



Potting Permit Byelaw

Development and Management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery



Process and Decision Making for the 2018/19 Formal Review

Final Report

17th June 2019

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Version Control/Previous Editions

Author	Date	Comment	Edition
Neil Townsend	17 th June 2019	Final edition created to document the outcome of the decision making by the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee related to the 2018-19 Formal Review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery	1: Final Report

Executive Summary

“Live” Wrasse is used as cleaner fish in Scottish salmon farms to control sea lice populations. To meet demand, wild wrasse are being sourced from southwest England. In the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) District, a small number of commercial vessels (operating from Plymouth) have been engaged in this fishery since 2015. The fishers use pots to capture the “live” wrasse which are then transported to Scotland and therefore the Potting Permit Byelaw provides D&S IFCA with the legislative means to manage this fishing activity.

D&S IFCA has monitored (and will continue to monitor) the emergence and development of this fishery. D&S IFCA has introduced management (regulation) via the Potting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions and guidance and policy documentation as part of a fully documented fishery. This activity is not permitted for recreational potters.

The D&S IFCA Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) formally review the management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery each year. This report focusses on the second review of the fishery. The second review began in November 2018 and reached its conclusion on 26th February 2019.

The second review resulted in maintaining the existing management measures that were introduced in August 2018. These measures included specific Potting Permit Conditions and Policy and Guidance for those engaged in the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.

The key recommendations agreed by the B&PSC on 26th February 2019 are as follows:

- ***That the B&PSC endorse the findings of the D&S IFCA Live Wrasse Fishery Research data presented to date and action officers to conduct scientific monitoring for a third year.***
- ***That the existing management measures for the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery be maintained.***
- ***The B&PSC declare that a comprehensive review of the Live Wrasse Fishery will be conducted to reflect the three years of data that will have been collected and collated.***

This report (**Final Report – Process and Decision Making for the 2018/19 Formal Review**) documents the complete process from the start to its conclusion. All relevant evidence and information¹ that has been used for deliberations by the D&S IFCA B&PSC is contained in this single document which does include embedded information (hyperlinks). This report achieves the following:

- **Documents the evidence base used for decision making**
- **Demonstrates how, when and why decisions have been taken**
- **Provides background information to all stakeholders about D&S IFCA and how the organisation functions**

¹ Within the scope of the D&S IFCA Data Protection Policy

Timetable of Key Events

Table 1

Date	Action/event	Comments
2014	D&S IFCA makes the Potting Permit Byelaw	Permit conditions introduced to manage potting activity for both commercial and recreational fishers
2015	Emergence of a Live Wrasse Pot Fishery	D&S IFCA monitors development of fishery
2017 (February to May)	D&S IFCA conducts consultation in regard to implementing Potting Permit Conditions and voluntary measures to manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery	D&S IFCA B&PSC consider options in their meeting on 15 th May 2017. Process documented in a report and published on the D&S IFCA website
July 2017	Amended Potting Permit Conditions and voluntary measures introduced	A Formal Review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery scheduled for November 2017
July to October 2017	Research/Evidence collection and collation	D&S IFCA environment officers conduct further research as part of the Fully Documented Fishery and monitor compliance of guidance and policy
November 2017	Meeting of the B&PSC	Focussed consultation actioned that began on 31 st January 2018
March 2018	Collation of consultation responses	All summarised responses documented in a supplement report
April 2018	Meeting of the B&PSC	Decision making process. Changes to the Potting Permit Conditions & voluntary measures agreed.
April to October	Research/Evidence collection and collation of data	D&S IFCA environment officers conduct further research as part of the Fully Documented Fishery and monitor compliance of guidance and policy
August 2018	Communication & Circulation	New Potting Permit Conditions & Voluntary Guidance issued
November 2018	Meeting of the B&PSC	Members begin the 2 nd Formal Review by studying the assembled research data presented at the meeting in a Supplement Report and a detailed Data Analysis Report (Nov 2018)
November 2018 to February 2019	Additional evidence collated	D&S IFCA environment officers conduct further analysis of data and prepare an Addendum to the November 2018 report.
February 2019	Meeting of the B&PSC	Decision making process based on information presented to members

The Start of the Formal Review (Year 2)

On 20th November 2018, members of the B&PSC were able to consider an extensive range of information and evidence that had relevance to the management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.

