

Date: 27 April 2011
Our ref: 388348
Your ref: D&S IFCA Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ



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Sarah Clark
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Brixham
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By Email Only

Dear Sarah,

D&S IFCA Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ fisheries assessment (2022)

Thank you for your consultation received 21 March 2022

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 objective of this revised approach is to ensure that all existing and potential commercial fishing activities are managed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Defra stated their expectations regarding site level assessments and implementation of management in order to conserve site features. 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.

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

- D&S IFCA Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ fisheries assessment (2022)

Natural England has considered the assessment prepared by your authority 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.

Natural England does have some minor comments relating to the Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ, but this does not alter our views on the validity of the conclusions drawn (Appendix 1: Minor comments on MCZ assessment).

We are content that the best available and most up to date evidence has been used to carry out the assessment by Devon & Severn 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

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>

their assessments, Devon & Severn IFCA officers appear to have appropriately identified those activities that are likely to hinder the conservation objectives of the feature of the MCZ.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely

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Appendix 1 – Minor comments on the MCZ assessment in relation to Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ

- **Page 3; Section 2** - Resource permitting, we would advise that the assessment incorporates the recently published conservation advice package for this site, available at. [Marine site detail \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk)
- It is stated in the conclusion that the VMS and IMS data obtained for all towed gear vessels in the area from 2018-2021 shows that the section of the MCZ in the D&S IFCA District is not fished as previously suggested by the fishing industry. However, figure 7 shows that vessels have entered MPA during the first half of 2021 under the criteria you applied to identify trawling activity. We would advise that more explanation is provided on why this data is disregarded and further explanation on the exclusion of industry testimony regarding fishing activity in the MPA.