

## Devon and Severn IFCA News

### D&S IFCA Workshop for MSc Marine Conservation Students

D&S IFCA Officers hosted University of Plymouth's MSc Marine Conservation students at a workshop to discuss the scope and detail of the work of the IFCA and to undertake a role play exercise to determine possible management measures for an emerging fishery.



**Devon and Severn IFCA**  
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

**Devon and Severn IFCA**  
Who we are and what we do?

Sarah Clark  
Deputy Chief Officer

Dr Libby West  
Senior Environment Officer

Lauren Parkhouse  
Environment Officer

**Scenario: Welcome to the Devon and Severn IFCA November Quarterly Meeting**

- Today you have been appointed as a member of the D&S Authority
- You will be presented some summarised information on the wrasse fishery
- Today, as an Authority you need to make a decision on how to manage the new fishery

- First you will split into your stakeholder groups
- Discuss your position within your group – remember even within a stakeholder group, opinions can be very diverse!
- Appoint a representative to summarise your sector's views to the Authority
- Make management suggestions based on the options available
- Vote as individuals but decision as an Authority – this may require some compromise from your sector!

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Twenty Four students on the MSc Course in Marine Conservation headed up by Professor Martin Attrill of the University of Plymouth attended a workshop organised and hosted by D&S IFCA Officers in Brixham.

The day was split into two parts – the morning session allowed D&S IFCA the opportunity to describe the broad range of duties and activities undertaken by the D&S IFCA, such as: enforcement and compliance monitoring; MPA management; mariculture; habitat mapping; fishing activity surveys; finfish and shellfish research; marine licence application consultations and planning.

The afternoon session was in the format of a role play workshop replicating a D&S IFCA committee meeting. The students were split into marine sectoral groups and given the scenario of an emerging fishery. Each group then discussed their position in relation to the how to manage the fishery and then presented their options. All options were considered by the students and then as individuals they voted on their preferred management measures. This role play replicated an Authority meeting where each member, who represents a sector or agency, give their evidence and thoughts on how to manage such as fishery and then votes on proposed measures. The workshop was a great success and the students preferred options were in fact similar to those proposed by D&S IFCA for a real-life situation, where D&S IFCA had to decide [appropriate measures to manage the Live Wrasse Fishery](#).

One of the students, Eden Amos, contacted D&S IFCA officers after the workshop and gave the following praise *"Thank you for a great workshop simulating the fisheries management issues the IFCA faces! So inspiring to see such responsibility for our inshore marine environment handled so capably and by such a small team who are required to be scientists, policy makers, enforcers and community leaders alike in their efforts to conserve our marine environment in a constantly shifting landscape! Our IFCA's perform a vital role within our statutory marine management community!"*

D&S IFCA has committed its continued participation in this new University of Plymouth MSc Marine Conservation course and this workshop was the first year of our involvement. The IFCA has also agreed to host MSc student placements and has offered two research projects for 2020.

A pdf of the presentations given during morning session, describing the work of the IFCA, is available [here](#).

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