

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending May 2017

General Situation

Chief Officer T Robbins

The announcement of the General Election to be held on 8th June 2017 has meant that all Government departments have been in purdah since 22nd April and will continue until after the election. Purdah prevents much of the work that was underway prior to the announcement of the election from continuing where it conflicts with the rules set out in guidance from the Cabinet Office. This covers much of the work that was started to look at EU Exit and the possibilities for coastal management reform. It also interferes with the process of signing off IFCA byelaws where they have been contentious. These byelaws will need to wait until the new Government has been formed and a new fisheries minister has been appointed.

This quarter has seen very unseasonable weather conditions which has curtailed many of the planned activities of both the enforcement team and the environment team. Strong winds early in the quarter prevented the fishing vessels operating within the district from fishing with any regularity. This prevented the environment team from undertaking regular trips with the local small boats involved in the evolving wrasse fishery. The low level of fishing activity in the coastal waters shifted the effort of the enforcement team away from coastal patrols to inspections on fixed gear within local estuaries and bays.

Meetings have been held during the quarter with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and with the European Marine and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Board to look at the possibility of funding a project to evaluate Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) (Drones) for use by the D&SIFCA in coastal waters. There is now a national project being undertaken by the Department for Transport to evaluate the use of unmanned vehicles for a variety of organisations within Government. Links are being established with this project to look at synergies and whether it is appropriate for the IFCAs to be part of this larger evaluation.

The D&SIFCA application to EMFF to deliver inshore vessel monitoring systems (iVMS) (black boxes) to all mobile gear permitted vessels within the district is currently being reviewed as part of a wider national project. The plan is for all IFCAs to require vessels fishing within their districts to use a tracker system to enable increased compliance and monitoring of coastal waters. Not all IFCAs are as far ahead in the application process as D&SIFCA, there is also concern that the IFCAs and MMO need agreed policy on use of the systems. EMFF have now appointed a project manager to guide this work area through the application process which should help to maintain progress. Whilst D&SIFCA already have a permitting byelaw which would allow the implementation of a requirement for vessels to be fitted with iVMS to fish within the district other IFCAs do not yet have a legislative framework to enable this. It may be that a new national Statutory Instrument has to be introduced which would require all English fishing vessels to be fitted with iVMS whilst in English waters. Currently IFCA byelaws would only apply to vessels working within the six nautical mile fisheries limit.

On 4th March Katherine Stephenson gave birth to Ellie Rose. Both mother and daughter are doing well and Ellie Rose has already visited the offices for her introduction to the work of the IFCA and in particular the environment team.

The improved weather heralded the start of some of the spring and summer fisheries. The level of effort, number of pots, directed towards the coastal cuttle fishery had increased markedly in Torbay and elsewhere. Early indications were that the main fishery was likely to be found in the east of the district into Lyme Bay. One of the problems associated with the rapid increase in effort was the lack of compliance with the marking of gear requirement set out in the Potting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions. Officers are planning to undertake work to reinforce this requirement and have sent out further reminders to all permit holders in preparation of undertaking a targeted operation to deal with continued non-compliance if necessary as the cuttle fishery is symptomatic of an overall issue in the potting fishery at present.

Staying with the potting fisheries, the Authority has received a number of reports from commercial fishermen concerned about the number of egg bearing lobsters (berried lobster) that are being scrubbed, to remove the eggs, and then landed. Nationally, there is a consultation currently on the proposal to prohibit the fishing for and landing of berried lobsters and crawfish by all relevant British fishing vessels registered UK registered fishing vessels, any other relevant British fishing vessels (including those exempt from licensing requirements), and Scottish fishing vessels, fishing in English waters (0-200nm) and/or landing into English ports.

One of the key issues to resolve is the determination of a berried lobster once it has been scrubbed. A test, used extensively in the United States, has been previously used successfully by Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee to detect scrubbed lobsters and the Authority's officers intend to use the same test in the following quarter.

