Additional Information Relating to the Use of Start Bay by Mobile Fishing Vessels in response to Licence Application MLA/2018/00506

Date sent 5th February 2020

D&S IFCA received a telephone call from Paul Kirk of MMO requesting further information on the use of Start Bay by the Mobile fishing fleet – mainly trawlers This area of Start Bay is one of the few areas open to demersal gear within the 6nm between Dartmouth and Plymouth.

D&S IFCA's Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw permit conditions, amended in August 2018, require all vessels between 6.99m and 15.24 to have an operating vessel monitoring system. The IVMS/VMS units are required to transmit positional data every 10 minutes except when a vessel is within a restricted access area where the ping rate increases to every three minutes. As the D&S IFCA's Mobile Fishing Byelaw permit condition for all mobile fishing vessels to have an operating vessel monitoring system only came into force on 1st August 2018, the 2018 data set received from the MMO as detailed below will not be complete because the 6.99m to 11.99m vessels did not have a requirement to have IVMS fitted before that date. These vessels will not be included in the data from 1st January 2018 to 1st August 2018. The 2019 data is more accurate as this will show a full year's data.

D&SIFCA requested IVMS/VMS data from the MMO. A four-point positional box was produced by D&S IFCA for the MMO to interrogate IVMS/VMS and provide information of vessel activity in the Start Bay area (figure 1). The data received have been plotted on QGIS.

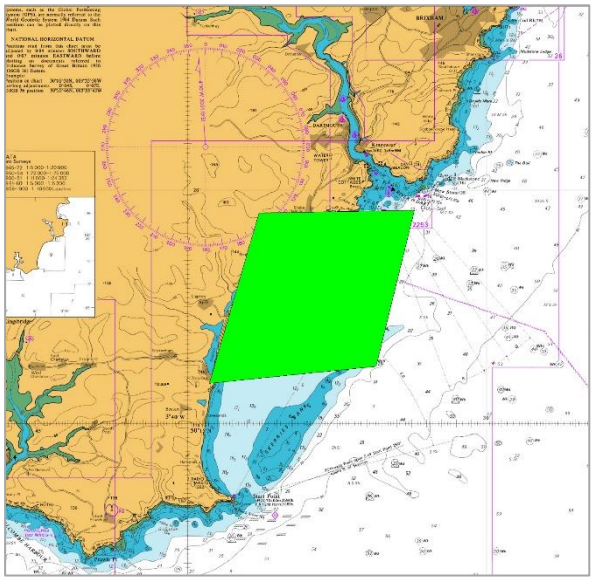

Figure 1 Start Bay Box – area used to interrogate VMS data

The following charts are the results of the plotting of vessel positions and vessel tracks for 2018 and 2019. For 2018, 60 vessels were found to be operating in the Start Bay box provided to MMO to interrogate the IVMS/VMS data. Of these 22 vessel plots are used to produce the charts for 2018 as these are more relevant to the inner Start Bay area (figure 2). For 2019, 85 vessels were found to be operating in the box provided to MMO to interrogate the IVMS/VMS data. Of these 37 vessel plots are used to produce the charts for 2019 as

these are more relevant to the inner Start Bay area (Figure 3). Figure 4 shows a zoomed in chart of the fishing vessel tracks and positions for those operating in the Start Bay in 2019.

