



Sand Eel Trawling

Have Your Say

The Development of Permit Conditions

What's the purpose of this information gathering exercise?

D&S IFCA is inviting you to have your say on the development of Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions to manage the activity of sand eel trawling for both commercial and recreational fishers. Your view is important, and we encourage you to forward this information if you know others that may have an interest.

- The information gathering exercise ends on Friday 17th January 2020.

We are directly contacting everyone on our mailing list and are giving you options on how to respond. All stakeholders can respond even if they don't conduct the activity. This document includes the initial proposals, links (if reading in electronic format) to further information and explains how you can participate in the process. This information gathering exercise is based around six questions that are set out after some background information.

Background Information - Why introduce permit conditions?

D&S IFCA must manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within its District. This is specified within the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009. D&S IFCA is reviewing the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw and the associated permit conditions. The Byelaw must be reviewed after five years and the review and drafting work will extend into 2020. Giving you the opportunity to have your say is part of this review process.

The Devon and Severn IFCA Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee, who are tasked with the review work, have recognised sand eels as a key prey species. Sand eels are a food resource for fish and birds in the entrances to estuaries and within shallow bays. The introduction of permit conditions is seen as an appropriate measure to manage the activity of sand eel trawling and will enable D&S IFCA to collect landing data from all permit holders if required.

Background Information - Who can have a permit to catch sand eel?

Commercial and recreational fishers can qualify for two new and different categories of mobile fishing permit conditions (Category 3 and Category 4) that will have different conditions of use.

Commercial fishers could be issued with a Category 3 Permit. Commercial fishers would need a vessel less than seven metres in overall length and have a valid fishing licence.

Recreational fishers could be issued with a Category 4 permit. Recreational fishers would need a vessel less than seven metres in overall length.

Permits will allow fishers using vessels below seven metres in overall length to conduct sand eel trawling (with restrictions) at sea and into estuary areas. The seven-metre overall length restriction is the same as that already imposed by the existing Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw.

Proposals and Questions:

Permit Restrictions:

The proposal is to develop restrictions under the permit headings of Catch, Gear, Spatial and Time. Conditions of use will be different for commercial and recreational fishers as the needs of these fishers are different. The proposals are listed to help you consider your response to one, some or all of them:

Question 1: Your Interests

What interest do you have regarding commercial or recreational sand eel trawling?

Question 2: Catch Restrictions

These are the proposed catch restrictions:

- a) Only sand eels will be able to be retained.
- b) A recreational fisher with a Category 4 permit can catch up to 25kg of sand eel per calendar day.
- c) A recreational fisher with a Category 4 permit will not be able to sell their catch.
- d) A commercial fisher with a Category 3 permit will have no limit on the amount of sand eel that they can catch.

What is your view on the proposed catch restrictions (a to d) as set out above?

Question 3: Gear Restrictions

These are the proposed gear restrictions:

- e) A sand eel trawl used by recreational and commercial fishers can have maximum mesh size (cod end) of 16mm.
- f) There will be no limit of the overall dimensions of the trawl gear.
- g) Recreational fishers will not be able to use any mechanical assistance and must hand haul the sand eel trawl.
- h) A sand eel trawl used by a recreational fisher can only be towed by a single vessel.

What is your view on the proposed gear restrictions (e to h) as set out above?

Question 4: Spatial Restrictions

Category 3 and 4 permits will allow for the relatively small-scale sand eel trawling to be conducted at sea and into the estuary areas. It is proposed that there will be an initial spatial restriction.

- i) Commercial and recreational fishers will not be authorised to conduct sand eel trawling in areas that contain seagrass.

What is your view on the proposed spatial restriction as set out above?

Question 5: Time Restrictions

There are expected to be no time restrictions imposed by either the Category 3 or Category 4 permit conditions.

Do you have any suggestions for suitable time restrictions?

Other Information

Obligations

The Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw will contain a provision that the permit holder must provide any information required by the Authority for the purpose of discharging its functions. This means that the permit holder may be required to supply landing data to D&S IFCA.

Permit Fees

There will be a fee for a permit. The fee will recover the full administration cost of issuing a permit. It is envisaged that the cost of a Category 3 or Category 4 permit will be £40 for a two-year period.

Question 6: Other Information

Do you have any comments on the other information as set out above?

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How will your information help us?

We will collate the information you provide, and this may help our Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee in their decision making. During 2020, work will continue re-drafting the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw and the associated permit conditions. There will be further consultation in 2020. When the revised Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw is at an advanced state it will be subjected to a formal period of consultation and stakeholders will have the opportunity to support or object to its introduction.

How you can have your say

You have several options to choose from:

1. Contact us via email – consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk
2. Write to us
3. Telephone us and come along in person and speak to one of our officers during dedicated time slots which are as follows:

Tuesday 17 th December 2019	(16.00 to 18.00 hrs)
Wednesday 8 th January 2020	(16.00 to 18.00 hrs)
Saturday 11 th January 2020	(10.00 to 12.00 hrs)
Thursday 16 th January 2020	(16.00 to 18.00 hrs)

Visit us:

Devon and Severn IFCA
Brixham Laboratory,
Freshwater Quarry,
Brixham,
TQ5 8BA.

Phone us:

01803 854648

- **This information gathering exercise ends on 17th January 2020.**

Further Information

Further detail about our byelaw review and the work conducted by our Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee can be found in our [guide](#) that is posted on the D&S IFCA website or available upon request.

Reports presented to and discussed by the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee can be found on the D&S IFCA website in the [Resource Library](#) or are available upon request.

Minutes of Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee meetings can be found on the D&S IFCA website in the [Resource Library](#) or available upon request.

How to follow our work?

If you are not already on our mailing list, then you can get yourself added by [contacting D&S IFCA](#) or by using this [link](#). You will then be directly notified of all our consultations. You will also receive our free e-newsletter.

Keep an eye on our [consultation page](#) on our website to read about other work being done and how you can get involved and have your say.

Follow our [latest news items](#) displayed on our website or our face book page.

Explore our website [Resource Library](#) for an extensive range of our information and publications. It's all free.

What do we do with your information – Privacy Policy

We protect any personal data that you may provide. Any personal data submitted in this information collecting process will not be shared with others. The content of responses will be summarised and anonymised where appropriate for documenting in reports that will be presented to the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee and published on our website.

D&S IFCA has a privacy policy which can be found by visiting our website (home page) www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

- You can change your preferences at any time.
- We have a duty to consult with D&S IFCA Permit Holders.

You can manage your preferences by contacting D&S IFCA.

End.