

# Devon and Severn IFCA News

## Formal Consultation – Potting Permit Conditions

D&S IFCA is inviting you to respond to the formal consultation on proposed amendments to existing Potting Permit Conditions that are used to manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.



A formal consultation on proposals to amend the existing Potting Permit Conditions has begun. D&S IFCA is contacting everyone on its (email) mailing list with a [circular](#) that provides more detail and links to additional information and has posted information on its website [consultation page](#).

**The proposed changes relate to all potting permits.**

All stakeholders can respond even if they do not conduct commercial potting for live wrasse within the D&S IFCA's District. The consultation will end on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

### The Proposed Changes to the Potting Permit Conditions

There are three proposed changes to the Potting Permit Conditions which are summarised as follows:

1. To prohibit the removal from the fishery of any rock cook wrasse
2. To remove the provision in the Potting Permit (2.6.2) that relates to the minimum and maximum size of rock cook as this will no longer be applicable due to the first proposal.
3. To introduce a new schedule to the Permit Conditions, with diagrams to help fishers understand how to measure different species that are regulated by the Permit Conditions.

### Why are these changes being proposed?

Fishing with pots for live wrasse is highly regulated in the D&S IFCA's District and can only be conducted by commercial fishers. A total of 480 pots (that must be tagged) are authorised to be used within the entire D&S IFCA's District to catch live wrasse that are used as cleaner fish in salmon farms. The activity is restricted to an area of the D&S IFCA's District in and around Plymouth Sound. Currently, the [Potting Permit Conditions](#) contain a range of restrictions to manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery and these conditions are supported by [voluntary measures](#).

## Research and Evidence Base

D&S IFCA introduced management measures in 2017 and has closely monitored the fishery for three years. On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020, members of the D&S IFCA's Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) were presented with the following report.

- [\*\*Three Year Comprehensive Review of the Live Wrasse in Devon and Severn IFCA's District \(February 2020\) - Version 1.3.\*\*](#)

There was a data review and re-analysis of the above report in April 2020. The revised version of the report (Version 1.6) can be viewed [here](#). The results of the review suggest that the fishery, for most species, as a whole is sustainable, but the report also highlighted that catches and landings of rock cook wrasse have declined over the last three years, especially in 2019 (based on CPUE and LPUE). After reviewing and discussing the findings of the report, the B&PSC recommended that the Potting Permit Conditions are amended.

## Questions:

1. What interest do you have in the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery?
2. Do you have any comments on the proposed changes to the Potting Permit Conditions?
3. If you do not support the proposed changes, please set out your reasons?

## How you can have your say

1. Contact us via email – [consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)
2. Write to us

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

- **This information gathering exercise ends on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

## What is the next step?

The findings of this consultation will be discussed by the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC). The B&PSC will determine if the changes to the Potting Permit Conditions as proposed are to go ahead. The Potting Permit Conditions will potentially be amended and re-circulated free of charge in July 2020.

## How will your information help us?

We will collate the information you provide, and this may help our Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee in their decision making. D&S IFCA protects any personal data it receives and has a privacy policy which you can read [here](#).