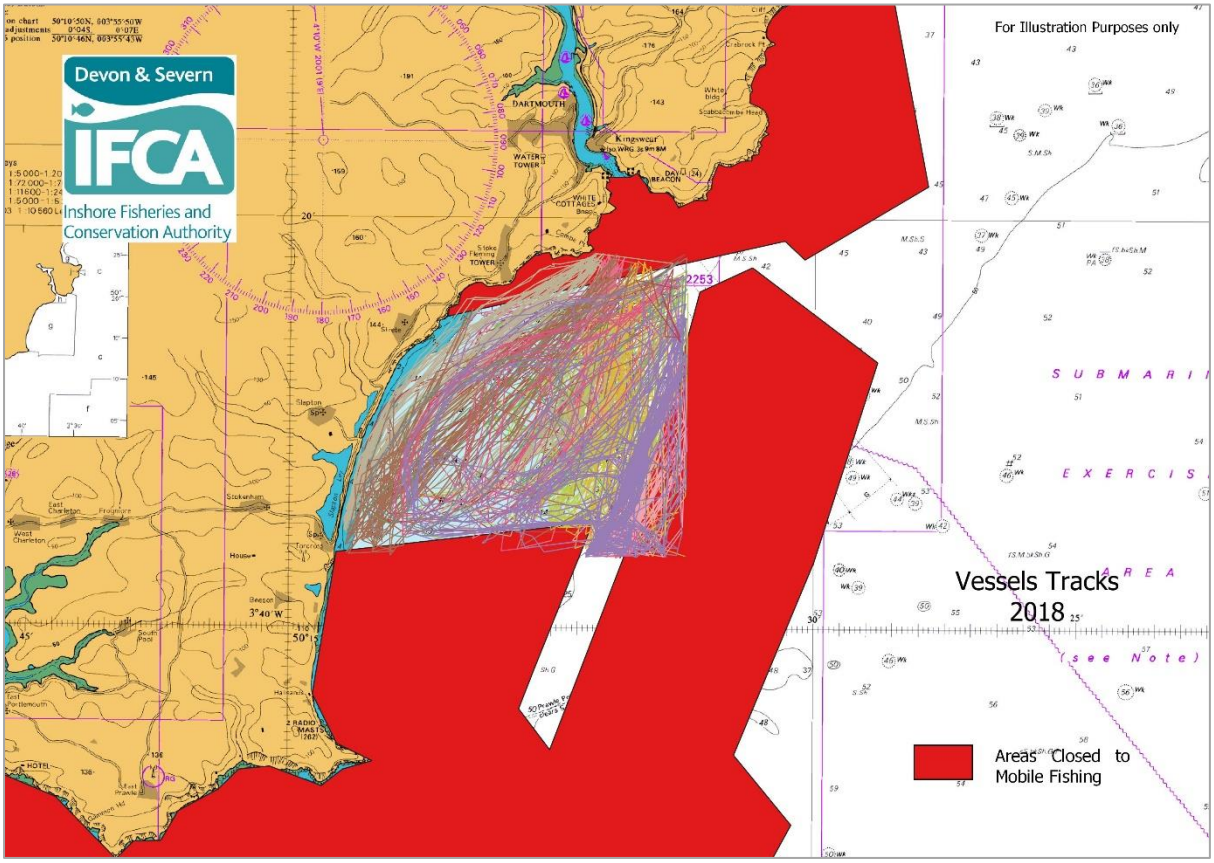

Figure 2 Chart of Fishing Vessel VMS tracks for 22 vessels operating in Start Bay Area in 2018

