

Date: 12/07/2022  
Our ref: 396991  
Your ref: UKMCZ0057 DAR-MCZ-003 Mixed gear



Sarah Clark  
Devon and Severn IFCA  
Brixham Laboratory  
Freshwater Quarry  
Brixham  
Devon  
TQ5 8BA

Sophie Hare  
Natural England  
Sterling House  
Exeter  
EX1 1PZ

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Sarah,

**Formal Advice to Devon & Severn IFCA: Marine Conservation Zone Assessments for Dart Estuary MCZ – Mixed gear vs. various features.**

Thank you for the above assessment, received by email on 14 June 2022.

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 Dart Estuary MCZ:

- Mixed gear on estuarine rocky habitats, Tentacle lagoon worm, low energy intertidal rock and intertidal mud.

Natural England has considered the assessment prepared by Devon & Severn 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 the assessment out by Devon & Severn IFCA officers to determine whether management of an activity is required to ensure the protection of site features from direct and indirect impacts from the collection of marine fisheries resources.

**It is Natural England's view that through their assessments, Devon & Severn IFCA officers appear to have appropriately assessed the proposed mixed gear activities in relation to the conservation objectives of the features of Dart Estuary MCZ.**

**We agree that mixed gear activities outlined in this assessment, alone and in combination, pose no significant risk to the conservation objectives for of the features of the Dart Estuary MCZ.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Hare  
Marine Lead Adviser.

---

<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>