



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

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26<sup>th</sup> 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Clark'.

Sarah Clark  
Deputy Chief Officer

**MCZ Assessment: AXE-MCZ-001**

<b>Fishing activities assessed</b>	<b>Protected features</b>
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**

<b>Fishing activities assessed</b>	<b>Protected features</b>
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**

<b>Fishing activities assessed</b>	<b>Protected features</b>
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**

<b>Fishing activities assessed</b>	<b>Protected features</b>
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**

<b>Fishing activities assessed</b>	<b>Protected features</b>
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**

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

**MCZ Assessment: AXE-MCZ-007**

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