The enforcement team did identify further suspected, illegal activity detailed below and existing cases have continued to require significant staff resource in preparation for anticipated trials. The enforcement officers and the staff as a whole welcomed Kelly Hobson to the team at the start of April. Kelly had previously served for 11 years in the Police and it was evident very early on that the team would benefit from her skills and experience. Unfortunately, the enforcement team remained at full strength for only a short period of time before Officer Laura Bullock tendered her resignation. Laura had been successful in gaining a role with the fisheries team in the Environment Agency and left the Authority employment at the end of May. Laura will be sadly missed as she had contributed a huge amount to the enforcement team. It is not a coincidence that the number of investigations undertaken whilst Laura was part of the team had risen sharply. Laura's contribution to the casefiles was supported by her drive to take every opportunity to engage with the public and fishermen through face to face meeting and her use of other mechanisms such as organising events and social media. The enforcement team must ensure that this momentum created by Laura's initiative is not lost.

The Authority has formally, successfully introduced key elements of the National Intelligence Model. The Authority's officers have worked on intelligence led enforcement operations for the past few years and have welcomed the formal introduction of a policy by which collectively information can be shared, analysed (in the broadest sense) and used to improve the work of the Authority and that of its partner organisations.

The number of new cases under investigation during the reporting period was eight. Two of these investigations have resulted in official written warnings.

Byelaw Review

The submission of the documentation relating to the Netting Permit Byelaw was formally accepted by the MMO Marine Conservation Team on 16th May 2017. It has been confirmed that the maximum time the MMO team will require for Quality Assurance checks and assessing the evidence will be 23rd June 2017.

The Byelaw and Permitting Sub-committee met on 15th May 2017. The members considered changes to the existing Potting Permit Byelaw and Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw. The recommendations from that meeting are considered under Agenda Item 11.

IVMS

The formal application to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund had been submitted through the MMO during the last reporting period. Unfortunately, the funding had not been formally approved by the time of this report.

Training

The new enforcement officer successfully completed her MCA mandatory courses and has started crewing the Authority's patrol vessel.

Working together

The cross warranting issues are still to be resolved so the Authority's enforcement officers have continued to work alongside Marine Enforcement Officers from the Marine Management Organisation during the quarter. As previously reported, officers were working on the basis that the new SI to reintroduce the ability to enforce EU legislation, including the 2017 Bass Regulations, would be in place by the end of June. The Authority received assurances from Defra that Purdah would not affect the timeline for the SI.

Officers have conducted joint patrols with MMO officers and EA officer covering netting in estuaries and landings in Ilfracombe and Brixham.

Enforcement

Further cases have been resolved during the quarter. The master and owner of the fishing vessel Providing Star FD366 pleaded guilty to six offences relating to scallop dredging during the closed season to the east of Lundy Island. The master and owner were fined a total of £12,772 with the Authority recovering all of its costs. Other cases were resolved by the acceptance of a Financial Administrative Penalty (FAP) for scallop dredging during the curfew period of 1900hrs to 0700hrs, a further FAP for scalloping during the closed season, another FAP for fixed net offences.

Investigations (selected)

Offence Date	Investigation complete	Prosecuting Authority	Offence	Location	Outcome/ Current Status
16-23/12/15	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	South of Salcombe	Listed for trial at Plymouth Crown Court on 02/10/17
01 -19/02/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	South of Salcombe	Listed for trial at Plymouth Crown Court on 02/10/17

