

D&S IFCA Fishing Activity Survey

A Call for Information: Bait digging and hand gathering in Marine Conservation Zones



What's the purpose of this information gathering exercise?

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) is undertaking an assessment of bait digging and hand gathering activity in the following estuaries that are designated Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ); Otter, Axe (Lyme Bay), Erme, Devon Avon, and the Dart.

For the first stage of this assessment, officers are gathering information and evidence to better understand locations of bait digging and hand gathering, levels of activity, and what is important to stakeholders in this area. It should be noted that this request for information is only in relation to the estuaries mentioned above and is not connected to the recent call for information circulated in 2019 on bait digging and hand gathering.

Why is this information needed?

D&S IFCA has limited evidence and data in relation to bait digging and hand gathering within these MCZs and would like to better understand the activity within the sites. This request for information will allow D&S IFCA to estimate how much activity is currently taking place over the different features of the MCZs. This will also help to build an understanding of how important the sites are as fishing grounds.

How will your information help us?

D&S IFCA will collate the information you provide, and this will feed into the MCZ assessment and fishing activity report of the five estuaries mentioned above. D&S IFCA has a duty to manage fishing activities within the inshore (0-6nm) area and, as such, must take the necessary steps to ensure that the conservation objectives of MCZs are furthered. The assessment is used to consider whether the fishing activity may hinder the conservation objectives of the MCZ. If a detailed assessment suggests that the activity is likely to hinder the conservation objectives, appropriate management is required to counter such effects. More complete information on current fishing activities may reduce the level of precaution required in management approaches. Management of fishing activities can be introduced through statutory measures in the form of byelaws, or on a voluntary basis via Codes of Conduct.

How you can have your say

1. Please complete the questionnaire below and return it to us using the details below, and/or
2. E-mail s.curtin@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk
3. Write to us: Devon and Severn IFCA
Brixham Laboratory,
Freshwater Quarry,
Brixham TQ5 8BA.
4. Telephone us Monday – Wednesday 9.00am – 16.00pm on 07590 224014

THIS INFORMATION GATHERING EXERCISE ENDS ON 17 DECEMBER 2021.

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What do we do with your information – Privacy Policy

We protect any personal data that you may provide. Personal data submitted in this information collecting process will be securely stored. The content of responses will be summarised, where appropriate, and anonymised for documenting in the fishing activity report and MCZ assessment that will be sent to Natural England for advice and published on our website.

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

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

Bait digging and hand gathering activity questionnaire

1. Do you carry out any bait digging or hand gathering on any of the estuary MCZs?
(please delete as appropriate)
 - Bait digging: Otter / Axe (Lyme Bay) / Erme / Devon Avon / Dart / None of these
 - Other hand gathering: Otter / Axe (Lyme Bay) / Erme / Devon Avon / Dart / None of these
2. If you conduct bait digging or hand gathering on any of these estuaries, please give more details below. If you have selected more than one estuary in Q1, please provide details specific to each estuary (including effort, location, how often etc.):

(eg. Bait digging on the Axe twice a month)

3. If you have answered yes to any of the above activities, please indicate whether you would be happy for D&S IFCA to contact you in order to obtain more information on the location and level of activity.

Yes

No

4. If you answered yes to Q3, please provide us with your contact details.

Name:

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Phone number:

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Email address:

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Preferred method of contact; email/phone (delete as appropriate)

5. Are there any other comments/information you would like to add to your response?