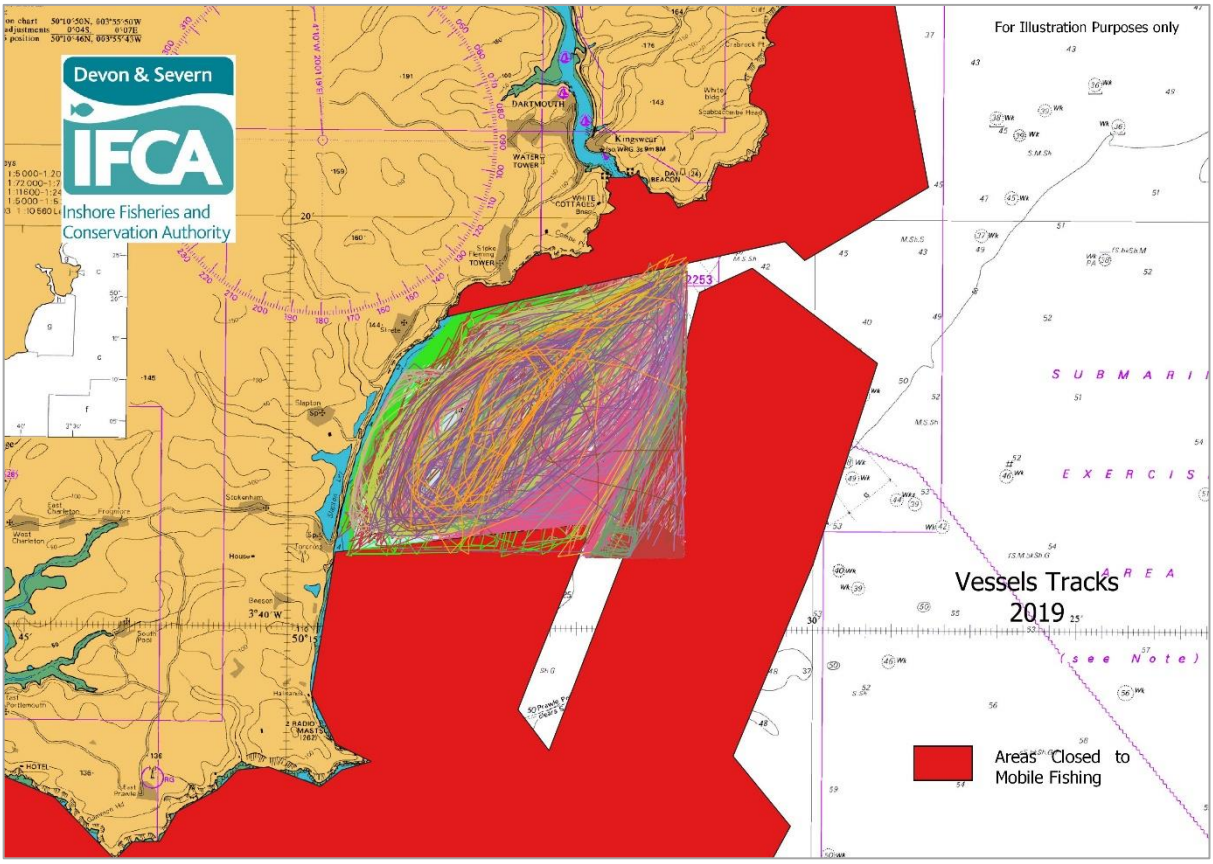

Figure 3 Chart of Fishing Vessel VMS Tracks for 37 Vessels operating in Start Bay Area in 2019