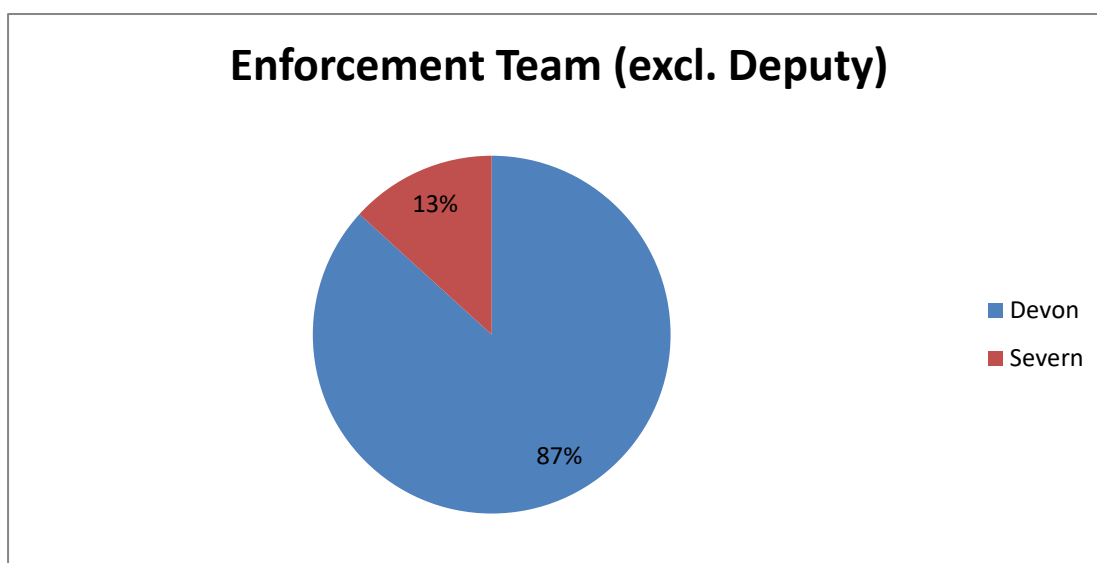
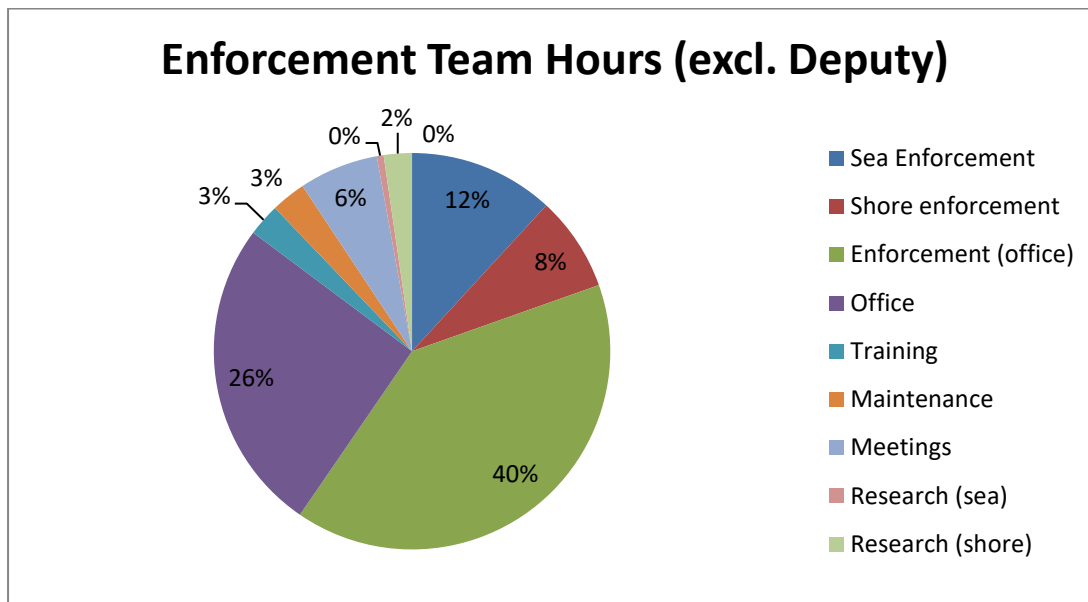
05/07/16	No	D&SIFCA	Scalloping in closed season contrary to Mobile fishing permit Byelaw	East of Lundy	Master and Owner pleaded guilty Fined a total of £12,772
14/08/16	No	D&SIFCA	Scalloping in closed season contrary to Mobile fishing permit Byelaw	Lyme Bay	Accepted £2,000 FAP
06/09/16	No	D&SIFCA	Towing in Start Point to Plymouth Sound SCI	Bigbury Bay	Master owner entered not guilty pleas to 16 charges, case adjourned
20/10/16	No	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging between 1900hrs and 0700hrs	Start Bay	FAP £1,000 accepted
25/10/16	No	D&SIFCA	Retaining undersize edible crab	Beer	Official written warning
08 & 15/11/16	No	D&SIFCA	Use of fixed net	Bigbury Bay	Owner summoned, Case hearing 5 th June Torquay magistrates' court
12/11/16	No	D&SIFCA	Towing in Start Point to Plymouth Sound SCI	SW of Bolt Tail	No Further Action
15/11/16	No	D&SIFCA	Towing in IPA and no trawling area	Start Bay	Official written warning
16/11/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Use of excessive dredges/dredging between 1900hrs and 0700hrs	Lyme Bay	No Further Action
30/11/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Use of fixed nets	Wembury Bay	FAP £1000 accepted

