

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Joint Operations in North Devon

D&S IFCA officers work with Devon and Cornwall Police, Environment Agency and Gangmaster and Labour Abuse Authority to conduct inspections and monitor activity around the Taw/Torridge Estuary.



Since D&S IFCA officers recovered a [net in Barnstaple in July](#), D&S IFCA have worked closely with Devon and Cornwall Police, Environment Agency and Gangmaster and Labour Abuse Authority to conduct inspections and monitor activity around the Taw/Torridge Estuary.

Although D&S IFCA have employed a number of new measures to enable the [return to some more routine work for our Enforcement Officers](#), due to the global Covid-19 Pandemic there are still areas of our work that are still restricted due to the risks presented to our officers and other members of public by the virus. Despite those limitations and lessons to learn on how to operate in these times, changes are being made to ensure that time and resources are still being deployed most efficiently. Working with other agencies has enabled the sharing of valuable information.

Over recent spring tides, officers have worked alongside other agencies and conducted a number of patrols in the Taw and Torridge areas, focussing on assessing the compliance with local byelaws, primarily the Devon and Severn IFCA Netting Permit Byelaw (and associated [permit conditions](#)) along with [EU legislation on Bass fishing](#) and the Salmon and Freshwater Fish Act 1975. This information can then be used to ascertain the risk levels in those areas, and from that resources can be deployed appropriately but most importantly, safely.

Officers took the opportunity to fully explore the estuaries by road and on foot, over the whole tidal range to improve local knowledge of vantage and inspection points and to identify some secluded areas with the potential of being higher risk areas for offending.

Opportunities were also taken to locate several fishing vessels and ensure all fishing equipment on board could be used legally. In some instances, advice notices were placed in the vessels where suspect fishing equipment was present. These notices advised fishers to

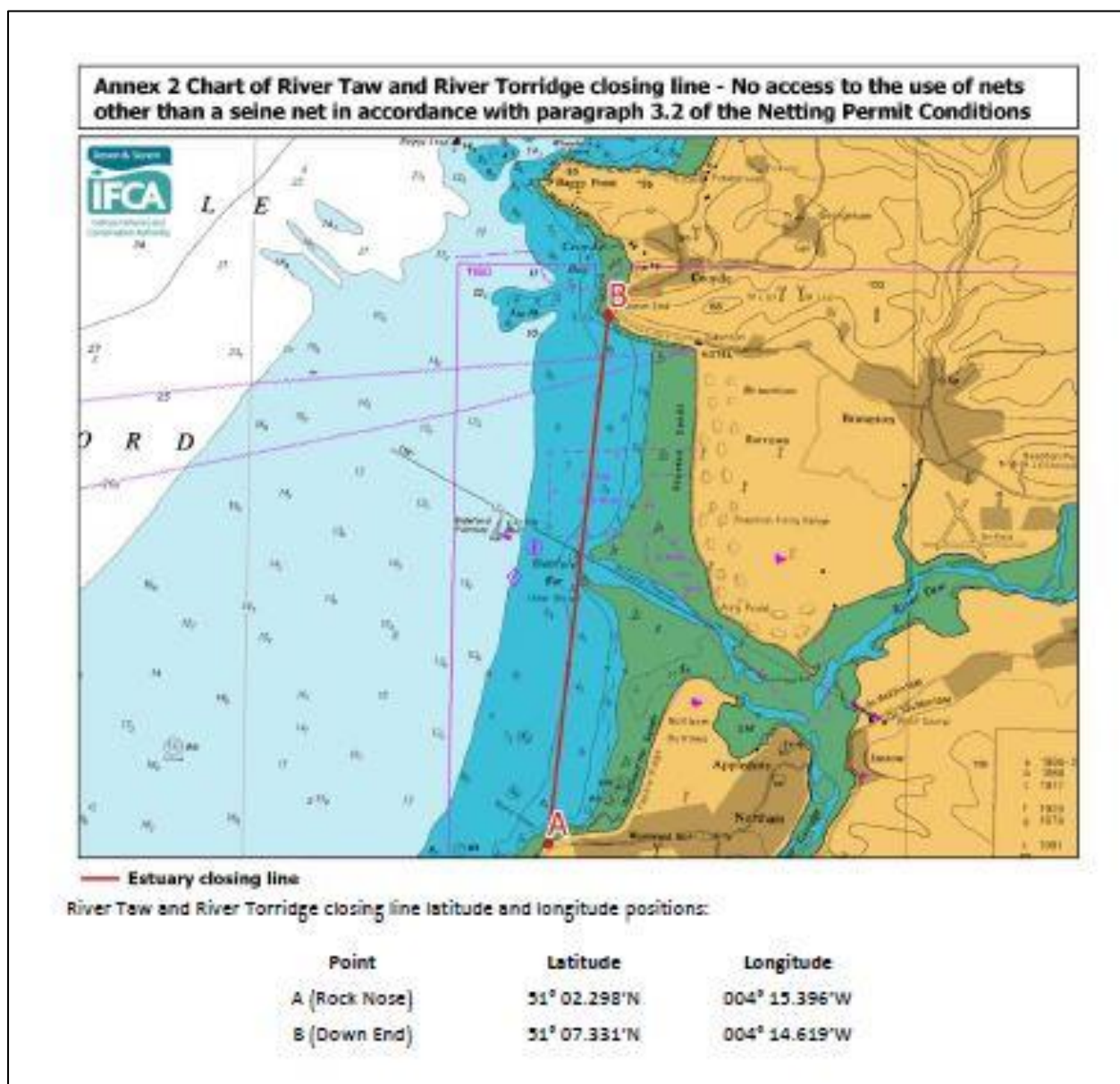
contact Devon and Severn IFCA to discuss the fishing equipment and its use with a view to encourage compliance with fisheries legislation.