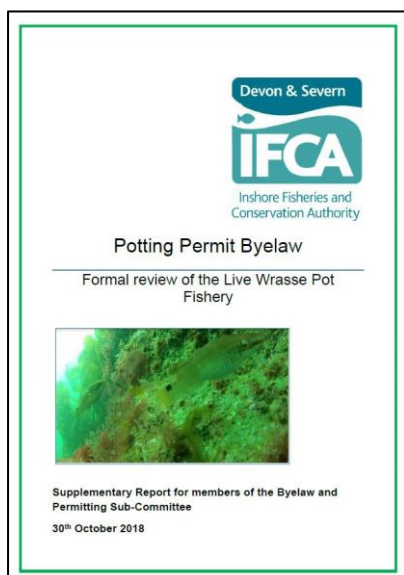
This section of the report demonstrates:

- **The extent of the information & evidence (specific to the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery) supplied by officers to members of the B&PSC on 20th November 2018;**
- **How the information & evidence was considered by members of the B&PSC and decisions taken regarding further action**

The information that was provided to members included new evidence and a re-cap of measures taken to date. Members were able to refer to previous work and a new report (Live Wrasse Fishery in Devon & Severn IFCA District – Research Report November 2018) that had been prepared for the meeting. Both the reports (covers shown below) are available to read on the D&S IFCA website and are embedded (hyperlinked) below.

[Formal Review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery – Supplement Report for members of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee \(30th October 2018\)](#)

[Live Wrasse Fishery in Devon and Severn IFCA District – Research Report November 2018 by Sarah Curtin and Dr Libby West.](#)



Information was presented to members in the form of a supplement report (30th October 2018). A transcript of the supplement has been set out as follows:

Transcript of the Supplement Report (30th Oct 2018)

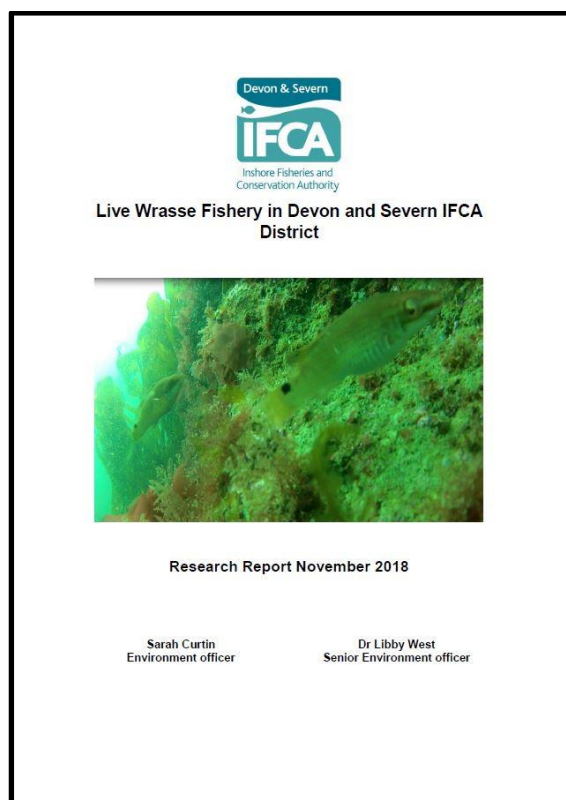
This supplementary report has been prepared for members of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee and will be used to aid members conduct the formal review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.

This will be the second formal review conducted by the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee and build on from the last formal review that began in November 2017 and resulted in changes to the Potting Permit Conditions that were issued in August 2018.

Following the meeting of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub Committee (20th November 2018), the information documented in this supplementary report and the outcome of the meeting will be used to create a full report. The resulting report will detail what changes (if any) are proposed and document the complete decision-making process including the findings of any consultation that is undertaken. It is possible that during this formal review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery, members may determine that changes to the Potting Permit Conditions are required. If so, specific provisions or alteration to existing permit conditions would require consultation.

The completed process and progress report, when finalised, will then be suitable for public circulation and archiving as a single document.

A key element of decision making in the 2018 formal review will be to review the current management measures introduced via the Potting Permit Conditions and to analyse the [Live Wrasse Fishery in the Devon and Severn IFCA District \(November 2018\)](#) report that documents the findings from D&S IFCA's research that has been conducted over the last 12 months.



