

[View this email in your browser](#)



A Call for Information

Have Your Say

A focus on Crab Tiles

What's the Call for Information about?

Your view is important. D&S IFCA is inviting you to have your say on how (in your view) the use of crab tiles could or should be managed in the D&S IFCA District.

We are directly contacting everyone on our mailing list and are giving you options on how to respond.

This consultation **will end on 8th February 2019.**

- Do you work crab tiles?
- Do you know other people who work them?
- Where do you or others that work them operate?
- How many crab tiles do you work or see being worked by others?
- Do you think there is an issue with their use?
- Is further management or restrictions required?

This information gathering exercise is part one of a three phase approach and forms part of a larger plan for D&S IFCA to begin the task of reviewing the management of Hand Working Fishing Activities. Later in 2019 there will be more focus on bait digging and some other hand gathering fishing activities.

What are Crab Tiles?

Crab Tiles are artificial shelters such as roof tiles, guttering, drainpipes, chimney pots and tyres. You may have seen these placed within estuaries within the D&S IFCA District.



The method of crab tiling is a form of intertidal shore-based shellfish harvesting that targets shore crabs (*Carcinus maenas*) for use as fishing

bait by anglers. The activity is carried out both recreationally and commercially.

Like all other crustaceans, shore crabs moult their shells at intervals during their life cycle, during which they seek a refuge from predators. Crab tilers exploit this behaviour by providing artificial shelters such as roof tiles, guttering, drainpipes, chimney pots and tyres.

Whilst sheltering under the tiles, the crabs are in the 'soft shell' state i.e. the hard shell has been shed and the new shell has not yet hardened. It is in this state that the crabs are collected for bait when the tiles are exposed during low water.

Where does this fishing activity take place?

This method of bait collection has taken place in many of the estuaries throughout Devon for generations. We are currently aware that crab tiling currently occurs in eight estuaries in the District including the Axe, Dart, Exe, Plym, Tamar, Taw Torridge, Teign and Salcombe & Kingsbridge.

In 2016 the number of crab tiles in the estuaries ranged from 105 in Salcombe & Kingsbridge, up to 23,835 on the Exe. Table 1 gives you some more detail.

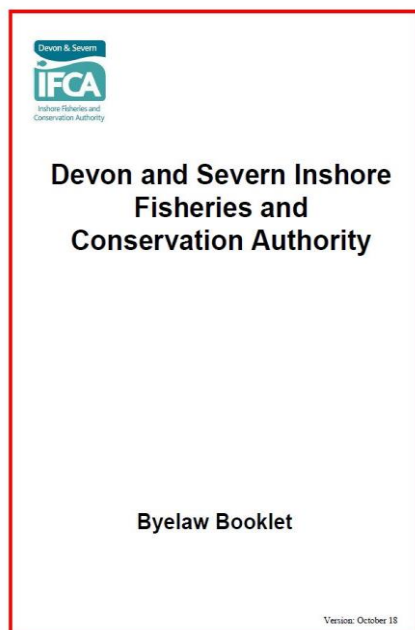
(Statistics for Tamar relate to the D&S IFCA District only)

| Estuary | 2016 | 2012 (Noble, 2013) | 2011 (unknown) | 2008 (Lockett, 2008) | 2003/04 (Black, 2004) | 2000/01 (Black, 2004) |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Avon | 0 | - | - | - | 50 | 0 |
| Axe | 263 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| Dart | 5,484 | - | - | - | 11,904 | 11,794 |
| Erme | 0 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| Exe | 23,835 | 20,997 | - | 26,488 | 30,302 | 26,796 |
| Otter | 0 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| Plym | 2,019 | 1,710 | - | - | 2,729 | 2,956 |
| Tamar ¹ | 3,570 | 4,929 | - | - | 2,646 | 3,412 |
| Taw Torridge | 3,704 | - | 2,213 | - | 3,741 | 4,864 |
| Teign | 12,865 | - | - | - | 22,722 | 21,001 |
| Salcombe & Kingsbridge | 105 | - | - | - | 193 | 534 |
| Sid | 0 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| Yealm | 0 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 51,845 | - | - | - | 74,287 | 71,357 |

- Do you have any additional information about the numbers of tiles being used that we can add to our base line information?

How is the use of crab tiles currently managed?