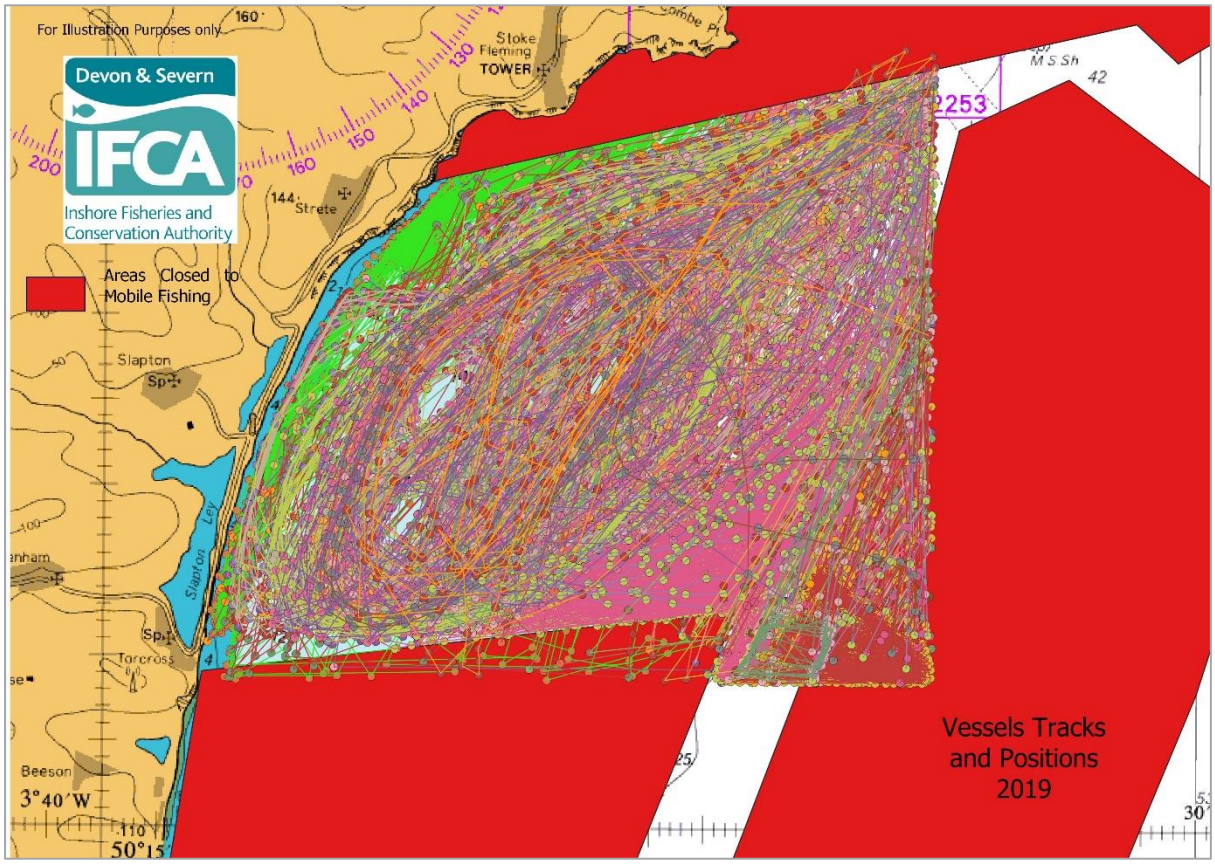

Figure 4 Zoomed-in Chart of VMS Tracks and Positions of vessels operating in the Start Bay Area in 2019

