



Potting Permit Conditions

Formal Consultation

Amendments to the Permit Conditions to Manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery

What's the purpose of this Formal Consultation?

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.

- **The information gathering exercise ends on Friday 15th May 2020.**

We are directly contacting everyone on our (email) mailing list and are giving you options on how to respond. Due to the Covid-19 virus and our current working arrangements, we are not able to send this information directly to any permit holder that has only provided a postal address. Your view is important, and we encourage you to forward this information or notify others that may have an interest about the consultation.

- **Information is posted on the D&S IFCA's website to support this direct email notification**

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Consultation>

All stakeholders can respond even if they do not conduct commercial potting for live wrasse within the D&S IFCA's District. The proposed changes relate to all potting permits.

This is not a long questionnaire. This information circular demonstrates why D&S IFCA proposes to amend the existing Potting Permit Conditions and how this will be achieved. This circular explains how you and others can participate in the process and provides some background information including some embedded information (hyperlinks).

Background Information – The Live Wrasse Pot Fishery

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. Additional commercial fishers, with a potting permit, have an opportunity to join the fishery; however, this would trigger a review of the Potting Permit Conditions to determine how to divide the total effort.

The activity is restricted to an area of the D&S IFCA's District in and around Plymouth Sound. The tags are currently divided between four commercial fishing vessels (maximum of 120 tags each) that meet the required criteria to engage in the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.

Currently, the Permit conditions include a closed fishing season (1st May to 15th July inclusive), gear marking and minimum and maximum size restrictions for five species of wrasse. In addition to permit conditions, under Paragraph 17 of the Potting Permit Byelaw, fishers must supply landing data to D&S IFCA and allow D&S IFCA Officers to conduct on board observations. Voluntary measures also contribute to the management of the fishery.

Research

D&S IFCA introduced management measures in 2017 and has closely monitored the fishery for three years. On 11th 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.***

Outcomes of the Comprehensive Review

The results of the review suggest that the fishery, for most species, as a whole is sustainable. Catches per unit effort (CPUE) and landings per unit effort (LPUE) for wrasse species other than rock cook have been relatively stable across the three-year study period. This suggests that current management measures have, generally, been effective in preventing overexploitation and managing the fishery.

However, 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). The majority of rock cook wrasse that have been caught were below the Minimum Conservation Reference Size and therefore had to be returned.

After reviewing and discussing the findings of the report, the B&PSC recommended that the Potting Permit Conditions are amended. This formal consultation is a requirement of the process to make potential changes to the Permit Conditions.

The Proposed Changes to the Potting Permit Conditions

Catch Restrictions:

The current Potting Permit Conditions do not prohibit the capture of rock cook wrasse.

The first proposal, under this consultation, is to prohibit the capture of rock cook wrasse by amending the Potting Permit Conditions as follows:

Proposed Change 1.

- 1.2 A permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to remove from a fishery within the District:
 - a) any 'V'-notched or mutilated lobster;
 - b) any berried lobster or berried edible crab;
 - c) any part of an edible crab or lobster or spiny lobster which is detached from the carapace of the crab or lobster;
 - d) any edible crab or lobster or spiny lobster that has recently cast its shell;
 - e) any rock cook wrasse**

All such species falling within the above prohibitions must be returned immediately to the sea without further injury.

Proposed Change 2.

The minimum and maximum size of rock cook as stated in paragraph 2.6.2 of the Potting Permit Conditions would be removed, as it would no longer be applicable.

Proposed Change 3.

The Potting Permit Conditions include a list of minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS) in paragraph 1.3. The explanation of how to measure a marine organism is linked to paragraph 1.3.2 which specifies Annex XIII Article 18(1) of Council Regulation (EC) 850/98.

This EU legislation has changed.

Rather than changing the provision to link to amended legislation, D&S IFCA intends to introduce a more user-friendly schedule to the Permit Conditions, with diagrams to help fishers understand how to measure different species that are regulated by the Permit Conditions.

Impacts on Potting Permit Holders

The change to paragraph 1.2 would mean that all fishers with a potting permit will not be permitted to remove rock cook wrasse from the fishery. D&S IFCA has taken the view that most potting permit holders will not be significantly impacted by this change as they do not target rock cook wrasse with pots and have no need to remove rock cook wrasse from the fishery.

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
2. Write to us

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

- **This information gathering exercise ends on Friday 15th 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.

What do we do with your information – Privacy Policy

We protect any personal data that you may provide. Any personal data submitted in this information collecting process will not be shared with others. The content of responses will be summarised and anonymised where appropriate for documenting in reports that will be presented to the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee and published on our website.

D&S IFCA has a privacy policy which can be found by visiting our website (home page) www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

- You can change your preferences at any time.
- We have a duty to consult with D&S IFCA Permit Holders.

You can manage your preferences by contacting D&S IFCA.

Links to Specific Documents

The following report was presented to the B&PSC on 11th February 2019 and can be read by using the link below:

- [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 report in April 2020. The revised version of the report (Version 1.6) can be viewed using the link below.

- [Curtin, Henly & Stewart - Three Year Comprehensive Review of the Live Wrasse in Devon and Severn IFCA's District \(April 2020\) - Version 1.6.](#)

[Current Potting Permit Conditions \(Versions Control August 2019\)](#)

Further Information & Links

Further detail about the D&S IFCA Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee, the work that they undertake and how it is possible to amend permit conditions via a review process can be found in our [guide](#) that is posted on the D&S IFCA website or available upon request.

Reports presented to and discussed by the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee can be found on the D&S IFCA's website in Section B of the [Resource Library](#) or are available upon request.

The [Meetings Tab](#) of the D&S IFCA's website is also used to post information relevant to the most recent meetings.

Minutes of Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee meetings (when approved for accuracy) can be found on the D&S IFCA's website in Section B of the [Resource Library](#) or available upon request.

In addition to the Potting Permit Conditions, the Policy and Guidance notice (including voluntary closed areas) for the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery can be read [here](#).

How to follow our work?

If you are not already on our mailing list, then you can get yourself added by [contacting D&S IFCA](#) or by using this [link](#). You will then be directly notified of all our consultations. You will also receive our free e-newsletter.

Keep an eye on our [consultation page](#) on our website for updates and details of how you can get involved and have your say.

Follow our [latest news items](#) displayed on our website or our Facebook page.

Explore our website [Resource Library](#) for an extensive range of our information and publications. It's all free.