

# Devon and Severn IFCA News

## D&S IFCA prepare to make a new Hand Working Permit Byelaw

**D&S IFCA's Byelaw and Permitting Sub Committee have concluded that a new Hand Working Permit Byelaw will be developed to manage the use of crab tiles, bait digging and many other hand gathering types of fishing activity.**

During 2019 D&S IFCA have been reviewing the management of hand working types of fishing activities. Hand working is a collective term that D&S IFCA has used to describe three different sub-groups of fishing activities. These include bait digging, the use of crab tiles and a group of fishing activities known as hand gathering. The hand collection of cockles and mussels is a good example of hand gathering.



During 2019, D&S IFCA has collated information and evidence about each sub-group of activity. Stakeholders were invited to have their say on these activities and how in their view they could or should be managed. Maybe you had your say in one of the three separate call for information campaigns as documented in the reports below:

- [Crab Tiles](#)
- [Bait Digging](#)
- [Hand Gathering](#)

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the D&S IFCA Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee discussed the different options that exist to manage hand working types of fishing activity as set out in a report which you can read [here](#). The development of a new byelaw was the option selected, however it is envisaged that it will be a slightly different regulatory format as compared to the D&S IFCA permit based byelaws already implemented to manage other fishing activity such as mobile fishing, potting, netting or diving for crab, lobster and scallop.

### Drafting Work

The Hand Working Permit Byelaw will take time to develop and work will continue throughout 2020. The potential need for a permit to conduct the different activities will become a factor in the on-going drafting work. It is envisaged that the requirement for a permit to conduct bait collection and hand gathering will be dependent on the amounts of resource taken. The Hand Working Permit Byelaw would introduce fixed provisions that apply to all persons. Fixed provisions are expected to include a series of catch limits (bag limits) for different species (sea fisheries resources) that are targeted by different types of hand working fishing methods. The bag limits would provide an upper level of catch (a threshold) that would apply to all persons but providing the individual take of the specified species was below the levels set for personal use, it is not envisaged that a permit would be required for the collection of the resources. Commercial activity would exceed the bag limits for recreational take and would therefore be regulated by conditions of use that would be placed in the permits issued by D&S IFCA. In the near future D&S IFCA will be seeking the views of all stakeholders to better inform the decision making needed to set the initial bag limits. Look out for our call for information emails or keep an eye on our website [consultation page](#) to engage and follow the progress.