoring and analysis conducted by D&S IFCA's officers have enabled D&S IFCA to monitor and evaluate the status of the fishery, and to implement truly adaptive management. However, this process is at risk from repeated non-compliance issues, which relate primarily to a single fisher. For the 2020–21 financial year, the obligations of fishers under Paragraph 17 of the Potting Permit Byelaw ('the permit holder shall provide any relevant fisheries information required by the Authority for the discharge of its functions') have been reiterated and will be enforced to ensure compliance with the Byelaw, enabling accurate monitoring of the fishery. A final report documenting the entire decision making process can be read [here](#).

Table 2a Compliance (Completed Workstreams)

Category: Effective Enforcement:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To monitor Mobile Fishing Vessels using IVMS	To evaluate I-VMS data to assess compliance with Permit conditions as an integral part of intelligence led enforcement work.	To provide the better evidence when investigating infringements to permit conditions. To seek to ensure the effective enforcement of legislation.	On-going.	Regular monitoring and evaluation of I-VMS undertaken by officers.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b) S.154 Habitats Directive and Regulations
To support the roll out of the National IVMS Project	Undertake trials of IVMS units on vessels without an on-board power supply.	To determine whether all vessels can have a fully functioning IVMS on board.	Report to National IVMS project April 2019.	The task was completed by September 2019. Trials took place to evaluate one possible solution to using a vessel operating in the Salcombe Scallop dredge fishery. A report by the IVMS manufacturer was submitted to MMO	
Review additional Patrol Vessel assets	To assess whether to continue to keep in service the Authority's 6.4m RIB and consider the potential use of EA's RIB based in North Devon.	Review is necessary to maximise use of assets and keep within operational budget.	Meetings with EA planned for April/May 2019.	Although delayed, the use of the EA vessel Endeavour for £3000 per year has been agreed with the EA and was sanctioned by members of the Authority on 12/09/19.	D&S IFCA's Budget D&S IFCA's Enforcement and Compliance Strategy

Category: Working Together

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To secure agreement for the use of RIB with partner organisations	To develop an MoU with MMO to promote partnership working and make available the use of FPV David Rowe for national requirements.	Increase use of the vessel and assist with national enforcement plans to cover the period after the UK leaves the EU.	MoU in place by April 2019	Although delayed, the task now complete. The MMO provided a signed "Provisions of Services" MoU relating to the MMO's use of D&S IFCA vessels in October 2019.	MaCAA: S.173
To follow National Compliance Directives	To ensure IFCA Officers comply with and conduct their enforcement activities within the national frameworks.	This ensures consistent approach in areas of enforcement where both MMO and IFCA's have powers to enforce.	On-going.	National Compliance Directives that D&S IFCA adhere to include: Berried Crustacean Landing Obligation Bass Compliance Direction (as updated) Tech Con (Draft only)	D&S IFCA's Enforcement and Compliance Strategy
To review D&S IFCA Enforcement and Compliance Strategy	To identify and document the key components of the enforcement work the IFCA undertakes and the future delivery requirements, whilst developing joint working opportunities.	This strategy fulfils the IFCA's success criteria and provides guidance to fishers and officers on how the D&S IFCA will undertake its enforcement work.	Published annually - July 2019.	Although delayed, the Compliance and Enforcement Strategy document was completed and published on the D&S IFCA Website on 11 th October 2019. The document can be viewed in both the Resource Library (Section E) and on the drop-down Enforcement & Legislation Tab.	Internal Governance
Member of Tactical Co-ordination Group	To attend meetings held at IFCA enforcement team and regional level.	This allows the sharing of illegal activity intelligence reports and co-ordination enforcement action.	IFCA meetings 3 weekly. Regional every 4 weeks.	Scheduled meetings were undertaken as per the plan.	D&S IFCA's Enforcement and Compliance Strategy
To maintain a Duty Phone	To ensure the duty phone is carried by officers at out of office times. To document all reports of suspected illegal activity in intelligence reports.	Provide a communication option to report suspicious activity out of office hours and increases knowledge of suspected illegal activity in the District.	On-going.	A new telephone was purchased and has been operated as per the Plan.	D&S IFCA's Enforcement and Compliance Strategy

Category: Non-Compliance Investigations 2019-2020

The non-compliance investigations table details the cases investigated and/or concluded during the 2019-2020 Annual Report period. The progress of investigations is detailed together with the outcome of the cases which, where applicable, includes the fines paid.

Date of First Offence	Offence(s)	Investigation Progress - Outcome of Case
01/03/2020	Mobile Fishing Spatial incursion Annex 5	Insufficient evidence. No further action
26/02/2020	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning
26/02/2020	Non-operational IVMS	Pending decision
03/02/2020	Fishing without a permit	Insufficient evidence. No further action
20/01/2020	Transshipment	On-going
16/01/2020	Reported pot losses	Insufficient evidence. No further action
03/01/2020	Non-operational IVMS	Financial Administrative Penalty £250
09/12/2019	Reported gear loss from Annex 3	Insufficient evidence. No further action
07/12/2019	Fishing without a permit	Financial Administrative Penalty £1000
25/11/2019	Non-operational IVMS	Official Written Warning
24/11/2019	Spatial Incursion Annex 5	On-going
08/11/2019	Spatial Incursion Annex 5	Caution issued
01/11/2019	Non-operational IVMS	Insufficient evidence. No further action
31/10/2019	Mobile Fishing Spatial Incursion Annex 5	On-going
30/10/2019	Fishing without a valid licence	On-going
20/10/2019	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning
10/10/2019	Non-operational IVMS	Financial Administrative Penalty £3000
03/10/2019	Fishing without a valid licence	Insufficient evidence. No further action
23/09/2019	Fishing without a permit	Insufficient evidence. No further action
21/09/2019	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning
07/09/2019	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning
03/09/2019	Mobile Fishing Spatial incursion Annex 2	On-going

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Date of First Offence	Offence(s)	Investigation Progress - Outcome of Case
01/09/2019	Non-compliant pots	Official Written Warning
20/08/2019	Non-compliant pots	Court prosecution £2532
04/08/2019	Non-operational IVMS	Financial Administrative Penalty £500
18/07/2019	Diving for scallops during closed period	Official Written Warning
17/07/2019	Netting in estuary (Dart)	Insufficient evidence. No further action
10/07/2019	Fishing without a permit	Financial Administrative Penalty £2000
09/07/2019	Retention of undersize lobsters	Official Written Warning
04/07/2019	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning
30/06/2019	Non-compliant pots - Cat 2 Tags	Insufficient evidence. No further action
30/06/2019	Non-compliant pots - Cat 2 Tags	Insufficient evidence. No further action
25/06/2019	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning
06/06/2019	Exceeding recreational Bass restriction	Insufficient evidence. No further action
31/05/2019	Retention of undersize crabs	Financial Administrative Penalty £500
30/05/2019	Retention of undersize crabs	Official Written Warning
30/05/2019	Fishing without a permit	Insufficient evidence. No further action
30/04/2019	Retention of undersize whelks	Financial Administrative Penalty £500
26/04/2019	Fishing without a permit	Insufficient evidence. No further action
24/04/2019	Mobile Fishing Spatial incursion Annex 3	Financial Administrative Penalty £1250
09/04/2019	Non-compliant wrasse pots	Insufficient evidence. No further action
03/04/2019	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning
03/04/2019	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning
20/03/2019	Fishing without a permit	Financial Administrative Penalty £250
18/03/2019	Non-operational IVMS	Official Written Warning
08/03/2019	Non-operational IVMS	Official Written Warning
02/03/2019	Fishing without a permit, Non-operational IVMS	Financial Administrative Penalty £250
14/02/2019	Retention of undersize crabs	Financial Administrative Penalty £500

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Date of First Offence	Offence(s)	Investigation Progress - Outcome of Case
29/01/2019	Fishing without a permit	Financial Administrative Penalty £250
25/01/2019	Mobile Fishing Spatial incursion Annex 5	Court Prosecution £28663.82
20/01/2019	Fishing without a permit	Financial Administrative Penalty £1250
17/01/2019	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning
06/01/2019	Reported gear loss from Annex 5	Insufficient evidence. No further action
14/12/2018	Breaching 1900 - 0700 curfew	Insufficient evidence. No further action
10/12/2018	Non-operational iVMS	Official Written Warning
21/12/2017	Fishing without a permit	Official Written Warning

Table 2b Compliance (Incomplete/Ongoing Workstreams)

Category: Effective Enforcement:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To evaluate the use of gear in gear out technology	To assist with manufacturer's trials of sensors on board trawling and scalloping vessels in the District.	The introduction of 'gear in gear out' technology will assist in the determination of whether a vessel is engaged in fishing activities. The requirement for such sensors could be introduced using a permit condition.	Initial findings report to Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee on 15th August 2019.	Suspended. Trials had commenced on the use of Bluetooth sensors on towed gears (trawls and scallop dredges). Trial ongoing but provider of sensors prioritising other areas of work presently.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b) S.154 Habitats Directive and Regulations
To use lobster scrubbing test kit to identify infringements to local and National Legislation	To identify a certified laboratory to undertake the testing of lobsters suspected of being scrubbed of their eggs. To inspect lobster and crawfish catches on fishing vessels and where scrubbing is suspected samples will be taken for testing.	Lobster scrubbing testing has been identified as a key factor to ensure the success of the investigations that the enforcement team undertake. By outsourcing the testing this will alleviate issues such as chemical storage.	Identify certified laboratory by June 2019. Intelligence led catch inspections throughout the year.	The identification of a laboratory was delayed, and further consideration was being undertaken by NIMEG.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)

Table 2c Compliance (Additional Workstreams)

