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Our ref: 272811  
Your ref: BFP-MCZ-008



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Sarah,

**Formal advice to D&S IFCA: Bideford to Foreland Point Marine Conservation Zone Assessment BFP-MCZ-008**

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 Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ:

- Intertidal handwork: Handworking (access from land), Handworking (access from vessel), Seine nets & others: Shrimp push nets, Miscellaneous: Crab tiling, Bait collection: Digging with folks (all features) ref. BFP\_MCZ\_008

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, 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 handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Porter".

Ruth Porter

<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-deliver>

**Appendix 1 – Minor comments on MCZ Assessment in relation to Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ and intertidal handwork, seine nets and others, crab tiling and bait collection**

1. Section 4 covering “Gear/feature interaction in the MCZ categorised as ‘red’ risk and overview of management measures” states that: “*Management measures for circalittoral and infralittoral rock are still under consideration (as of December 2017)*” but no further detail is given. It is not quite clear what the implications are for conclusions drawn for these features within this assessment, and some further explanation of this would be helpful.