

Date: 28 March 2023  
Our ref: 422932  
Your ref: DAV-MCZ-002



Sarah Clark  
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## BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sarah,

### **Formal advice to D&S IFCA: Devon Avon MCZ Assessments - DAV-MCZ-002 – Seine Nets**

Thank you for the above assessment, received by email on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

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 Devon Avon MCZ:

- **Seine Nets ref. DAV-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.

It is Natural England's view that, through their assessments, the Devon and Severn IFCA appear to have appropriately identified that the proposed Seine Netting activities in relation to the conservation objectives of the features of the Devon Avon Estuary MCZ, and are not likely to hinder the conservation objectives

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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>

**We agree that seine netting activities outlined in this assessment, alone and in combination, pose no significant risk to the conservation objectives for of the features of the Devon Avon Estuary 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 'Esther Hughes'.

Esther Hughes

Marine Lead Adviser

Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Area Team, Natural England

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