Task	Action	Why?	Report	Drivers
Provide expert evidence	Submit expert evidence statements in connection with four investigations	Analysis of Vessel Monitoring System data as supportive evidence required for Prosecution's case	Three expert evidence statements prepared for cases in the Magistrates' court. Expert evidence delivered in one three-day trial in the Magistrates' court. Expert evidence prepared for Appeal case in Crown Court, subsequently adjourned twice.	Legal Process
Provide response to Abuse of process submission	Prepare and submit response to submission	Abuse of process argument used to challenge D&SIFCA bringing two cases in the Magistrates' court and one Appeal case against conviction and sentence in the Crown Court	Abuse of process argument heard and dismissed in relation to the Magistrates' court cases. Abuse of process argument withdrawn in the Crown Court Case	Legal Process
To respond to the challenge regarding the accuracy of the charts used in the Appeal case and their compliance with the EU INSPIRE Directive	Identify and instruct suitable expert to respond to challenge	The use of charts showing the position, speed and course of the fishing vessel is critical in the prosecution's case	Appeal case adjourned until at least June 2020 to allow for final submissions by both the Appellants and Prosecution.	Legal Process

Case Study 2: Compliance – A Partnership Approach

D&S IFCA has the largest area to manage out of all ten IFCAs around the English coast. A large variety of commercial and recreational fisheries need effective management and enforcement. Ensuring compliance across all sectors is challenging when balanced against the lowest annual budget of all mainland IFCA's. The employment of four enforcement officers, rather than Defra's estimated requirement of twenty-three is an obvious limitation and impacts on D&S IFCA's enforcement capability. Financial constraints have resulted in a need to find efficiencies in how all of D&S IFCA's work is undertaken and when viewed from an enforcement perspective, how the enforcement work is conducted, when it is undertaken and by whom are essential considerations. Defra's high-level objectives highlight an expectation for collaboration and for D&S IFCA its functionality depends upon it. Along with the greater use of new technology, partnership working, including the collection and sharing of intelligence, forms the basis of D&S IFCA's enforcement strategy.

Minimal resources must be used efficiently. All of D&S IFCA's enforcement work is targeted, guided by the intelligence that is collected and shared among agencies. Intelligence received is analysed, categorised to determine the risk posed by the activity and then evaluated in order to determine the resources required to address that risk correctly. In many instances it is acknowledged that a multi-agency approach is most effective resolution and on occasions the only viable option.

Partnership working involves D&S IFCA being involved in numerous Joint Working operations. During 2019-20, several were initiated and led by D&S IFCA addressing issues pertinent to our duties, while others have been more of a supportive role to address issues prioritised by partner organisations. Agencies operating together offers a multitude of benefits above and beyond the provision of manpower. Each agency is equipped with specialist knowledge to feed into plans by providing information and insights from their individual perspective.

This year, D&S IFCA has been involved in joint operations on both coasts of the District, on land and at sea with great success. Examples of this include Operation RIBEYE, a D&S IFCA led operation that was devised following several reports of large-scale netting taking place within the Taw and Torridge Estuary. Following receipt and processing of the intelligence, contact was made with other agencies and the details discussed, which identified some shared risks and priorities. Named persons involved were already of interest to other agencies which highlighted the benefit of a collective approach. Several plans were actioned with each agency being allowed to focus on their own tasking, while making vital contributions to the wider operation. By utilising other agencies, it enabled more effective monitoring of the estuaries, on a much wider scale that would be achievable with fewer officers. Monitoring took place over two sets of spring tides, and although activities were identified to be less of a risk than intelligence suggested, it did produce some positive results in terms of compliance and importantly strengthening the inter agencies

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relations. New risks of potential illegal activity that may occur in the area were identified that would have potentially been missed without the joint approach being implemented and the increased surveillance has built foundations for future work.

The Police-led National Operation AIDENT, with the focus on Modern Day Slavery, is a second example of enforcement related partnership working. The shared intelligence identified that several activities taking place within the District could have connections to Modern Day Slavery. As well as the Police and D&S IFCA, this operation involved the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, Marine Management Organisation and further assistance by the local organisation Torbay Coast and Countryside. Several patrols were undertaken with the aim of observing the activities of rod and line fishing in popular spots right through to the collection of cockles and mussels from estuary beds.

Hand working encompasses multiple fishing activity including the hand gathering of shellfish. An absence of management is being addressed by D&S IFCA in the longer term via the development of management; however, in the immediate term the reporting of excessive collection of shellfish has raised concern from stakeholders. D&S IFCA has collated multiple reports relating to the volume of shellfish collected from estuary areas and the sharing of information has formed the basis for joint action, including the local councils' Environmental Health Officers and the Food Standards Agency. With investigation, many of the activities reported were found not to be illegal, from a fisheries legislation perspective. However, the risks to human health, from the shellfish entering the public food chain or the personal consumption of shellfish gathered from areas that are not monitored for bacterial loading and where purification of shellfish has not taken place, has been communicated to those involved in the hand gathering of shellfish in these estuaries. Observations regarding excessive collection will be used to help inform future management solutions, including the development of a Hand Working Permit Byelaw that will regulate commercial and recreational fishing activity.

The D&S IFCA's website is the primary platform for the reporting of publishable enforcement action. News and information items include highlighting joint enforcement action undertaken by our own officers with messaging of benefit to stakeholders, D&S IFCA and our partner organisations.

Links:

Latest News:

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Latest-news>

News Archive:

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Resource-library/G-Authority-Communications-Publications>

Table 3a Evidence (Completed Workstreams)

Category: Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
Wrasse On-board Surveys	Officers will undertake on-board data gathering and collect fishermen's data, transport documents and sales notes. Officers will analyse data, compare results with previous year's data and report to the D&S IFCA B&PSC in November 2019 with a final comparison report submitted in February 2020.	To fulfil the D&S IFCA's objective to have a fully-monitored sustainable Live Wrasse Fishery in its District.	Surveys: May - Oct 2019. Supplement Report: November 2019 to inform the comprehensive review of the fishery. Final comparison report to be presented in February 2020.	It was concluded that a summary report submitted in November 2019 would not have benefitted the decision making of the B&PSC. The Full Report to compare data from three years of research "the comprehensive review" was completed on 3rd February 2020 and circulated to B&PSC members for use at the B&PSC meeting on 11th February 2020.	MaCAA: S. 153(2)(a)(b)(d) Habitats Directive and Regulations
To investigate and understand the nursery Function and Role of the Severn Estuary	IFCA officers will assist Plymouth University in the collection of monthly samples of fish, using a push net, at various locations in the Bristol Channel.	This will help the IFCA understand impacts to fish populations, which may prevent the function and use of the Severn's ecosystem by juvenile fish.	Monthly surveys undertaken between June 2018 and May 2019.	The monthly surveys were completed, and survey work was extended throughout 2019. D&SIFCA is awaiting the project report from Plymouth University.	Habitats Directive and Regulations Marine Plans and Licence Applications
To identify the herring stock and spawning areas within the Bristol Channel	IFCA officers will work with researchers to design the project and survey work. Officers will liaise with fishing industry and stakeholders by arranging and	This project is part of the North Devon Pioneer Programme, as described in UK's 25 YEP. D&S IFCA will get a better understanding of the use of the Bristol Channel by herring and this will inform	Attend four steering group meetings in 2019, and project development meetings / working group	Marine Pioneer meetings have been attended and D&S IFCA has worked with Swansea University, fishers, Blue Marine Foundation, and other stakeholders throughout the year to progress this project. Reports are awaited from Swansea University regarding the genetic differences/similarities between different populations along the Bristol Channel and English Channel.	25YEP MaCAA: S.153 (2)(a)

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
	attending meetings and steer the project once a lead partner is identified.	its management of this heritage fishery.	meetings when required.		
To develop and complete Bristol Channel Fisheries Research and Management Plans	The IFCA will steer the project. IFCA officers will host the project officer once recruited and will supervise the officer and workload during the delivery of the plans.	IFCA officers designed the project and aided the submission and implementation of funding bid for the short-term (one year) employment of an officer to draft the plans. This project aims to describe the current situation and identify future research requirements, which would enable a move towards regional, EBFM in the Bristol Channel. The resulting Fisheries Research and Management (FR&M) plans will form an important baseline for the North Devon Marine Pioneer Programme and will set the direction for future Pioneer project work, and steer D&S IFCA's future research work in the Bristol Channel.	It is hoped that the position receives funding and an officer is in post in April/May 2019. Five priority species plans to be completed by May 2020. A project report will be produced in 2020.	Initial plan was to have officer in place in May 2019, but the external funding stream, EMFF, only became available in November 2019. A FRMP officer was recruited in November 2019 and will continue to January 2021 as the project has been extended. A minimum of five FRMPs to be completed by end of January 2021.	Fisheries Bill MaCAA: S.153 S.173
Sea Bass Conservation UK Project	IFCA Officers will continue to help to engage local stakeholders in the project, participate in workshops and meetings when	New EMFF funded project on Sea Bass conservation led by Cefas, which will co-ordinate a series of regional workshops to inform stakeholder-led data surveys using a variety of	Project runs between 2018 and 2020. Project report is expected in 2020.	This project is now complete. Cefas is organising a project wrap up meeting in March and results and outputs of the project will be shared then.	MaCAA: S.173

