

Fisheries in MCZ Monitoring and Control Plan

Marine Conservation Zone: Hartland Point to Tintagel

D&S IFCA MCP ID	D&S IFCA MCZ ID	Fishing Activity	Sub-feature(s)
MCP_HPT-MCZ-005	HPT-MCZ-005	Beam trawl (whitefish); Beam trawl (shrimp); Beam trawl (pulse/wing); Heavy otter trawl; Multi-rig trawls; Light otter trawl; Pair trawl; Anchor seine; Scottish/fly; Towed (demersal/pelagic)	Moderate energy infralittoral rock
MCP_HPT-MCZ-005	HPT-MCZ-005	Beam trawl (whitefish); Beam trawl (shrimp); Beam trawl (pulse/wing); Heavy otter trawl; Multi-rig trawls; Light otter trawl; Pair trawl; Anchor seine; Scottish/fly; Towed (demersal/pelagic)	High energy infralittoral rock
MCP_HPT-MCZ-005	HPT-MCZ-005	Beam trawl (whitefish); Beam trawl (shrimp); Beam trawl (pulse/wing); Heavy otter trawl; Multi-rig trawls; Light otter trawl; Pair trawl; Anchor seine; Scottish/fly; Towed (demersal/pelagic)	Moderate energy circalittoral rock
MCP_HPT-MCZ-005	HPT-MCZ-005	Beam trawl (whitefish); Beam trawl (shrimp); Beam trawl (pulse/wing); Heavy otter trawl; Multi-rig trawls; Light otter trawl; Pair trawl; Anchor seine; Scottish/fly;	High energy circalittoral rock

		Towed (demersal/pelagic)	
MCP_HPT-MCZ-005	HPT-MCZ-005	Beam trawl (whitefish); Beam trawl (shrimp); Beam trawl (pulse/wing); Heavy otter trawl; Multi-rig trawls; Light otter trawl; Pair trawl; Anchor seine; Scottish/fly; Towed (demersal/pelagic)	Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats
MCP_HPT-MCZ-005	HPT-MCZ-005	Beam trawl (whitefish); Beam trawl (shrimp); Beam trawl (pulse/wing); Heavy otter trawl; Multi-rig trawls; Light otter trawl; Pair trawl; Anchor seine; Scottish/fly; Towed (demersal/pelagic)	Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)
MCP_HPT-MCZ-005	HPT-MCZ-005	Beam trawl (whitefish); Beam trawl (shrimp); Beam trawl (pulse/wing); Heavy otter trawl; Multi-rig trawls; Light otter trawl; Pair trawl; Anchor seine; Scottish/fly; Towed (demersal/pelagic)	Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolate</i>) reefs

Iteration 2: January 2025

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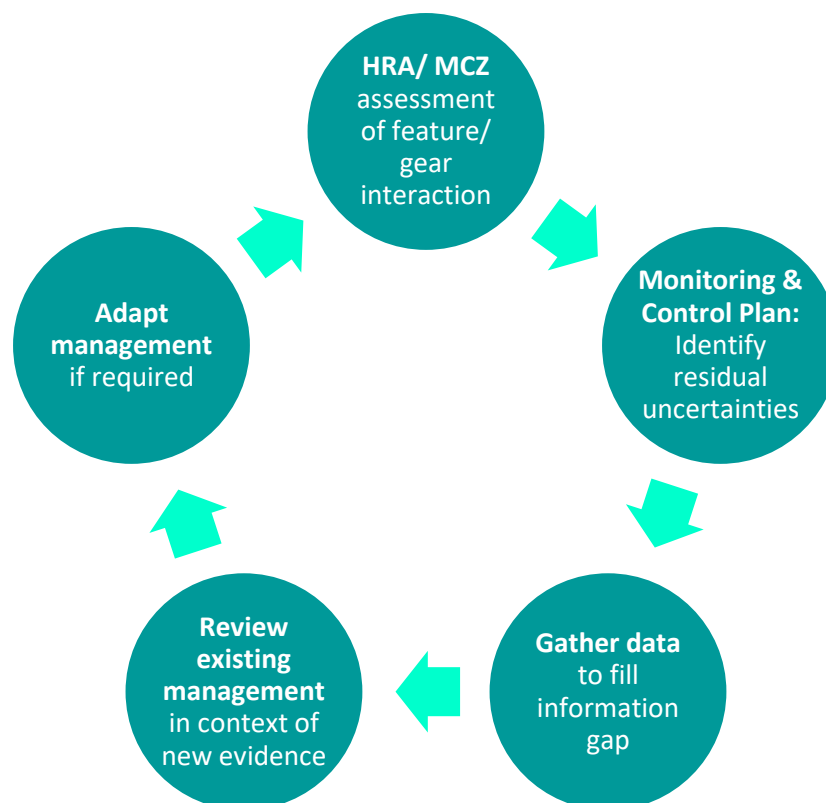
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Version	Date	Author(s)	Comments	Reviewer(s)
0.1	October 2024	L.Parkhouse	Amendments made to draft	Sarah Clark
1.0	29/10/2024		Document finalised to be sent to NE	Sarah Clark
2.0	15/01/2025	L.Parkhouse	Update to monitoring of VMS	James Stewart

