



Inshore Insights

Spring Newsletter – April 2019

Welcome to our e-newsletter.

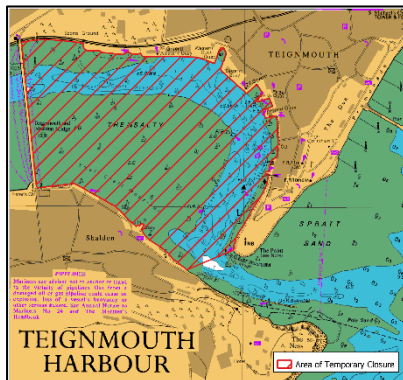
It provides you with an insight into some of our core work that is all related to the management of Inshore Fisheries.

Please visit our website www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk for more information and news items.

Our Headline News

D&S IFCA Set to Close Public Shellfish Beds

Public Shellfish Beds in the Teign And Exe Estuary will be closed on 1st May 2019



The D&S IFCA Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee has taken the decision to apply a temporary closure to public shellfish beds in both the Teign and Exe Estuary. Defined areas in both estuaries will be closed from 1st May 2019. The closure applies to both commercial and recreational fishers and is for mussel, not other shellfish such as oysters, clams and periwinkles.

Why?

The stocks of Mussels in both the Teign and Exe Estuary are severely depleted. Efforts are being taken to re-stock areas and a temporary closure will help to protect transplanted mussel.

Where exactly are the closures?

Teign: The Salty and Polly Steps ([Larger Chart](#))
Exe: The Eastern Banks ([Larger Chart](#))

Charts have been prepared of the specific areas that are closed and look out for D&S IFCA notices of the areas that are being placed in strategic locations in both estuaries.

[Read More:](#)

D&S IFCA Annual Plan 2019 – 2020

Have a read of the D&S IFCA Annual Plan for 2019 – 2020



On 14th March 2019, members of the Authority were presented with a draft 2019 - 2020 Annual Plan.

Members discussed the plan and suggested some minor amendments which have now been made.

The plan includes the use of tables that help identify the different tasks that D&S IFCA will complete and dates for expected completion of the different workstreams.

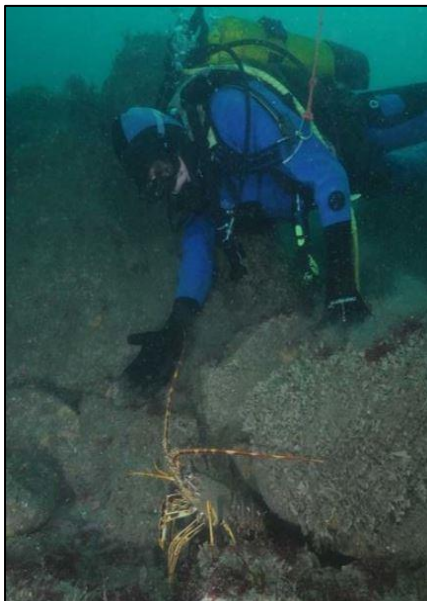
Click [here](#) to view the final 2019 - 2020 D&S IFCA Annual Plan

Consultation News - Have Your Say

All stakeholders are invited to have their say on potential changes to permit conditions that may affect how fishing methods can be conducted.

Potential Changes to the Diving Permit Conditions

D&S IFCA give you the opportunity to have your say on some specific proposals



From 15th March 2019, D&S IFCA will be seeking the views of all stakeholders on some potential changes to the Diving Permit Conditions. Your answers should be submitted by 12th April 2019.

[Click to view the proposals and see how you can respond](#)

Information is also posted on our [consultation page](#).

[Read More:](#)

Potential Changes to the Potting Permit Conditions

D&S IFCA gives you the opportunity to have your say on a change to the Potting Permit Conditions



From 15th March 2019, D&S IFCA will be seeking the views of all stakeholders on a potential change to the Potting Permit Conditions. Your answer should be submitted by 12th April 2019.

[Click to view the proposal and see how you can respond](#)

Information is also posted on our [consultation page](#).

[Read More:](#)

A Call for Information – Bait Digging

D&S IFCA are seeking your views on the management of Bait Digging.



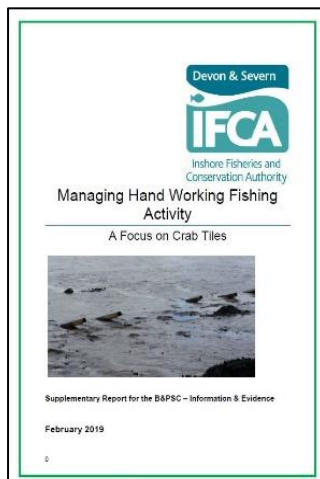
Your View is Important. D&S IFCA are inviting you to have your say on how, in your view, the fishing method of bait digging could or should be managed in the D&S IFCA District. The information that you provide can be added to D&S IFCA's baseline information. Your answers should be submitted by 26th April 2019.

