

Devon and Severn IFCA News

D&S IFCA Introduces New Protection Measures for Otters.

D&S IFCA has introduced new measures to protect otters that can get caught in pots. Although not a deliberate action by fishers. (WARNING viewers may find content distressing)



What is the background?

The Environment Agency produced a [report](#) and submitted it to D&S IFCA which demonstrated how otters can force their way into some pots within estuary areas when they are looking for food. They can get stuck and subsequently drown.

What action has been taken?

D&S IFCA issues permits for fishers to use pots. Permits contain restrictions which can be changed when needed by following a review process. To try and protect otters, and make some other required changes to the [Potting Permit Conditions](#), D&S IFCA [consulted](#) with fishers and other stakeholders in order to change the Permit Conditions.

The new Potting Permit Conditions to protect otters will apply to specific pots that may be used within estuaries. The exact detail is provided in the Potting Permit Conditions along with [Annexes \(Charts\)](#) that demonstrate where the restrictions apply.

If you are not a permit holder but would still like to be included in future consultations contact D&S IFCA. You can also subscribe to our free E-newsletter by contacting D&S IFCA.