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
	required, assist with survey design, and potentially take part in survey work.	fishing vessels and gears. The results will provide information on local bass spawning areas and stock status and will help determine the regional and seasonal movements of bass. The project will establish local bass mark-ID tagging schemes, where anglers and commercial fishers will be trained in mark-recapture methodology, enhancing stakeholder involvement, and improving our understanding of fish behaviour.			
<p>Respond to formal consultations and input into discussions on Direct Cooling for Nuclear Power at Hinkley point C</p>	<p>Officer will input into the Marine Technical Forum of Hinkley Point C, relevant consultations (closed and public) and other related Hinkley meetings and workstreams. Responses will be submitted to appropriate national consultations and discussions. The scale of these responses is likely to be large and take up a lot of officer time.</p>	<p>D&S IFCA has a non-statutory role on Hinkley C Marine Technical Forum. Using this position, the D&S IFCA believes that it can highlight its concerns over the development of such a significant project and the impact of on the Severn Estuary MPA.</p>	<p>Regular updates will be provided to the Authority during 2019. Consultation response will be completed to the required timescale.</p>	<p>A written update on meetings attended and consultation responses was given to D&S IFCA members at the Full Authority Meeting on 13th June 2019.</p> <p>The D&S IFCA Consultation Response (July 2019 v1.1) was posted on D&S IFCA website on 7th August 2019. and a news item was uploaded to D&S IFCA’s website & posted on Facebook on 20th August 2019.</p> <p>This workstream will be on-going throughout 2020-2021 as more consultations are expected.</p>	<p>Habitats Directive and Regulations</p> <p>Marine Planning and Licence Applications</p> <p>25YEP</p> <p>SDG 14</p>

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
Use of Sabellaria by finfish and mapping the extent of Sabellaria in the Severn Estuary	The final phase of the project will involve D&S IFCA officers in survey work to collect the fish species where <i>Sabellaria</i> is present in the Severn Estuary.	This will increase the evidence base for the function of the Severn Estuary as a fish nursery area and identify the adult finfish use of essential fish habitats.	Project completion due in April 2019.	The University of Plymouth led this project. <i>Sabellaria</i> survey work has been completed, possible additional work on finfish use are being explored. D&S IFCA is awaiting publication of the results by University of Plymouth which will determine D&S IFCA's involvement in the 2020/2021 survey plan.	Habitats Directive and Regulations MaCAA: S.173
Severn Estuary Ecological Research Forum (SEERF)	Officers will continue to lead and co-ordinate this forum for active researchers on the Severn Estuary, known as SEERF, which was established in 2018.	D&S IFCA's Senior Environment Officer set up SEERF in 2018. SEERF enables partnership working towards shared goals, which will support sustainable development and nature conservation and improve our understanding of the ecosystem of the Severn Estuary. SEERF is a group of stakeholders that meet on a non-commercial basis to discuss current or proposed research and monitoring to better understand the ecology of the Severn Estuary area. Since the formation of the forum it has grown in numbers from eight to over twenty and meetings are very well attended.	The first meeting for 2019 was held on 18th January and two further meetings are planned for 2019.	One meeting is planned for 12 th March 2020 which has confirmed attendance in person from 15 researchers and additional four researchers will attend via skype. This is the only meeting that was required during the year, but the forum is supported through e-mail correspondence. Annual meetings will be held – with one planned between April 2020 and end of March 2021.	MaCAA: S.173

Category: MPA Management:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
Habitat Mapping T2 MCZ, Possible T3 evidence gathering	Officers will undertake up to ten days of grab and filming survey work within the MCZs, on-board the EA survey vessel. Once the Tranche 3 (T3) MCZs are designated D&S IFCA may need to undertake surveys on these sites to gather evidence to inform MCZ assessments.	As part of the MPA evidence-gathering programme, both Tranche 2 MCZs in North Devon will be resurveyed in 2019 to gather further evidence of the location, extent and character of the designated habitats and features of the site. D&S IFCA and CIFCA have raised concerns over the incomplete evidence available on which to base MCZ assessments and future management. D&S IFCA will need to evaluate the level of evidence already available to inform Tranche 3 MCZ assessments and if this is lacking or incomplete survey work may need to be undertaken.	Survey work to be undertaken March/April 2019. Data will be analysed by Cefas later in 2019. No current timeline for any potential survey work in T3 MCZs.	T2 surveys were completed by EA. However, D&S IFCA is still awaiting reports on the findings of the survey work to help inform any appropriate management measures. T3 work has not yet started. Evaluation of the required survey work, survey planning and implementation of the evidence gathering will be part of the 2020/2021 Annual Plan.	MaCAA: S. 153(2)(b) S. 154
Complete M&CPs and monitor activities in MPAs as part of the Monitoring and Control Plans developed in 2018.	Some M&CPs are in draft format and need QA'ing before sending to NE for formal advice and these will be completed this year. Monitoring of activities, as outlined in M&CPs, will be undertaken to gather data, fill gaps and reduce	D&S IFCA officers have developed M&CPs for certain fishing activities in MPAs in the District. The M&CPs are for: Shad interaction with nets in Severn Estuary EMS and Plymouth Sound EMS; turtle pots on seagrass and towed gear on mud in Torbay MCZ; towed gear	M&CPs will be finished by May 2019. Monitoring will take place throughout 2019-2020 and summary reports will be produced in March 2020.	Monitoring & Control plans for Lundy SAC, Torbay MCZ, Plymouth EMS Shad and Severn Estuary Shad were completed between May and August 2019 and published on the D&S IFCA website by October 2019. Monitoring work commenced throughout the year and information from this work is being collated to form a baseline for further monitoring in 2020/2021. Summary reports are being produced and will be available at the end of March 2020.	MaCAA: S. 153(2)(a) S.154 Habitats Directive and Regulations

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
	uncertainties that were highlighted in the MPA assessments completed by D&S IFCA. Reports will be produced at the end of the monitoring periods and feed into revisions to the assessments and plans where required.	on sediment in Lundy SAC; towed gear on sand/sediment Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ and towed gear on rock and sediment in Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ. They will be used to try and fill the data gaps and uncertainties outlined.		M&CP were not completed for Hartland Point to Tintagel and Bideford to Foreland Point MCZs as described in table 1B	
To monitor Potting in Plymouth Sound in or close to Seagrass beds	Officers will conduct six patrols and data will be mapped and feed into amendments to HRA	As part of the on-going monitoring of fishing activity, information on the location of pots close to or located within the seagrass beds within the Plymouth Sound and Estuaries EMS will be gathered.	Patrols to take place throughout 2019-2020.	Seven patrols were completed by end of March 2020. More than the required six patrols. Positions of pots have been mapped and will results will determine whether the assessment needs to be revised.	MaCAA: S.153 (2)(b) Habitats Directive and Regulations
To monitor Spiny Lobster abundance in T1 & T2 MCZ / District wide	Officers will continue to gather data form members of the fishing industry and work with divers and Seasearch to gather data on sightings, locations, and distribution of spiny lobsters in the District. Locations of lobster sightings will be mapped in GIS. Officers will collect landings data from the MMO and investigate trends in the landings for the fishery.	Spiny lobster is a feature of three MCZs in the District and has a recover conservation objective. Spiny lobster fisheries existed in the past and were of significant value to the fishing industry. There appears to be a recovery of the populations across the District and there are increased landings into ports in the District. Monitoring of the fishery is important to provide vital information for future	Data collection is to continue throughout 2019. the B&PSC will be updated on findings throughout the year.	A stakeholder group was co-organised and chaired by D&S IFCA in April 2019 where SW IFCA's, members of the fishing industry, MGOs academia, MMO, MBA, Defra, Cefas and other stakeholders attended to discuss spiny lobsters, the fishery, the possible recovery in Devon waters and potential future management. This was a successful working group. Data have been collected by fishers throughout 2019 which adds to the data sets from previous years and the Seasearch data and this collection is on-going. Positional data have been mapped using GIS and landings data has been investigated by officers. The results were presented to the B&PSC. The data collection will continue throughout 2020and 2021.	MaCAA: S.153 (2)(a)(b) S. 154

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
		management considerations.			
Morphometric and tagging surveys of Spiny lobsters in the D&S IFCA District.	D&S IFCA will work with the fishing industry, researchers from academic institutes, other IFCAs and NGOs to undertake collaborative research on the populations of spiny lobster in the D&S IFCA District. This work may involve gathering morphometric data through on-board surveys, undertaking tagging of spiny lobsters, and taking swimmerets clips to undertake genetic analysis. Fishing vessels will be chartered to undertake survey work.	There is concern that the continued apparent recovery of spiny lobsters in the District and in the SW may lead to an increase in fishing pressure and there is a need to avoid a boom and bust fishery. Greater knowledge of the species, its movements, population structure, morphometrics, size class distributions and continued recruitment is needed to ensure the appropriate management measures are introduced to protect the species where applicable and ensure a well management viable and sustainable fishery.	Throughout 2019.	D&S IFCA has work closely with fishers and has engaged seven fishers from Dartmouth and Salcombe in the spiny lobster tagging programme. These fishers have been tagging numerous spiny lobsters and taking detailed morphometric measurements. Data have been inputted into Excel and have been mapped in GIS. The fishers have also been taking swimmeret clips from spiny lobsters caught and these have been sent to the University of Exeter for genetic analysis. This workstream will continue throughout 2020 and into 2021.	MaCAA: S.153 (2)(a)(b) S. 154
To review access to demersal mobile gear in areas within MPAs, previously closed under precaution.	To undertake an HRA assessment for towed gear and scallop dredges to have access into the part of the Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone (SPPSE) SAC, which is located at the top of Zone 2 of	D&S IFCA undertakes assessments of commercial fishing activities under Defra's Revised Approach. Some areas within the District's EMSs were closed to demersal fishing gear in 2014, under the precautionary principle. At that time real-time	Assessment will be completed by end of May 2019. A report will be presented at the B&PSC on 15th August 2019.	Although behind schedule the HRA was completed for towed gear and scallop dredges in the Northern part of the Zone 2 of the IPA in the SPPSE SAC and sent to Natural England for formal advice on 9 th December 2019. D&S IFCA is awaiting formal advice from NE.	MaCAA: S. 153(2)(b) S. 154 Habitats Directive and Regulations

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
	the IPA chart. Once completed, officers will send the assessment to Natural England and await formal advice. A report will be presented to the B&PSC.	monitoring of demersal fishing activity in these areas was not possible. D&S IFCA will assess whether the area at the top of Zone 2 in the IPA chart, which lies within the SPPSE SAC, can be opened up to demersal gear vessels. However, access depends on the ability to confidently use VMS and VMS to monitor the activity of demersal gear. This will be dependent on the outcome of the forthcoming appeal against conviction in a prosecution brought successfully with the use of IVMS.			