Information is also posted on our [consultation page](#).

[Read More:](#)

Update on Crab Tiles – A Call for Information

D&S IFCA asked for your views on the management of crab tiles. You told us, and a summary report has now been compiled.



A Call for Information – A Focus on Crab Tiles – campaign was conducted between 4th January and 8th February 2019. We asked all interested parties to examine the information we had prepared about crab tiles and then give us their views on how this fishing activity could or potentially should be managed in the D&S IFCA District. Your view is important and D&S IFCA would like to thank all of those that submitted a response.

[Read the Summary of Response Report \(here\)](#)

Information is also posted on our [consultation page](#).

[Read More:](#)

Do you prefer to talk to an officer in person?

We try and give you options so you can give us your view. This includes surgery sessions where you can visit us in person and talk to an officer.

We have two sessions remaining in April 2019 as follows:

Tuesday 9th April	16.00 to 18.00	(Diving, Potting and Bait Digging)
Thursday 25th April	16.00 to 18.00	(Bait Digging)

Keep yourself up to date with potential changes that may affect you

Our [consultation page](#) on our website is a good place to follow this area of our work. We directly notify all our contacts about our Call for Information campaigns. If you are not on our mailing list get in touch and we will add you.

Enforcement News

Increased patrol capabilities for D&S IFCA

Launch of new patrol vessel, named David Rowe in memory of former Authority Member



On 14th March, D&S IFCA launched and named their new 7.8 metre patrol boat, Fisheries Patrol Vessel (FPV) David Rowe, in memory of the former Authority member who sadly passed away last April.

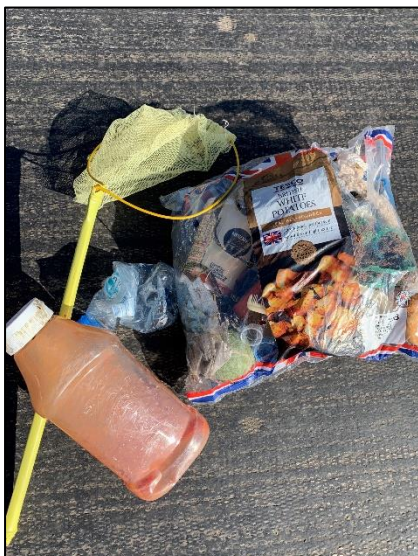
Members of David's family joined Authority members and D&S IFCA Officers at the naming ceremony in Brixham.

David was the Chairman of the [Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee](#) and oversaw D&S IFCA's pioneering use of activity based permitting Byelaws. D&S IFCA is the only IFCA to use these to deliver its management. David was a tremendous supporter and advocate for the D&S IFCA who are proud to name the boat in his memory.

[Read More:](#)

D&S IFCA Officers Patrol... and Beach Clean

While waiting for boats to return to Beer Beach, so they could be inspected, Officers took it upon themselves to do some litter picking



D&S IFCA Officers recently conducted a recent patrol of the fishing villages and towns of East Devon.

While waiting for boats to return to Beer Beach, some they could be inspected, Officers took it upon themselves to do some litter picking, using litter pickers and bags hung up by the Beach Office.

Keeping Britain's beaches clean is very important to protect wildlife as well as tourism and the fishing industry. If you would like to get involved in a Beach Clean then check out the Marine Conservation Society's [Beachwatch](#) page, where you can sign up to local beach cleans or organise your own.

[Read More:](#)

D&S IFCA joint patrol with the MMO

D&S IFCA have been conducting joint patrols with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in preparation for the EU exit.



Recently D&S IFCA have been supporting the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) with their EU Exit preparations by conducting joint patrols that have extended outside the D&S IFCA boundaries out to the 12 Nautical Mile limit.

The most recent patrol included the boarding and inspection of a foreign fishing vessel which resulted in an offence being detected.

[Read More:](#)

Reporting Suspicious Activity

We use the intelligence we receive to target our enforcement work.

If you see any suspicious fishing within the D&S IFCA then please report it directly to us, anonymously on 07740 175479.

Environment News

Comprehensive Review Planned for the Live Wrasse Fishery

Restrictions on the fishery are un-changed to allow for a third year of consistent monitoring.



The fishery will be monitored for a third year so a comprehensive review relating to three years of consistent data can be conducted. The results will be assembled into a full report that will be presented in February 2020 to the D&S IFCA Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee. There are no changes this season to either the relevant Potting Permit Conditions or any of the voluntary measures that include limiting where the activity can take place.

[Read More:](#)

Meeting hosted by CEFAS in regard to work being carried out on the Live Wrasse Fishery.

D&S IFCA attended a meeting at the CEFAS office in Weymouth to present on the current findings from the data collected during 2018.



