

# Devon and Severn IFCA News

## Back Out on Patrol

**Officers have increased their presence whilst employing new measures to ensure safety.**

Routine patrols have been risk assessed and, whilst the current Covid-19 restrictions are in place, have been deemed non-essential. Officers are instead relying on intelligence gathered to co-ordinate and prioritise patrols. Officers are equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to help keep themselves and others safe whilst conducting their duties in different areas of the District. Officers have made recent visits to the following areas:

- **Plymouth**
- **Budleigh Salterton**
- **Teignmouth**

### Plymouth



Patrols in Plymouth have included conducting checks on compliance regarding the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. The fishery, in D&S IFCA's District, is highly regulated with [potting permit restrictions](#) and [voluntary measures](#) in place to manage the fishing activity.

The fishery is limited to an area in and around Plymouth Sound. There are currently four commercial fishermen that are issued with tags by D&S IFCA that must be placed on their wrasse pots. Recreational fishers can't use pots to remove live wrasse in the District.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> May until the 15<sup>th</sup> July, there is a closed fishing period and during this time no pots can be used to remove live wrasse. Officers regularly undertake patrols to monitor compliance with the restrictions that are in place.

### Budleigh Salterton



Shore patrols of Budleigh Salterton and the surrounding area have focussed on recreational potting activity.

Recreational fishers wanting to use pots to catch crab or lobster within the D&S IFCA District, require a Category Two Potting Permit. The permit sets out different conditions which need to be adhered to; such as a catch limit per calendar day of 2 lobsters from the species of lobster and spiny lobster, and 3 crabs from the species of edible crab and spider crab.

The catch must also comply with the Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes' (MCRS) set out within the [Potting Permit Conditions](#). A [list of MCRS](#) is also posted on the D&S IFCA website.

If you need a potting permit you can find out more information by visiting the website of by contacting D&S IFCA. There is an option to apply for a permit online by clicking [here](#).

### **Teignmouth**

Patrols of the Teignmouth area have included conducting different checks on the estuary.



The Bass Nursery Area is active within the River Teign between the 30th April and the 1st November.

During this time, you are prohibited from retaining any bass caught from a boat or from using sand eel as bait. Fishing from the shore for bass is permissible.

There is a district wide restriction on the amount of bass that can be taken each day by recreational fishers. During the months of March to November inclusive, no more than two bass per person can be taken.

From the 1st December 2020, the two bass per day restriction becomes catch and release only.

The Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) for any bass to be retained is 42CM, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin.

D&S IFCA has information about current bass regulations posted on its website. You can view our website display page [here](#).

### **Other Monitoring**

Officers have also been monitoring the collection of shellfish. A temporary closure on the public mussel beds within the Teign and the Exe Estuaries was introduced in May 2019 and remains in place. It is prohibited for any person to remove mussel from the public beds. More information about the temporary closures, including the areas subjected to the prohibition on removal can be found [here](#).

### **Reporting Suspicious Fishing Activity**

We use the intelligence we receive to target our enforcement work. If you see any suspicious fishing activity within D&S IFCA's District please report it directly to us, anonymously on:

07740 175 479

You can subscribe to our free E-newsletter by contacting D&S IFCA or subscribe yourself by clicking [here](#).