

Fishing activities *not* currently occurring in the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries EMS (SAC & SPA)



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Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Methodology.....	4
3. Fishing activities not occurring in SAC.....	5
3.1 Mobile Fishing Gear.....	5
3.2 Miscellaneous.....	5
4. Fishing activities not occurring in SPA.....	5
4.1 Mobile Fishing Gear.....	5
4.2 Static Gears.....	5
4.3 Passive Gears.....	6
4.4 Seine nets & other.....	6
4.5 Miscellaneous.....	6
5. Summary.....	7

1. Introduction

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). The objective of this revised approach is to ensure that all existing and potential commercial fishing activities are managed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. This approach is being implemented using an evidence based, risk-prioritised, and phased basis. Risk prioritisation is informed by using a matrix of the generic sensitivity of the sub-features of EMS to a suite of fishing activities as a decision making tool to inform Habitat Regulations Assessments carried out by individual IFCA's.

In order to aid the decision making process, Devon and Severn IFCA have gathered information relating to the occurrence of the fishing activities contained within the matrix within each of the European Marine Sites within the district. Whilst the various forms of commercial fisheries in the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries EMS, both historic and present-day are relatively well documented, knowledge of the occurrence (or not) of other fishing methods is largely anecdotal. This report therefore pools official and anecdotal information in order to define fishing activities NOT occurring in the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries EMS.

This report should be thought of as a working document and will be updated if and when fishing activities within or close to the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries change or develop. Additionally further activities may be added to the 'not occurring' list once further evidence of their cessation has been gained. It is not a definitive list and only covers activities which are defined within the generic fishing matrix provided by Natural England.

2. Methodology

A thorough literature review was carried out in order to identify the fishing methods used in Plymouth Sound and its estuaries. This was used to inform the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries EMS Site Action Plan, which then identified fishing activities where more data was required. As part of the national Sea Angling 2012 project and the IFCA's own sea angling research, IFCA officers have been out interviewing sea anglers and bait diggers in the District for over 18 months. This has been a useful way to meet local people who are aware of the fishing activities in the area, both recreational and commercial. Anecdotal information was also collected during meetings with stakeholders, e.g. the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum, and through IFCA Officer's knowledge.

3. Fishing Activities not occurring in SAC

3.1 Mobile Fishing Gear

Towed (demersal), relating only to: Beam trawl (whitefish); Beam trawl (shrimp); Beam trawl (pulse/wing); Heavy otter trawl; Multi-rig trawls; Light otter trawl; Pair trawl; Anchor seine; Scottish/fly seine

Towed (demersal/pelagic)

Towed (pelagic), relating only to: Mid-water trawl (single); Mid-water trawl (pair); Industrial trawls

Dredges (towed), relating only to: Scallops; Mussels, clams, oysters; Pump scoop (cockles, clams)

Dredges (other), relating only to: Suction (cockles...); Tractor

D&S IFCA's Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw prohibits the use of mobile gear within the entire Plymouth Sound & Estuaries European Marine Site.

3.2 Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous, relating only to: Bait Dragging

Bait dragging is a highly localised industry, currently unique to Poole Harbour on the south coast of England, and does not occur in the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries EMS.

4. Fishing Activities not occurring in SPA

4.1 Mobile Fishing Gear

Towed (demersal), relating only to: Beam trawl (whitefish); Beam trawl (shrimp); Beam trawl (pulse/wing); Heavy otter trawl; Multi-rig trawls; Light otter trawl; Pair trawl; Anchor seine; Scottish/fly seine

Towed (demersal/pelagic)

Dredges (towed), relating only to: Scallops; Mussels, clams, oysters; Pump scoop (cockles, clams)

Dredges (other), relating only to: Suction (cockles...); Tractor

D&S IFCA's Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw prohibits the use of mobile gear within the entire Plymouth Sound & Estuaries European Marine Site.

4.2 Static Gears

Static – fixed nets, relating only to: Gill nets; Trammels; Entangling

D&S IFCA's Byelaw 19 prohibits the use of nets with the Tamar, Plym and Yealm Estuaries.

4.3 Passive Gears

Passive – nets, relating only to: Drift nets (demersal)

D&S IFCA's Byelaw 19 prohibits the use of nets with the Tamar, Plym and Yealm Estuaries.

4.4 Seine nets & other

Seine nets & other, relating only to: Beach seine/ring nets; Shrimp push-nets; Fyke & Stakenets

D&S IFCA's Byelaw 19 prohibits the use of nets with the Tamar, Plym and Yealm Estuaries.

4.5 Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous, relating only to: Bait Dragging

Bait dragging is a highly localised industry, currently unique to Poole Harbour on the south coast of England, and does not occur in the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries EMS.

5. Summary

Gear Type	Specific gear type	Reason for not occurring
Towed (demersal)	Beam trawl (whitefish)	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Beam trawl (shrimp)	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Beam trawl (pulse/wing)	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Heavy otter trawl	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Multi-rig trawls	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Light otter trawl	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Pair trawl	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Anchor seine	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Scottish/fly seine	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
Towed demersal/pelagic		Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
Towed (pelagic)	Mid-water trawl (single)	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Mid-water trawl (pair)	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Industrial trawls	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
Dredges (towed)	Scallops	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Mussels, clams, oysters	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Pump scoop (cockles, clams)	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
Dredges (other)	Suction (cockles...)	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
	Tractor	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
Static - fixed nets Only applies to SPA	Gill nets	D&S IFCA Byelaw 19
	Trammels	D&S IFCA Byelaw 19
	Entangling	D&S IFCA Byelaw 19
Passive – nets Only applies to SPA	Drift nets (demersal)	D&S IFCA Byelaw 19
Seine nets & other Only applies to SPA	Beach seine/ring nets	D&S IFCA Byelaw 19
	Shrimp push-nets	D&S IFCA Byelaw 19
	Fyke & stakenets	D&S IFCA Byelaw 19
Miscellaneous	Bait dragging	This activity is currently unique to Poole Harbour