

DSIFCA 01_25 – Suspicious Netting Activity / Theft of Fishing Gear

Between the 4th January 2025 and 30th January 2025, D&S IFCA officers received a report regarding the presence of a small open vessel operating within the Cattewater area of the River Plym during hours of darkness. When approached by a pilot vessel operating in the area, the vessel departed. Subsequent inspection by harbour authority staff identified a monofilament gill net, attached to a buoy and containing fish, deployed within the vicinity the vessel had been seen operating. The net was recovered by the harbour authority and secured ashore pending further investigation.

On the 6th January 2025, harbour staff reported that the recovered net had been removed without authorisation from the location where it had been stored. CCTV footage showed a silver vehicle entering the compound, and several individuals removing the net before departing the site. The incident was reported to Devon & Cornwall Police, who provided a crime reference number and requested copies of relevant CCTV footage for their investigation.

Further enquiries were conducted by D&S IFCA officers to complete the investigation phase. The Authority reviewed the case and determined that the evidential test had not been met to identify the persons responsible. In line with the Authority's Compliance and Enforcement Strategy, No Further Action was taken.