

Byelaw work update & timetable

Work of D&S IFCA Officers and the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee

Byelaw related working has been mixed between different types of work. Review of existing permit conditions (Mobile Fishing, Potting and Diving) has dominated much of the work and further work is still required. This work has included:

- **Drafting of suitable permit conditions for consultation (Mobile Fishing, Potting & Potting for Live Wrasse) & associated Annexes (Charts)**
- **Creation of three all-inclusive Byelaw consultation reference reports**
- **Creation of three “extracts” for easier stakeholder engagement**
- **Refinement of on-line/social media consultation forms**
- **Website updates including members area**
- **Creation, review and updates of D&S IFCA consultee data bases**
- **Creation of notification information and circulation**
- **Creation of supplement reports (summary of response) for members**

Documenting the work being undertaken is of particular importance for D&S IFCA. The Byelaw consultation reference reports have been developed with this in mind. These reports have multiple aims including providing all stakeholders with key information so they can effectively engage in the consultation process and assist decision making. Throughout the process the reports will be expanded and further editions created. On completion of all phases of consultation, these will act as the overarching reference documents.

The reports and subsequent editions have other aims as follows:

- **Demonstrate the measures that have already been taken to manage the different fishing activities**
- **Document the findings of the consultations and the evidence base used for proportionate decision making, demonstrating how, when and why decisions have been taken**
- **Provide background information to all stakeholders about D&S IFCA and how the organisation functions**

The Netting Permit Byelaw

This Byelaw has now been confirmed by Defra and has an in-force date of 1st March 2018. Work has been needed on the presentation of the permit conditions and the associated Annexes (charts) that accompany the permit conditions. Other work has included developing the application form for fishers to obtain a permit and also three policy documents relevant to the permit conditions and the application process. It is envisaged that on-line permit applications will be developed soon.

The prolonged quality assurance process conducted by the Marine Management Organisation/Defra in regard to the Netting Permit Byelaw, the permit conditions and the final Impact Assessment was a concern to members of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee. D&S IFCA have been invited to prepare and submit constructive criticism in a formal review

of the IFCA Byelaw Quality Assurance and Confirmation Process. A response has been formulated with several issues highlighted that may be able to be improved in the future.

The timetable set out in this agenda item provides an indication of the recent byelaw related work being conducted by D&S IFCA and what work is anticipated for a large portion of 2018.

Byelaw Work and the Review of the Management of Hand Gathering Fishing Activities - Estimated Timetable

