

# Devon and Severn IFCA News

## A Call for Information – Bait Digging

D&S IFCA are seeking your views on the management of bait digging.



D&S IFCA are inviting you to have your say on how, in your view, the method of bait digging could or should be managed in the D&S IFCA District. The information that is provided can potentially be added to D&S IFCA's baseline information. D&S IFCA are circulating an electronic [information flyer](#) that provides more information on the subject. It also details how you can have your say, which includes an on-line form. Your response should be submitted by 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

### Bait Digging in D&S IFCA's District

Recreational Sea Angling is popular throughout the Devon and Severn IFCA District and, as a result, so is the collection of bait species. Bait digging for polychaete worms is by far the most common activity, with two main species targeted; blow lug (*Arenicola marina*) and king ragworm (*Alitta virens*). Bait digging is carried out by using forks to dig for the target species on intertidal mud and sandflats, it primarily takes place in estuaries such as the Severn, Tamar, Plym and Exe, but does also occur on beaches, for example in Torbay.

### What do D&S IFCA want to know?

- Do you dig for bait or do you know other people who dig for bait?
- Which estuaries do you or others dig for bait?
- How often do you or others dig for bait?
- Do you think there is an issue with bait digging?
- Is further management or restrictions required?

### Why are D&S IFCA doing this?

D&S IFCA must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its District. As part of this work, we must review our Byelaws. This review is conducted by the [D&S IFCA Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee](#). This information gathering exercise on bait digging is part two of a three phase approach that will be conducted during 2019. It forms part of a [larger plan](#) for D&S IFCA to review the management of Hand Working Fishing Activities.

### More Information

Visit our consultation page for more information. Contact D&S IFCA to be added to our mailing list. You can also subscribe to our quarterly E-newsletter by contacting D&S IFCA.