CEFAS Weymouth hosted a meeting for the three IFCAs (Devon & Severn (D&S IFCA), Cornwall (CIFCA) and Southern (SIFCA)), a representative from Loch Duart, a PhD student from Exeter, a local fisher and individuals from CEFAS. The meeting provided an opportunity for everyone to come together and present on the work they are currently conducting and the current management on the Live Wrasse Fishery and looking ahead to 2019 and beyond.

[Read More:](#)

D&S IFCA Highlights Work Undertaken on Marine Protected Areas

Marine Protected Areas

Devon & Severn IFCA
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

- 10 European Marine Sites
- 4 Tranche 1 MCZs
- 2 Tranche 2 MCZs
- 6 recommended Tranche 3 MCZs
- 1,881km² of MPAs
- 42% of D&S IFCA's district is currently covered by MPAs
- 58 management measures have been introduced restricting activities in MPAs

Research

- Drop down video, side scan sonar and other sensors are used to ground truth habitats, such as reefs and seagrass and the impact of fishing activities on them.
- Acoustic technology such as echosounders (EM) are used on the seabed to assess the level of fish collection.
- Evidence gathering on protected species such as shell and spring habitats also ensures the right management is put in place.
- Work has been done in collaboration with Cefas, Academics, Natural England, Environment Agency and the fishing industry.

MPA Assessments

These are carried out to assess the impact of commercial fishing activities on the habitats and species that are protected under the MPA designation. D&S IFCA has undertaken almost 200 assessments covering 1700 interactions of fishing gear on MPA features.

Management

The MPA assessments inform the management of fishing activities in MPAs. D&S IFCA has introduced flexible and adaptive Permitting Schemes for Mobile Gear, Trawling, Netting and Dredging in its district. Permit conditions manage pressure on 'sensitive' areas, with restricted gear and landing size restrictions. Many of these measures have been introduced to protect sensitive habitats and species.

Vessel Monitoring Systems

D&S IFCA has introduced innovative new technology by introducing Vessel Monitoring Systems to all the mobile fishing vessels in the district, through its Mobile Fishing Permit System. Effective monitoring using VMS systems will safeguard MPAs, where sensitive features have been protected from the impacts of commercial gear.

D&S IFCA Officers attended an event at the Houses of Parliament to showcase the work undertaken by the IFCA's associated with Marine Protected Areas.

D&S IFCA has produced a banner to help demonstrate where the areas are and some key information including the types of research work being undertaken.

D&S IFCA has:

10 European Marine Sites

4 Tranche 1 MCZs

2 Tranche 2 MCZs

6 recommended Tranche 3 MCZs

1881 km² of MPAs

42% of the D&S IFCA District is currently covered by MPAs

58 management measures have been introduced by D&S IFCA restricting activities in MPAs

Click [here](#) to view the larger scale D&S IFCA banner.

If you're interested in our Environment and Research work, you can find a large collection of reports and information that are published in [Section H of our website Resource Library](#)

Legislation & Permits

Bass Restrictions for 2019

In 2019 between the 1st April and 31st October the restrictions for catching bass by recreational fishers is one per person per day.



New regulations have been published. For recreational fishers a bag limit of one European Sea Bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) per day from the 1st April to 31st October 2019 will be implemented.

What does this mean?

1st January to 31st March 2019, it is catch and release only for recreational fishers

1st April to 31st October 2019, a bag limit of one fish per day is allowed

1st November to 31st December 2019, it is catch and release only for recreational fishers

The MCRS for Bass remains at 42cm.

Read More ([revised rules for 2019](#))



Do you need a permit?

D&S IFCA issue permits to manage different fishing activities. These include:

- Mobile Fishing (Trawling, Scallop Dredging & Ring Netting)
- Potting
- Netting
- Diving for crab, lobster and scallops

If you conduct these fishing methods, you need a permit. Visit our [on-line shop](#) or contact the office to get an application form. Have a look at our [enforcement page](#) and scroll down to examine the different permits to see what conditions of use apply.

Other Selected News Items

December 2018 News Items

- [Defra Reports on the Conduct & Operation of D&S IFCA](#)
- [D&S IFCA assists with classification sampling of mussels](#)
- [Live Wrasse Fishery Research Report](#)
- [Severn and Somerset Netting Patrols](#)

January 2019 News Items

- [A Call for Information – Crab Tiles](#)

February 2019 News Items

- [AIFCA News Release – Management of English Inshore Marine Protected Areas](#)
 - [UK Scallop Management Conference](#)
 - [Crab Tiles – An update on the Call for Information Campaign](#)
 - [Bass Restrictions for 2019 – Confirmed](#)
 - [D&S IFCA Monitors Scallop Dredging in Salcombe](#)
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Follow Our Work

Keep up to date with our work which may affect you.

Keep an eye on our news stories posted on our [website home page](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#) or Twitter.

For an in-depth look at our work have a look in our [website resource library](#).

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