Category: Species Knowledge & Management:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To assist the Bass PhD - Tagging & Acoustic Monitoring & Steart Sampling	Officers have a formal supervisory role on the PhD panel, giving advice and input on survey design and management needs. Officers will help introduce the PhD student to relevant stakeholders, thereby	There are two key areas of work within the D&S IFCA funded Bass PhD, which will be undertaken this year and continue until 2020: 1. Small fish surveys of Steart Managed Realignment in Somerset; 2. The Immature Bass Acoustic Stock Surveillance	2018-2020.	The PhD has progressed well this year with all workstreams being completed. The PhD student, Tom Stamp, presented to D&S IFCA officers and to Defra in September 2019. The PhD will end in June 2020. The PhD student is currently analysing data and writing up. He will present his findings to the Main Authority at the September 2020 meeting. D&SIFCA has continued to supervise and support the PhD student. There are elements to this workstream that will continue in 2020 for D&S IFCA's	MaCAA: S. 173 S.153(2)(a)

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
	supporting the PhD bass workplan. Officer will also be involved any further fish surveys at Steart.	(I-BASS) project' which involves acoustic tagging of bass in estuaries and deployment of arrays of acoustic receivers to investigate movement within and in and out of estuaries.		officers, such as supervising until June 2020 and co-authoring of papers.	
To assess bycatch from the SW Crab and Lobster Fisheries - Fisheries Improvement Plan (FIP)	Officers will continue to sit on the steering group of the FIP and input into the project as a regulator in the area of the FIP. Part of this work will be evaluating the different management measures in place for the crab and lobster fisheries in the South West.	The pre-assessment considers that, whilst there are several management measures already in place, including the availability of stock status reference points, these do not form a coherent, integrated harvest strategy. The main actions, under certain assessment principles, therefore, seek to address this, and further develop adaptive management mechanisms that makes management more responsive to the status of the stock.	Three meetings with project team April 2019 to September 2020.	Project UK FIP has been ongoing throughout 2019/2020. Meetings have been attended in person or telecom. The last Steering Group meeting was attended on 12 th February 2020. Harvest control rules, the development of a strategy and a fisheries management plan have been the main areas of work this year. Further telecom meetings and e-mail exchanges to provide comments on papers have taken place. D&S IFCA provided detailed information summary of the brown crab and lobster fisheries in the D&S IFCA both current and historical, and details of management of these fisheries that D&S IFCA had introduced to inform the Fisheries Management Plan. D&S IFCA has now completed its part of the Fisheries Management Plan.	MaCCA: S. 173 S. 153(2)(a)

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To assess mussel stocks in the Taw Torridge Estuary and monitor the distribution of mussels in the Exe and Teign Estuaries.	Officers will plan and undertake all survey work, analyse data, and report findings to the B&PSC.	Mussel surveys on the Taw Torridge Estuaries take place annually to assess the stock levels. The data collected will be analysed to investigate the food availability to the bird populations that use the estuaries. Monitoring of the mussel beds in the public fishery part of the Teign and Exe Estuaries will continue to be assessed to determine if mussels have recolonised the beds that have seen a huge decline in recent years. Results will inform the development of the Hand Working Byelaw, and to determine if the temporary closures of the beds on the Teign and Exe continue to be required.	Surveys will take May to November 2019. Report by February 2020.	The Exe Mussel Survey (including the final Lypstone section) was completed on 4 th October 2019. The Teign Mussel Survey was completed as planned. The Taw Torridge Mussel Survey was completed as planned. In addition, the Taw Torridge Mussel Survey Report for 2019 was completed ahead of schedule and published on the D&S IFCA website on 23 rd September 2019.	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 amended by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 Birds Directive and regulations MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(c)(d) S.172
To determine the Spawning Season for Whelks	Additional data collected in 2018 will be used to update the analysis previously undertaken. A supplementary report will be produced showing the additional analysis and will be considered in a further review of management measures for this fishery.	On request of the B&PSC further whelk samples were taken in December 2017 and January 2018 to fill a data gap to determine the whelk spawning season for the North and South coast fisheries.	Analysis to be completed and supplementary report will be produced by the end of May 2019.	Although slightly delayed, due to quality assurance, the report was completed and published on the D&S IFCA website on 5 th September 2019 and can be used/referred to by the B&PSC if required in the future.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)

Category: Habitat Research and Management:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
<p>Torbay MCZ Seagrass Survey</p>	<p>2019 is the year when the sub-tidal seagrass in Torbay MCZ is planned to be surveyed by D&S IFCA officers on board the SV BlackJack, as has been undertaken in 2012, 2014, 2016 and 2017. Natural England is also considering undertaking drop-down video and echosounder survey of the seagrass in the MCZ if funding is available. To avoid duplication D&S IFCA officers will liaise with NE and share resources to undertake this survey.</p>	<p>The Torbay seagrass survey takes place every two years and informs the management of demersal mobile fishing gear within the MCZ. The extent of the beds is needed to ensure the current management measures protect the seagrass feature of the MCZ.</p>	<p>Between May and October 2019.</p>	<p>D&S IFCA accompanied the EA on the Torbay seagrass survey commissioned by Natural England. Data from the survey on the density and extent of the seagrass was supplied to D&S IFCA. These were mapped using GIS and results compared with previous years' data. Charts were produced of the changes in the extent of the beds. D&S IFCA presented the findings of all the seagrass surveys undertaken to a group of stakeholders including Wild Planet Trust, Ocean Conservation Trust, MMO, Natural England, Torbay Council and Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. These data have been used to produce charts and evidence to show that the beds are increasing in extent and presented at the D&S IFCA B&PSC meeting on 11th February to inform the review of the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw and amendments to permit conditions.</p>	<p>MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b) S.154 S.173</p>

Category: Species Behaviour:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
<p>Trialling seal deterrents in Torbay</p>	<p>Officers will investigate the current research being undertaken on the use of seal deterrents on fishing gear and work with researchers to trial deterrents on the nets used by fishermen within Torbay.</p>	<p>Fishermen in Torbay have raised concerns about the number of interactions they have seen with seal in and around their fishing nets. Currently this has involved their catch being eaten and one reported incident of entanglement' from which the seal swam away. There are currently a large number of seals now located in the Bay. Fishermen have contacted Devon Wildlife Trust with their concerns, who have subsequently been in touch with IFCA officers. There has been some research on the development of seal deterrents and officers will engage with consultants and other researchers to see if it is possible to trial deterrents on nets within Torbay.</p>	<p>Throughout 2019-2020.</p>	<p>The trial was completed on 12th August 2019. Officers worked with fishers and ABPmer to gather data for analysis to evaluate the success of the deterrents. This involved many market surveys of the landings from the boats involved in the project. ABPmer will undertake this work and produce a report.</p>	<p>Conservation of Seals Act MaCAA: S. 173</p>

Table 3b Evidence (Incomplete/Ongoing Workstreams)

Category: MPA Management:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To complete EMS/MCZ Assessments	Officers will undertake literature reviews, survey work (where required) and complete MPA assessments using evidence gathered from activity and habitat surveys. This will include those few HRAs for activities within EMS that remain outstanding, which included bait digging assessments. MCZ assessments for towed gear and scallop dredging Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ need to be completed. There are a few MCZ assessments still outstanding for Tranche 2 MCZ and once Tranche 3 MCZ are designated assessment for fishing activities in these sites will need to be completed.	All fishing activities that take place within MPAs need to be assessed for any likely significant effect, to fulfil the D&S IFCA's environmental duties and Defra's revised approach to managing commercial fishing activity.	Throughout 2019-2020. Skerries Bank and surrounds MCZ assessments will be completed by the end of May 2019. A report will be presented at the B&PSC on 15th August 2019.	All assessments have been undertaken apart from the Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ assessment for towed gear on coarse sediment. Meetings have been held with Natural England to discuss this complex assessment and it has been agreed that an assessment will be completed by June 2020. T3 survey work and assessments will commence in 2020/2021.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(b) S.154

Category: Species Knowledge & Management:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To undertake Salcombe Scallop Fishery Stock Assessment	Officers will plan the survey work, liaise with fishermen, undertake on-board surveys before during and after the fishery opening to collect data on all catches and location of the tows. Officers will report their findings.	A highly restricted scallop fishery exists with the Salcombe Estuary between mid-December and mid-March each year. Fishermen submit landings data. For the 2012/2013 fishery pre-, during and post-fishery on-board scallop stock surveys were undertaken to assess the stock levels. This was the baseline study and for 2019/2020 fishery a repeat of this survey will take place to compare the stock between this period and before and after this year's fishery.	Onboard survey between December 2019 to March 2020. Collect fishermen's landing logs in April 2020. Report available end by June 2020.	Unfortunately, the Salcombe scallop stock assessment work did not take place this season. On numerous occasions officers tried to accompany vessels engaged in the fishery but weather conditions were such that many had to be cancelled and could not be rearranged due to other workstreams. The pre and post assessment work could not take place because D&S IFCA's Application byelaw was not signed off by Defra in time to undertake this important part of the assessment work. This workstream will be included in the 2020-2021 Annual Plan.	MaCAA: S. 153(2)(a)

