

**Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority**



Update on Recreational Sea Angling

**Mat Mander
Acting Chief Officer**

Current issues - workstreams

- BASS MINIMUM CONSERVATION REFERENCE SIZE
- ANGLING ZONES UPDATE
- POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF A HANDWORKING PERMIT BYELAW
- JOINING D&S IFCA

BASS - MCRS

- IFCA's used to enforce MCRS set out in EU Regulation 850/98 against RSA.
- EU Reg 850/98 revoked and replaced by EU Reg 1241/2019.
- EU Reg 1241/2019 explicitly removes the application of MCRS on recreational fisheries including RSA.
- D&S IFCA currently enforces relevant MCRS against recreational fishers engaged in netting, potting and diving through its Permit Byelaws.
- D&S IFCA could look to introduce a generic MCRS byelaw or an emergency byelaw.
- D&S IFCA is planning to consider whether to introduce a hook and line permit byelaw which could include RSA but is at least 18 months away from starting that consideration.

BASS - MCRS

- D&S IFCA could introduce an Emergency Byelaw. Officers currently do not believe that conditions of Section 157 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA) can be satisfied. - Urgent need.
- Bass Bag limit still in place virtue of EU Reg 124/2019. restricts fishers engaged in recreational fisheries to one bass per person per day 1st April to 31st October. No bass at other times of the year.
- This limits opportunity to take more bass no MCRS does not apply to RSA.
- Enforcement action against recreational fishers is low and generally a good awareness of bag limit among anglers inspected ashore and afloat.
- Evidence will be reviewed – please report suspicious activity to D&S IFCA by phoning **07740 175479**.

Angling Zones

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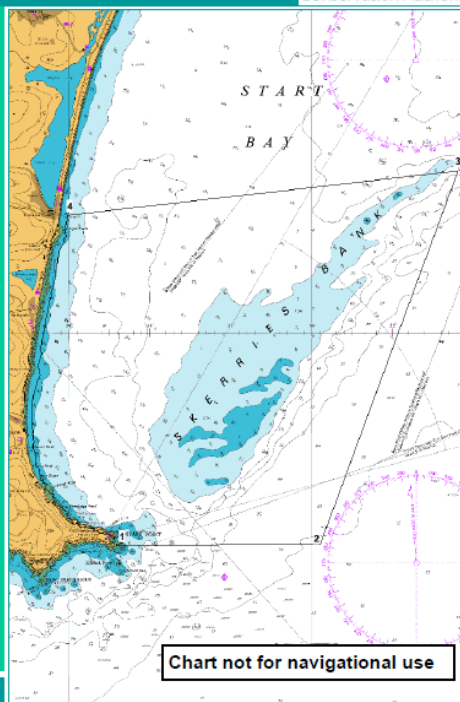
Skerries Bank Angling Zone



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

This Angling Zone has been developed by Devon and Severn IFCA in recognition of the importance and value of sea angling and to secure the area for current and future angling activities.

The Angling Zone is managed by a voluntary Code of Conduct—please adhere to the rules set out overleaf.



Fishing Marks: Offshore sand banks and rocky reefs, sandy and rocky shore

Species: Plaice, blonde ray, spotted ray

| Point number | Latitude | Longitude |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | 50°13.344' N | 003°38.538' W |
| 2 | 50°13.344' N | 003°35.943' W |
| 3 | 50°16.282' N | 003°34.180' W |
| 4 | 50°15.949' N | 003°39.118' W |

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Skerries Bank Code of Conduct



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Netting and Longlining

- ⇒ No commercial targeted fishing for plaice by any method may take place within the entire area of the Skerries Angling Zone.
- ⇒ Vessels which exceed 10m in overall length are prohibited from engaging in any commercial or recreational netting or longlining activity within the entire area of the Skerries Angling Zone.
- ⇒ All nets used within the pilot Angling Zone should be clearly marked using buoys with flags to aid efficient differentiation between pots and nets.

Recreational Angling

- ⇒ There is a bag limit for recreational sea anglers fishing within the Angling Zone of 10 plaice and 3 rays per angler per day.
- ⇒ Handle all fish carefully particularly those you intend to return to the sea alive.
- ⇒ For more information on handling of fish see www.sharktrust.org/en/anglers_code_of_conduct

Monitoring

- ⇒ From 1st January 2015 a monitoring programme will be put in place to assess potential benefits of the Angling Zone to the RSA sector
- ⇒ To support the data gathering anglers using the site are encouraged to engage with IFCA officers and spread awareness of the Angling Zone amongst fellow anglers and encourage adoption of the code of conduct.
- ⇒ Report any suspicious activity to Devon and Severn IFCA on the duty phone number below.

Duty Phone: 07740 175 479

The IFCA Vision

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental, and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.

DEVON AND SEVERN IFCA

Phone: 01803 854 648
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Devon & Severn



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Angling Zones

3 Angling zones created under D&S IFCA's Angling strategy 2014-2016.

Zones created to see whether development of RSA could be achieved.

Baseline report produced for Skerries Bank Angling Zone available on D&S IFCA website.

Considerable lapse between data gathering (2014) and report (2019).

Future work;

Engage with all three sectors using the site, examples from around the world indicate that co-management approach involving all interested parties most effective.

Engage in further discussions with relevant stakeholders using baseline report evidence.

Possible development of hand working permit byelaw

Handworking activities broken down into three categories;

Crab tiling, bait digging and hand gathering.

Pre consultation carried out throughout 2019.

D&S IFCA to consider appropriate management of activities in November 2019.

Possible management may include development of a hand gathering permit byelaw.

Proposed management would be consulted on fully.

Anyone wishing to join our mailing list can do so by contacting D&S IFCA.

Vacancy on D&S IFCA Committee

Opportunity to join D&S IFCA Authority as a representative of the RSA.

Opportunity to become directly involved with shaping the management approach of D&S IFCA.

Travel expenses and loss of earning payment of £100 payable for attendance at each meeting.

Usually a maximum commitment of 8 days per year.

Application forms will be available on D&S IFCA website shortly.

MMO responsible for recruitment process.

Interviews with shortlisted candidates 21st November 2019 D&S IFCA office.

Any questions

Devon & Severn



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority