

## 7.2 Coastal Mariculture Sites within D&S IFCA's District

### Officers' Recommendation

**To prohibit use of demersal towed fishing gear in specified coastal mariculture sites in D&S IFCA's District.**

### Background

D&S IFCA has produced and published a [Mariculture Strategy](#) which was a key task of the D&S IFCA's Annual Plan 2020-2021. This Mariculture Strategy represents the first steps of a long journey in developing a sustainable mariculture industry in the D&S IFCA's District. The strategy outlines a set of key actions. It is hoped that these actions will enable D&S IFCA to support a growing mariculture industry.

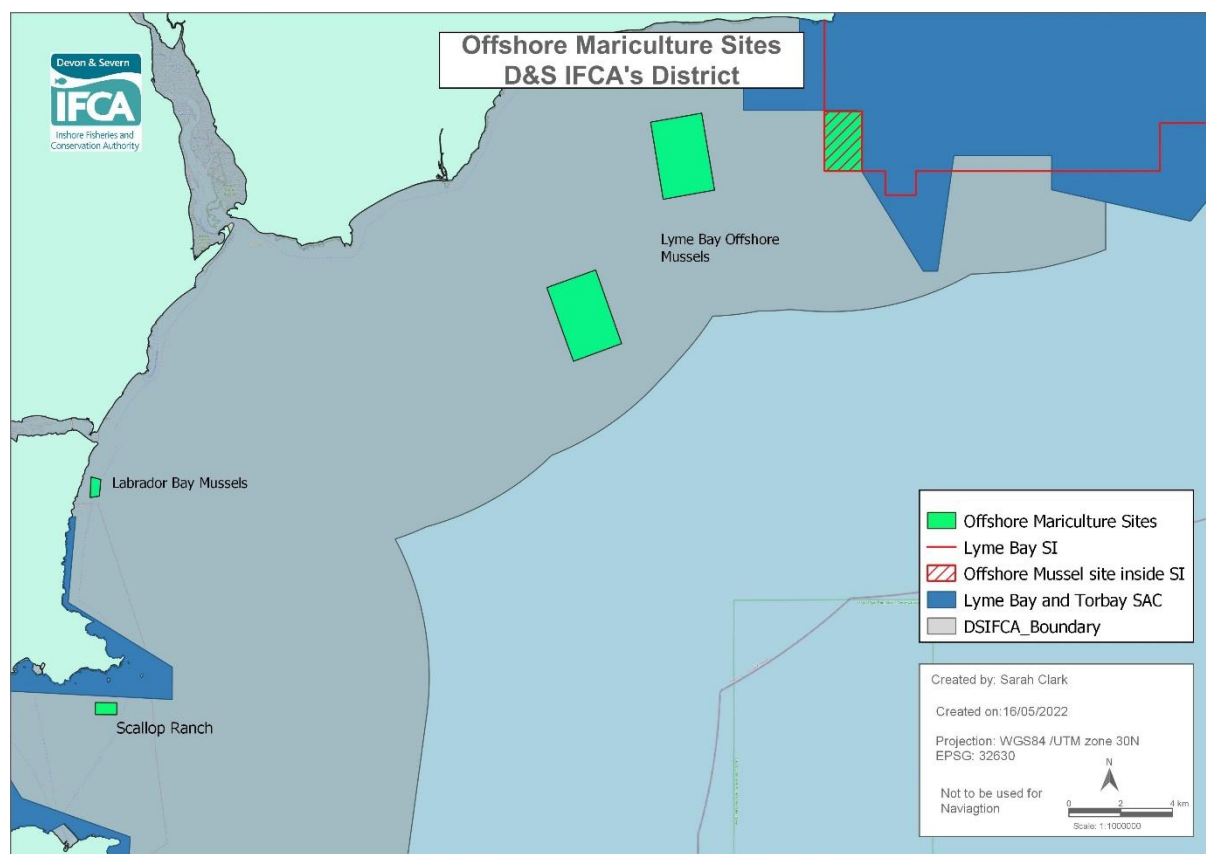


Figure 1 - Mariculture Sites in the coastal areas of D&S IFCA's District

A Progress & Revised Planning Report to complete the [5 Year Review of Mobile Fishing Byelaw Planning Report \(June 2021\)](#) was presented to the B&PSC in July 2021. Under section 4.4 of this report gear conflict is discussed in relation to the Inshore Potting Agreement areas and also Mariculture. One action – under section B of the Mariculture Strategy ‘Activity Management’ action B2 - is *‘to submit a recommendation to D&S IFCA’s Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee to consider potential management of mobile fishing activities to protect mariculture sites within the D&S IFCA’s District’*. Many mariculture sites lie within estuaries in the district but the areas where conflict between mariculture sites and mobile gear

has been reported is in the coastal area. Currently (May 2022) there are three Mariculture businesses that are located in the coastal area in D&S IFCA's District, outside of areas currently closed to demersal fishing under D&S IFCA's Mobile fishing Permit Conditions (Figure 1). These sites have experienced conflict with demersal fishing vessels' gear and the business have been significantly impacted in terms of loss of income, loss of species being grown and replacement of damaged site infrastructure.

#### Officers' Comments and Rationale for the Recommendation:

- *D&S IFCA's Mariculture Strategy details actions to aid mariculture developments in the D&S IFCA's District.*
- *The recommendation recognises D&S IFCA's duty under S. 153 (2) (c) MaCAA (sustainable development) and the Fisheries Act 2020 sustainability objective.*
- *Mariculturists suffering damage to their coastal sites and businesses have reported recurring incidents to D&S IFCA.*
- *Conflict between different gear types has been previously addressed through the Mobile fishing Permit Bylaw.*

#### Background Papers & Hyperlinks

[D&S IFCA's Mariculture Strategy 2020](#)

[5 Year Review of Mobile Fishing Byelaw Planning Report \(June 2021\)](#)

[Fisheries Act 2020](#)