



# Inshore Insights

## Late Summer Newsletter – August 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.

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

You can visit our website [www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](http://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk) for more information and news items.

## Our Headline News

### New Potting & Diving Permits Issued

Following consultations with stakeholders the conditions for both the Diving and Potting Permits have now changed. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019, D&S IFCA has been circulating new permits.

#### What changes were made to the conditions?

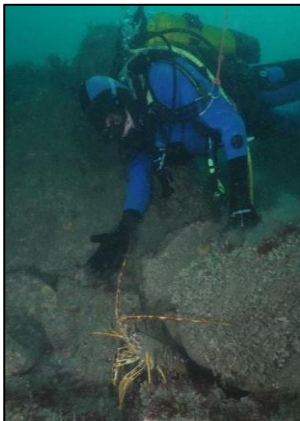


##### Potting

One of the Potting Permit Conditions that related to the use of bait has now been removed. This was due to the landing obligations 2019 Rules and Regulations.

A process was flowed to amend the Potting Permit Conditions which included consultation.

[Read More:](#)

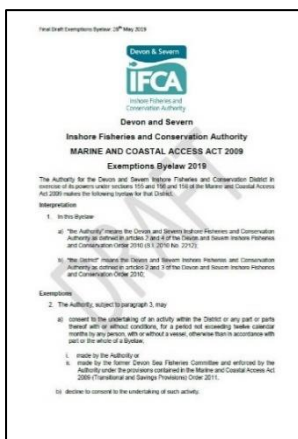


##### Diving

Several changes were made to Diving Permit Conditions including the use of Annexes (Charts) to accompany the Permit Conditions. New conditions include additional protection measures for spiny lobster and an increase in the number of scallops that can be taken in a calendar day by a recreational diver. The bag limit for scallops was increased from 15 to 25 scallops.

[Read More:](#)

### Development of New Exemptions Byelaw



The proposed exemptions Byelaw 2019 has now been subjected to a formal consultation period which ended on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

All responses will be evaluated by the D&S IFCA Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) in September 2019.

The B&PSC will be considering submitting the Byelaw to Defra so it can be considered for confirmation.

What is the exemptions Byelaw?

[Read More:](#)

## D&S IFCA Submit Final Responses to Hinkley Point C Consultations



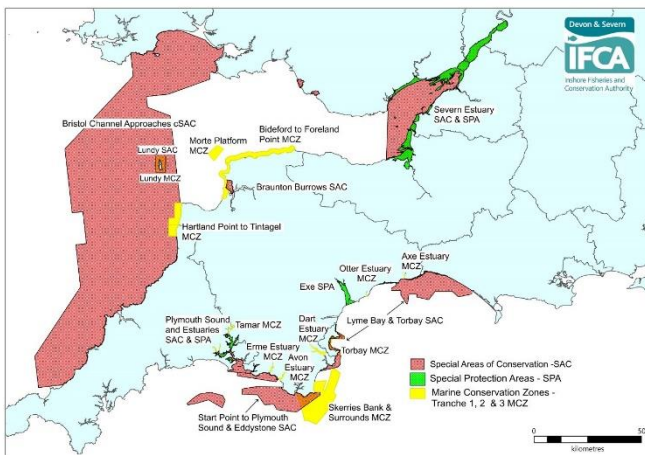
Hinkley Point C, which is currently under construction, is a new generation nuclear power station situated on the Somerset coast.

Hinkley Point C nuclear power station will abstract billions of gallons of water per day from the Severn Estuary European Marine Site as cooling water which will kill large numbers of primarily juvenile fish.

Permission for this was dependent upon a series of protection measures for fish. EDF Energy have applied to the Planning Inspectorate to remove one of these protection measures; the need for Acoustic Fish Deterrents.

D&S IFCA is concerned about the lack of consideration of the effects on the fish at a community level in the Severn Estuary and the uncertainties in stock structure for many species. D&S IFCA submitted a [response to the consultations](#) held by EDF Energy and the Environment Agency. [Read More:](#)

## New MCZ Sites for D&S IFCA Announced



Environment Secretary Michael Gove has announced the creation of 41 new Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), six of which are located within the D&S IFCA District. These new designations bring the total number of MCZs in the D&S IFCA District to 12. 42.3% of the D&S IFCA District is now covered by Marine Protected Area designations including MCZs. D&S IFCA's Metrics are set out in the 2019-20 Annual Plan.

[Read More:](#)

## New Chair for D&S IFCA



On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Professor Mike Williams, whose expertise is in seabed and foreshore law, was elected as Chair of D&S IFCA and replaces Elaine Hayes who stepped down. Professor Williams has served as Vice-Chair and since last year has been the Chair of the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee.