The decision-making & measures taken to date

The table below summarises the past decision making and the outcomes of those decisions:

Key Dates	Event & Comments	Outcomes
4 th November 2016	After seeing the emergence of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery, D&S IFCA informs all commercial Potting Permit Holders that it is considering new management measures	Potential management options to be considered by the Byelaw & Permitting Sub Committee in 2017.
24 th February 2017	Sub-Committee Meeting 5 Proposals developed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a Fully Documented Fishery • Pot Limitation (60 pots per vessel) • Requirements to mark gear • Closed season (between 1st April & 31st July) • Min & Max Sizes 120mm to 230mm (Rock cook, Goldsinny & Corkwing) 150mm to 230mm (Ballan & Cuckoo) 	Consultation for the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery is undertaken with all responses summarised.
15 th May 2017	Sub-Committee Meeting Decisions Taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of Fully Documented Fishery 2. 120 Pot limits per permit holder 3. Gear marking “WRA” required 4. Closed Season – 1st April to 30th June 5. Introduction of Min & Max sizes as set out in proposals. 6. Issue of a Policy Statement, 7. Requirements for fishers to allow officers aboard for surveys 8. Voluntary Closed Areas Introduced 9. Formal Review to be conducted in November 2017 	Potting Permits amended and issued in July 2017. A Report was created to document complete process. The Report is still published on D&S IFCA Website (File F of the resource library) – “ Management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery ” Version 3 – August 2017
13 th November 2017	Sub-Committee Meeting Members of the Byelaw & Permitting Sub – Committee	2 Specific Proposals were formulated including proposed amended Permit Conditions:

	<p>began the 2017 Formal Review by studying a Live Wrasse Fishery Data Analysis Research Report (November 2017) by Dr Libby West & Stephanie Davies. Consultation actioned to begin in January 2018.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to closed season to be 1st May to 15th July inclusive. <p>Change in the slot size for Corkwing Wrasse to be 140mm to 180mm.</p>
12 th April 2018	<p>Sub-Committee Meeting Decisions Taken (Live Wrasse Pot Fishery)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potting Permit Conditions to be implemented to amend closed season to be 1st May to 15th July each year. • Potting Permit Conditions to be implemented to amend the slot size for Corkwing wrasse to be 140mm to 180mm. • New guidance to be issued (Voluntary closed areas) • A date set for another review in November 2018 	<p>Potting Permit Conditions were amended with new conditions, and voluntary measures issued in August 2018.</p> <p>D&S IFCA Environmental Officers were actioned to continue with the Fully Documented Fishery in preparation for presenting evidence for the 2018 formal review.</p>

Additional Information

The following information is available to viewed in the resource library of the D&S IFCA website and has also been imbedded in this document (hyperlinked).

- [Management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery \(Version 3 August 2017\)](#)
- [Data Analysis Research Report \(November 2017\) by Dr Libby West & Stephanie Davies](#)
- [Development and Management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery – Edition 2 - Final Report \(July 1st, 2018\)](#)
- [Current Potting Permit Conditions \(Version control 1st August 2018\)](#)
- [Policy and Guidance for the Live Wrasse Fishery \(Version control 1st August 2018\) – Includes the voluntary measures that have been introduced](#)
- [Live Wrasse Fishery in the Devon and Severn IFCA District \(November 2018\)](#)

Live Wrasse Fishery in the Devon and Severn IFCA District (November 2018)

Executive Summary from the Research Report

A fishery for the live capture of wrasse for use as cleaner fish in Scottish salmon farms developed in the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities' (D&S IFCA) District in 2015. In 2017 management was introduced via the D&S IFCA potting permit byelaw. These early management measures were largely based on best practice identified in the literature and included minimum and maximum conservation reference sizes (MCRSs), a closed season, a fully documented fishery and a cap on effort. A fully documented fishery was also implemented including fisher log books and observer surveys. After the first year of data collection, some adaptations to the MCRSs and spawning closed season were adopted. The fully documented fishery continued in 2018 and the results are presented in this report.

There was a reduction in overall effort in 2018 compared to 2017 with a 68% reduction in the number of days vessels targeting wrasse in the D&S IFCA District. The reduction is thought to have been caused by a combination of mechanical issues with vessels, individual fisher's circumstances, fishers targeting Cornish waters within the Plymouth Sound during the Devon closed season and vessels remaining in Cornwall once Devon waters reopened.

