

D&S IFCA Fishing Activity Survey

A Call for Information: Axe Estuary Marine Conservation Zone



What's the purpose of this information gathering exercise?

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) is undertaking an assessment of fishing activity in the Axe Estuary Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ). For the first stage of this assessment, officers are gathering information and evidence to better understand fishing locations, levels of activity, and what is important to stakeholders in this area. D&S IFCA officers are particularly interested to gather information on the level and locations of bait digging/ hand gathering, seine netting, and potting.

Why is this information needed?

D&S IFCA has limited evidence and data in relation to fishing activities within the Axe Estuary MCZ and would like to better understand fishing activity within the site. This request for information will allow D&S IFCA to estimate how much activity is currently taking place over the different features of the MCZ. This will also help to build an understanding of how important the site is as a fishing ground to those who use it.

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 Axe Estuary MCZ. 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 overleaf 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.

Fishing activity questionnaire

1. Do you carry out any of the following fishing activities on the Axe estuary
 - Bait digging: Yes / No
 - Other hand gathering: Yes/ No
2. If the conditions of your Permit allow, do you carry out any of the following fishing activities on the Axe estuary:
 - Seine netting for sand eels: Yes / No
 - Potting: Yes / No
3. If you have answered yes to any of the above activities, please provide more information below. Please also indicate the location of these activities using the map overleaf.

e.g. Where do you do each activity within the MCZ, how often, and at what time of year? Please indicate the level of effort (e.g. number of pots per trip).

4. Are there any other comments/information you would like to add to your response? Please include details of other fishing activity you conduct on the Axe Estuary.

5. Please indicate whether you would be happy for D&S IFCA to contact you should they require any additional information

Yes

No

6. If you answered yes to Q5, 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)

The chart below shows the extent of the MCZ. Using the chart and the grid cell numbers, please indicate the locations of your specific fishing activities confirmed in Q1-3.