Professor Williams has been influential in pioneering several new ways of working, including the development of activity-based permit byelaws that are used to manage different fishing activities in the D&S IFCA District. [Read More:](#)

## Have Your Say

### The Future of our Inshore Fisheries Conference



Fishermen are invited to bring their experience and ideas to a special conference which will shape future management of inshore fisheries.

The events are being held in London on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

A limited number of bursaries/funding to cover attendance costs are available. Contact Holly Kaiser on 0131 558 3331 or email [holly.kaiser@seafish.org](mailto:holly.kaiser@seafish.org)

#FutureOfOurInshoreFisheries

For further information and to book your place visit [www.seafish.org](http://www.seafish.org)

### D&S IFCA Consultations/Have Your Say

All stakeholders are invited to have their say in our Call for Information Campaigns. There are no consultations being conducted at this time, but there have been several conducted recently relating to different subjects.

Reports are written that document the responses (anonymised and summarised) we received.

#### Did you have your say?

- The Management of Crab Tiles: [Report](#)
- The Management of Bait Digging: [Report](#)
- The Management of Hand Gathering Fishing Activities: [Report](#)

#### What happens with the information?

The above reports are presented to the D&S IFCA Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC). Your response can assist the decision making of the B&PSC who review and develop new byelaws. In November 2019 the B&PSC will be discussing the management of all Hand Working Fishing Activities.

#### Keep yourself Informed

When a consultation is about to begin, we directly notify all our permit holders (fishers) and all our contacts on our email mailing list. You may not want to engage and if so, just ignore the email. Our [consultation page](#) on our website is also a good place to follow this area of our work.

We have a duty to consult with our permit holders. If you are not a permit holder you can choose to unsubscribe from our mailing list by contacting D&S IFCA.



## Enforcement News

### Multi Agency Patrol at Teignmouth and Shaldon

**D&S IFCA and other agencies investigate the concerns raised by the public relating to large scale cockle collection.**



There has been an increase in reports from the general public about large scale hand collection of cockles on the Teign Estuary.

Devon and Severn IFCA currently have no byelaw restrictions in place at this time regarding the levels of cockles that can be collected from the public beds for personal consumption and this limits what action can be taken. Despite this, a multi-agency patrol including Devon and Cornwall Police, Environmental Health and Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority was conducted recently to investigate the concerns raised.

As part of this operation, whilst other agencies concentrated on the background of potential gang organised cockle picking and where the cockles would potentially be taken, D&S IFCA Enforcement Officers were able to focus efforts on educating those who did not know about a current [prohibition on the removal of mussel](#), that was introduced in May 2019 via the Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw . The same byelaw can't be used to close public cockle beds.

D&S IFCA is currently reviewing its management of Hand Working Fishing Activities. [Read more](#) to find out what is being done and discussed with a view to potentially manage cockles in the future.

### Round Up of Recent Prosecutions



Enforcement Officers from the D&S IFCA have recently finalised 4 investigations of illegal fishing activity. The cases involved operating without current permits and retaining undersized shellfish.

The minimum conservation reference size for whelks increased in the D&S IFCA District on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 to 55mm. The size will increase to 65mm on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

[Read More:](#)

## D&S IFCA Respond to Increase in Reported Illegal Netting Activity



Recently there have been numerous reports from concerned members of the public and the fishing community that the estuaries within South Devon are yet again being targeted by individuals operating illegally during the hours of darkness.

Officers actioned a plan to investigate the suspicious activity which involved use of the new D&S IFCA patrol vessel David Rowe. Officers covered three consecutive days starting at 0230 hrs each morning.

[Read More:](#)

### Investigations Table

Offence Date	Offence	Location	Outcome if Complete
30/05/2019	Crab below MCRS	Brixham	OWW issued
30/05/2019	Fishing vessel with no permit	Severn	NFA
31/05/2019	Crab below MCRS	Beer	FAP £500 issued
06/06/2019	Breach of bass regs	Exmouth	On-going
19/06/2019	Whelk below MCRS	Lyme Bay	OWW issued
30/06/2019	Recreational tag misuse	Dawlish	On-going
30/06/2019	Recreational tag misuse	Torbay	NFA
09/07/2019	Lobster below MCRS	Torbay	On-going
04/07/2019	Potting without a permit	North Devon	On-going
17/07/2019	Illegal net	River Dart	NFA
10/07/2019	Netting without a permit	Unknown	On-going
18/07/2019	Diving for scallops during closed season	Lyme Bay	On-going

### 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.

## 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 permit application facility](#) 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.

## Environment News

### Devon & Severn IFCA starts a programme of research on the Spiny Lobster or Crawfish



D&S IFCA has commenced a series of research studies working with members of the fishing industry, academics and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly IFCAs.