Summary Table: Enforcement Officers' activities undertaken this quarter that fulfill Devon and Severn IFCA Success Criteria.

Success Criterion (SC)	Activities undertaken
SC1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D&SIFCA is building on its own database through the introduction of permit byelaws. Development of new consultation documents for permit condition reviews On line purchase of permits launched

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed minutes of the Byelaw and Sub-committee meetings made publicly available.
SC2 IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All investigations follow the Enforcement procedures for infringements of fisheries legislation adopted by CIFCA and D&SIFCA Case file review undertaken. Adoption of the National Intelligence Model best practices
SC3 IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environment protection within their districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on the three year review of Mobile Fishing Permit conditions undertaken Consultation on proposed permit condition changes to introduce management of live wrasse fishery launched
SC4 IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPA & FOIA training Intelligence reporting training Quarterly reports produced Performance Assessment and Personal Training meeting conducted
SC5 IFCAs make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers' enforcement activities are guided by the targeted enforcement plan referring to received information (IRs) Patrol vessels task and review logs maintained. Officers use information on illegal activity to inform and develop enforcement plans EA emergency hotline operatives and Police aware of D&SIFCA D&SIFCA introduced out of hours contact number 07740 175479 to report suspicious activity.

Summary of Enforcement Officers' duties carried out during the quarter.



Summary

This quarter has seen a shift towards the introduction of management of the activities in MPAs as a result of the assessments undertaken over the past few years. Formal advice from these assessments has shaped the format of the monitoring that will take place. The type of monitoring depends on the activity and the risk of impact. It might be a more softly approach where increased awareness and bycatch recording are what is necessary, to more formal monitoring where adaptive risk management is applied through the development of Monitoring and Control Plans, where activity will be monitored, gear technologies developed and detailed research undertaken on the level of impact.

The wrasse fishery started this quarter and environment officers have developed on-board data collection forms and surveying protocol and have undertaken several surveys on one of the vessels involved. The results of these surveys has fed into the wrasse paper that informed the Byelaw and Permitting subcommittee of details of the activity and responses to the consultation on recommendations for management measures for the fishery. Fishermen involved in the fishery have also been completing logbooks of where they are fishing and their daily landings.

Shellfish surveys have taken place this quarter with many days of intertidal shellfish surveys being undertaken. A significant proportion of time has been spent providing input or advice to various processes relating to coastal development projects on the Severn Estuary. The North Devon Pioneer Project is up and running with a project officer in place and D&S IFCA will continue to be involved in this project as it develops.

Marine Protected Areas

Work, to inform the MPA assessments, has been ongoing for the Tranche 2 MCZs, these being the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ and Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ. GIS mapping has been carried out for the sites and the designated habitats in the sites, and information on fishing activity is being gathered.

Work on a by-catch reporting and awareness-raising scheme for twaite and allis shad started this quarter, as a direct outcome of HRAs for the Severn Estuary and Plymouth Sound EMSs. Shad are a type of herring that spend much of their life in the coastal environment but migrate into rivers to spawn. They are designated as an Annex II species by the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and their populations are thought to have declined dramatically throughout Northern Europe, largely due to water quality issues and barriers to migration in the freshwater phases of their life cycle. Advice from Natural England suggested that in these two sites additional work was needed to improve data on netting effort and levels of bycatch. Flyers are currently being designed to help fishermen correctly identify shad and remind them of the legal requirement for any shad to be returned directly to the sea. A paper is being prepared which will outline the aims of the scheme and provide an audit trail following the outcomes of the HRAs. Additional work including inspection of landings and observations of netting for bycatch of shad will also be proposed as part of this paper.