2018 Time line (March to Aug)

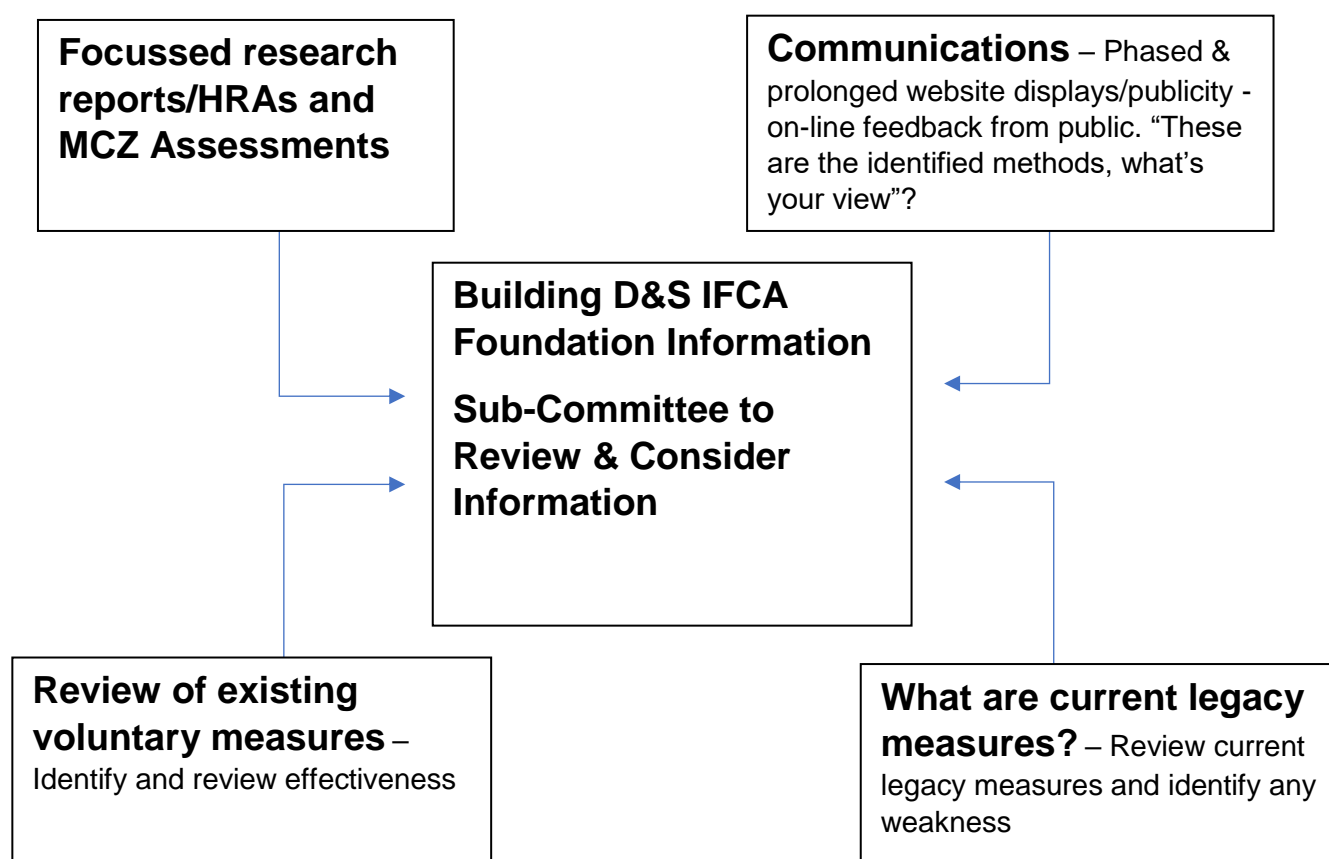
Byelaw/Activity		Feb	March	April	May	June/July/ Aug
Netting	Preparation for in-force date	Byelaw In force on 1st March 2018. Permit conditions now enforced by D&S IFCA				
Potting (general)	Final Phase of Consultation	Sub-Com Meeting Review of evidence from consultations and decision making	Potentially revised permit conditions issued (May)			
Potting (wrasse)	Final Phase of Consultation		Potentially revised permit conditions issued (May)			
	Information collated from the completed 1st phase of consultation		Final decision taken on "focussed" items for final 6 week consultation		Final phase of consultation	
Diving			Sub-Com Meeting Review of findings and decision making			
Managing Hand Working	Planning, environmental assessments, communications and developing foundation information					
Meetings		Sub-Committee (12th April)	Sub-Committee (17th May)		Sub-Committee (16th Aug)	

Managing Hand Working Fishing Activity

Work needed to review the management of identified hand working fishing activities will be complex and will almost certainly extend into 2019. The management of hand working fishing activities is expected to gain momentum in 2018 and will form part of the 2018-19 Annual Plan.

Work is behind the original delivery timetable and as such it has now been recognised by Officers that a return to a planning phase is of importance. Consideration is required on how to assemble a suitable level of foundation information to enable the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee to move forward with proportionate decision making at the appropriate times. Foundation information includes completing/reviewing environmental assessments and generally strengthening the evidence base. Different phases of work will be required and incorporating D&S IFCA communication strategy will be a key part of this. The Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee will be able to develop a refined timetable for this work in due course. An early plan for the review of hand working fishing activity is shown below.

IDENTIFIED HAND WORKING FISHING ACTIVITIES



Keeping all members informed

Officers will continue to provide updates at Full Authority Meetings. Hard copies of information can be circulated upon request to members. In addition, the “secure” members area of the D&S IFCA website is regularly populated with relevant information relating to the work of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee. Members can request log in details.

End of update.