

Amendments to Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions

Officers' Recommendations

1. That the Category One Mobile Fishing Permits are amended (as set out in the Officers Paper) in relation to access in Area C of Annex 5a.
2. That the changes to Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions become valid on 1st March 2024.

Background

At the November B&PSC meeting, Members were informed about the decision making of the Inshore Potting Agreement (IPA) Committee. A decision was taken by the IPA Committee as follows:

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.

The decision would result, and has resulted, in a change to the Licence Condition for the IPA. The change has no impact until 1st March 2024; however, D&S IFCA's management measures for mobile fishing activity must align.

The Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw sets out a process (Review Procedure) that must be followed to make changes to the Permit Conditions. A consultation on the changes to the Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions had to take place. This formal consultation began on 12th December 2023 and ended on 19th January 2024. In this scenario, the formal consultation was effectively a notification that a change will be made, however it did provide an opportunity for any responses to be collated and reported to the B&PSC. There were no responses.

The Amendments to Category One Mobile fishing Permit Conditions

The amendments consist of changes to paragraph 4.5 (table 2) and to the chart (Annex 5a). Paragraph 4.5, including an updated table 2, will be as follows.

Table 2

- 4.5 A permit holder or named representative is only authorised to use demersal mobile fishing gear within the Areas A, B, C and D as defined by the coordinates set out in the attached Annex 5a of this permit during the periods set out in table 2 below:

| Annex | Sub Area of annex 5a | Annual Access Dates |
|-------|----------------------|---|
| 5a | Area A | 1st Jan to 31 st May inclusive |
| 5a | Area B | 1 st Jan to 31 st March inclusive |
| 5a | Area C | No access |
| 5a | Area D | 1 st Feb to 31 st Aug inclusive |

Officers will prepare the amended permit conditions and undertake the require administration work.

Background papers

B&PSC Papers & Minutes – Section B of D&S IFCA website Resource Library.