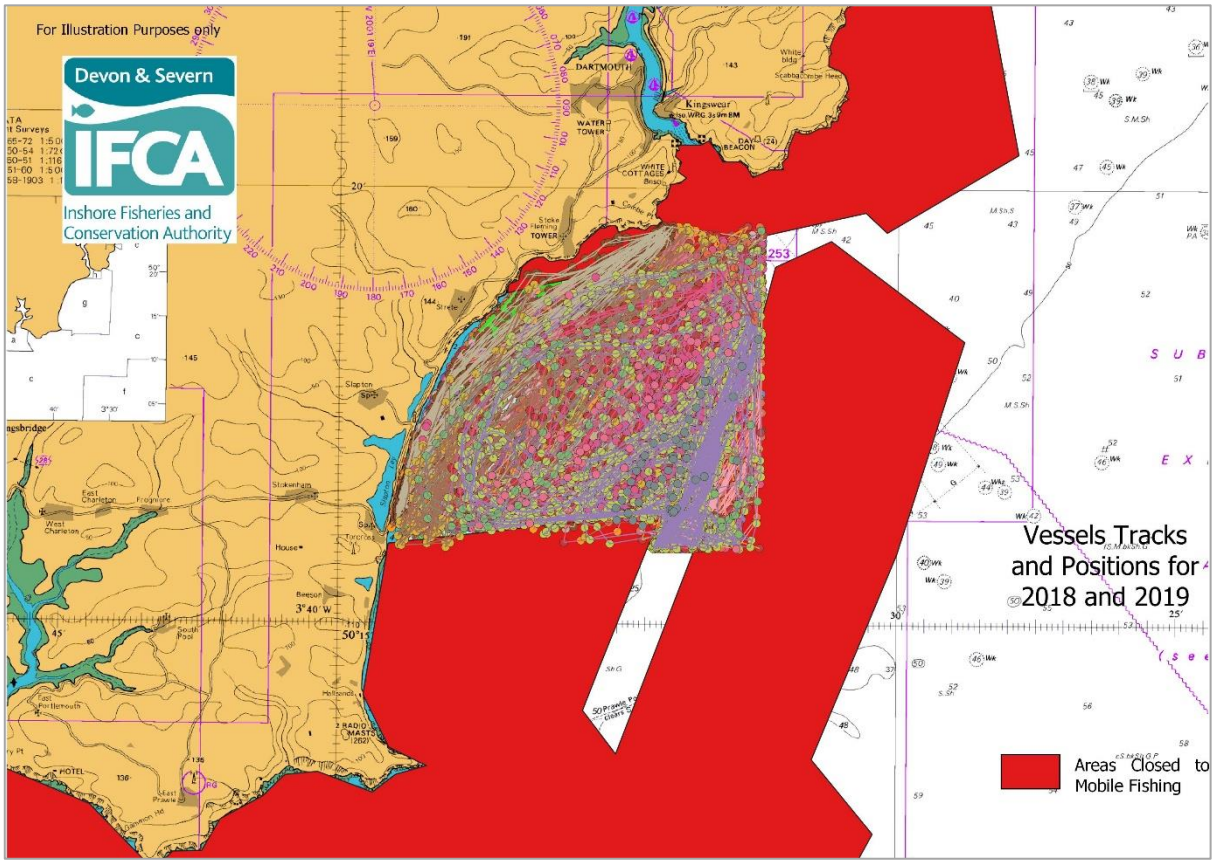

Figure 5 Chart of VMS Tracks and Positions of vessels operating in the Start Bay Area for 2018 and 2019.

Charts were also produced for the months when the seaweed farm develop has indicated that the farm would be in situ in Start Bay: October; November; December; January; February; March and April.