Crab tiling is partially managed via [D&S IFCA Byelaws](#) and [voluntary codes of conduct](#). D&S IFCA does have a Harvesting of Shore Crab Byelaw (number 24) that prohibits the taking of this species within areas of the Exe Estuary. There are currently no other byelaw restrictions for other estuaries.



There is potential that additional voluntary measures can be considered for other areas within the D&S IFCA District. There is also potential that D&S IFCA could consider the use of additional control measures implemented via a new Byelaw.

Key questions for you to consider

- Is further regulation needed?
- Where is it needed?
- What is needed?
- Would additional control measures impact you?
- How would you or others be impacted by potential changes?
- Are voluntary measures effective?
- Should voluntary measures be introduced in other areas?

How you can have your say

You have several options to choose from:

1. Try our on-line survey form **([here](#))**
2. Contact us via email – consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk
3. Telephone us or come along in person and speak to one of our officers during dedicated time slots which are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Saturday 12 th January | (10.00 to 12.00 hrs) |
| Wednesday 16 th January | (16.00 to 18.00 hrs) |
| Monday 21 st January | (16.00 to 18.00 hrs) |
| Friday 1 st February | (16.00 to 18.00 hrs) |

Visit us:

Devon and Severn IFCA
Brixham Laboratory,
Freshwater Quarry,
Brixham,
TQ5 8BA.

Phone us:

01803 854648

How will your information help us?

D&S IFCA has conducted many crab tile surveys in the past and documented the findings in [reports](#) that are published on our website. The information you provide could be added to our existing baseline information and it may help to fill evidence gaps. We will collate the information you provide, and this may help our Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee in their decision making. Good quality information from you can reduce the need for D&S IFCA to be overly pre-cautionary in its approach to managing this and other fishing activities.

What about other Hand Working Activities?

The use of crab tiles is not the only form of Hand Working Fishing Activity. Bait Digging and various other Hand Gathering activities will all be examined during 2019. As set out in our [plan](#), the use of crab tiles will be the first Hand Working type of fishing activity to be examined and discussed by the D&S IFCA Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee.

How to follow our work?

If you are not already on our mailing list, then you can get yourself added by [contacting D&S IFCA](#). You will then be directly notified of all our consultations. You will also receive our free e-newsletter.

Keep an eye on our [consultation page](#) on our website to read about other work being done and how you can get involved and have your say.

Follow our [latest news items](#) displayed on our website or our face book page.

Explore our website [Resource Library](#) for an extensive range of our information and publications. It's all free.

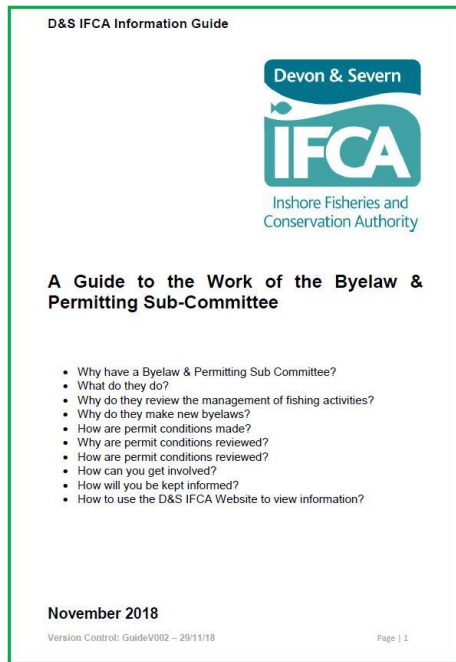
Why is D&S IFCA doing this work?

Because we must.

D&S IFCA must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its District. This is specified within the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009.

Do you want more detail?

Our information guides are there to help you better understand our work and reasons we are doing it. Further detail about our review of Byelaws and the work conducted by our Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee can be found in our [guide](#).



What do we do with your information – Privacy Policy

We protect any personal data that you may provide. Any personal data submitted in this information collecting process will not be shared with others. The content of responses will be summarised and anonymised where appropriate for documenting in reports that will be presented to the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee and published on our website.

D&S IFCA has a privacy policy which can be found by visiting our website (home page) www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

- You can change your preferences at any time.
- We have a duty to consult with D&S IFCA Permit Holders.

You can manage your preferences by contacting D&S IFCA and you can unsubscribe from the Hand Working Call for Information notifications.