1. Introduction

Devon and Severn IFCA (D&S IFCA) is committed to an Ecosystem Approach when considering its duties under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MaCAA). Adaptive management is seen as a key tool for effectively implementing the Ecosystem Approach (Farmer et al. 2012). Adaptive management acknowledges the high levels of uncertainty in natural systems and the difficulties of making decisions based on this uncertainty. It provides a framework for a flexible and pragmatic approach to marine management, allowing sustainable development whilst adapting management and policies to respond to new information.

Monitoring and Control Plans (M&CPs) are being developed by D&S IFCA for certain gear-feature interactions in Marine Protected Areas (MPA) where Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) or Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) assessments find large uncertainties in the scientific and/or fishing effort evidence. They will provide information on what monitoring will be undertaken, how this new information will be used, the timeframes for data collection and review of any current assessments. Crucially M&CPs will identify suitable management mechanisms, should they be required following the outcomes of the data collection. The adoption of a permitting byelaw system by D&S IFCA allows for true adaptive management which can respond effectively when risks are identified. The Monitoring and Control Plan Cycle can be seen below.



The Monitoring and Control Plan should be read in conjunction with the original [MPA assessment](#) for which it was identified as being necessary.

2. Residual Uncertainties

Version 2 of the MCZ assessment carried out in 2022 for interaction of towed (demersal) trawl gear and rock features of the Hartland Point to Tintagel (HPT) MCZ concluded that at current levels of effort, i.e. no activity occurring, there will be no adverse effects from this gear type of the rock features of the MCZ. However, if the activities were to occur on the features listed in this assessment, the evidence suggests there could be an adverse effect, and this could hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives of the features.

Following decisions made by the B&PSC at its meeting on 5th September 2024, D&S IFCA has liaised with Natural England on the possible implementation of a M&C plan for demersal trawl gear. The M&CP will monitor levels of activity and ensure appropriate management is put in place if towed (demersal) gear vessels were to access the MCZ in the future.

3. Monitoring Requirements

3.1 Fishing Effort Monitoring

In the first instance, D&S IFCA will monitor the number of Mobile Fishing Permit holders which could potentially fish in the HPT MCZ. This will give officers a list of vessels which need to be monitored.

D&S IFCA now has the means to monitor the level of fishing effort within the site using IVMS and VMS via the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw and the MMO national roll out of IVMS. As of the 28th August 2018, vessel monitoring was operational on all mobile gear vessels greater than 6.99m which operate within the D&S IFCA's District under a permit condition of the byelaw. D&S IFCA can track vessels in real time, go back over a period of time for each vessel, and set up an area in which to monitor vessel activity. Using IVMS data, D&S IFCA Officers can identify the type of activity fishing vessels are undertaking. This information will allow the IFCA to know exactly how often the site is used, and by how many vessels and the type of fishing activity occurring in the site (e.g. trawling, potting, netting).

