

## **DSIFCA 10\_25 – Retention of a V-Notched Lobster**

On the morning of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, D&S IFCA officers conducted a market inspection at Brixham Fish Market. During the inspection of fish boxes marked for a commercial potting vessel, a lobster with a visible V-notch was found among the landed catch.

Three fish boxes containing lobsters were initially inspected and were all compliant. A fourth box, also marked for the same vessel, contained three lobsters, one of which clearly exhibited a V-notch on the tail fan — a lobster with a V notch must not be retained or landed. The lobster was seized and subsequently returned to the sea, alive, outside the D&S IFCA office shortly after the inspection concluded.

At the time of the offence, the vessel was operating under a valid D&S IFCA Commercial Potting Permit, which explicitly prohibits the removal of V-notched or lobsters with mutilated tails from a fishery within the District.

### **Relevant Permit Conditions and Regulations**

#### **D&S IFCA Potting Permit – Condition 1.2(a):**

“A permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to remove from a fishery within the District:

a) any ‘V’-notched or mutilated lobster.”

#### **Offences to Consider**

- Operating within the D&S IFCA District otherwise than in accordance with condition 1.2(a) of the D&S IFCA Potting Permit, in that one V-notched lobster was removed from a fishery. Contrary to paragraph 2 of the D&S IFCA Potting Permit Byelaw, Section 163 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009,
- The Lobsters and Crawfish (Prohibition of Fishing and Landing) Order 2000. Seafish Act 67

#### **Outcome**

The Authority reviewed the case and was satisfied that the evidential test has been met. The Authority considered the public interest in the case and, in line with the Authority’s Compliance and Enforcement Strategy, an Official Written Warning was issued for the offence.