

## Devon and Severn IFCA News

### Local Knowledge Helps to Inform Fisheries Research and Management Plans

Interviews with the aim of gathering local knowledge with North Devon and Somerset fishers are being undertaken as part of the ongoing Marine Pioneer work creating Fisheries Research & Management Plans.



As part of the Government's Marine Pioneer project, the North Devon Biosphere and D&S IFCA are working to create Fisheries Research & Management Plans focusing on **bass, herring, squid, whelk and skates and rays** within the Bristol Channel. These plans aim to review the biology and fisheries for these species in order to highlight gaps in knowledge and help direct future management. Local knowledge is important and can highlight how inshore fishing has changed over time in the Bristol Channel and to highlight the challenges facing fishers in the region today.

This work is aimed to begin bridging the gap between current management and a more localised co-management approach that will be of more benefit to the inshore fishing industry in the Bristol Channel. One of the major aspects of these plans is to highlight the historical and cultural aspects of the fisheries and show their importance to coastal communities in North Devon and Somerset. It is extremely important to the plans that local knowledge and expertise is included so that the views and experiences of commercial and recreational inshore fishers is represented. Due to the Covid19 pandemic, it has been decided that the safest way to do this is to interview fishers over the telephone to talk about their experiences fishing in the Channel, how things have changed over time and gather their views on current management.

#### Have Your Say

Interviews are open to the public and this is a real chance to ensure that the views of local fishers are accurately represented in these plans and incorporated into future management. If you have experience fishing off North Devon and North Somerset (past and present) and would like to be involved please contact our Fisheries Research & Management Plan Officer, Martin Peverley, at [M.Peverley@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:M.Peverley@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk) to find out more and organise potential interviews.

More information about Fisheries Research and Management Plans can be found on the D&S IFCA website by clicking [here](#).