

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Inaccurate Electronic Charts – Potential Action Required

D&S IFCA are writing to Permit Holders to inform them about the inaccuracy of the Six Nautical Mile Boundary published on electronic charts - so that fishers can take appropriate action.

Background

Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority first wrote to all permit holders on 2nd April 2019 to inform them of the inaccuracy of the Six Nautical Mile Boundary published on certain electronic charts produced prior to 30th April 2019. A recent investigation has identified that a number of these inaccurate charts are still in use.

D&S IFCA manage the inshore waters along the coast of Devon, Somerset, and Gloucestershire, and the District extends out seawards six nautical miles from the shore (or the Median line in Bristol Channel). The D&S IFCA District is defined in articles 2 and 3 of the D&S IFCA Conservation Order 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 2212) which states the boundary is **‘to a distance of 6 nautical miles from the 1983 baselines’**.

In 2019, D&S IFCA concluded that charts produced by Navionics prior to 30th April 2019 were displaying the six nautical mile line in an incorrect position. Navionics were made aware of these inaccuracies, and they took corrective action by updating their database by 30th April 2019. Updated charts are available through the on-line update service for Navionics branded charts, as well as to other chart providers that use a Navionics data set like ChartWorld and Furuno.

Latest Investigation

The latest investigation was in relation to a ChartWorld product uploaded to an OLEX system that was being used as the vessel's chart plotter. The chart had not been updated and consequently had the same inaccurately drawn six nautical mile limit. In the areas investigated, the position of the six nautical mile line on the electronic chart was approximately 0.6 nautical miles inside the actual six nautical mile limit (1983 baseline). This inaccuracy made it appear (on screen/on the display) that a vessel was outside of the D&S IFCA District when it was in fact within the D&S IFCA District.

Potential Action

D&S IFCA feel it necessary again to raise awareness of this issue and ask you to review the accuracy of the charts used onboard your vessel. It is your responsibility to be compliant with all fisheries legislation relevant to your vessel.

If you are unsure of the origin or the accuracy of the electronic chart on your plotter, then please contact the relevant company. If you have not already, you may feel it appropriate to download the available information from www.kingfisherrestrictions.org. The Seafish commissioned Kingfisher charts provide all the UK spatial fishing restrictions including provision of the six and twelve nautical mile boundaries and is compatible with most vessel plotters.