

Date: 12 February 2019  
Our ref: 273293  
Your ref: BFP-MCZ-002 Towed & dredges vs rock



Sarah Clark  
Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority  
Brixham Laboratory  
Freshwater Quarry  
Brixham  
Devon, TQ5 8BA

Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ  
T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Sarah,

**Formal advice to D&S IFCA: Bideford to Foreland Point Marine Conservation Zone Assessment BFP-MCZ-002**

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)<sup>1</sup>. 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:

- Towed & dredges vs rock, ref. BFP-MCZ-002

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 small, square image containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Liz Bailey'.

Liz Bailey  
Marine Adviser  
Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team  
Natural England  
[elizabeth.bailey@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.bailey@naturalengland.org.uk)

## **Appendix 1 – Minor comments on MCZ Assessment**

1. It is slightly unclear whether the feature *Sabellaria alveolata* is included in this assessment, with it being mentioned in Table 3 and Table 4 but not elsewhere.
2. As of yet, there are no feature maps for the site as we are still awaiting the verification survey report. When polygon data are available for the site's features we recommend that activity maps are reviewed against feature polygons as it may be necessary to make some amendments to closed areas.