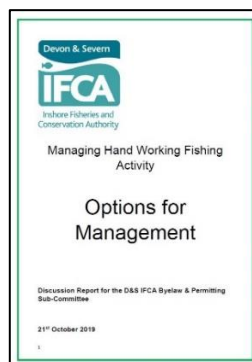


Devon and Severn IFCA News

A New Byelaw to Manage Hand Working Fishing Activity?

D&S IFCA's Byelaw and Permitting Sub Committee set to discuss different options to manage the use of crab tiles, bait digging and many other hand gathering types of fishing activity.



Throughout 2019, D&S IFCA have followed a [three-phase plan](#) to collect and collate information and evidence relating to the use of crab tiles, bait digging and the many other types of fishing activity that have been defined as hand gathering which include the hand collection of mussels and cockles.

Did you have your say?

Three separate “call for information” communication campaigns were conducted in 2019. All contacts on the D&S IFCA mailing list were directly notified about the review and encouraged to engage in the review process. Your view is important and D&S IFCA would like to thank all of those that submitted a response.

The findings

The findings were collated into three separate reports. A significant number of responses raised concerns about different issues. This included bird disturbance in the Exe Estuary, excessive numbers of non-regulated crab tiles in the Taw Torridge Estuary, a lack of restriction relating to large scale collection of cockles within the Teign Estuary and more general concerns associated with risks to seagrass beds.

- [Crab Tiles](#)
- [Bait Digging](#)
- [Hand Gathering](#)

Each report was posted on the D&S IFCA website/Consultation Page.

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Consultation>

Decision Making

The Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) have examined the three separate reports at different meetings during 2019 and on the 14th November 2019, they will meet again and discuss the different options that exist to manage all hand working fishing activities as set out in an “Options for Management” Report. The report will soon be posted on the D&S IFCA Website. Meetings/B&PSC Meeting - 14th November 2019.

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Meetings>

What options will be considered?

A range of options will be considered including revoking legacy byelaws, the use of voluntary codes of conduct and the potential development of a new Hand Working Permit Byelaw. If a new byelaw becomes the chosen option, consultation or “call for information” communication work will be undertaken which will help develop the management measures.

If developed further, a new Hand Working Permit Byelaw will be subjected to a formal consultation in 2020 and the opportunity will exist for supportive responses and letters of objection.

Keep yourself informed

Keep an eye on our [CONSULTATION](#) page. Those on our email contact list will be directly notified and included in all our Call for Information campaigns. You can be added to our list of contacts by contacting D&S IFCA. You will then have on-going choices including receiving our free quarterly e-newsletter.