Draft HRAs for Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC for fish traps were completed and sent to Natural England for informal advice. Comments have been received and will be incorporated into the final HRAs.

Dispensation requests were dealt with and three dispensations were issued for survey work within the district. Previous dispensations dated from 2015 were collated and entered into a spreadsheet to form a database of all previous permissions issued by D&S IFCA. A conference, which focused on Marine Protected Areas, was attended in Poole.

As a result of the MPA assessments that have been completed over the past two years, some changes in management of activities in some of the sites have been recommended. During this quarter, a consultation went out for Mobile Fishing Permit Holders on those changes that have been recommended to protect the features of the site from certain fishing gear types. The consultation has closed and the responses were discussed at the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-committee meeting in May and recommendations will be discussed at the next quarterly meeting in June 2017.

Hand Gathering/ Bait Collection

Data analysis of bait digging data has continued this quarter. Additionally, a number of discussions between IFCA's were held, via telecom and email, to share each IFCA's progress and approach to this work. Hand gathering and bait digging surveys were carried out on the intertidal areas of the Torbay MCZ in order to inform MCZ assessments. These surveys are ongoing until November 2017. Additionally, the Crab Tile Surveys of Devon Estuaries 2016 report was finalised.

Fin Fish

On-board wrasse surveys were carried out on one of the three vessels operating from the port of Plymouth during April and May. These surveys aim to gather more information on the fishery including effort levels, stock information, size distribution, composition of catches and spawning season of wrasse in Plymouth Sound. The data gathered, along with landings data will help inform management of the fishery. Equipment for surveys and forms were developed to aid both the on-board surveys and the data collection by the fishermen. Data analysis of both the on-board survey and fishermen's landings was undertaken and contributed to a paper prepared for the byelaw sub-committee.

Recent work on bass has focused on supporting the D&S IFCA co-funded PhD student, Tom Stamp. This has included supervisory meetings, telecoms and survey work. The first round of formal sampling of Steart Marshes managed realignment in Somerset is planned for late May. The work is helping to characterise important fish habitats in the Severn Estuary, compare manmade and natural saltmarsh and compare with findings from other managed realignment sites in the UK. This information will help D&S IFCA provide evidence-based responses to consultations for developments and contribute data to the bass work plan.

Work on sharks, skates and rays has largely been completed through participation in the Pioneer Project this month.

Shellfish

The annual mussel surveys were carried out on the Taw-Torridge Estuary and the Exe Estuary. Density and extent of mussels are determined in order to assess food availability for birds in both sites as the Taw Torridge is a SSSI and the Exe Estuary is a SPA, both designated for their bird assemblages. NE officers joined D&S IFCA on these surveys, and they are currently inputting the data ready for analysis.

Officers are involved in the development and testing of different scallop stock assessment methodologies, as part of a national drive to improve knowledge of the stocks. Part of this work includes working with Cefas to test the flying array camera system that D&S IFCA uses for underwater video work. Two days were spent with Cefas on board Black Jack in April to undertake this test. Further survey work with them is likely to take place. D&S IFCA officers are also in discussions with Jim Portus of SWFPO and members of the fishing industry to undertake a comparison of the efficiency and accuracy of the camera system with the more traditional dredge stock surveys. Data entry of fishermen's returns for the Salcombe scallop fishery was also completed this quarter.

D&S IFCA responded to the Defra Consultation on the prohibition of landing of berried lobsters, supporting the proposals put forward.