Category: Habitat Research and Management:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
Habitat Mapping in Lyme Bay - Reef and rock features outside the established monitoring sites used for	Natural England has planned survey work as part of the MPA Group's survey plan for 2019-2020 to gather information on the location of habitats in the Lyme Bay part of the Lyme and Torbay SAC. This will involve	This work is being undertaken by Natural England to gather further evidence of the location of habitats and reef/ rock features outside the areas already closely monitored by Plymouth University and funded by Defra. The justification for this work is	If this project receives funding it will take place in 2019-2020.	This workstream was not undertaken. The project was led by Natural England and did not take place this year due to a lack of funding for the project which was determined on a national level. There are no plans for it to be undertaken in 2020/2021.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(b) S.173 Habitats Directive and Regulations

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the Lyme Bay studies.	EA's drop-down video, or the flying array system used by D&S IFCA either on-board the EA's vessels or D&S IFCA's SV BlackJack.	to that more data is needed to support management measures.			
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Table 3c Evidence (Additional Workstreams)

Task	Action	Why?	Report	Drivers
EDNA (Environmental DNA) sampling	To undertake water sampling at two sites, Lyme Bay and Start Bay, within the D&S IFC's District, between November 2019 and February 2020. This task involves setting and hauling the EDNA water sampler and collecting the water sample for analysis following 25 hours soak time.	The aim of this project is to identify spatial scales and frequency of sampling that are required to effectively monitor inshore fish communities using eDNA techniques. This project builds on the results of our previous pilot study which successfully demonstrated the capability of our sampling technology to collect environmental DNA (eDNA) and to characterise the species and haplotype diversity of local inshore fish communities.	Further sampling required to increase and improve the dataset created following the originally 18 – 19 samples planned. Two different sites identified for the samplers, both within areas prohibited to towed gear to avoid conflict. Samples were unsuccessful during December and January due to inclement weather. The sample sites are at fairly exposed areas within the District, with each passage a total distance of just under 90nm. Successful trips were made October, November and February completing this phase of sampling.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a) S.173
Offshore Shellfish Monthly Bivalve Classification Sampling	To accompany Offshore Shellfish on trips to sea to take samples of mussels from their offshore mussel farm sites	To support Torbay Council's Environment Health Officers in the collection of samples to be testing to monitor the shellfish hygiene levels and ensure levels of <i>E. Coli</i> comply with the shellfish harvesting classification given to the sites,	Trips to supervise the sampling were requested to take place during December 2019, and between January and March 2020 by Torbay Council. Due to the location and the level of exposure at the sites of the Mussel farm poor weather has an impact. The February trip has not been achieved at the time of writing this report.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(c) S.173
MMO Licence Applications, Consultations, Environmental Information Requests and	To comment and provide information and evidence to inform the licence applications for developments with the D&S IFCA District. D&S	Many development proposals do not have all the evidence to help make informed judgements as to the impact of the proposals on the existing users of the marine environment. D&S IFCA is well placed to provide information on fishing	There have been numerous MMO Licence Application that IFCA officers have commented (excluding Hinkley C). These included small developments, such as pontoon or jetties, which required examination and a 'no comments' submissions. Others have required a huge amount	Marine Plans and Licence Applications EIR FOIA

Task	Action	Why?	Report	Drivers
Scoping Study information Requests.	IFCA also receives EIR requests and scoping study consultations for early stages of developments where comments can steer their development.	activities, fish populations, habitats, spawning and nursery grounds, ecosystem functions and Impacts in MPAs to name a few.	<p>of work and evidence gathering, including GIS mapping of activity. Here are a few examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noss Marine Disposal of Dredged Material • Disposal of dredged material form Exmouth Marine at Sea off Teignmouth (multiple representations) • Lower Otter Restoration Project • Start Bay Seaweed Farm (multiple representations) • Bridgwater Bay Tidal Barrier <p>EIRS, Scoping Study responses and Transport and Works Act developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parsons Tunnel to Teignmouth Rail Resilience Scheme • Bridgwater Barrier • Bloody Cove Seaweed Farm <p>Other consultations that officers responded to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly Protected Marine Areas • Dorset Aquaculture Strategy • South West Marine Plans 	
Bait Digging in the proximity of <i>Sabellaria</i> - Severn Estuary	To undertake bait digging surveys at Hinkley.	Additional survey work to monitor the location of bait digging in the vicinity of or within the known areas of <i>Sabellaria</i> at Hinkley within the Severn Estuary SAC in response to feedback from NE in its formal vice for HRAs undertaken.	This work is focused on the reefs at Hinkley Point C in Somerset. A total of 24 surveys are planned in order to sufficiently cover seasons, weekdays, weekends and spring and neap tides, over the July 2019 to End of May 2020 period. The surveys are on track and bait digging activity has been observed. Fourteen surveys have been completed to date.	<p>Habitats Directive and Regulations</p> <p>MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b)(d)</p>

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Task	Action	Why?	Report	Drivers
Bait Digging in the proximity of High Tide Roost sites	To undertake bait digging surveys at four sites within the Severn Estuary EMS.	Additional survey work to monitor the level of bait digging that may impact high tide roosts of birds within the Severn Estuary SPA, in response to formal advice from NE on HRAs completed.	This work is focused on four sites in the Severn Estuary where bait digging could occur at higher states of the tide (because of the large tidal range and the extent of the intertidal mudflat and sandflat features) and where high tide bird roosts occur. This includes Berrow & Brean, Uphill, Sand Bay and Clevedon. A total of 32 surveys are planned from October 2019 to end of May 2020, to allow for even coverage of seasons, weekends, weekdays and spring and neap tides. The surveys are on track, having completed thirteen to date, and no bait digging has been observed so far close to the High Tide Roosts. Other forms of disturbance have been noted, primarily dog walking.	Birds and Regulations MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b)(d)
Potential for Pot Limitation Trial	To hold discussions with Defra and MMO regarding the possible of effort limitation in the North Devon Marine Pioneer area which extends outside the 6nm.	Fishers within the NDMP area highlighted their concerns regarding the level of potting effort in the North Devon area	Discussion where had between NDMP Steering group members and Defra to discuss how any such pot limitation scheme could be management across the inshore/offshore boundary. Whilst there was some appetite to explore this there needs much further discussion both locally and nationally on the need for limiting effort for the crab, lobster, and whelk fisheries. These discussions have now been taken up by a new group that was formed out of the Inshore fisheries conference in 2019 – the Shellfish Industry Advisory Group.	25YEP MaCAA: S. 173

Case Study 3: Evidence – Responding to Consultations

D&S IFCA is a formal consultee on a range of consultations from a wide spectrum of organisations. These include consultations from Defra and other statutory bodies, consultants' scoping studies, Environmental Impact Assessments, nuclear, wind and tidal power developments and Marine Licence Applications (MLAs) submitted to the Marine Management Organisation by companies proposing new developments in the marine environment. Under Section 153 (2)(c) of Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, D&S IFCA must take any other steps, which in the authority's opinion are necessary or expedient for the purpose of making a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development. Responding to consultations such as MLAs allows D&S IFCA to fulfil this duty and also takes into account our other duties set out in S.153. In D&S IFCA's Annual Plan for 2019-2020 considering and responding to MLAs, by D&S IFCA's Officers, was not fully recognised as an evidence gathering workstream but recorded as additional work. Due to the time allocated to them, staff resources and additional pressure on the team this work has been included as an integral workstream in D&S IFCA's 2020-2021 Annual Plan.

One example of an MLA submitted to the MMO was a proposal for a seaweed farm in Start Bay (MLA/2018/00506). D&S IFCA was initially approached in autumn 2018 by the company wishing to locate a seaweed farm off the coast at Beesands in Start Bay, South Devon. D&S IFCA facilitated a meeting between the potting sector, known to operate in the area, South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen's Association and the developer. Part of the exchange involved possible locations that would least impact the potters. The demersal fishing fleet were also considered, if an alternative location was to be considered, although they were not in an attendance at the meeting. In early 2019, the MLA relating to this proposal was submitted to the MMO which detailed the size and location of the farm. D&S IFCA responded to this MLA which can be read [here](#). There were several areas of concern highlighted in D&S IFCA's response relating to the location of the proposed site, the conflict with existing users of the areas, in particular commercial fishing, and several inaccuracies and omissions of information provided to support the MLA.

D&S IFCA received a request from the MMO for further information on 29th April 2019. Our [response](#) to this request provided comments on alternative sites such as Bigbury Bay and Torbay, and further information highlighting the incorrect interpretation of site details, habitats, environmental conditions and existing uses. Further [comments](#) were provided by D&S IFCA in October 2019 in response to an additional request from the MMO on 25th September 2019, which again reiterated the concerns on the impact to existing users of a new proposed site within Start Bay that was open to demersal fishing vessels. D&S IFCA was concerned about the impact on the mobile fishing fleet who are currently prohibited from operating in 40% of the South Devon part of the D&S IFCA's District, and the proposed site being located within traditional fishing grounds still open to them. The MMO had received responses from fishing industry representatives, including the NFFO, detailing the extent of the activity in this area.

In early 2020 D&S IFCA was asked, by MMO, to provide detailed evidence on the use of the Start Bay area by the mobile fishing fleet. D&S IFCA's [Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw permit conditions](#), amended on 1st August 2018, require all vessels between 6.99m and 15.24 to have a

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fully functioning vessel monitoring system (VMS) fitted on board. The VMS units are required to transmit positional data every ten minutes except when a vessel is within a restricted access area where the ping rate increases to every three minutes. [Annexes](#), associated with the Mobile Fishing Permits, detail the areas closed to demersal gear and where VMS transmission is not required (Annex 8 - harbours). In January 2020 D&S IFCA made a Data Protection Request to the MMO to interrogate the VMS data hub and provide positional VMS information from all the mobile gear vessels operating in Start Bay. Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed seaweed farm and Figure 2 shows the tracks of vessels operating in this area. The VMS evidence, together with a further response, was submitted to the MMO licensing team on [5th February 2020](#). D&S IFCA reiterated that it did not support the seaweed farm in the location being considered, but it would be supportive of the concept of a seaweed farm in a more appropriate site.