Working alongside other agencies has again proved to be the most effective way at sharing knowledge and resources. Devon and Severn IFCA would like to thank the Environment Agency and Devon and Cornwall Police for their contributions to these patrols and look forward to repeating the operations in these and other areas of the District in the future.

Key Legislation & Permits

Commercial and recreational fishers that wish to use nets in the D&S IFCA District must have a netting permit. Fishers that wish to obtain a permit can contact D&S IFCA and request an application form or use the [on-line application facility](#).

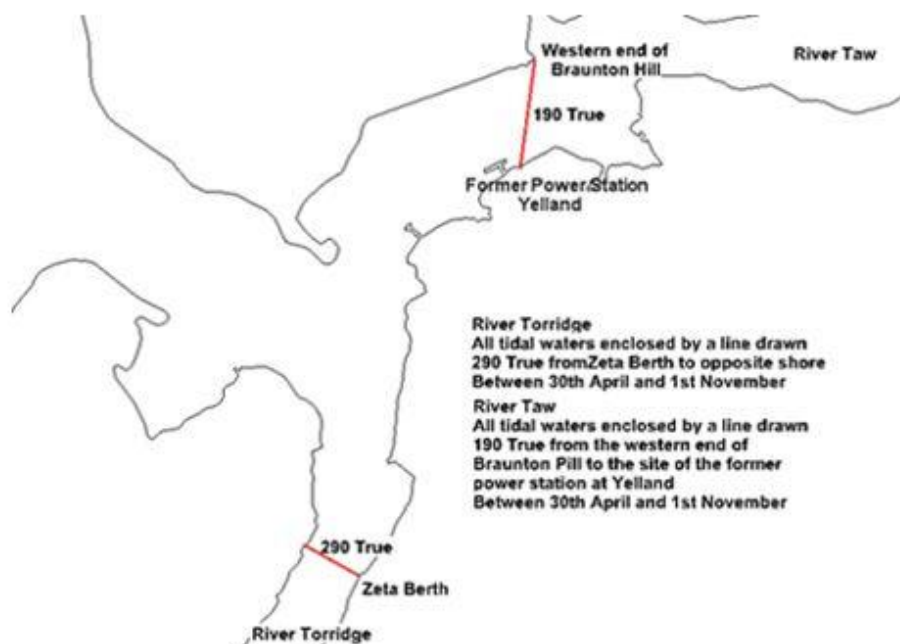
Netting within all estuary areas is highly restricted. The Netting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions prohibit the use of nets, other than a seine net of a maximum of 20 metres in length with a mesh size of not exceeding 20mm for the capture of sand eels. The closing line for the Taw/Torridge is shown below and is one of the [Annexes issued with a D&S IFCA Netting Permit](#).



The Taw Torridge is also a Bass Nursery Area and separate restrictions apply when the area is active between 30th April and 1st November. The closing lines for the Taw Torridge Bass Nursery Area are set out below.

River Taw and River Torridge: Fishing for bass, or fishing for any species of sea fish using Sand Eels (*Ammodytidae spp*) as bait, by any fishing boat within any part of the River Taw and River Torridge Bass Nursery Areas between 30th April and 1st November.

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More information on [bass restrictions](#) can be found on the D&S IFCA website.

Querries & Reporting Suspicious Fishing Activity

If you have a general query about fisheries legislation then please [contact us](#). Much of the enforcement work is intelligence led and we have a duty phone number for reporting suspicious fishing activity:

07740 175479

Following our Work

The website is a good way to follow all aspects of D&S IFCA's work.

The [Enforcement & Legislation](#) page and drop down menu provides some useful information and includes a [table of investigations](#).

We also produce a free E-Newsletter and you can subscribe by contacting D&S IFCA.