Other Survey Work

A number of telecons were attended in relation to further survey work in the Severn Estuary, trialling the use of a joint-IFCA owned acoustic camera to map and describe *Sabellaria*. The first survey, conducted in autumn 2016 was successful and the project (led by Natural Resources Wales and Natural England) is now focussing on refining methodologies for use in Environmental Impact Assessments for the Severn Estuary. A separate discussion is ongoing about developing a broader PhD using innovative techniques to investigate habitat mapping and fish utilisation of habitats in the Severn Estuary.

Recreational Sea Angling

Work on the FishTrail project has continued this quarter, providing feedback to the film production company on the edits of the first two films. Arrangements for the final two films are now secured; filming for both will take place in June. As part of this, a meeting was held with a local charter boat skipper who will take part in one of the films. The skipper was also involved in the monitoring of the Skerries Bank Angling Zone and discussions were had on the progress of the analysis of the data collected. An email was sent out to D&S IFCA recreational sea angling contacts about participation in the Anglers' Tales section of the FishTrail project and the first follow-up meeting was held to discuss the project in more detail.

Severn Estuary advocacy & governance

A significant proportion of time has been spent providing input or advice to various processes relating to coastal development projects on the Severn Estuary.

Tidal Lagoons

A presentation on the marine fish assemblage of the Severn Estuary and inner Bristol Channel, focusing on what is known and what data gaps exist, was given at the Institute of Fisheries Management renewable energy conference in Bristol. Notably this was the only paper presented on marine fish, with much of the focus on Tidal Lagoons still directed towards migratory species (shad, salmon, sea trout, European eel and sea and river lamprey). Ensuring marine species and the habitats they rely on are not adversely impacted by large-scale renewable energy infrastructure is important for sea fisheries, as the Severn is a notable nursery area and hosts significant adult populations of a number of commercially important fish species. A second workshop was attended, this time hosted by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and ORJIP ocean energy, focusing on the research gaps relating to tidal lagoon development and the science needed to underpin decisions made relating to large-scale marine renewable energy projects.

Aggregate dredging

A telecom was held with ABPmer to discuss D&S IFCA's consultation response submitted to the MMO and NRW regarding an application for a new aggregate dredging site in the Severn Estuary. IFCA officers were not satisfied with the lack of critical review of fish data used in the Environmental Statement or the coverage of recreational sea angling. Following the telecom, ABPmer prepared a follow-up paper, which addressed these issues. Despite this, D&S IFCA officers still have concerns relating to the proposed dredge site, particularly the use of the area by a number of elasmobranch (shark and ray) species and its importance to charter angling boats.

Smaller-scale developments

A meeting relating to future beach management of the stretch of coastline between Blue anchor and Minehead was attended. At Minehead, concerns have been raised about beach works damaging traditional stake-net fishing grounds and the formation of a shingle bank at

the mouth of the harbour has impacts on commercial fishermen and charter angling boats operating from the port.

There are currently plans to build a tidal barrier near Bridgwater in order to prevent tidal flooding of the town and surrounding areas. The placement and operation of the tidal barrier could impact the Parrett estuary, which is important for many species, including bass and mullet. D&S IFCA officers sit on the silt management working group and attend meetings when relevant. Following a series of design decisions, it looks likely that the planned structure will have minimal impacts on marine fish.

Marine Planning and governance

The South West Marine Plan is currently being developed by the MMO. A public workshop was attended in Taunton to input into local priorities and evidence gaps. The Bristol Channel Standing Environment Group (BCSEG) held an emergency simulation exercise in Cardiff. The authorities were given a scenario of an oil spill close to Flat Holme Island and worked through the simulation in real-time to make decisions on how best to protect the vulnerable species and habitats of the estuary.

A meeting of the Association of Severn Estuaries Relevant Authorities (ASERA) was attended in Chepstow.

Severn Partnership working

Somerset Wildlife Trust have employed a new coastal officer, so an initial meeting was held to hear about the new role and discuss D&S IFCA work. A follow up meeting with the marine policy team is in the process of being organised to discuss future work streams and partnership opportunities.

Meetings

A workshop was attended in Dublin hosted by SWAN to discuss Marine Protected Areas in Ireland. The IFCA was invited to attend to provide a perspective from a UK based body. Aspects of how D&SIFCA manages MPAs in its district were discussed in break out groups.

