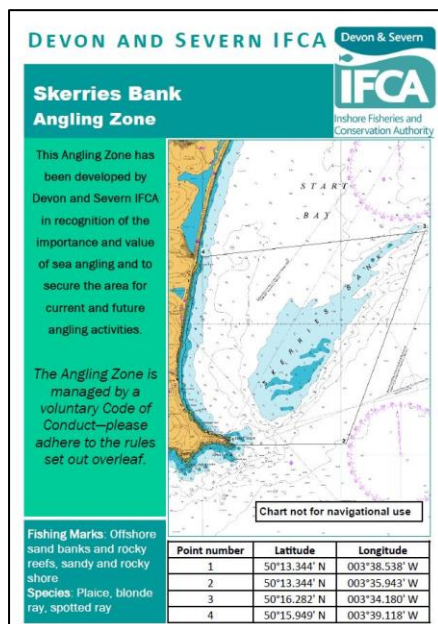


# Devon and Severn IFCA News

## Baseline report for Skerries Angling Zone now complete

D&S IFCA has produced a baseline report on the temporal and spatial use of the Skerries Bank Angling Zone by different fisheries user groups.



D&S IFCA has a duty to seek to balance the different needs of persons engaged in the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in the District. Recreational Sea Angling (RSA) was one of three core work areas in the D&S IFCA's Annual Plans between 2012 & 2015. Following the publication of the [Recreational Sea Angling Strategy](#) D&S IFCA worked with RSA representatives to identify potential areas/sites where appropriate fisheries management would proactively develop the RSA sector. After a series of consultation events the Skerries Bank was one of three sites chosen to pilot spatial management to protect important areas for sea angling from conflicts with fishing sectors.

A [voluntary code of conduct](#) was created which aimed to balance the needs of the various user groups. In addition, a monitoring plan was developed to collect data via surveys, interviews and completion of commercial logbooks, on the use of the site by different user groups.

These data will help D&S IFCA understand how different user groups use the site throughout the year and monitor compliance with the voluntary code of conduct. Analysis of the data has now been completed and the report can be found [here](#).

### What conclusions can be made from the data?

The baseline data highlights the importance of the site to all fishing sectors and there is much overlap, both spatially and temporally in their use of the site. However, several limitations of the data mean that a complete picture of the user groups use of the site was not possible. In the absence of socio-economic analyses, the continued development of a co-management approach appears to be the most appropriate way forward.

### Next steps

1. Repeat the engagement work which took place in 2014 to compare each user group's perception about the current activity levels of different sectors against the baseline recorded in this report.
2. Consideration of further monitoring work to overcome some of the limitations of the data e.g. a more in-depth consideration of temporal differentiation in sectoral use of the site. It is the Government's intention to introduce IVMS on all commercial fishing vessels by 2021, so any monitoring work should be conscious of this commitment.
3. A review of the status of the key stocks (only possible over broad geographic scales) and local landings of the same species to understand the conflict on a broader spatial scale.

4. A more in-depth review of the success of spatial/ temporal management for the development of one or multiple user groups elsewhere will aid decisions on the future management of the site.
5. The additional work on the Skerries Angling Zone should feed into a renewed Angling Strategy, which should be included in the D&S IFCA's Annual Plan for 2020-2021.

**Interested in our work?**

D&S IFCA is in the process of developing an Angling Page for the D&S IFCA Website. You can subscribe to our free E-newsletter by contacting D&S IFCA.