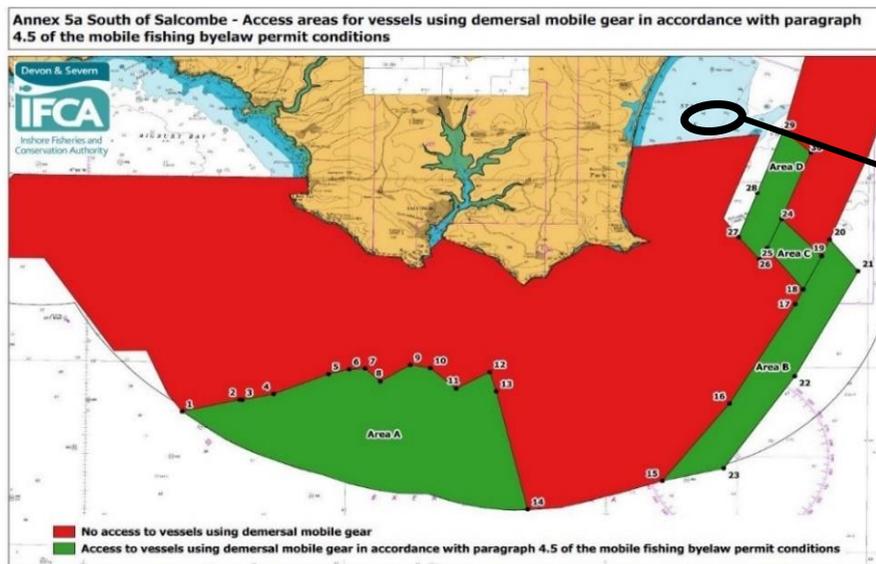


Figure 2: Chart showing the location of proposed seaweed farm

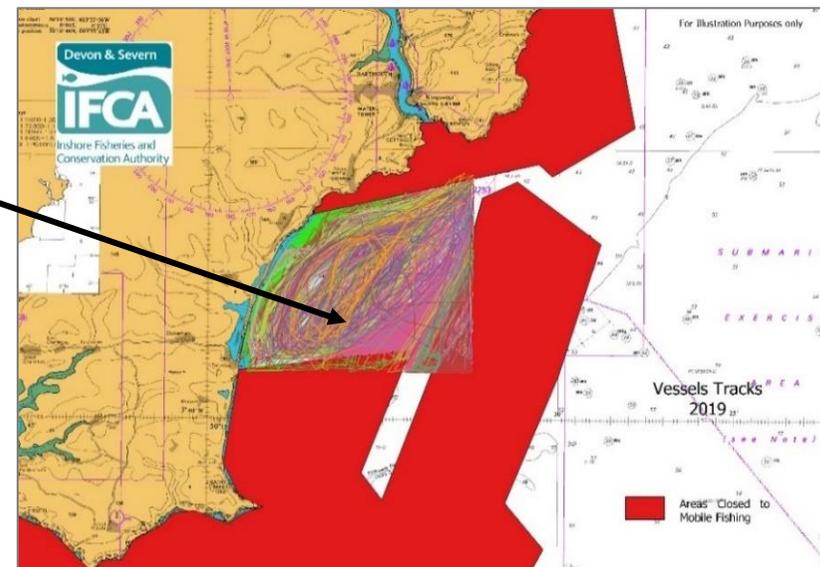


Figure 2: Chart of mobile fishing vessels' VMS tracks in the area of the proposed Seaweed Farm

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On 27th February 2020, the MMO made a decision on the MLA for the proposed seaweed farm. The MMO's decision was to refuse the application on this occasion because:

- 1) the proposed activities currently represent unacceptable risk to existing users of the sea and
- 2) the application was lacking significant amounts of detail, which must be supplied in order for an evidence-based decision to be made.

D&S IFCA is supportive of mariculture developments within its District and is currently developing a Mariculture Strategy. There are several mariculture operations along the South Coast of Devon in Lyme Bay and Torbay, and D&S IFCA works closely with the business operators. The waters in its District are busy with recreational and commercial fishing activities, twenty-two Marine Protected Areas, important and sensitive habitats and species, and fish aggregating, breeding, and spawning grounds. Therefore, the location of any proposed development and its impact on the existing uses and users of the area is an important consideration when responding to applications.

Table 4a Internal Process (Completed Workstreams)

Category: Information Management System:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To internally monitor the implemented filing structure	Establish an internal monitoring program for the introduced internal filing system and review periodically access level to the sensitive files. Where relevant, the security measures applied as defined in the Data Protection Register will be refined or adapted.	The D&S IFCA needs to monitor the correct use of the system implemented for data handling to deal with GDPR, FOI, EIR and publications and to ensure it is used effectively for the IFCA's needs.	Plan introduced by end of June 2019 to coincide with first internal audit.	A secure system by which personal data is held electronically has been identified and implemented. An internal data protection register has been produced. On-going reviews of how the filing structure can be improved have taken place.	Internal Governance

Category: General Communications:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To review and update the D&S IFCA's Communications Plan 2019/20	The existing communications plans will be reviewed.	To ensure the IFCA implements effective communications.	Options considered by end of June 2019.	A site visit was made by DCC communications on 16/10/19 to review the present delivery of communications. The advice was to continue with the current approach, which, although has limitations, does represent relative success as compared to time and resource available.	Internal Governance
To complete the primary display pages on the D&S IFCA website	Environment officers will continue to develop the content of the Environmental/Research website display pages and prepare all the	D&S IFCA's primary communication tool is the website.	Display pages prepared and developed by end of June 2019. Pages to be active on website by end of July 2019.	Although behind the original deadline, primary pages for the website have been completed and numerous additional information pages have also been produced where more detail is required.	Internal Governance

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
	information needed to be inputted onto the website.				
Staff to contribute to the delivery of the Communications Plans	All officers to highlight completed work that is suitable for publication.	The Website Resource Library acts as the D&S IFCA Publication Scheme. Accountability and transparency are required. The information that is used in decision making processes must be published. Information also highlights D&S IFCA achievements over longer term.	On-going.	The website content is reviewed at least every week. The Website Resource Library has expanded throughout 2019-20. As new work is produced by officers, that is suitable for publication, the Resource Library is updated. The content within the library has a stable location and can therefore be linked to and displayed in other locations on the website. The stable file structure enables information to be highlighted in news items which can be also be replicated on Facebook. The file structure gives D&S IFCA control over the longevity of published information and preserves links used within a range of publications. The use of the website is interlinked to the increasing number of consultation initiatives needed to inform the byelaw review work.	Internal Governance
Staff to contribute to the delivery of the Communications Plans	Officers to provide summaries of their day to day activities to be used to publicise the work of the D&S IFCA.	Due to the complexity of the work carried out by the D&S IFCA and the in-depth knowledge of the subject matter, the responsibility for drafting articles falls on staff members. There is a reliance on officers, to identify stories, draft information and produce articles that can be posted on the website and social media.	On-going.	63 news/information items have been produced internally by officers from 1 st April 2019 to 19 th February 2020 (the date of drafting this report). The news/information items are posted on the D&S IFCA website home page and latest news Tab. News/information items are highlighted on the D&S IFCA Facebook page. The news/information items are preserved in the website Resource Library (Section G) as an archive. Each quarter the items are collated and appear in the quarterly reports presented to members and made available for the general public to read.	Internal Governance

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To review the content and display of website	Officers will maintain and update the Information Management System as this is reflected in the resource library of the website.	The content and display of the website must be reviewed every month to encourage greater use of the website as a resource.	Each month.	The content of the website is reviewed and updated on a weekly basis. The content of the website is constantly being accessed for use in communication work or to provide links in other documents.	Internal Governance

Category: Specific Communications:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
Bait Digging Consultation And Hand Gathering Consultation	Officers to prepare information and to conduct a communication campaign to support collection of information & evidence. Various communications initiatives are used including Mail Chimp and surgery sessions.	Engagement can aid collection of evidence and information that is then used by B&PSC. Preparation of information needs an understanding of the subject matter.	Call for Information (Bait Digging) completed by 26th April 2019. Call for Information (Hand Gathering) Completed by 26 th July 2019	These consultations were to inform the potential development of a Hand Working Permit Byelaw. The consultation for bait digging was conducted as planned and documented in a report presented to the B&PSC on 16 th May 2019. The consultation for Hand Gathering was conducted as planned and documented in a report presented to the B&PSC on 15 th August 2019. Both consultations initiatives included Mail Chimp email circulars, the use of the website, the use of Facebook and four dedicated one to one surgery sessions hosted by officers during varied evenings and a Saturday morning.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b)(d) Habitats Directive and Regulations
Diving Permit Conditions Consultation	Officers to prepare information and to conduct a communication campaign to support collection of information	Consultation must be undertaken during a review of permit conditions. Specific items have been agreed	Call for Information (Diving Permit Conditions) completed by 26th April 2019.	The consultation was conducted as planned and documented in a report presented to the B&PSC on 16th May 2019. The consultation initiative included a Mail Chimp email circular, use of the website, use of Facebook and four dedicated one to one surgery	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(d)

