

# Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions

## Notification of Change through Formal Consultation

### Changes Required to the Category One (at sea) Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions

#### What is this about?

D&S IFCA manages mobile fishing activity in the District. The Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions are flexible and can be amended by following the process set out in the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw. For the reasons set out below, D&S IFCA must make changes to the current Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions.

**You do not need to take any action.**

**This consultation begins on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and ends on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

#### What are the changes?

The changes relate to spatial access for demersal mobile fishing gear in an area to the east of Start Point, South Devon. This area 'Area C' is set out within Annex 5a of the Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions. **Area C will be closed in 2024 to demersal mobile fishing gear.**

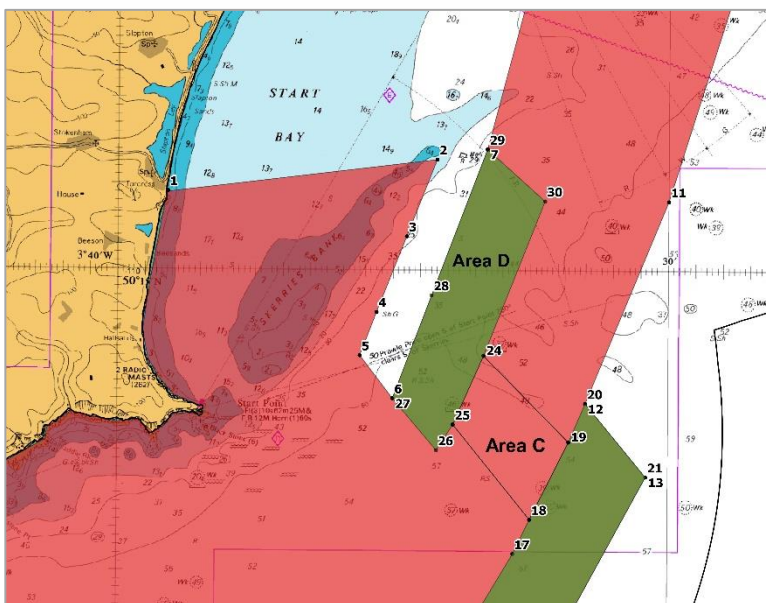


Figure 1 Annex 5a Area C Closure 2024

Paragraph 3.5 of the Permit Conditions interlinks with Annex 5 and Annex 5a. The Annexes define where demersal mobile fishing gear can be used in accordance with time restrictions set out in paragraph 4.5 of the Category One Permit Conditions.

The Annex 5a - Area C has previously been open to demersal mobile fishing vessels from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> March inclusive but will be closed in 2024 and this will be reflected in updated Category One Permit Conditions that will be re-issued free of charge, in 2024.

#### Why must there be changes to the Permit Conditions?

The Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions regulate mobile fishing activity in the District including where mobile fishing vessels can operate and when they can operate. The Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions work in combination with national legislation and align with the South Devon Trawling and Crabbing Chart Inshore Potting Agreement (IPA) which is a Commercial Fishing Licence Condition.

D&S IFCA's management measures cannot be less restrictive than national legislation. If national legislation changes and becomes more restrictive, D&S IFCA must take this into consideration.

## Who decided to close the area?

The IPA Committee meets once a year in the autumn, normally in October. The Committee currently consists of five members of the commercial potting fleet and five members of the mobile fishing (trawling and scalloping) fleet that actively fish within the IPA or are representatives of those that do.

The IPA Chart is discussed each year and any changes to the chart, in terms of opening and closing areas where trawling and scalloping vessels can operate, are decided by the Committee Members at the annual meeting.

The IPA Committee met on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Due to a reported infringement and loss of pots in 2023, in the area known as “the Corridor” (Area C of D&S IFCA’s Annex 5a), the Committee made the decision to close “the Corridor” during 2024, as shown in Figures 2. The proposed amendment to Annex 5a Area C is shown in Figure 3. The IPA Members (both potting and mobile gear representatives) agreed:

***To close the Corridor for 2024 due to the infringement in 2023. The Committee unanimously agreed that it would review this closure with the intention to open the Corridor for 2025, and particularly in light of REM (cameras and gear in gear out technology) developments to monitor compliance.***

## Your Response

This is not a questionnaire. You can choose to submit a response setting out your views on the closure. Any responses received will be collated, anonymised, and summarised for use in a report that will be presented to D&S IFCA’s Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee. The report will also be available for the IPA Committee.

### Sending in your response/contacting us

1. Contact us via email – [consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk)
2. Write to us: Devon and Severn IFCA, Brixham Laboratory, Freshwater Quarry, Brixham, TQ5 8BA.
3. Call us to find out more about the formal consultation – 01803 854648.

**This information gathering exercise ends on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

### D&S IFCA 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 other organisations or placed in the public domain. The content of responses will be summarised and anonymised where appropriate for documenting in reports that may be presented to the Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee and/or 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](http://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.

