

## Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) Report

The last meeting of the B&PSC was held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The draft minutes (V0.4) from the B&PSC meeting are published on D&S IFCA's website both on the public pages and within the secure Members' area.

### The Scallop Closed Season – Amendments to Category One (Commercial) Diving Permits

B&PSC Members were presented with an Officers' report on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 that documented the findings of a formal consultation (21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022) that set out potential changes to the Category One Diving Permit Conditions. An Officers' paper was presented to the B&PSC that set out a series of recommendations. These recommendations included increasing access for the removal of scallop during July, August, and September from defined areas (Marine Protected Areas) within the District subject to a package of management measures.

The B&PSC agreed (all in favour) that:

***Category One Diving Permit Conditions are amended to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to open access in the months of July, August, and September for the removal of scallops from specified sites under conditions (b to e) as set out in the Officers' paper.***

***(b – e):***

- b) To introduce a Minimum Conservation Reference Size of 110mm for scallop within the District in the months of July, August, and September.**
- c) To introduce a catch limit of 2400 scallops per vessel, per calendar day within the District during the months of July, August, and September.**
- d) To require a fully functioning Remotely Accessed Electronic Monitoring Device (IVMS/VMS) to be fitted to vessels and with additional requirements if the device fails to transmit the required information.**
- e) To introduce a catch restriction that means when diving for scallops in the District in the months of July, August, and September, no fishing outside of the District can take place on that fishing trip.**

Following the B&PSC meeting, amended Diving Permit Conditions (and Annexes) were finalised and circulated to fishers. Some of the owners of vessels that operate under a Category One diving Permit had (IVMS/VMS) fitted to their vessels to enable them to fish for scallop (under the terms of the permit) during the summer months.

Communication work, undertaken by Officers including the production of a news item. The news item, which had contributions from both the Chair and the Chair of the B&PSC, was posted on the D&S IFCA website and Facebook page in July 2022. The news item generated interest from the Fishing News, who included parts of it in their own article on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022. In August Officers received an email message from a Commercial Diver thanking D&S IFCA on behalf of himself and others for the greater fishing opportunity the changes to the Permit Conditions provided.

### ***D&S IFCA News Item - Commercial Scallop Divers Given a Boost by Fisheries Regulator***

- [Blog version](#)
- [Pdf version](#)

## **Development of the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw 2022 & Permit Conditions for Formal Consultation**

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022, a series of Officers' papers relating to this workstream were presented to the B&PSC with each of them including a decision-making element. Officers' papers focussed on the consideration of access to mobile fishing vessels in areas including heritage asset sites, coastal mariculture sites and Marine Protected Areas. Other discussion topics included the introduction, or not, of requirements for fishers associated with the submission of catch and landing data.

The decision making of the B&PSC has enabled Officers, supported by the Byelaw Technical Working Group (BTWG), to continue with drafting work that includes the overarching Byelaw and two categories of Permit Conditions – Category One (At Sea) and Category Two (Estuaries).

Officers (with assistance from Southampton University) are creating new Annexes (charts) and Officers have begun developing a regulatory Impact Assessment. Defra will be notified in the first week in October that the B&PSC will be considering approving (making) the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw 2022 at their next meeting to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022. If approved, the Byelaw (with the Permit Conditions, Annexes, and Impact Assessment) will undergo formal consultation.

## **Development of the Size of Fishing Vessels Byelaw 2022 for Formal Consultation**

Officers and the BTWG have continued drafting this Byelaw. In comparison to the work needed to develop the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw 2022, this has proven to be far less complex. This Byelaw is a stand-alone document and does not require the development of associated Permit conditions or Annexes. Defra will be notified during the first week in October that the B&PSC will be considering approving (making) the Size of Fishing Vessels Byelaw 2022 at their next meeting to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022. If approved, the Byelaw (with the Impact Assessment) will undergo formal consultation.

## **Additional Information for Members**

A Guide to the Work of the B&PSC can be read [here](#).

All B&PSC Papers and Minutes can be viewed in [Section B](#) of D&S IFCA's Website Resource Library. Papers (and reports) for recent and upcoming B&PSC meetings can be viewed via the links provided in the secure Members' area of the website or on the [Meetings Tab](#) on the website's home page.

**End.**