

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Round up of recent prosecutions

Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA) have recently issued Financial Administrative Penalties (FAP) and Official Written Warnings for a variety of offences.



Enforcement Officers from the D&S IFCA have recently finalised 4 investigations of illegal fishing activity. The cases involved operating without current permits and retaining undersized shellfish. D&S IFCA case files are independently reviewed by a solicitor who applies an evidential and public interest test and then provides advice on the most appropriate course of action. This process is explained in detail in our [Enforcement and Compliance Strategy](#).

The D&S IFCA Potting Permit Byelaw [Permit Conditions](#) include catch, gear, spatial and time restrictions. The Permit Holder is not authorised to fish under the permit if they have retained on board or have in their possession any catch that does not comply with the catch restrictions as set out in the Permit.

The minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) for Whelks increased in the Devon and Severn IFCA District on 1st November 2018 to 55mm, this will increase again on 1st November 2020 to 65mm. This is measured along the length of the shell. The Permit Byelaws provide D&S IFCA with a flexible approach to manage fishing activity. The change in whelk size was one of several amendments made to the Potting Permit Conditions in 2018 following the process followed during a three-year review of the conditions. The report documenting the process and outcomes of the 2018 review can be read [here](#).

When purchased D&S IFCA permits are valid for up to two years. If you have a permit issued by D&S IFCA and your contact details change during this time then you must update the Authority. D&S IFCA send permit holders reminders prior to a permit expiring. It is the permit holder's responsibility to ensure permits are purchased, valid and renewed prior to conducting relevant fishing activity in the District.

All application forms to acquire D&S IFCA permits for commercial and recreational fishers can be found on our [website](#). If you have any questions about the permits or the conditions then please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).