

# Devon and Severn IFCA News

## Teign Estuary Mussel Stock Assessments

Mussel beds on the River Teign were surveyed by the D&S IFCA Environment Team to determine the stock tonnage and map the area of the mussel beds.



On the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September, over the spring tide, stock assessment surveys were carried out on the public mussel beds on the Teign, downstream of the Shaldon bridge, to define where the mussel beds are and accurately map the overall extent of each of the mussel beds. Devon and Severn IFCA will analyse the data collected for each of the beds to estimate the density of mussels on the beds and the total stock of marketable mussels. This information will help inform future management of the mussel beds on the Teign and the potential development of shellfisheries in this part of the Devon and Severn IFCA District.

### What Mussel Stock Assessments have been done before?

D&S IFCA has conducted several previous mussel stock assessments within the Devon and Severn IFCA District. Each survey and resulting report adds to our evidence base. Our resource library (found on the website home page) provides access to a lot of information that you can read. File H of the resource library is totally focussed on Environment & Research work.

[Resource Library/ File H \(Environment & Research\) / Mollusca / Mussels](#)

### Why are D&S IFCA doing the Stock Assessments?

Devon & Severn IFCA's [Annual Plan](#) identifies a review of management of hand working fishing activities as a core work-stream for 2018/19, leading into 2019/20. The data from these surveys will be used, in conjunction with other inter-tidal stock assessments and hand-gathering activity studies, to inform the IFCA's future management of identified hand working fishing methods. One option for management, but not the only option, may be the development of a "Hand Working Permit Byelaw".

### Keeping you informed

Please keep an eye on our website for updates on consultations, information about potential changes to current byelaws and the potential development of new byelaws.

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