The mean target observer effort was exceeded; however, the coverage of the vessels and the months was uneven despite extensive efforts in survey planning. There was a 29% decrease in mean landings per unit effort (LPUE) for 2018 compared with 2017. In contrast, there was a slight (~5%) increase in catch per unit effort (CPUE) from 2017 to 2018. The disparity between CPUE and LPUE could be caused by the relatively small sample size of CPUE resulting in an unrepresentative trend, or the proportion on small individuals increasing so that CPUE (which includes undersize and oversized fish) has a genuinely different trend to LPUE (which only includes fish above the Minimum CRS and below the Maximum CRS). The reduction in LPUE could also be caused by the change in Minimum and Maximum CRSs for corkwing, which has resulted in much higher numbers of fish being returned.

Spatially and temporally explicit data analysis was undertaken using the high-resolution CPUE analysis. No consistent trend in CPUE was found within individual grid cells between 2017 and 2018. Out of two vessels which could be compared between years, one had a small but significant reduction in CPUE. Differences in CPUE between months varied with months showing slightly reduced catches (June, July, September) and one month having increased CPUE (August). None of these comparisons were statistically significant.

Size-frequency distributions were remarkably similar between years as were mean sizes of individual wrasse species.

A more in-depth analysis of catch-composition and changes in size-structure between years is required but was not possible given the time-constraints of reporting. The complex spatial and temporal dynamics of the fishery will require a new approach to analysis in 2019.

Observer coverage should at least maintain the current effort, but with more even coverage, where possible. Greater coverage would improve statistical analyses, but this is unlikely given the current level of resource. Similarly, a fisheries-independent data set would be beneficial to separate changes in catch from spatial changes in effort, or observer coverage, but would require significant extra resource which is not currently available.

Conclusions and Officer Comments from the Research Report

The ultimate goal of the fully documented fishery implemented by D&S IFCA is to elucidate a relationship between some measure of fishing pressure and stock abundance. In this case CPUE and LPUE estimates are assumed to be related to the abundance of wrasse in Plymouth Sound. Whilst entirely consistent with global efforts to measure fisheries trends, this approach does have some caveats, especially in a fishery as complex as the live wrasse fishery (Ross 2016). However, it cannot be ruled out that reductions in LPUE and reductions in the occurrence of above-average catches may be caused by fishing pressure reducing the stock size. A reduction in the stock size is entirely consistent with the development phase of a new fishery and does not necessarily mean that the fishery is unsustainable. Due to the sensitive nature of the site the fishery should continue to be closely monitored, with the observer coverage remaining at least at its current level. A more even coverage of vessels would allow for a more powerful statistical analysis, but this is often hampered by logistical circumstances and realistically could only be managed by an increase in observer effort which would not be possible at the current level of resource.

Fishers must be reminded of their obligation to submit landings forms on a weekly basis. This was not regularly conformed to in 2018 with IFCA officers having to chase fishers to submit landings. Fishers should also be required to submit all landings for both D&S IFCA and Cornwall IFCA Districts, as fishers are currently inconsistent in their approach.

The Habitat Regulation Assessments for fish traps in Plymouth Sound will be updated following the 2018 report.

Further interrogation of the data collected in 2017 and 2018 will help in the interpretation of CPUE and LPUE and officers will continue with this work in 2018 and 2019. The amount of data collected, and the number of potential interacting factors influencing CPUE (e.g. water temperature, month, pot saturation, habitat type, depth, bait, exposure) means that statistical analyses are becoming increasingly complex and are unlikely to remain fit-for-purpose. A more appropriate method (such as generalized linear modelling) will be developed in time for the 2019 data analysis. With each subsequent year of data collection, the analysis becomes more complex and the time required to analyse and report on findings increases. It would be pertinent to consider this in the planning of future Byelaw and Permitting Subcommittee meetings.

The Management Process

When implementing past measures to manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery, the Authority clearly defined criteria to monitor the development of this fishery and review the decisions taken. The criterion is as follows:

- The Authority decided that if there was an increase in the number of vessels entering the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery this would trigger a review of the Permit Conditions for the Live Wrasse Fishery, and may lead to further changes to the Permit Conditions, which may include a reduction in the number of pots per vessel
- The Authority decided that a review of the management of the Live Wrasse Fishery will be undertaken in November 2018. Data collected from fishermen and on-board surveys will inform the review of the permit conditions for the Live Wrasse Fishery and may lead to changes to the Potting Permit Conditions (specific to the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery)
- Fishermen are required to allow D&S IFCA officers on board their vessels to collect catch data for the fishery
- Failure from the fishers to meet all the conditions as set out in the policy statement (directly issued to fishers) may also trigger a review of the Potting Permit Conditions
- In addition to formal management under the Potting Permit Conditions, the Authority may introduce further voluntary measures to support the management of the Live Wrasse Fishery
- Failure to adhere to the voluntary measures (directly issued to fishers) may lead to a review of the Permit Conditions (specific to the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery).