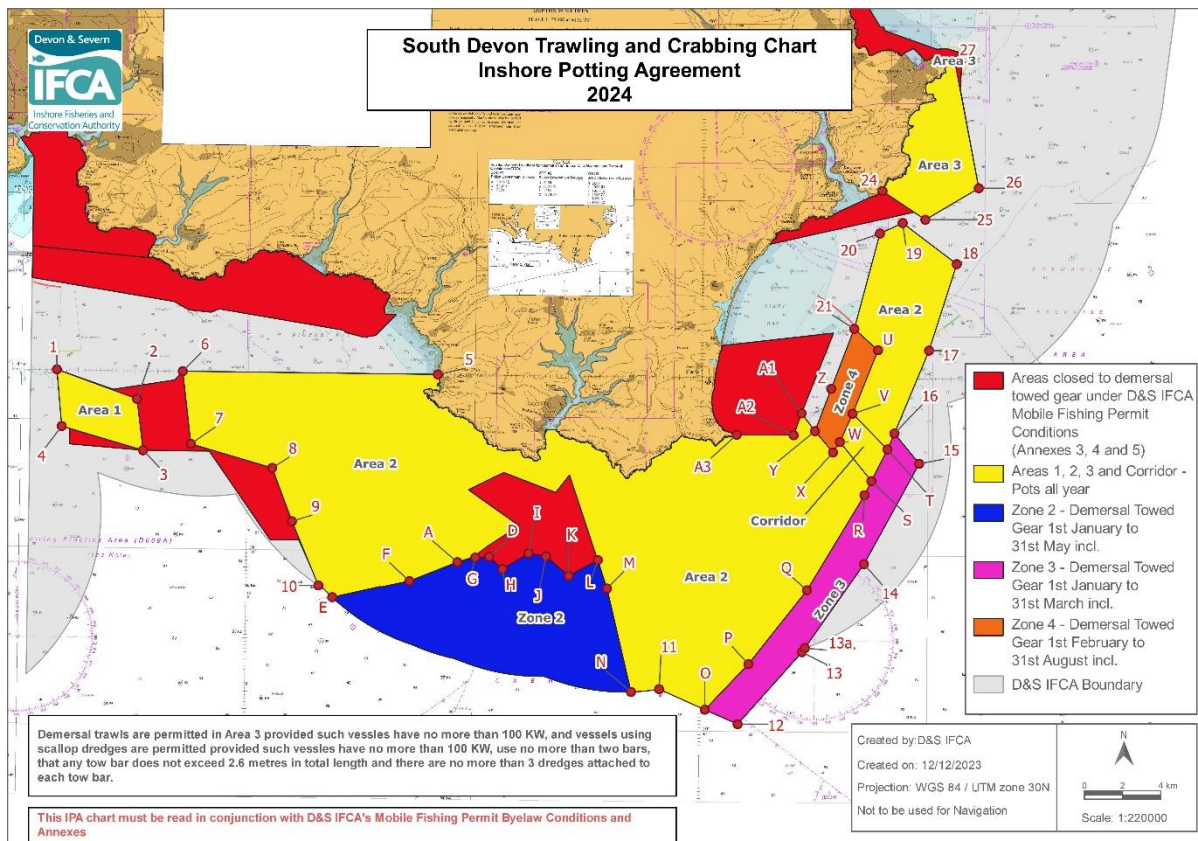


Figure 2: 2024 IPA Chart – Part of the MMO Licence Condition

**Annex 5a South of Salcombe - Access areas for vessels using demersal mobile gear in accordance with paragraphs 3.5 and 4.5 of the mobile fishing byelaw permit conditions**

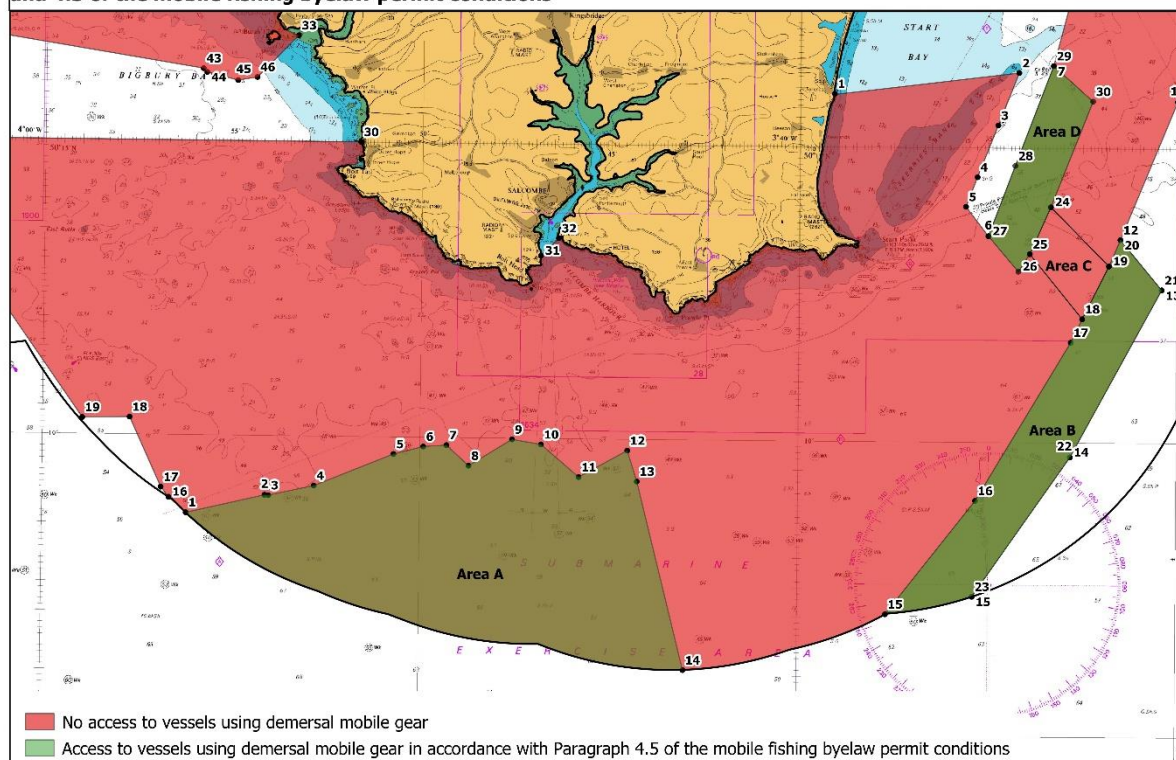


Figure 3: Proposed Annex 5a (Cat 1 Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions) 2024.

End.