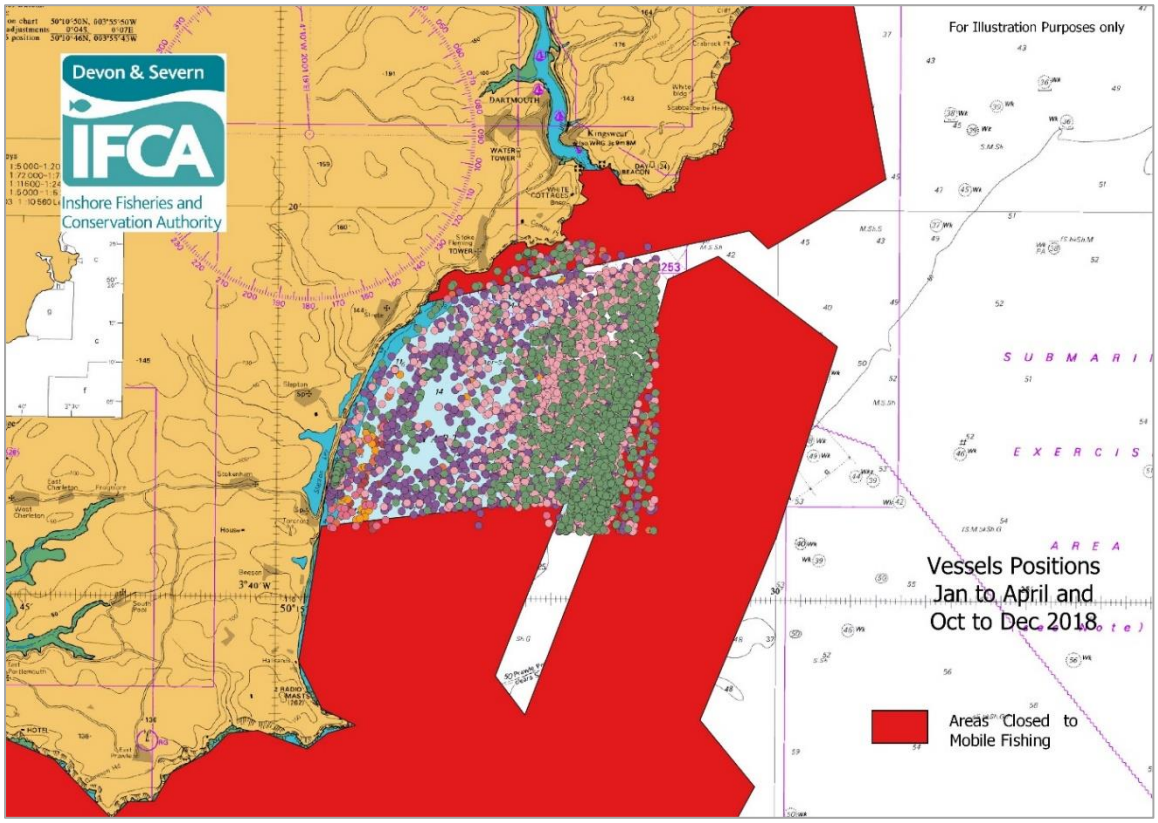

Figure 6 Vessels positions for the months January, February, March April, October, November, and December 2018

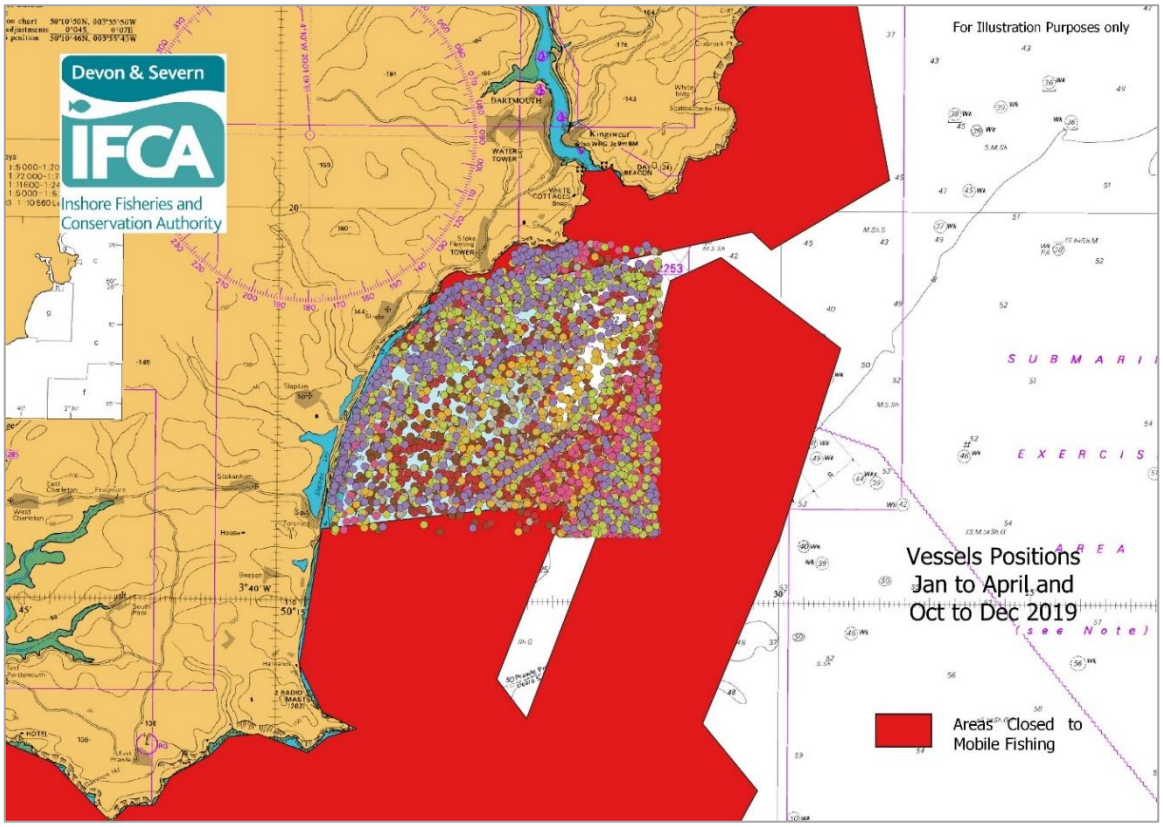

Figure 7 Vessels positions for the months January, February, March April, October, November, and December 2019