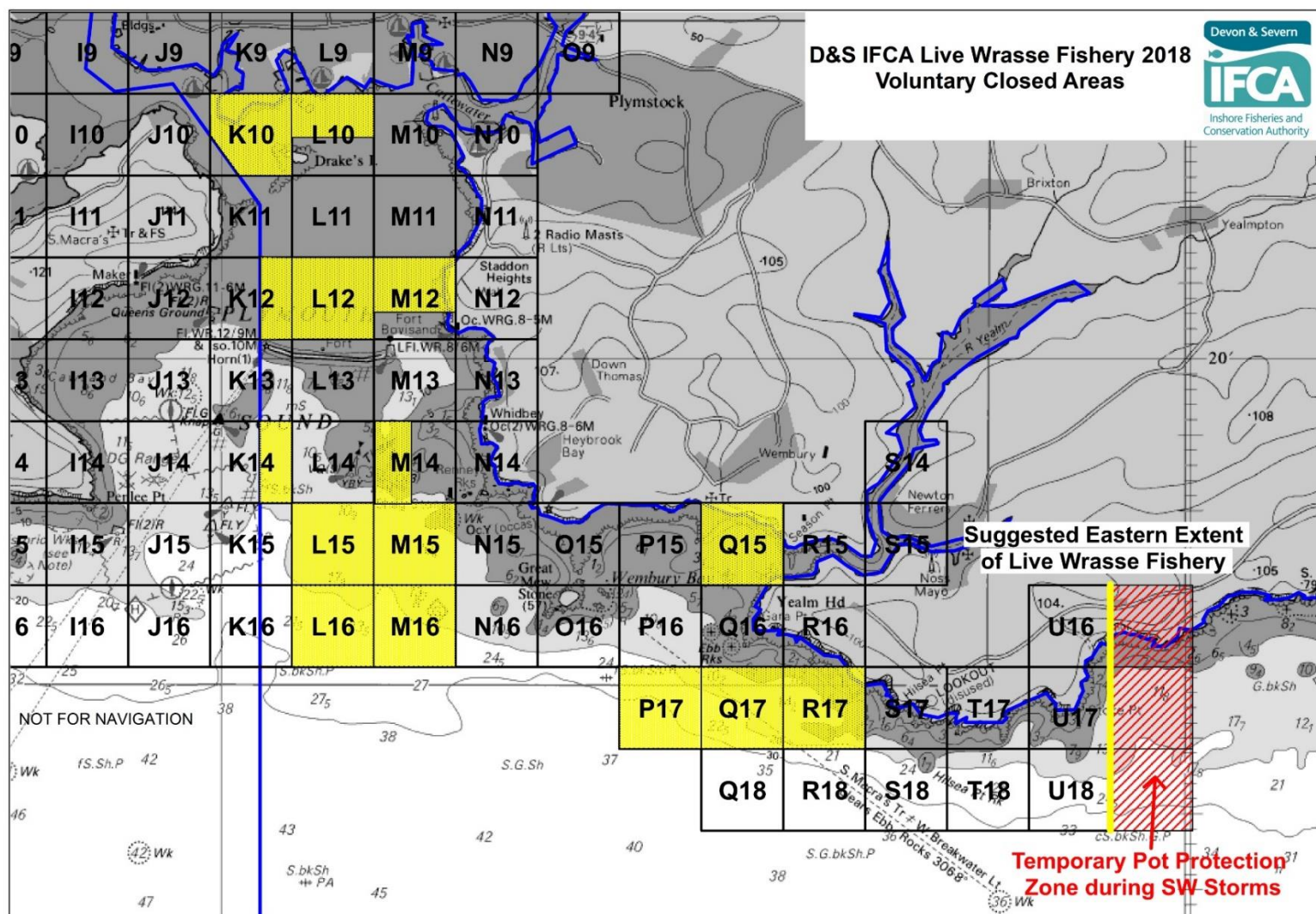
As part of the 2018 formal review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery, members can review and potentially amend the above criteria and consider amendments to the voluntary measures set out in section 5 of this supplement.