Sighting of juvenile spiny lobsters (or crawfish) have increased since 2014 after many decades of reduced populations, in particular along the Devon coast. In April 2019, D&S IFCA, Isles of Scilly IFCA and

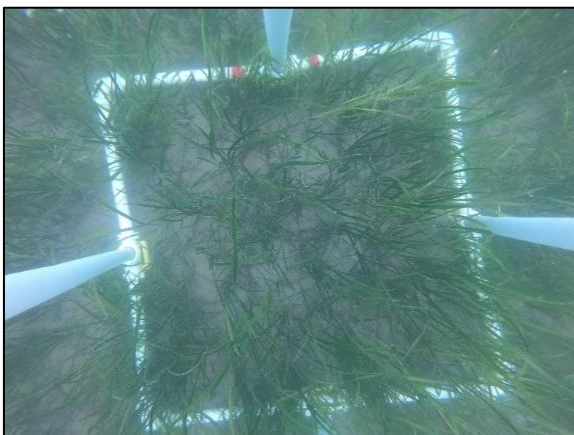
Plymouth University organised a workshop with attendees including members of the fishing industry, Defra, MMO, Natural England, SW IFCAs, processors and academics to discuss spiny lobster (or crawfish) populations and fisheries in the South West of England.

D&S IFCA officers presented the results of data already collected by fishers on the location, size and sex of spiny lobsters caught. The workshop discussion highlighted the need to collect further data to fill gaps in knowledge and help inform future management.

This was a very successful workshop with all engaged in the need to increase our understanding of the spiny lobster. A summary presentation can be view [here](#).

[Read More:](#)

### Torbay Seagrass Surveys 2019 - Completed



D&S IFCA carry out or assist with seagrass surveys in Torbay biennially to monitor the density and extent of the beds to ensure the current closure to mobile fishing gear (trawls and dredges), via the [Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions](#) and [Annex 3 and 3a](#), still protects the beds. This year the Environmental Agency (EA) has carried out seagrass surveys in multiple locations, including Torbay, in collaboration with Natural England. The surveys are part of the development of a Water Framework Directive (WFD) tool to assess the ecological status of subtidal seagrass in estuarine and coastal waterbodies.

It was an excellent opportunity for D&S IFCA to work in partnership and avoid duplicating survey effort. A day was spent by a D&S IFCA Environment Officer with the EA to assist in the surveying. This is the first seagrass survey to be conducted in the area since 2017. The results from the 2017 survey can be read [here](#).

[Read more](#) to find out how the survey was conducted using a novel technique.



## Devon and Severn IFCA involved in MMO project assessing non-lethal seal deterrent options.



Seal interactions with fishing gear has been increasing over the last year. Fishers have a legal right to shoot seals if they interfere with their nets or catch, known as the 'netmen's defence' but this practice is rarely carried out.

D&S IFCA officers are working with marine consultants ABPmer in conducting non-lethal seal deterrent field trials using acoustic deterrent devices (ADD) for the MMO funded through EMFF. Two gillnet fishers within the D&S IFCA's District are currently carrying out field trials with the ADDs.

[Read More:](#)

## Exemptions for Survey Work



D&SIFCA have issued an exemption to the survey vessel Solent Guardian chartered by Fugro, to deploy mobile fishing gear for scientific purposes within the District for two days between the 16<sup>th</sup> August and the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The survey involves using a trawl and is related to the proposed Parsons Tunnel to Teignmouth Resilience Development. This exemption is so that the vessel is not in contravention of both the [Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw](#) and [Byelaw 18](#) - Size of Vessels.

[Read More:](#)

## Survey work for the Live Wrasse Fishery has commenced



**3<sup>rd</sup> year of data collection in preparation for a comprehensive review of the fishery**

D&S IFCA Environment officers are now undertaking onboard observer surveys as part of the fully documented fishery. The fishery developed in the D&S IFCA's District in 2015, with management measures being introduced in 2017 through the [Potting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions](#).

[Read More:](#)

## Interested in our Environmental Work?

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



## Other Selected News Items

### May 2019 News Items

- [2019 Taw Torridge Mussel Surveys](#)
- [Bank Holiday Patrols & Bass Nursery Areas](#)

### June 2019 News Item

- [Student Placement Assists D&S IFCA Environment Team](#)

### July 2019 News Items

- [Have your say on the proposed D&S IFCA Exemptions Byelaw 2019](#)
- [The Live Wrasse Pot Fishery Opens on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019](#)
- [D&S IFCA Close Public Shellfish Beds](#)

### August 2019 News Items

- [Cuttle Pot Impact and Egg Laying Media Trials](#)

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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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