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
	<p>& evidence relating to proposed changes in Diving Permit Conditions. Various communications initiatives are used including Mail Chimp and surgery sessions.</p>	<p>to be subjected to consultation.</p>		<p>sessions hosted by officers during varied evenings and a Saturday morning.</p>	
<p>Potting Permit Conditions Consultation</p>	<p>Officers to prepare information and to conduct a communication campaign to support collection of information & evidence relating to proposed changes in Diving Permit Conditions. Various communications initiatives are used including Mail Chimp and surgery sessions.</p>	<p>The proposal is to allow potting permit holders to be able to use fish, that is subjected to the landing obligation, as bait.</p>	<p>Call for Information (Potting Permit Conditions) completed by 26th April 2019.</p>	<p>The consultation was conducted as planned and documented in a report presented to the B&PSC on 16th May 2019. The consultation initiative included a Mail Chimp email circular, use of the website, use of Facebook and four dedicated one to one surgery sessions hosted by officers during varied evenings and a Saturday morning.</p>	<p>Council Regulation - Landing Obligation</p>
<p>Exemptions Byelaw Consultation</p>	<p>To use various communications including newspaper advertisement as part of formal consultation.</p>	<p>Byelaw making requirement.</p>	<p>Formal consultation to be completed by 28th June 2019.</p>	<p>The work required for the formal consultation was conducted but was delayed due to the delays developing the Exemptions Byelaw. Similar communication initiatives were used for the formal consultation with additional newspaper advertisements used which was a Defra/MMO requirement. The formal consultation was completed on 15th August 2019, with the findings presented to the B&PSC on 12th September 2019.</p>	<p>MaCAA: S.155 S.157</p>

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Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Notification	Officers to prepare information, including potential use of signs, to highlight closed public beds in the Teign & Exe Estuaries. Various communications initiatives are to be considered.	A requirement to notify stakeholders and to promote compliance with closure.	Information circulated by end of April 2019.	The communication regarding the Temporary Closure of Shellfish beds was completed as expected. Notification included use of the D&S IFCA website, Facebook page, development of posters and liaison with Estuary Forum groups.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b) Habitats Directives and Regulations

Category: Policy:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To review Health & Safety Policy	Officers will review Health & Safety policies and draft new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Officers will identify suitably trained external consultants to review the D&S IFCA's documentation and practices.	The D&S IFCA must comply with regulatory requirements including making the working environment and practices as safe as possible for all members of staff.	External consultants appointed by May 2019 to carry out review of policies, SOPs, and Risk assessments.	Although later than originally anticipated, external consultants were appointed to review the H&S Policies, and new documents were provided.	Internal Governance
To produce comprehensive minutes of D&S IFCA meetings	Officers to take comprehensive notes and produce the initial draft minutes for circulation among the D&S IFCA's members as soon as possible.	Minutes are taken at both Full D&S IFCA and Sub-Committee Meetings. Content to be expanded in the interests of transparency to better demonstrate all decision-making.	Draft minutes produced within 2 weeks of each meeting.	B&PSC minutes were produced within two weeks of each meeting.	Internal Governance Local Government Act

Production of an Annual Report	Officers will produce an Annual Report.	S.178 Marine and Coastal Act 2009 states that D&S IFCA must complete an Annual Report.	Annual Report submitted to Defra by November 2019.	The 2018-19 Annual report was submitted to Defra as planned in 2019 and posted on the D&S IFCA website.	MaCAA: S. 178
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Table 4b Internal Process (Incomplete/Ongoing Workstreams)

Category: Specific Communications:

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw Consultation	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (& permit conditions): Officers to prepare information and to conduct a communication campaign to collect information & evidence relating to proposed changes in Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (& permit conditions). Various communications initiatives are used including Mail Chimp and surgery sessions.	Consultation must be undertaken during a review of Byelaw and/or permit conditions.	Call for Information/Consultation completed by 31st October 2019.	The development work required to remake Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw fell behind schedule and therefore, the consultation work was delayed.	Internal Governance D&S IFCA's Communications Strategy

Category: Policy

Task	Action	Why?	When? (as planned)	Report	Drivers
To refine internal systems & all Data Protection Policy (and Standards)	D&S IFCA to seek and identify suitable outsourced support to examine internal systems and documented policy and standards. D&S IFCA will need to appoint a Data Protection Officer for specialist work.	The D&S IFCA has a legal duty to comply with the introduction of GDPR and other regulatory requirements relating to data.	External consultants appointed to carry out data handling review July 2019.	External consultant was not appointed however a consultant was used to support D&S IFCA's response to 10 EIR requests during the year. Multiple documents were internally examined, many of which were identified for additional review/minor amendment to be GDPR compliant.	Internal Governance GDPR
To produce comprehensive minutes of D&S IFCA meetings	Officers to take comprehensive notes and produce the initial draft minutes for circulation among the D&S IFCA's members as soon as possible.	Minutes are taken at both Full D&S IFCA and Sub-Committee Meetings. Content to be expanded in the interests of transparency to better demonstrate all decision-making.	Draft minutes produced within 2 weeks of each meeting.	Main Authority minutes were not always produced within two weeks of each meeting. From January 2020, Main Authority Quarterly meeting minutes now being recording and produced by Principal Policy Officer and Acting Finance and Administration Officer	Internal Governance Local Government Act

Table 4c Internal Process (Additional Workstreams)

Category: Specific Communications:

Task	Action	Why?	Report	Drivers
Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw Consultation	Officers to prepare information and to conduct a communication campaign to collect information & evidence relating to sand eel trawling. Various communications initiatives are used including Mail Chimp and surgery sessions.	The work is required to support the decision of the B&PSC to introduce new permits to manage Sand Eel Trawling. The findings will be used for decision making and the development of two new categories of Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions.	The consultation was conducted as planned between 13 th December 2019 and 17 th January 2020. The findings were documented in a report presented to the B&PSC on 11 th February 2020. The consultation initiative included a Mail Chimp email circular, use of the website, use of Facebook and four dedicated one to one surgery sessions hosted by officers during varied evenings and a Saturday morning.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b)(d)
Hand Working Permit Byelaw Consultation	Officers to prepare information and to conduct a communication campaign to collect information & evidence relating to bag limits for different sea fisheries resources that can be taken by hand working fishing activities. Various communications initiatives are used including Mail Chimp and surgery sessions.	On 14 th November, the B&PSC considered different options to manage hand working fishing activities. On 23 rd January 2020, it was determined that a consultation should be conducted focussing on a series of bag limits developed by the B&PSC that will form part of the Hand Working Permit Byelaw.	The consultation regarding a series of bag limits began in February 2020 and concluded in March 2020. The findings will be documented in a report to be presented to the B&PSC on 14 th May 2020.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b)(d)

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Potting Permit Byelaw (Changes due to the permit conditions) Consultation	To preparing information to be used in a mail chimp email circular and a hard copy equivalent. Associated work includes news items for the website and Facebook. The consultation display page will also be utilised.	A process must be followed which includes consultation and communication. On 11 th February 2020 the B&PSC concluded that the Potting Permit Conditions should be amended so D&S IFCA can continue to manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.	At time of writing (19 th February 2020) the work is on-going.	MaCAA: S.153(2)(a)(b)
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Category: General Communications:

Task	Action	Why?	Report	Drivers
D&S IFCA E-newsletter “Inshore Insights”	Create and circulate a quarterly e-newsletter to a wide audience	To enhance the reputation of the Authority, to inform stakeholders and meet expectations (including High Level Objectives) that D&S IFCA is recognised and heard.	The production of the e-newsletter is internally produced by officers. Three editions have been created and circulated to all subscribing stakeholders this calendar year. (April 2019, August 2019, and December 2019)	Internal Governance
News items for the Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) newsletter	Create and provide limited word articles for use in this newsletter	D&S IFCA works in partnership with the EEMP. The EEMP have provided a dedicated space within their newsletter for a focus on the work of D&S IFCA. This initiative has potential to widen D&S IFCA’s audience.	Selected news/information items, that ideally have a strong link to the Exe Estuary, have been provided to the editor of the EEMP newsletter when requested in 2019 and 2020.	D&S IFCA’s Communication Strategy
Online Permit	To plan a new format for permit applications for a	The previous on-line permit application facility had flaws	A facility to apply for a permit online is of benefit to many applicants. A series of amended application forms were	Internal Governance

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Application Facility	build by an outsourced service provider	and exposed D&S IFCA to inappropriate issue of fishing permits. A revised approach enables thorough cross checking of information by the Permitting Officer.	developed to enable the Permitting Officer to collect all required information during the application process. A package (including mapping and instructions) was assembled for use by an outsourced provider to develop and improve the existing facility. Although the work experienced delays, an improved online permit application facility was introduced and functioning on 7 th November 2019.	
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Category: Recruitment

Task	Action	Why?	Report	Drivers
Staff Recruitment	Recruit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity cover for Senior Environment Officer • Marine Pioneer Fisheries Research and Management Plan Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that an effective environment team is maintained and continues to function with a Senior officer in place • Part of the Marine Pioneer programme included the production for at least five fisheries Research and Management Plan which will be used as a template for other species within D&s IFCA district and the potential for these to feed in the Fisheries Management Plans which as describe in the Fisheries Bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The maternity cover for the Senior Environment Officer commenced employment in November 2019 and will continue until September 2020. • A FRMP Officer was recruited in November 2019 and commenced employment in January 2020. This is a one-year contract. 	Internal Governance MaCAA: S.173

Category: Data requests

Task	Action	Why?	Report	Drivers
Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests	To respond to 10 EIRs containing multiple requests for information from the same person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal requirement to consider disclosure of information held by public bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 out of 10 EIR requests were responded to. A decision was taken that the requests for information had become manifestly unreasonable and it was not in the public interest to disclose further information relating to the final two EIR requests. 	Internal Governance EIR

Case Study 4: Specific Communication

Stakeholder engagement, as part of an inclusive management model, can influence change

The word “consultation” has been and still is viewed by many as a notification of a pre-determined change rather than a meaningful opportunity to be involved. “It’s a done deal” and “it’s going to happen anyway”, are often the expressions heard. Many fishers often expect change or potential change to have a negative impact on their business or, in the case of the recreational sector, a negative impact on their leisure activity.