Guidance & Voluntary Measures

Further to the regulatory conditions, D&S IFCA has developed additional guidance to support these measures and the fishery. This guidance is in the form of voluntary measures to be adopted by those fishermen participating in the Live Wrasse Fishery.

1. The Live Wrasse Fishery currently takes place within the Plymouth Sound and Surrounds SAC and in a small area at the western end of the Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SCI (Bigbury Bay reef area). It is not occurring in the other thirteen Marine Protected Areas in the District.
2. A series of small closed zones to the Live Wrasse Fishery or 'No Wrasse Pot Zones' have been identified through discussions with the fishermen. These areas lie within the fishery area in the Plymouth Sound and associated area and include reef habitat known to be favoured by the wrasse species fished. From research in Norway such areas have been found to afford protection for wrasse species that have high site fidelity and small home ranges/territories. Figure 1 shows the areas to be closed.
3. A small area east of Stoke Point has been allocated as a zone for the fishermen to place wrasse pots, for protection against potential gear damage during south westerly storms. Fishermen should notify the IFCA when they will be placing pots in this area and when those pots are removed.
4. Mount Batten Breakwater is known to be a popular angling mark and in order to remove any conflict with anglers in this area, fishermen are requested to keep their pots 30 m from the pier.

Figure 1: Voluntary Closed Area 2018



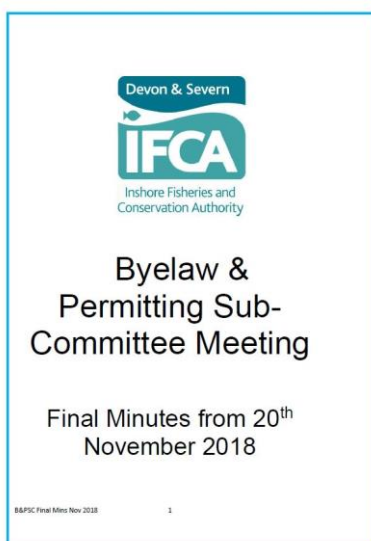
End of Supplement Report (30th October 2018)

B&PSC Meetings and Outcomes

This section of this report documents the outcomes from two separate B&PSC meetings that related to the 2018-19 Formal Review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.

20th November 2018

Members discussed the information presented at the meeting as agenda item 4 which included the Supplement Report, the Live Wrasse Data Analysis Report and information relating to wrasse research being conducted in the South West. Minutes are taken of all B&PSC meetings and are posted in Section B of the D&S IFCA Website Resource Library, along with the papers that are prepared for each meeting. An extract from the minutes (20th November 2018) is transcribed below.



Extract from the minutes:

Agenda Item

4 The Formal Review of the Live Wrasse Fishery

The Chair thanked Senior Environment Officer (SEO) Libby West and Environment Officer (EO) Sarah Curtin for preparing the in-depth report (Live Wrasse Fishery in the Devon and Severn IFCA District) which members had received and could discuss. EO Curtin explained that a slide show presentation had also been prepared, which the members then watched.

Multiple slides were displayed to help summarise background work. Slides and officer commentary explained how the surveys had been conducted and also added further explanation to elements of the data analysis, including multiple graphs comparing 2017 and 2018 Landing Per Unit Effort (LPUE) and Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) data. SEO West added information about high resolution data analysis and explained the challenges involved in determining clear trends in the data at this time. Detail was provided on the findings relevant to the size of sexual maturity for the different Wrasse species. The data suggested that the introduction of a 140mm to 180mm slot size for corkwing wrasse in the Potting Permit Conditions has been of benefit. EO Curtin added that the salmon farm involved in the fishery has been pro-active this year and has applied a more restrictive voluntary measure (increasing the min CRS for Ballan wrasse) than that imposed by the D&S IFCA Potting Permit Conditions. The officers also reported that there is increased confidence in the change to the closed period that will be implemented for the 2019 season. The results indicate that almost all spawning fish will be protected.

After the presentation members asked further questions. Jim Portus highlighted the disparity between CPUE and LPUE and asked if more work was planned on establishing survival rates of fish returned to the sea and also the survival of the live fish during transit to the farms. SEO West informed members that Cornwall IFCA are doing some tagging work; however, it can be expensive, and a lot of tagging must be completed for optimum results. Regarding mortality during transit, EO Curtin highlighted the relatively warm summer weather as a contributing factor. DCO Clark added that only 1% of fish were dead on arrival and as this is a "Live" Wrasse Fishery, it is obviously in the interests of the farms to reduce mortality during fishing, storage and transit. EO Curtin informed members that ice being added to water tanks had improved survival rates.

