

Devon and Severn IFCA News

D&S IFCA's Enforcement Officers assist in a Multi-Agency Operation.

D&S IFCA's Officers team up with other organisations including the MMO, Immigration services and the Devon and Cornwall Police to investigate reports of organised gangs fishing commercially in popular angling locations.



D&S IFCA's Enforcement Officers were recently involved in a day of action in Torbay working with multiple other organisations that included the Devon and Cornwall Police, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Immigration Services, the Gangmasters Licensing Authority and the Labour Abuse Licensing Authority. Joint working forms part of the D&S IFCA's [Enforcement & Compliance Strategy](#).

This partnership working was in response to a high number of reports of organised gangs fishing commercially in popular angling locations at Berry Head and Hopes Nose. With all the agencies working together, they were prepared and equipped to tackle a variety of issues should they arise. The Police were concerned about reports of gangs operating in the area and the Immigration Officer was on hand to clarify any immigration issues. The MMO and D&S IFCA were present to investigate any fisheries related offences.

On this day there were groups of people fishing at both Berry Head and Hopes Nose. Although no offences were detected, advice was provided to some fishers on the minimum conservation reference sizes for fish.

Did you know that there is a Minimum Conservation Reference Size for Mackerel?

The Minimum Conservation Reference Size for Mackerel is 20 cm. This is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin. In addition, Hopes Nose has a Public Space Protection Order which states that a maximum of 20 Mackerel may be retained in 24 hours. This order was implemented by the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust.

If you have a general query about fisheries legislation, then please [contact us](#). Much of the enforcement work is intelligence led and we have a duty phone number for reporting suspicious fishing activity:

07740175479.