

Amendments to the Potting Permit Conditions

Officers' Recommendation

That the Potting Permit Conditions are amended to incorporate a ballan wrasse Conservation Reference Size range of 18–26 cm.

Background

Following the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) meeting held on 25th of February 2021, a formal consultation was conducted relating to a change in the Conservation Reference Size (CRS) range for ballan wrasse. The proposal was relatively simple and was to change the CRS range (that is set out within the Potting Permit Conditions) for ballan wrasse in Devon and Severn IFCA's District from 15–23 cm to 18–26 cm.

Supporting Information

Officers have produced a document to support the above recommendation.

- **Potting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions – Proposals to Amend the Potting Permit Conditions to Manage the Live Wrasse Fishery – The Formal Consultation Report (3rd June 2021)**

Overview

The consultation response was low in terms of numbers, but significant regarding the general theme of the response. In particular, detailed responses were received from Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT), Wembury Marine Conservation Area Advisory Group (WAG) and Aquascot Ltd. (a Scottish salmon producer). Although responses contained differing levels of detail and reasoning for the views taken, the general theme was support for the increase in the minimum CRS, but a concern about the increased maximum CRS. Other issues were raised about the fishery in general and some responses also voiced concern over the other recommendations outlined in the recent 'Review of the Live Wrasse Fishery in Devon and Severn IFCA's District 2017–2020' report.

It was clear from the response provided by DWT, WAG and Aquascot that the Annual Review of the Live Wrasse Fishery in Devon and Severn IFCA's District (2017–2020) Report had been studied in depth. The detailed response that was provided to D&S IFCA challenged different aspects of the evidence base used for decision making and the position taken by D&S IFCA to continue with the management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.

Officers' Analysis

D&S IFCA officers have considered the points that have been raised in responses to the formal consultation, particularly from DWT, WAG and Aquascot and have set out information in the supporting report to provide clarification on the specific points. In doing so, the Officers' analysis also recognises the underlying concerns highlighted in other responses submitted during the formal consultation.

Having considered the consultation responses in detail D&S IFCA Officers are content that the best available evidence has been used to inform the recommendation put forward for consideration by the B&PSC and presented in the formal consultation. D&S IFCA Officers therefore remain confident that the proposed change to CRS limits for ballan wrasse (to 18–26 cm) is the best approach to balancing the environmental, social, and economic aspects of the fishery.