

Potting Permit Byelaw

Policy Statement & Potting Permit Conditions for the Live Wrasse Fishery

Potting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions have been introduced to manage the Live Wrasse Fishery within D&S IFCA's District. D&S IFCA is tasked with managing a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries, and a viable industry. In addition to the Potting Permit Conditions, voluntary measures have also been introduced to fulfil this remit.

The following management measures form part of the Potting Permit Conditions:

- A 120-pot limitation for each permit holder
- A requirement that all strings of pots used in the Live Wrasse Fishery are marked with 'WRA' and the vessel's PLN
- A requirement that each pot used in the Live Wrasse Fishery is fitted with a tag supplied by D&S IFCA
- A closed season from 1st May to 15th July (inclusive) for the Live Wrasse Fishery
- The removal of rock cook wrasse from a fishery is prohibited
- Minimum and maximum conservation reference sizes for four species of live wrasse:

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|------------------|---------------|
| Ballan Wrasse | 180mm - 260mm |
| Corkwing Wrasse | 140mm - 180mm |
| Cuckoo Wrasse | 150mm - 230mm |
| Goldsinny Wrasse | 120mm - 230mm |

Requested Information:

D&S IFCA has introduced a Fully Documented Live Wrasse Fishery and under Paragraph 17 of the Potting Permit Byelaw, D&S IFCA can request relevant information to discharge its duties. In order to manage the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery and as part of the fully documented fishery the following information may be requested.

1. The name and contact details of the Salmon Farm company, agent, or associated company who the fishermen are supplying live wrasse to.
2. Name and contact details of transport company.
3. Transport documents for all those consignments sent to the Salmon Farm Company.
4. Number of pots actively being used in the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.

Monitoring requirements:

- Fishermen are required to allow D&S IFCA officers on board their vessels or to facilitate a second vessel coming alongside their fishing vessels to enable survey work to be conducted. D&S IFCA's surveys enable robust monitoring of the fishery, allowing D&S IFCA's Officers to gather data of a quality that cannot be gained from fishers' return forms.

Management Review Process:

- D&S IFCA's Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) have determined that a total of 480 tags (for placement on pots) will be available for commercial vessels to engage in the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. The B&PSC has decided that if there is an increase in the number of vessels entering the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery, this will trigger a review of the Permit Conditions for the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. A review of management may lead to further changes to the Potting Permit Conditions which could include a reduction in the number of pots (tag issue) that can be used per vessel.
- The Authority undertakes a regular review of the management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. Data collected from fishermen (when required) and the observer surveys will inform this review which is documented and presented to the D&S IFCA Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee for consideration and decision making.
- Failure to meet all conditions set out in this Policy Statement may also trigger a review of the Potting Permit Conditions.
- In addition to formal management under the Potting Permit Conditions, the Authority may introduce further voluntary measures to support the management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. Failure to adhere to these voluntary measures may lead to a review of the Potting Permit Conditions.

Guidance & Voluntary Measures:

Further to the regulatory conditions, D&S IFCA has developed additional guidance to support these measures and the fishery. This guidance is in the form of voluntary measures to be adopted by those fishermen participating in the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery.

1. The Live Wrasse Pot Fishery currently takes place within the Plymouth Sound and Surrounds SAC and in a small area at the western end of the Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SCI (Bigbury Bay reef area). It is not occurring in the other multiple Marine Protected Areas in the District.
2. A series of small, closed zones to the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery or 'No Wrasse Pot Zones' have been identified through discussions with the fishermen. These areas lie within the fishery area in the Plymouth Sound and associated area and include reef habitat known to be favoured by the wrasse species fished. From research in Norway such areas have been found to afford protection for wrasse species that have high site fidelity and small home ranges/territories. Figure 1 shows the areas to be closed.
3. A small area east of Stoke Point has been allocated as a zone for the fishermen to place wrasse pots for protection against potential gear damage during south westerly storms. Fishermen should notify the IFCA when they will be placing pots in this area and when those pots are removed.
4. Mount Batten Breakwater is known to be a popular angling mark and, in order to remove any conflict with anglers in this area, fishermen are requested to keep their pots 30 metres from the pier.

D&S IFCA Live Wrasse Pot Fishery: Voluntary closed areas for live wrasse pots and the pot protection area

Suggested Eastern Extent of Live Wrasse Fishery

Temporary Pot Protection Zone during SW Storms

Devon & Severn
IFCA
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority