



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Brixham Laboratory  
Freshwater Quarry  
Brixham  
Devon  
TQ5 8BA  
Tel: 01803 854648  
Email: [office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)

## Potting Permit Byelaw

### **Policy Statement & Potting Permit Conditions for the Live Wrasse Fishery**

Potting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions have been introduced to manage the Live Wrasse Fishery within D&S IFCA's District. D&S IFCA is tasked with managing a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry. In addition to the Potting Permit Conditions, voluntary measures have also been introduced to fulfil this remit.

The following management measures form part of the Potting Permit Conditions:

- A 120-pot limitation for each permit holder
- A requirement that all strings of pots used in the Live Wrasse Fishery are marked with 'WRA' and the vessel's PLN
- A requirement that each pot used in the Live Wrasse Fishery is fitted with a tag supplied by D&S IFCA
- A closed season from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> July for the Live Wrasse Fishery
- The removal of rock cook wrasse from a fishery is prohibited
- Minimum and maximum conservation reference sizes for four species of live wrasse:

Ballan Wrasse	150mm - 230mm
Corkwing Wrasse	140mm - 180mm
Cuckoo Wrasse	150mm - 230mm
Goldsinny Wrasse	120mm - 230mm

D&S IFCA has introduced a Fully Documented Live Wrasse Fishery and under Paragraph 17 of the Potting Permit Byelaw, D&S IFCA can request relevant information to discharge its duties. In order to manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery and as part of the fully documented fishery the following information is required:

1. The name and contact details of the Salmon Farm company, agent or associated company who the fishermen are supplying live wrasse to.
2. Name and contact details of transport company.
3. Transport documents for all those consignments sent to the Salmon Farm Company.
4. Number of pots actively being used in the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.
5. Completion of weekly returns including information on the dates and times of hauling, location of strings, number of strings hauled, number of pots hauled, and the number of wrasse retained on board per day.

### **Other requirements**

- Fishermen are required to allow D&S IFCA officers on board their vessels to collect catch data for the fishery.

### **Management Review Process:**

- The Authority has decided that if there is an increase in the number of vessels entering the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery this will trigger a review of the Permit Conditions for the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery and may lead to further changes to the Potting Permit Conditions, which may include a reduction in the number of pots per vessel.
- The Authority undertakes a regular review of the management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. Data collected from fishermen and on-board surveys will inform the review of the Potting Permit Conditions that are used to manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.
- Failure to meet all conditions set out in this policy statement may also trigger a review of the Potting Permit Conditions.
- In addition to formal management under the Potting Permit Conditions, the Authority may introduce further voluntary measures to support the management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. Failure to adhere to these voluntary measures may lead to a review of the Potting Permit Conditions.

## Guidance Note

Further to these regulatory conditions, D&S IFCA has developed additional guidance to support these measures and the fishery. This guidance is in the form of voluntary measures to be adopted by those fishermen participating in the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.

1. The Live Wrasse Pot Fishery currently takes place within the Plymouth Sound and Surrounds SAC and in a small area at the western end of the Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SCI (Bigbury Bay reef area). It is not occurring in the other multiple Marine Protected Areas in the District.
2. A series of small closed zones to the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery or 'No Wrasse Pot Zones' have been identified through discussions with the fishermen. These areas lie within the fishery area in the Plymouth Sound and associated area and include reef habitat known to be favoured by the wrasse species fished. From research in Norway such areas have been found to afford protection for wrasse species that have high site fidelity and small home ranges/territories. Figure 1 shows the areas to be closed.
3. A small area east of Stoke Point has been allocated as a zone for the fishermen to place wrasse pots, for protection against potential gear damage during south westerly storms. Fishermen should notify the IFCA when they will be placing pots in this area and when those pots are removed.
4. Mount Batten Breakwater is known to be a popular angling mark and in order to remove any conflict with anglers in this area, fishermen are requested to keep their pots 30 metres from the pier.

Figure 1: Voluntary Closed Area 2020