The Lundy MPA Advisory Group and Lundy Management Forum were attended this quarter. All current and future projects for the MPA and Lundy Island were discussed at these meetings with a number of different stakeholders. A telecom was held between the IFCA, Natural England (NE) and the Environment Agency (EA) to discuss plans for an upcoming grab and underwater filming survey the EA and NE are undertaken within the Lundy SAC.

Lauren Parkhouse, EnvO is secretary of the IFCA technical advisory group (TAG) and has been working with the TAG Chair Ron Jessop to plan and organise the next TAG meeting. The South West Marine Ecosystems (SWME) conference was attended by officers and Libby Ross, SENVO chaired a session on marine management. This conference is a great networking opportunity and has seen increased participation from Somerset and Severn Estuary interests in recent years.

Teleconferences regarding MPAs have been joined, including the monthly Management of Fisheries in EMS, which involves all IFCAs, the MMO and Natural England. A teleconference was held with Natural England regarding potting and netting assessments for Torbay MCZ.

Several meetings were attended including the final meeting on the new Plymouth disposal site and the Exe Estuary Officers Working Group meeting was attended. Both the Salcombe and Kingsbridge Estuaries Consultative Forum Meeting and the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) were attended, and updates were given on survey work, the progress of the Netting Permit Byelaw and wrasse fishery. Additionally the TECF boat trip around Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries was attended. The South Devon Biosecurity workshop and Tamar Biosecurity workshop were also attended.

A meeting was held at Brixham with Southern and Cornwall IFCA to discuss the live wrasse fishery. A presentation on the wrasse fishery was given at a MarCoPol seminar and at the Wembury Bay Marine Centre. DSC Clark attended a meeting with one of the Salmon farms and its agents along with CIFCA and SIFCA officers to gather in-depth knowledge on the use of wrasse as cleaner fish and the business plan and forecast for the replacement of the use of wild wrasse with reared wrasse.

The South West Marine Plan is currently being developed by the MMO. A public workshop was attended in Plymouth to input into local priorities and evidence gaps.

The SAGB annual conference was attended in May and DCO Clark, as chair of the Crustacea Committee, chaired a session on the first day. The presentations were very informative, many of which focussed on Aquaculture, which will help inform the development of a D&S IFCA Aquaculture Strategy.

Pioneer project

A number of pioneer project events were attended this quarter. The Pioneer Project includes a series of case studies (terrestrial and marine) which aim to 'pioneer' an approach for implementing the delivery of the Defra 25-year environment plan and adopting a Natural Capital approach to marine management. The North Devon Marine Pioneer programme is being hosted by the North Devon Biosphere Reserve and is part of the overarching marine pioneer programme, with a second marine programme occurring in Eastern IFCA's district. The meetings included a kick-off workshop in Instow, which aimed to guide the vision for North Devon Marine Pioneer programme and a steering group meeting in Exeter. D&S IFCA also sat on the interview panel for the new programme manager.

Training

Three days of dedicated training in statistical data analysis in the programme 'R' was attended in Brixham. This is powerful open-source programming software that will allow IFCA officers, once proficient in the R language, to undertake all statistical data analysis and display, including ecological modelling and multivariate statistics.

Dr Matthew Witt from the University of Exeter spent a day with the environment team discussing statistical elements of survey design and helping to refine current survey plans and protocols.

In-house MEDIN Training was carried out and EnvO Steph Davies attended a Natural England MEDIN Workshop in London. Risk assessment training to inform policy development was undertaken by the DCO.