IVMS data have been retrieved and analysed from January 2018 to December 2024. There was no towed demersal gear activity within the site during this time period. It is not thought that activity will occur within the site, however this cannot be ruled out.

IVMS data will be reviewed for the site on a weekly basis going forward. An internal record will be created for these weekly reviews with a review summary being produced at the end of each year and sent to Natural England (NE).

4. Trigger points for HRA review

4.1 Fishing Effort Trigger Point

If any mobile gear fishing activity is identified in a weekly review , D&S IFCA will arrange a meeting with NE to discuss next steps.

Monitoring activity	Gear types	Trigger	Action	Management mechanism (if required)
Effort monitoring	Beam trawl (whitefish), Beam trawl (shrimp), Beam trawl (pulse/wing), Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawls, Light otter trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly, Towed (demersal/pelagic)	Fishing activity identified in weekly review of IVMS activity.	Arrange meeting to discuss next steps with NE. In September 2024, D&S IFCA's Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee made the decision that if required Officers will conduct a formal consultation on limiting access to demersal trawl gear vessel within the Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ	Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions.

5. Management Mechanisms

D&S IFCA is working towards a system where all fisheries activities are managed by Permit Byelaws and the permit conditions associated with them. Those introduced so far are:

- Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw
- Potting Permit Byelaw
- Diving Permit Byelaw
- Netting Permit Byelaw

Permit based byelaws provide scope for both fixed and flexible management measures via the conditions of use within the permits issued to fishers. The scope of the flexible conditions includes catch, gear, spatial and time restrictions. D&SIFCA has a duty to review all of the flexible conditions (per byelaw) at least every three years but can review conditions within a shorter time period as considered necessary (for example following an HRA review triggered by a Monitoring Control Plan).

Permit-based byelaws allow separation of different users (fishers) or different types of fishing activity managed by a single byelaw. Separation is achieved by the issue of separate categories of permits dependent on the activity being managed. The permit byelaws often separate commercial fishers and recreational fishers, with the permit's conditions of use proportionate to their needs. By permitting fishers, D&S IFCA has a very direct way of monitoring effort. The permitting byelaws also allow for D&S IFCA to request any additional information from permit holders for the management of the fishery.

The permit byelaw system can therefore fully accommodate the adaptive management approach being outlined by this Monitoring and Control Plan.

Table 2. Audit trail summary for MCZ assessment and Natural England advice for towed (demersal) gear in the Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ

D&S IFCA interaction ID	Specific gear types	Stage of submission	NE Advice reference	IFCA MCZ Assessment Conclusion	NE Formal Advice summary	Inclusion in this Monitoring and Control Plan?
HPT-MCZ-005-V2	Beam trawl (whitefish), Beam trawl (shrimp), Beam trawl (pulse/wing), Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawls, Light otter trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly, Towed (demersal/pelagic)	Submitted to NE and formal advice received.	388348	From the evidence, the level of effort for towed demersal trawls within the site on the rock features is currently thought to be none. At current levels of effort, i.e. no activity occurring, it can be concluded that there will be no adverse effects from this gear type of the rock features of the MCZ. However, if the activities were to occur on the features listed in this assessment, the evidence suggests there could be an adverse effect, and this could hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives of the feature. Due to the conclusion drawn, D&S IFCA, through the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee, will carry out a review of the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw conditions to bring in the appropriate management to protect the rock features of the site from demersal trawling to ensure the conservation objectives are furthered.	It is Natural England's view that through their assessments, D&S IFCA officers appear to have appropriately identified those activities that are likely to hinder the conservation objectives of the feature of the MCZ.	Formal advice can be viewed here .

References

Farmer, A., Mee, L., Langmead, O., Cooper, P., Kannen, A., Kershaw, P. and Cherrier, V. 2012. The Ecosystem Approach in Marine Management. **EU FP7 KNOWSEAS Project. ISBN 0-9529089-5-6**

Natural England (2022) Conservation Advice for Hartland Point to Tintagel Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)