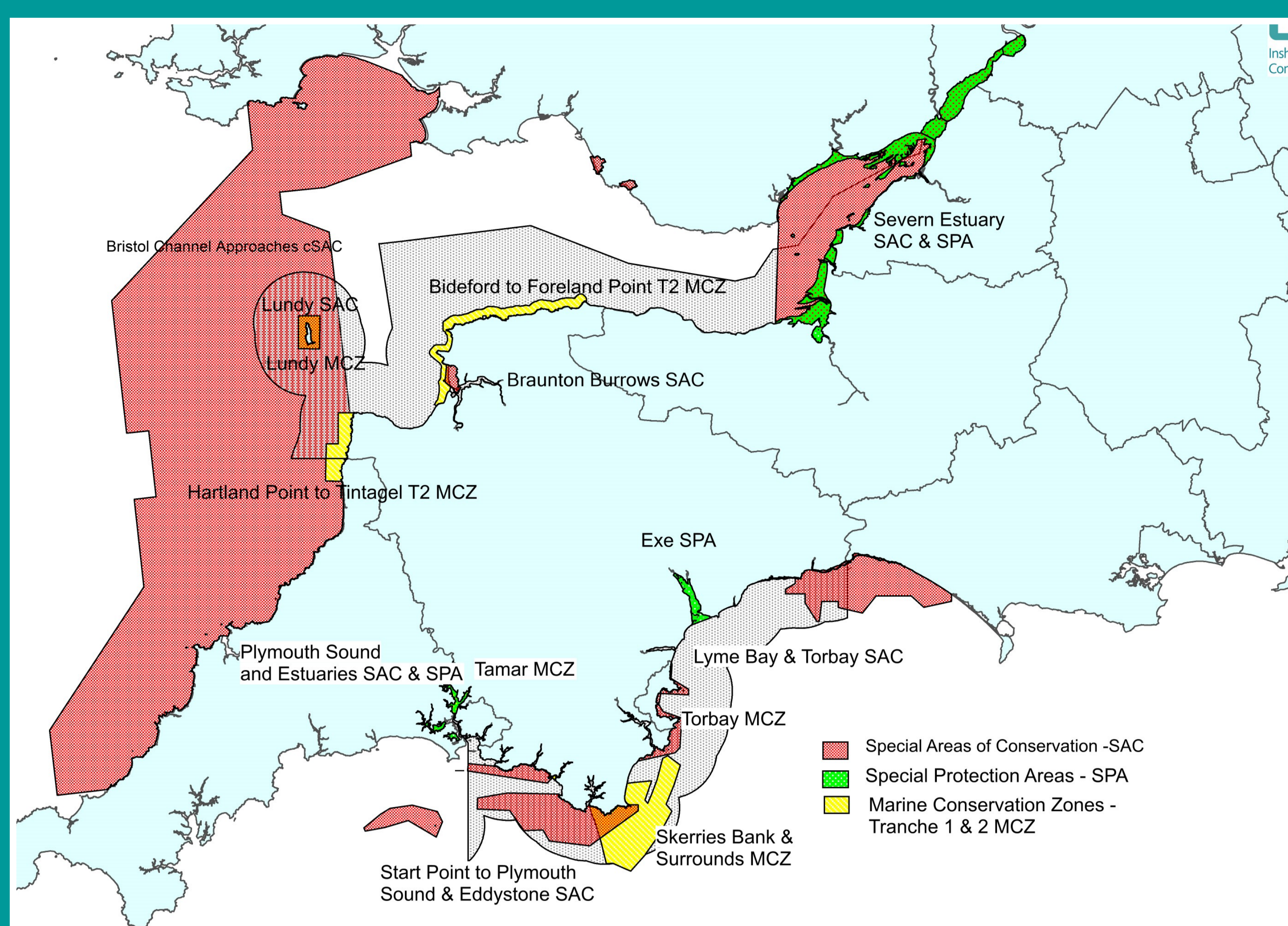


Marine Protected Areas



- 10 European Marine Sites
- 4 Tranche 1 MCZs
- 2 Tranche 2 MCZs
- 6 recommended Tranche 3 MCZs
- 1,881km² of MPAs
- 42% of D&S IFCA's district is currently covered by MPAs
- 58 management measures have been introduced restricting activities in MPAs

Research

- Drop down video, side scan sonar and sonar camera are used to ground truth habitats, such as reefs and seagrass and the impact of fishing activities on them.
- Modern technology such as drone (UAV) are used on the intertidal areas to assess the level of bait collection.
- Evidence gathering on protected species such as shad and spiny lobsters also ensures the right management is put in place.
- Work has been done in collaboration with Cefas, Academia, Natural England, Environment Agency and the fishing industry.

