

Devon and Severn IFCA News

D&S IFCA and Applied Genomics Collaboration

D&S IFCA Officers trained to assist with sampling work using the patrol vessel David Rowe



Background

In 2018 Applied Genomics was engaged by Natural England to undertake a feasibility study of our high-volume marine environmental DNA (eDNA) using a sampler as a tool for monitoring inshore fish communities.

Devon and Severn IFCA assisted by providing the Enforcer RIB and crew so the sampler could be deployed in three benthic habitat types (rock, mud and kelp) at locations near the Brixham Environmental Laboratory. The sampler collected each sample over two tidal cycles (25 hours). Samples were then processed in the labs of Applied Genomics and the results were published in a report.

The data collected from samples, accompanied with the report secured further funding from Natural England and Applied genomics are requesting assistance from the D&S IFCA now the project has been continued and expanded.

Secured funding includes payments towards the running costs of the D&S IFCA RIB, DAVID ROWE and crew in transporting the sampling devices to the new sites, Start Bay and Lyme Bay.

Sampling Plan 2019/20

The sampling plan for 2019/ 2020 involves collecting 6 samples a month along the southwest coast of England with two samples being collected from Cornwall IFCA, D&S IFCA and Southern IFCA. The revamped study will investigate the spatial and temporal separation of sampling sites and sampling frequency that are required to deliver reliable results. It is believed that the increased number of samples collected across the study area will enable Applied Genomics to draw meaningful inference from the resulting data.

The eDNA samplers need to be deployed for a total of 25 hours and each deployment and recovery demands approximately 3 hours of staff time. D&S IFCA officers have now been trained in the correct deployment and recovery of the eDNA devices and will look to incorporate this work into their enforcement activities at sea.

Interested in D&S IFCA's Work?

If you are interested in the varied workstreams conducted by D&S IFCA, contact us and we will add you to our mailing list. You will then receive our free quarterly e-newsletter.