

Ms Kate Sugar
Senior Marine Adviser
Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team
Natural England
Polwhele
Truro
TR4 9AD

26th September 2022

Ref.: D&S IFCA Formal Notice Axe Estuary MCZ

Dear Kate,

**Fisheries in MCZ Assessment
Marine Conservation Zone: Axe Estuary MCZ UKMCZ0052**

Further to Defra's revised approach on the management of commercial fishing activities within Marine Protected Areas and the introduction of Marine Conservation Zones, the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) has undertaken a series of MCZ Assessments on fishing activities taking place within the Axe Estuary MCZ.

The assessments accompanying this letter pertain to the possible gear:feature interactions outlined in the tables below, including aquaculture, shore-based activities, netting and potting on the features of the MCZ. The assessments demonstrate that these activities do not pose a risk of hindering the conservation objectives of the MCZ.

Thank you for your attention. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Clark
Deputy Chief Officer

MCZ Assessment: AXE-MCZ-001

Fishing activities assessed	Protected features
Intertidal handwork: Handworking (access from vessel), Handworking (access from land) Miscellaneous: Crab tiling Bait collection: digging with forks	Intertidal mud Intertidal coarse sediment Intertidal mixed sediment

MCZ Assessment: AXE-MCZ-002

Fishing activities assessed	Protected features
Intertidal handwork: Handworking (access from vessel), Handworking (access from land) Miscellaneous: Crab tiling Bait collection: digging with forks	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reed beds

MCZ Assessment: AXE-MCZ-003

Fishing activities assessed	Protected features
Intertidal handwork: Handworking (access from vessel), Handworking (access from land) Miscellaneous: Crab tiling Bait collection: digging with forks	Estuary rocky habitats

MCZ Assessment: AXE-MCZ-004

Fishing activities assessed	Protected features
Static – pots/traps: Pots/creels, cuttlepots, fishtraps Lines: Longlines (demersal)	Intertidal coarse sediment Intertidal mixed sediment Intertidal mud Estuarine rocky habitats

MCZ Assessment: AXE-MCZ-005

Fishing activities assessed	Protected features
Static fixed nets: Gill nets, trammels, entangling Passive nets: Drift nets (demersal), Seine nets & other: shrimp push nets, Fyke and stakenets	Intertidal coarse sediment Intertidal mixed sediment Intertidal mud Estuarine rocky habitats

MCZ Assessment: AXE-MCZ-006

Fishing activities assessed	Protected features
Aquaculture: Shellfish aquaculture: bottom culture, trestle culture	Intertidal coarse sediment Intertidal mixed sediment Intertidal mud Estuarine rocky habitats

MCZ Assessment: AXE-MCZ-007

Fishing activities assessed	Protected features
Seine nets & other: Beach seine	Intertidal coarse sediment Intertidal mixed sediment Intertidal mud Estuarine rocky habitats