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Your ref: TAM-MCZ-003



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Tel. 02080 267589

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sarah,

Re: Formal Advice to D&S IFCA on the assessment of fishing activity for Tamar Estuary MCZ UKMO 20130023

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 (MCZ) are managed in accordance with the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Thank you for the assessment and accompanying appendices for the fishing activities and feature interactions listed in **Appendix 2** of this letter.

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 in accordance with Section 127 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the conclusions it makes.

NE does have some minor comments relating to the assessment but this does not alter the validity of the assessment or the conclusions made (**Appendix 1**).

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 protect 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Roberts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Viv Roberts

Marine Adviser
Natural England

Tel. 02080 267589

Appendix 1: minor comments on the assessment

1. Section 11: Conclusion

NE has noted that D&S IFCA currently believe there is no exposure of the features assessed to the activity crab tiling.

2. Section 7: Evidence: Monitoring and Control Arrangements

NE agree that the proposed future monitoring and control arrangements will identify any future changes in effort levels and/or spatial distribution of the activity.

Appendix 2: List of features and fishing activities for which an assessment has been undertaken

1) Features assessed:

Feature	General management approach
Intertidal biogenic reefs	Maintain to favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain to favourable condition
Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds	Maintain to favourable condition
Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	Recover to favourable condition

2) Fishing activities assessed for interaction with the feature:

- Miscellaneous: Crab tiling