

Date: 06 February 2019
Our ref: 272676d
Your ref: HPT-MCZ-004 Shrimp push net handworking bait digging crab
tiling SC 2018



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sarah,

Formal advice to D&S IFCA: Hartland Point to Tintagel Marine Conservation Zone Assessment HPT-MCZ-004

Thank you for the above assessment, received by email on 17 December 2018.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

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)¹. The revised approach was subsequently extended to ensure fishing activities in Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are managed in accordance with the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Assessments have been made of the effects of the following fisheries activities in Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ:

- Shrimp push nets, Crab tiling, Handworking (access from land and vessel), Digging with forks (all intertidal features) ref. HPT-MCZ-004

Natural England has considered the assessment prepared by D&S IFCA for the purposes of making an assessment consistent with the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Please accept this letter as Natural England's formal advice on the assessment and the conclusions it makes. We are content that the best available and most up to date evidence has been used to carry out the assessment by D&S IFCA officers, to determine whether management of an activity is required to conserve site features, and thus to ensure the protection of the features, from direct and indirect impacts from the collection of marine fisheries resources.

¹ Defra revised approach: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revised-approach-to-the-management-of-commercial-fisheries-in-european-marine-sites-overarching-policy-and-delivery>

It is Natural England's view that through their assessments, D&S IFCA officers appear to have appropriately identified those activities that are not likely to hinder the conservation objectives of the feature(s) of the MCZ.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Sugar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Sugar
Marine Lead Adviser

Appendix 1 – Minor comments on MCZ Assessment in relation to Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ and Shrimp push nets, handworking (access from land and vessel), crab tiling, digging with forks.

1. Section 4 covering “Gear/feature interaction in the MCZ categorised as ‘red’ risk and overview of management measures” states that: “*Management measures for circalittoral and infralittoral rock are still under consideration (as of December 2017)*” but no further detail is given. It is not quite clear what the implications are for conclusions drawn for these features within this assessment, and some further explanation of this would be helpful.
2. Section 6 – Under “Evidence” before Table 2 there is a missing hyperlink which I think should link through to Annex 2: Pressures Audit Trail?
3. Section 9 – There is another missing hyperlink in the text immediately below Table 4. It is not clear what this should link to.