

## Devon and Severn IFCA News

### Enforcement Officers Reinstate Patrols

**D&S IFCA introduces new Covid-19 mitigation measures to enable patrols to be undertaken at sea and on the shore.**

Due to the Corona Virus Pandemic officers have been following the Governments advice and mainly working from home. We have now managed to put a number of measures in place to mitigate the risk of the pandemic to allow officers to get out on the ground conducting patrols and inspections both on shore and at sea to ensure compliance with regulations.

Should you be approached by any of our officers or encounter us while out on patrol we would ask, for your own safety and for the safety others, that you maintain a safe distance away.

Measures introduced to allow patrols at sea include minimum crew on the boat to ensure safe distance is maintained as best possible. While at sea, currently all boarding's are suspended. So, although you may see us out on the boat, you won't see us coming alongside. You may be contacted via VHF should officers have any questions regarding any activities. Should inspections be necessary these will be conducted in a safe manner once returned to shore.



You may notice that all officers will be wearing Body Worn Video but don't be concerned by this as this is now a routine measure to ensure that any and all engagements are captured. This footage will primarily be used to enable the monitoring of the inspections to ensure all measures are being adhered to and to allow the assessment of the measures in place.

Although officers are equipped with an amount of additional PPE, in line with the advice from the government, the most important protection measure is to ensure distancing requirements are maintained. We would ask that you respect this, and should you wish to talk to an officer, please do so at a respectful distance.



You will also notice some new signage being used while officers are conducting inspections, pictured below. We would again ask that these instructions are respected. Please be aware these measures are in place to protect our officers and you.

Should an officer wish to conduct an inspection, you should expect clear and direct guidance as to

how it will take place. We would ask these instructions are complied with and remind people that if they disregard a reasonable request from a fisheries officer, they would be committing an offence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Since the relaxation there has been a huge rise in the activity levels of the recreational sector, which is to be expected, however please ensure that safety is your paramount concern. Please check your vessel and all safety and communication equipment prior to going to sea.

### **Intelligence Led Enforcement**

Our enforcement work is targeted, and intelligence led. If you see any suspicious fishing activity please report it to us, anonymously if required on 07740 175479.