Whist stating that he was not challenging the findings, Andrew Knights asked if there was an explanation why the spikes in the size distribution graphs appear to be on the round numbers rather than half number intervals. SEO West explained that the methodology had been the same this year but could look again at the data. Both David Morgan and David Cuthbert commented that the data would appear to support the past decisions of the Sub-Committee to introduce management measures.

John May asked questions in relation to any differences that may be evident in the Cornwall Live Wrasse Fishery. Officers reported that only four fishers operate in Devon and only one salmon farm takes the live wrasse. In comparison three salmon farms are taking fish from fishers operating in Cornwall and although the type of pots used are similar in both areas, more Ballan wrasse of a relatively large size are caught in Cornwall. Regarding different research being conducted, DCO Clark highlighted the information paper circulated to members that sets out a summary of research work being conducted in the South West.

Members recognised the challenges faced by officers preparing the data analysis report for Sub-Committee meetings scheduled for November each year and invited a discussion on this issue. ACO Mander explained that if changes to management are needed, there will be a potential delay of several months to implement changes that relate to amended Potting Permit Conditions. The Environment Officers explained that additional information and analysis can be presented in February 2019 and that this month of each year is more suited to submission of completed reports relating to the Live Wrasse Fishery. Andrew Knights suggested that in future maybe it was possible for Officers to highlight key statistics in November with more in-depth information provided in February each year. SEO West reported that this was possible and an extension to the deadline to submit a report will also provide more time to study the success of voluntary measures. DCO Clark added that the option still exists in the future to introduce tracking devices to the small vessels that are involved. The Chair asked for summary points from members and an indication of the views on the issue. Jim Portus commented that if the LPUE falls the economic impact may naturally reduce the number of fishers and at this time felt the current measures and management were appropriate. Both David Cuthbert and David Morgan agreed that the fishery is hugely regulated in comparison to its size and additional measures at this time would be overly pre-cautionary. A recommendation was formulated in preparation for the next Full Authority Meeting in December as follows:

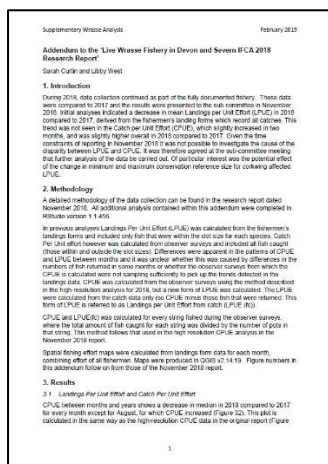
Recommendation

That no changes are made to Potting Permit Conditions relating to the Live Wrasse Fishery subject to the findings of further evidence submitted by officers.

Proposed: David Morgan Seconded: Andrew Knights
All in favour

26th February 2019

Members discussed the information presented at the meeting as agenda item 5. Members were presented with further evidence relating to the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery that had been prepared by officers since the last meeting in November 2018. The information was set out in an Addendum to the “Live Wrasse Fishery in Devon and Severn IFCA 2018 Research Report”. The information is embedded (hyperlinked) below:



Minutes are taken of all B&PSC meetings and are posted in Section B of the D&S IFCA Website Resource Library, along with the papers that are prepared for each meeting. An extract from the minutes (26th February 2019) is transcribed below:

Extract from the minutes:

Agenda Item 5 The Formal Review of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery

Discussions relating to the further evidence that was provided for the meeting

Members examined the Addendum to the “Live Wrasse Fishery in the Devon and Severn IFCA 2018 Research Report” that had been prepared by Environment Officers Sarah Curtin and Libby West. DCO Clark provided an explanation as to how the report had been assembled and how the Environmental Officers had utilised the High-Resolution R Statistical training that had been recently undertaken. DCO Clark highlighted to members that there were some minor errors within the report and referred to Figures 32 and 33. DCO Clark explained to members that these minor errors did not impact on the conclusions set out in the Addendum Report. DCO Clark also explained that the further data analysis did raise some discrepancies as compared to the overarching report that was discussed in November 2018, but nothing to significantly change the conclusions reached by the members in November 2018 regarding the management of the activity. James Marsden commended both the original report and the information presented in the Addendum. James Marsden also asked some questions regarding other factors including the survivability rates of returned wrasse and extended research including the use of tags. DCO Clark informed members that other research is taking place as set out in the officer paper discussed in November 2018 and stressed the importance of data sharing and not duplicating other work unnecessarily. DCO Clark also made members aware about the limitations of the D&S IFCA's research work as compared to research relating to the removal of wrasse and its effect on the whole ecosystem. The latter would be more suited to a PhD student. James Marsden was content with the answers provided and felt that the continuing research work was vital. DCO Clark informed members that requests have been received to extend the voluntary areas where the activity is undertaken with areas proposed reaching as far as Salcombe. Members raised some concern about the requests and Richard White reminded

