

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Formal Consultation – Category One Diving Permit Conditions – Scallop Closed Season

D&S IFCA is inviting you to respond to the formal consultation on proposed amendments to existing Category One (commercial) Diving Permit Conditions.



A formal consultation on proposals to amend the existing Category One (commercial) Diving Permit Conditions has begun. D&S IFCA is contacting everyone on its (email) mailing list with a circular (Mail Chimp) that provides more detail and links to additional information. The information for the formal consultation (pdf version) can also be [read here](#).

The proposed changes will only apply to fishers with a Category One Diving Permit; however, all stakeholders can respond even if they do not conduct commercial diving for scallop, crab, and lobster within the D&S IFCA's District.

- The formal consultation will end on 18th April 2022.

What is being proposed and why?

The Permit Conditions enable tailored management measures to balance the needs of different fishers. The proposed changes reflect a package of management measures that supports the further development of a low impact commercial dive fishery for scallops; whilst maintaining the conservation status of the Marine Protected Areas.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- a) An increase in the Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) for scallop to 110mm that will apply to divers with a Category One Permit in July, August, and September.
- b) The introduction of a catch limit of 2400 scallop per vessel, per calendar day, that will apply to divers with a Category One Permit during July, August, and September.
- c) A Remotely Accessed Electronic Monitoring Device (IVMS), that transmits the required information, must be fitted to every vessel operating under a Category One Diving Permit.
- d) In July, August and September commercial diving for scallop will be restricted to those Marine Protected Areas where the use of scallop dredges is prohibited
- e) In July, August and September a Category One permit holder is not authorised to remove scallop from a fishery unless all scallop removed from a fishery, on that fishing trip, is from within the District.

The formal consultation provides draft wording and formatting of the Permit Conditions (subject to refinement following legal advice and consultation responses), which are set out one by one, along with D&S IFCA's rationale for the potential change. Some of the

proposed permit conditions refer to Annexes (charts) and supporting information has been created to show all the Annexes that will accompany the wording in the Permit Conditions.

The Questions

There are a total of 14 questions divided into five groups (A-E) with a final question for any other comments.

How you can have your say

1. Contact us via email – consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk
2. Write to us

Devon and Severn IFCA, Brixham Laboratory, Freshwater Quarry, Brixham, TQ5 8BA.

Background Information

The formal consultation includes embedded information (hyperlinks) to background information which includes the findings of previous engagement work and Officers' papers.

What is the next step?

The findings of this formal consultation will be collated, summarised and discussed by the [Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee](#) (B&PSC). The B&PSC will determine if the changes to the Category One Diving Permit Conditions as proposed are to go ahead. The Diving Permit Conditions will potentially be amended and re-circulated free of charge in June 2022.

How to be kept informed?

We regularly post information about our work on our [website](#). Direct communication is often the best way to help you stay informed about our work and to highlight the opportunities for you to have your say on a range of topics or issues. If you are not already on our mailing list, then you can get yourself added by [contacting D&S IFCA](#). You will then be directly notified of all our consultations.

D&S IFCA protects any personal data it receives and has a privacy policy which you can read [here](#).