Devon and Severn IFCA News

FISH INTEL: Do Fish Have Borders?

The FISH INTEL project hosted a conference '*Do Fish Have Borders?*' at the University of Plymouth in early March 2023. D&S IFCA presented on the relevance of the project for English fisheries management.

FISH INTEL Project

The FISH INTEL project is a cross-border collaboration involving partners across the UK, France and Belgium who work directly with fishers, regulators, and industry representatives in the three countries. The project is led by the University of Plymouth and is investigating the importance of inshore and offshore habitats to a variety of fish species across the English Channel. The project has tagged almost 1000 fish with acoustic tags, which can now be detected by acoustic receivers across the Channel region to provide insights into fish ecology and the management of fisheries and Marine Protected Areas.

FISH INTEL Conference: *Do Fish Have Borders?*

The FISH INTEL team ran a free-to-attend public conference on 2nd March 2023 which demonstrated the outcomes from FISH INTEL and celebrated the collaborations made through this international, multidisciplinary project.

The morning session consisted of presentations from project researchers and guest speakers (in person and online) and was followed by an afternoon of workshops (in person only) based on fish tracking and fisheries management plans. The morning conference session included two-way English/French interpretation to make it available to a wider audience across the project's location.

During the morning session, D&S IFCA's Senior Environment Officer delivered a presentation demonstrating the value of research to inshore fisheries management in England, with a particular focus on the relevance of FISH INTEL's research to the work of D&S IFCA. A copy of this presentation is available in D&S IFCA's website [Resource Library](). The presentation focused on evidence-led fisheries management measures, the use of evidence in management of Marine Protected Areas, and D&S IFCA's role in encouraging developers to reduce, mitigate and/or compensate for their impacts on the marine environment including on habitats, fish and the fisheries that depend on them.

Other talks in the morning session covered the outputs of the FISH INTEL research on a range of species: European seabass, pollack, bluefin tuna, black seabream, and crawfish. This research included acoustic tracking off the coasts of England, France and Belgium, elements of social research aimed at improving the evidence base for ecosystem-based fisheries management and talks on the role of acoustic telemetry in improving MPA management and understanding species interactions with windfarms.

Visit the FISH INTEL project website for more information on the project, or D&S IFCA's Environment and Research webpages for more information on D&S IFCA's research.