

Background of Monitoring and Control Plan

In 2012, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced a revised approach to the management of commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites (EMS). The objective of this revised approach is to ensure that all existing and potential commercial fishing activities are managed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

Activity/feature interactions in EMS underwent Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRA) to determine whether management measures were required in order to ensure that fishing activities will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

Lundy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has a number of qualifying features, including the subtidal coarse sediment sub-feature (Annex 1). This feature, and its interaction with commercial fishing activities, is the subject of this document.

In carrying out a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) for towed (demersal) trawl gear on subtidal coarse sediment in 2016, and subsequently updating this in 2018 due to [advice](#) given by Natural England, D&S IFCA concluded that for the current number of vessels, which fish seasonally, there would be no significant effect on this feature.

NE [advised](#) that due to uncertainties of possible impacts of otter trawls on the coarse sediment, and the level of effort, a M&C Plan should be developed. D&S IFCA followed this advice, and a M&C Plan was created in 2019. This report should be read in conjunction with the M&C Plan ([Version 2.1, 2019](#)).

M&C Plan Actions

1. Monitoring of Fishing Activity

The first action of the M&C Plan was to monitor the level of fishing effort on a yearly basis, with 2019 being set as a baseline. Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (iVMS) data were obtained from the MMO for the 2019 baseline document. A total of 11 passes of the gear were made in a two-month period in 2019, five of which were carried out on one day. More details on the 2019 fishery can be read in the [baseline](#) report.

iVMS data were obtained from the MMO for activity within the area open to demersal trawl gear within the Lundy SAC in 2022 as part of the yearly monitoring. Data were requested for four vessels with D&S IFCA mobile fishing permits which fish in the north of the District, for activity taking place between 1st January and 31st December 2022.

During this time, two of the vessels fished within the access area. Vessel 1 entered the site for one tow on 23rd June 2022 for 27 minutes, and again for one tow on 8th July 2022 for 29 minutes. Vessel 2 entered the site on 8th July 2022 for one tow lasting 18 minutes, and on 23rd August 2022 for one tow lasting 24 minutes, and another for 8 minutes. A total of 1 hour and 47 minutes was spent by the two vessels within the site over the year. Vessel iVMS data can be seen in Annex 2. This activity was at a lower level than the baseline set in 2019.

2. Review of Habitat Data

The second part of the M&C Plan was to review the results of the 2017 EA survey of the site. A draft report has been reviewed and the results do not suggest that changes need to be made at this point. Natural England is currently using the draft report to update the condition assessment for the site. Once this has been done, another review will be carried out.

Summary

As the activity in 2022 was less than the baseline set in 2019, and there are no changes to the habitat information, a review of the HRA is not appropriate at this time. Yearly monitoring will continue, and this may lead to a review of the HRA if required.

Devon & Severn

IFCA

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

4kn Sp. 2kn Np

39

22

235

188

27

fS.mS.cS

35

27

13

16

North West

147

ank

erfalls)

23

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S. Sh

47

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TOWER

BLDG

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94

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22

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st

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ank

24

S.S

24

S. Sh

31

36

49

1160

35kn Sp

2kn Np

4kn Sp

25kn Sp

57

59

49

36

29

cS.bkSh.G

0 750 1500 m

Not to be used for navigation

Legend:

- Lundy SAC
- A5.1 Subtidal Coarse Sediment
- A5.2 Subtidal Sand
- A3 Infralittoral rock
- A4 Circalittoral rock

Annex 2- Fishing activity map from iVMS data



References:

Bolam, S., McIlwaine, Hawes, J. and Arosio, R. (2022). Lundy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Monitoring Report 2017. NECRXXX (DRAFT)