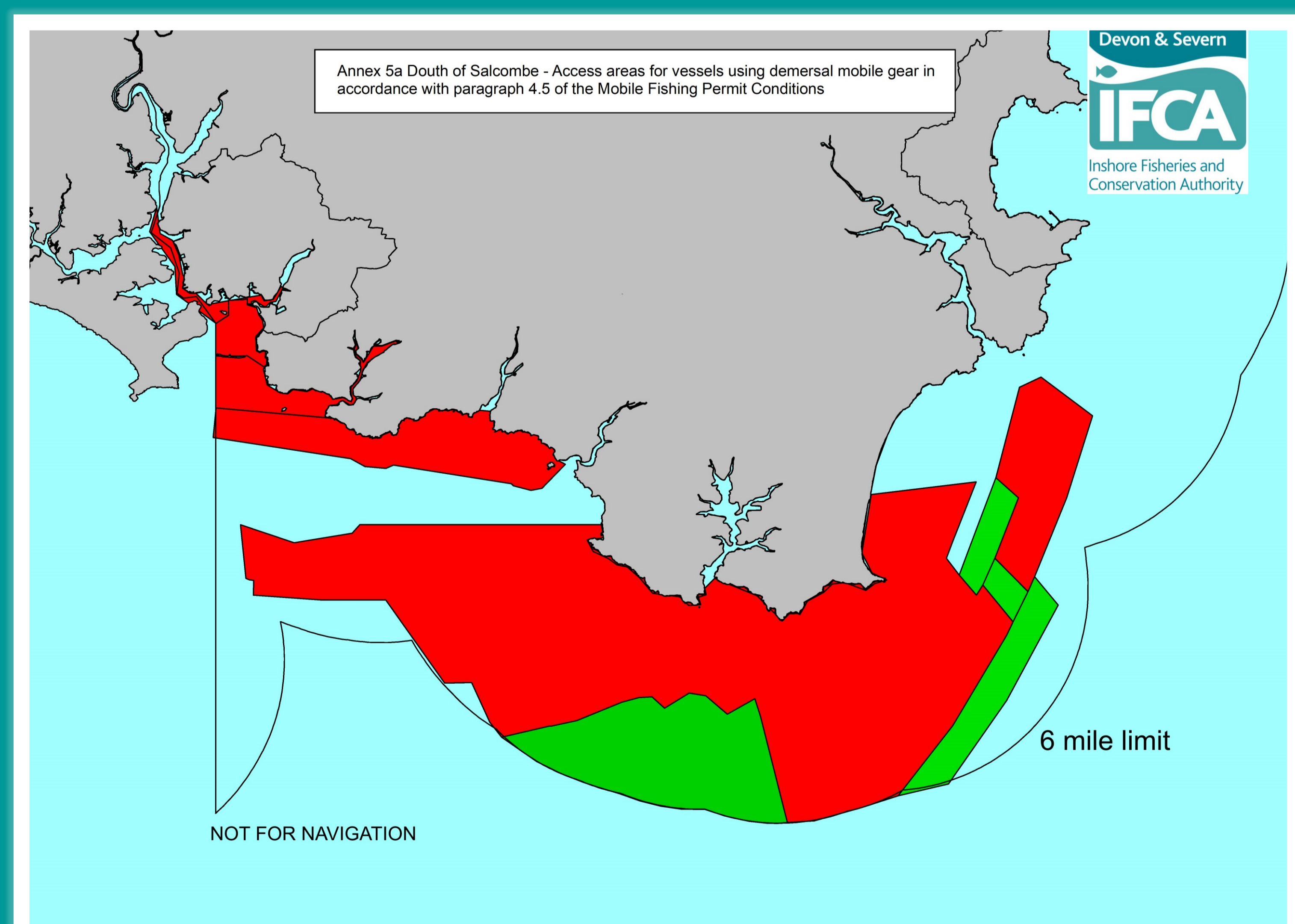


MPA Assessments

These are carried out to assess the impact of commercial fishing activities on the habitats and species that are protected under the MPA designations. D&S IFCA has undertaken almost 200 assessments covering 1760 interactions of fishing gear on MPA features.

Management

The MPA assessments inform the management of fishing activities in MPAs. D&S IFCA has introduced flexible and adaptive Permitting Byelaws for Mobile Gear, Potting, Netting and Diving in its district. Permit conditions manage activities in time, space, with technical gear and landing size restrictions. Many of these measures have been introduced to protect sensitive habitats and species.



Vessel Monitoring Systems

D&S IFCA has embraced innovative new technology by introducing Vessel Monitoring Systems to all the mobile fishing vessels over 6.99m operating in its district, through its Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw. Effective monitoring using these systems will safeguard MPAs where sensitive features have been protected from the impacts of demersal gear.