Enforcement/ shore visits

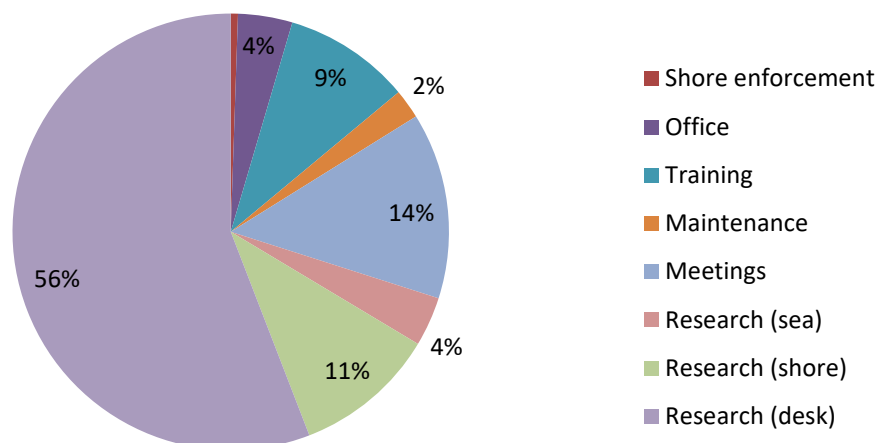
Shore visits were conducted with members of the enforcement team, targeting Sand Bay, Weston-Super-Mare and Uphill.

Success Criteria	
SC 1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority Officers met, engaged and worked with members of SD&CSA, NE, EA, and with fishers around the district • Telecoms have been attended to discuss EMS and MCZ work. • Responded to research and environment enquiries via telephone, e-mail and attended telecoms.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers attended EMS working and management group meetings. • Local partnership meetings and fora were attended. • ASERA meetings were attended and partnership working discussed. • Meetings with NE to discuss HRAs. • IFCA TAG research workshop was attended. • Presentations given at fora and stakeholder meetings • Officers attended SW Marine Plan stakeholder meetings • Mussels surveys undertaken working with NE and volunteers • Presentation given on Severn Estuary fish assemblages at IFM Renewable Energy Conference • Tidal lagoon development workshop attended • Joint working with Somerset Wildlife Trust • Telecoms attended on aggregate dredging • Lundy MPA meetings attended • SAGB conference attended and chaired • MPA conference in Poole attended • Meetings with wrasse industry officials and fishermen organised and attended • Presentation on the live wrasse fishery was given to MarCoPol
<p>SC 2:</p> <p>IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several shore enforcement patrols were undertaken in the district in particular at Sand Bay, Weston-Super-Mare, and Uphill
<p>SC 3:</p> <p>IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRAs undertaken for amber gear / feature interactions in MPA. • Scallop assessment survey undertaken and further planned • Wrasse information was collated and present to Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee to inform management measures • Bass studies have been undertaken • HRA undertaken for derogation requests • Meetings held with Natural England on EMS & MCZ in the district. • Meeting attended regarding PhD on Bass with student and supervisors • Berrow Brean and Burnham Angling Zone monitoring continued. • Hand gathering surveys undertaken in Torbay MCZ • Exe Estuary and Taw Torridge Estuary mussel surveys undertaken • Tranche 2 MCZ habitat mapping and activity monitoring took place • Shad by-catch reporting and awareness scheme developed • D&S IFCA is part of the Pioneer Project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish trail project work continues with 2 films planned for June 2017 • Advice on Severn Estuary coastal projects given • Meetings were held with SIFCA and CIFCA to discuss management of the live wrasse fishery
<p>SC 4:</p> <p>IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of quarterly reports. • On-going meetings with all environment staff on the progress of research projects and HRA. • In-house MEDIN training took place • MEDIN workshop attended • 3 day R-training course will allow officers to undertake all statistical analysis and display results and research interests • Survey design training undertaken – with Dr Matt Witt from Exeter Uni • Risk assessment training was undertaken
<p>SC 5:</p> <p>IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Env Officer sits on TAG and inputs into SOPS and shares research outcomes • Crawfish monitoring survey is ongoing • Devon Estuaries Crab tile survey report completed and will inform HRAs • On-board surveys of wrasse boats undertaken and results analysed • Fishers logbook return on wrasse landing were analysed • Bait survey data was analysed to inform HRA/MCZ assessments • Skerries Bank Angling zone data analysis started • Defra Berried lobster consultation was responded to

Environment Team Hours (excl. Deputy)



Environment Team (excl. Deputy)