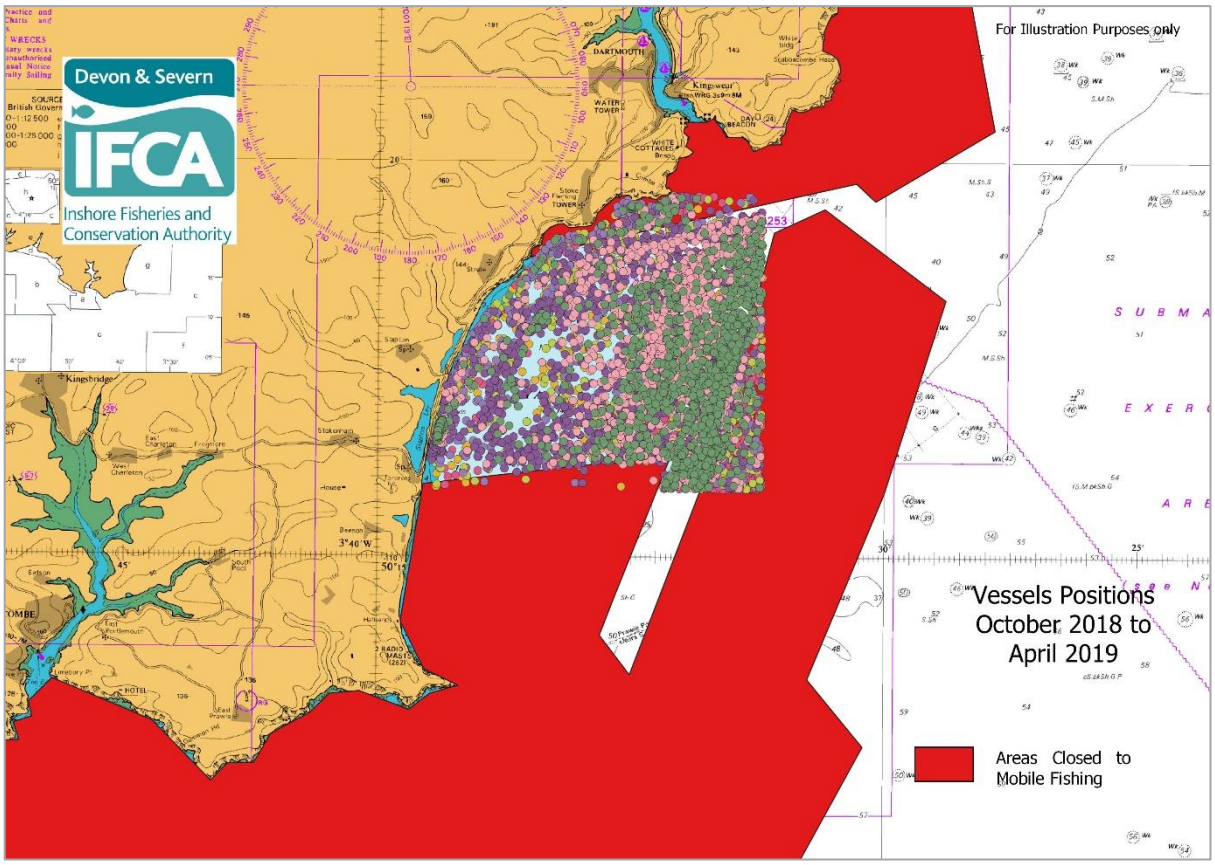

Figure 8 Vessels positions for the months, October, November, and December 2018 through to January, February, March, and April 2019

Figure 8 indicates the position of fishing vessels that operated in the Start Bay area from October 2018 to April 2019.

All the charts, included in this report of additional information, show clearly and unequivocally the high level of intensity of mobile fishing vessels in the area of Start Bay, where the development of a seaweed farm is proposed. As previously described to MMO under the consultation for the Licence Application MLA/2018/00506, the positioning of the seaweed farm here will have a significant impact to the mobile fleet in South Devon.