



# Access for Dive Caught Scallops

## Have Your Say

### Evaluating the Amended Category One Diving Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions

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#### What's the purpose of this information gathering exercise?

Amended Diving Permit Conditions were introduced in 2022 – valid from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The amended conditions made it possible for Category One Diving Permit Holders to remove scallops from specific areas in July, August, and September. The removal of scallops during this period is dependent on a series of conditions, including the fitting of Remotely Accessed Electronic Reporting Devices (VMS) which must transmit the required information.

As a Category One Diving Permit holder, your views on the effectiveness of these changes to Permit Conditions is important, and will help D&S IFCA to evaluate the impact of the changes that have enabled greater access to scallop stocks within the District. Information you submit will be anonymised and added to other information assembled by Officers to make a report that will be presented to D&S IFCA's Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee.

This information gathering exercise is based around some focussed topics and questions that are set out after some background information.

## Topics & Questions:

### Topic 1: Access areas to remove scallops in July, August, and September

The Category One Diving Permit Conditions now enable greater access to scallop stocks in July – September, under conditions outlined in the Permit Conditions.

#### Topic 1: Questions

- a) Did you fish for scallops during July – September 2022? If not, why not?
- b) Are you in favour of increased access to scallop stocks within the three-month period – July, August, and September, as allowed since 2022?
- c) What are your views on the increased access for the removal of scallop?
- d) What are your views on the new access areas?
- e) What has an increase in access to scallop stocks in July, August and September meant to you and your business?
- f) Do you plan to fish for scallops during July – September 2023?
- g) Do you have any other views or comments regarding access for commercial divers removing scallops?

### Topic 2: Bag Limits

D&S IFCA established a bag limit of 2400 scallops when fishing in the access areas during July, August, and September. For bag limits to be enforceable, D&S IFCA required that when diving for scallops in the District in the months of July, August, and September, no diving for scallops in areas outside of the District can take place on that fishing trip.

## **Topic 2: Questions**

- h) What is your view on the bag limit of 2400 scallops per vessel per day, when fishing in access areas in July, August, and September?**
- i) What is your view on the restriction whereby if you have dived in D&S IFCA's District, you are not able to dive for and retain scallops from elsewhere on that fishing trip?**
- j) Do you have any other views or comments about daily bag limits?**

## **Topic 3: Minimum Conservation Reference Size**

Divers can be selective regarding the size of scallops and quantities removed in a given area. The current Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) is 100mm; however, D&S IFCA introduced a Minimum Conservation Reference Size of 110mm for scallops within the District in the months of July, August and September.

## **Topic 3: Questions**

- k) What is your view on the increase in MCRS for scallops?**
- l) What MCRS for scallop would you suggest as being appropriate during July – September, and should a revised MCRS be applied all year?**
- m) What other views or comments do you have regarding the MCRS for scallop?**

## **Topic 4: Research**

At present there are limited data available about scallop stocks within D&S IFCA's District. In 2022, D&S IFCA conducted research to identify the timing of the scallop spawning season in the District. This research was carried out in collaboration with the University of Plymouth and scallop divers who agreed to collect scallop samples throughout the season. Part of the research looked at how the scallop roe changed in appearance throughout the year. A report on this research will be available in early 2023.

## **Topic 4: Questions:**

- n) Did you notice any change in the scallop stock during 2022 – over the year, or in comparison with other years?**
- o) Do you find that your markets/buyers show preference for scallops with roe in a certain condition/ of a certain appearance?**
- p) If the answer to question (o) is yes, do you change your fishing activity to target scallops with roe of a certain condition or appearance?**
- q) Would you like to receive an electronic copy of the report on the research into the scallop spawning season?**

## **Final Section: Other Information**

- r) If you have more to say regarding the additional access for dive-caught scallops, the topics set out, or have other suggestions - please tell us.**

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## How you can have your say

1. Contact us via email – [consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk) to provide your answers, or to request a phone call to discuss the questions.
2. Write to us

Please provide your full name in your response and confirm if you are the holder of a D&S IFCA Category One (Commercial) Diving Permit or have another interest.

Devon and Severn IFCA  
Brixham Laboratory,  
Freshwater Quarry,  
Brixham, TQ5 8BA

- **This information gathering exercise ends on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

## Further Information

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

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

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

## How to follow our work?

If you are not already on our electronic mailing list, then you can get yourself added by [contacting](#) D&S IFCA or by using this [link](#). Providing an email address helps us better communicate with you. You will also be able to receive our free e-newsletter.

Keep an eye on our [consultation page](#) on our website to read about other work being done and how you can get involved and have your say. Follow our [latest news items](#) displayed on our website or our face book page. Explore our website [Resource Library](#) for an extensive range of our information and publications. It's all free.

## What do we do with your information – Privacy Policy

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

D&S IFCA has a privacy policy which can be found by visiting our website [www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](http://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk). You can manage your preferences by contacting D&S IFCA.

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