The inclusive management offered by D&S IFCA via the introduction of its permit-based byelaws, offers something different, breaks this misconception, and is a real opportunity for stakeholders to drive or influence decision-making processes. Using a permit system to regulate fishing activity enables D&S IFCA to establish who undertakes fishing activity, offers flexibility regarding changes to management, and importantly enables the assembly of contact details to provide a direct communication link to those conducting the activity.

The Diving Permit Byelaw (and associated permit conditions) regulates commercial and recreational divers that wish to remove crab, lobster and scallops. The mandatory requirement for the Permit Conditions to be reviewed at least once every three years provided the Authority with the opportunity to highlight changes that it felt was appropriate for the continuing management of this fishing activity. The same review process offered the opportunity for all stakeholders to highlight potential changes that they would like to see applied to on-going management of the activity.

This review identified multiple proposed changes to the Diving Permit Conditions and included two separate phases of consultation (Have Your Say/Call for Information Campaigns). Electronic engagement formed the basis of the consultation work for increased efficiency, a reduction in costs, and to lower the carbon footprint. Mailchimp has become the favoured format for widespread email engagement.



The first phase highlighted a desire from recreational divers to see a change in their permit restrictions to allow an increase in the number of scallops that they could remove each calendar day. This suggestion was incorporated into a more focussed [second phase of engagement](#) that was conducted between 8th March and 12th April 2019. The second phase of the engagement work highlighted multiple potential changes to the Diving Permit Conditions and provided different options for stakeholders to respond, including email and one to one interaction with D&S FCA’s Officers.

Over 1000 D&S IFCA stakeholders that had supplied an email address were directly notified of the proposals. Permit holders with no email address were notified by post. All stakeholders were invited to respond and not just those with a Diving Permit.

The consultation was supported by additional communication initiatives. News items and display page updates were posted on the Authority's website, with repeating information posted on Facebook.

The Consultation Response and its Influence

Regarding the recreational bag limit level for scallops, two key questions were asked:

1. What level number of scallops should be considered as being appropriate for a recreational diver using a Category Two Permit to take each calendar day?
2. What reasons do you have for your suggestion?

These two questions, (amongst other topics and questions) generated the largest response which was documented, presented and discussed by the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee. Nearly all stakeholders that submitted a response regarding the specific consultation items made suggestions concerning the number of scallops that, in their view, is appropriate for a recreational bag limit. No stakeholders raised an objection to having a bag limit imposed via the permit. The British Spearfishing Association suggested a level of 50 scallops per day. Numbers suggested per calendar day ranged from 6 per day to a larger daily amount of 50. One response questioned the D&S IFCA's evidence base and decision making when setting an original bag limit of 15 scallops per day for human consumption. The rationale provided for an increased bag limit was mixed with the following key observations often cited:

- **Recreational Diving Activity is not conducted as often as other forms of recreational activity**
- **Scallops and not crab or lobster is the favoured as a species to be taken by divers**
- **Not all recreational dives result in the taking of scallops**
- **Natural restrictions such as weather, tides and visibility limit the opportunity to take scallops**
- **The limitations of the equipment used (such as air and the handling of a collection bag) limit the opportunity to take scallops**
- **The bag limit should be enough to feed a family of four**
- **The bag limit should be enough for a main meal and not a starter**
- **It would be beneficial for the daily bag limit of scallops to provide enough to freeze so they can be eaten and enjoyed on another occasion**

Decision Making & Changes to Diving Permit Conditions

On 16th May 2019 the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee discussed multiple potential changes and agreed that the number of scallops that can be taken by a recreational diver (Category Two Permit) per calendar day be increased from 15 to 25. Amended Diving Permit Conditions were circulated in August 2019. This process has been fully documented in a final report – Process, Decision Making and Changes to the Diving Permit Conditions (25th July 2019) which is posted on the Authority's website (Resource Library) and can be read in full [here](#).

Table 5 Partnership Engagement between April 2019 and March 2020

Scale	Engagement Type & Detail	IFCA involvement	Stakeholders
National	Chief Officers Group (COG)	All IFCAs attend COG meetings to discuss relevant issues and collaboration opportunities.	All IFCAs, AIFCA
National	Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meetings	D&S IFCA is an active member of the group sharing research and technical information and methodologies. Collaboration and information exchange. Meetings in person and telecom. One conference per year	IFCAs, Guernsey, Jersey & Isle of Man regulators, Cefas, Defra, NE, NRW,
National	Healthy Biologically Diverse Seas Evidence Group (HBDSEG) - Fish Technical Sub-Group	Provide expert knowledge and advice on inshore fish research, policy and management to aid future research and reporting efforts.	Cefas, NE, IFCAs, EA.
National	Inshore Marine Protected Area Group (MPAG)	Provide input into MPAG monitoring programme, disseminate information, collaboration, sharing research methodologies and analysis. Meetings attended regularly throughout the year.	IFCAs, Cefas, NE, EA, Defra
National	IFCA Whelk Working Group	Sit on group and attend meetings in person or through telecons.	IFCA, NE, academia, Cefas, MMO, Defra
National	Aquaculture Common Issues Group	Provide expert knowledge into discussion on seaweed farms, pacific oysters, and spiny lobsters aquaculture developments. Attended one meeting in 2019	Aquaculture/Mariculture industry members /Scientists, Defra, Regulators,
National	Crab Fishery Science Meeting	IFCA presented information on the crab fisheries within its district and inputted into the national debate on crab stocks and future sustainability of the stock.	Defra, IFCAs, MMO, Fishing Industry, NFFO, Fishmongers, Seafish, Jersey Fisheries, Welsh Fisheries, Cefas
National	Presentation on the work of the IFCA and wrasse fishery	IFCA presented on the work of the IFCA and about emerging fisheries including the wrasse fishery.	RYA, Teachers, educators
National	Highly Protected Marine Areas meetings	IFCA sat on two stakeholder group meetings, providing relevant information and expert knowledge.	Defra, NGOS, fishing industry, academia, IFCAs
National	Shellfish Association of Great Britain	Attends meeting of the Mollusc and Crustacea committees to present IFCA work and share	Fishing industry, Defra, Cefas, FSA, devolved administrations,

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Scale	Engagement Type & Detail	IFCA involvement	Stakeholders
		knowledge and expertise. Attends Annual Conference	
National	Sustainable Cuttle Fish Stocks workshop	D&S IFCA attend a workshop hosted by Brighton University and Susses IFCA to discuss projects aimed at understanding more about cuttlefish and its fishery. Egg survival rates and quality were discussed as well as the use of artificial media on pots to collect eggs.	Fishing industry, academia, Cefas, NE, IFCAs, NGOs
National	NIMEG – National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group	IFCA led group dealing with common national approaches to compliance.	MMO, IFCAs, EA, Defra.
Regional	South West Rural & Regional Rural & Wildlife Crime Meetings	D&S IFCA Officers/ SIFCA officers attend meetings quarterly. Police led meetings to share intelligence with potentially joint working opportunities across all agencies	Devon & Cornwall Police, Avon & Somerset Police, IFCAs, EA, Wildlife teams, Firearms teams.
Regional	Inshore Potting Areas Committee (IPA)	D&S IFCA co-chairs (with MMO) the annual IPA meetings. Work also includes production of meeting minutes, production of Annual IPA chart; sharing information with fishing industry and permit holders. The Annual committee meeting discusses potential changes to the IPA chart and current issues that may affect the management of the chart and the fishing industry who operate within the potting and trawling area such as MPAs, HPMAs, whole site management, IVMS, infringements.	Fishing Industry, MMO
Regional	South West Marine Ecosystem (SWME) Conference and Report	D&S IFCA officers attend and present at the annual SWME conference. Deputy Chief Officer also collates information from a range of stakeholders and reports on the management of fisheries and MPAs section of the SWME annual reports.	NGOs, MBA, PML, Seasearch, academia, IFCAs
Regional	Fisheries Bill meeting, Plymouth	Consultation response stakeholder meeting	Fishing Industry, Local Authorities, NGOs, MMO, interested stakeholders
Regional	Bristol Channel Standing Environment Group (BCSEG)	Provide information on activities and habitats within the District	Local Authorities, relevant authorities, MCA, port authorities

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Scale	Engagement Type & Detail	IFCA involvement	Stakeholders
Regional	Seafish SW Advisory Group	Inputted into regional discussion. Submitted proposal for funding for Spiny lobster research	Seafish, MMO, IFCA's, Fishing Industry, Science
Regional	MSc Marine Conservation Workshop	D&S IFCA hosted a workshop for the Plymouth University MSc marine Conservation student. This workshop included presentations from IFCA officers on the work of the IFCA and then a scenario situation was presented to the students for them to decide fisheries management.	Academic and Research collaboration and education
Regional	South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen's Association	D&S IFCA attends monthly meeting of the SDCSA and provide updates on current research and management and answers any queries members might have.	Fishing Industry
Regional	Lectures at Plymouth University	D&S IFCA officers give lectures to undergraduate and MSC students of various aspects of the work the IFCA undertakes these include Aquaculture and the Wrasse fishery.	students
Local	Local Estuary forum meetings – Yealm, Dart, Avon, Salcombe-Kingsbridge, Exe. Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum	D&S IFCA officers update the group on relevant workstreams and input into discussions. Officer respond to any concerns/ questions from fora members.	Local Authorities, stakeholder, fishing industry, SNCBs, Harbour Masters, NGOs, MMO,
Local	Torbay Harbour Master	D&S IFCA met with Torbay Harbour Master to discuss mariculture opportunities in the Torbay area.	Torbay HM, Torbay Council EHO, Potential new mariculturists
Local	Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory and Management fora	D&S IFCA updates the group of relevant research and management projects.	Fishing industry, recreational industry, MMO, Lundy Field Society, Academia, North Devon Biosphere, NE, English Heritage, other stakeholders.