other members that the fishery was originally only expected to last about two years. Richard White, Andrew Knights and James Marsden also informed the group about the need to having stable parameters to make year on year research data comparison more usable. The Chair commented that the original expectation of a two-year fishery has not been the case, adding to the need to continue carefully managing the fishery, with the voluntary closed areas limiting the activity forming an important part of that management. David Cuthbert questioned the rationale behind the requests for an extended area as several of the boats were very small and possibly couldn't travel too far beyond Stoke Point and only the largest vessel would potentially benefit from an extension. Jon Dornom added to the discussion by explaining how the sea conditions within Bigbury Bay coupled with the lightweight gear would hamper the smaller vessels from expanding the fishery even if it was considered appropriate.

Members acknowledged that the fishery is currently well managed with a combination of permit conditions such as pot limitation and the present voluntary agreement; however, they felt it was important for fishers to be fully aware that breach of the voluntary measures could result in another review of management being triggered which could end the opportunity to continue fishing. DCO Clark explained that she could contact the Salmon farm, that had suggested an extension to the areas and Richard White felt this was important to record in the minutes as an action.

New Action

1	DCO Clark	To contact the Salmon farm, who are supplied by the wrasse fishers in Devon, to get an update on their position on the rearing of wrasse, for use in the farms, and how long they envisage taking wild wrasse from D&S IFCA's waters.
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The Chair summarised the discussions and felt it was appropriate to list key points and subject them to a vote. Members formulated the following proposal:

Proposal 1

That the B&PSC endorse the findings of the D&S IFCA Live Wrasse Fishery Research data presented to date and action officers to conduct scientific monitoring for a third year.

***Proposed: James Marsden Seconded: Richard White
All in favour***

Members then discussed the existing management measures as set out in the Potting Permit Conditions and the associated Policy/Voluntary Guidance. Members again raised some concern about the risks of non-adherence to the voluntary measures. David Cuthbert took the view that the small number of fishers engaged in the fishery should be very familiar with the voluntary measures and will be aware of the risks associated with not adhering to them. Dave Cuthbert also pointed out that the failure of other voluntary measures (for other issues) is often due to large numbers of people conducting a fishing activity, and the Live Wrasse Fishery is a different scenario. Regarding his question, Andrew Knights was reassured by the response offered by ACO Mander that the opportunity exists to have an in-year review of the management measures for the Live Wrasse Fishery if there was the need to do so. Members felt it was important for fishers to be fully aware that a breach of the voluntary measures could result in another review of management being triggered which

could end the opportunity to continue fishing. All members agreed with Andrew Knights that careful monitoring of the adherence to all management measures is of importance. A proposal was formulated as follows:

Proposal 2

That the existing management measures for the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery be maintained.

Proposed: James Marsden Seconded: Rachel Irish
All in favour

A third proposal was discussed relating to communications to a wider audience about the intentions of the B&PSC in actioning a third year of scientific monitoring and maintaining the existing management measures. Members wished to see a third year of monitoring to enable a comprehensive review to begin in November 2019, comparing all data collected in a three-year period, with a full report to be presented to the B&PSC in February 2020. A proposal was formulated, and the communication requirements noted as an action.

Proposal 3

The B&PSC declare that a comprehensive review of the Live Wrasse Fishery will be conducted to reflect the three years of data that will have been collected and collated.

Proposed: James Marsden Seconded: Andrew Knights
All in favour

New Action

2	D&S IFCA Officers	To inform a wide audience about the intention to conduct a comprehensive review based on the same research parameters being in place during 2019.
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Further Information

More information about the work of D&S IFCA can be found on the Authority's website and in reports and guides that are produced for stakeholders. The Resource Library on the D&S IFCA website acts as an interactive Publication Scheme and provides free access to a range of information.

www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Resource-library>

[Guide to the work of the D&S IFCA Byelaw & Permitting Sub Committee](#)

End of Report.