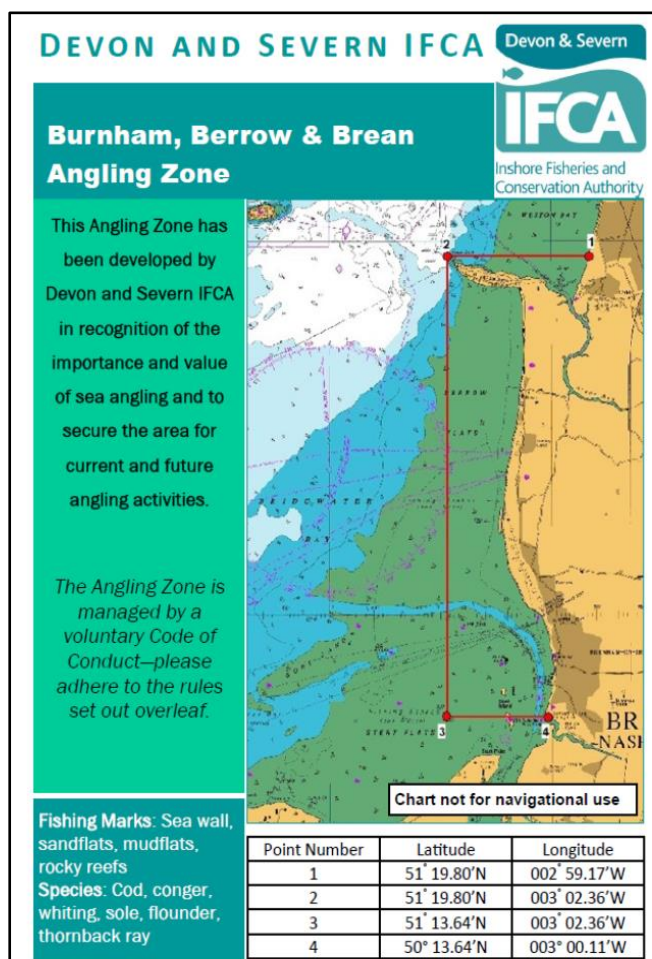


## Devon and Severn IFCA News

### Burnham, Berrow and Brean shore angling report now complete.

D&S IFCA has produced a baseline report on the use and compliance of the Burnham, Berrow and Brean Angling Zone.



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 its first 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, Burnham, Berrow and Brean beaches 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 and interviews, on the use of the site by different user groups. These data will allow D&S IFCA to understand how different sectors use the site throughout the year and monitor compliance with the Code of Conduct. Analysis of the data has now been completed and the report can be found [here](#).

It should be noted that between the creation of the Code of Conduct and this report, the Netting Permit Byelaw was introduced in 2018. The Netting Permit Conditions include gear, spatial and temporal restrictions that are relevant to this area, details of which can be found [here](#).

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

Angling activity varied significantly across the three beaches, with angling effort being the highest at Burnham. However, this may have been due to a competition taking place in Burnham in August 2016 where 22 anglers were seen during one survey. Cod appeared to be the most important species for all three sites.

The level of awareness of the Angling Zone and the Code of Conduct was low. This general lack of knowledge within the RSA sector may lead to increased non-compliance undermining effectiveness of the Code of Conduct.

### **Next steps?**

D&S IFCA are in the process of drafting a call for information for the Skerries Bank Angling Zone in order to repeat the engagement work that took place in 2014. It is envisaged that this call for information and possible virtual workshops will provide information on the current use of the site and whether the Angling Zone provided any benefit to the RSA sector. Lessons learned from this engagement process will inform further development of D&S IFCA's RSA work, potentially including a similar approach to the Burnham, Berrow and Brean Angling Zone. Any further engagement work for this site will need to take into account the Netting Permit Byelaw and how the use of the site by commercial fishers may have changed under the Code of Conduct vs Permit based measures.

All additional work carried out on the Angling Zones will feed into a review of the Authority's RSA strategy.

If you are not a permit holder or on D&S IFCA's mailing list but would still like to be included in future consultations please [contact](#) D&S IFCA.