

MMO Byelaw & A Call for Evidence

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has launched a formal consultation on the Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 and is seeking further evidence on the impacts of different fishing gears on designated features of MPAs.



The MMO has been developing management measures to manage bottom towed gear fishing over rock and reef features in England's offshore MPAs

On Tuesday 17th January a formal consultation began on the Marine Protected Areas Bottom Towed Gear Byelaw 2023 which prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear within specified areas of 13 MPAs to conserve rock and reef habitats.

In parallel with the formal consultation, the MMO has begun its **call for evidence** on the impacts of remaining fishing gear interactions on seabed features in offshore MPAs in England.

Three gear-group specific documents have been developed to establish the evidence base relating to the impacts of different fishing gears on benthic designated features of MPAs.

The MMO are now seeking views and further evidence regarding the content of these documents.

The formal consultation and call for evidence will run from **17 January 2023** to **28 March 2023**.

Links to Information:

Consultation and call for evidence material will be available here:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/stage-2-formal-consultation/>
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/stage-3-call-for-evidence/>

D&S IFCA is helping to communicate this information; however, queries about the subject matter should be raised with the MMO.

[Marine Management Organisation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)