

DSIFCA 07_25 – Operating pots without a permit

Between 17th and 18th March 2025, D&S IFCA officers reviewed the activity of a fishing vessel that had applied for a Commercial Potting Permit but had not yet completed the permit application process. The vessel had been relocated to the North Devon coast in late February 2025 and was observed making several trips to sea prior to the permit being issued.

IVMS data indicated that the vessel undertook limited activity at sea between 28th February and 13th March 2025. Officers contacted the applicant to advise that fishing operations must not be undertaken within the District until the permit was formally granted. The applicant confirmed that the vessel was undergoing an in-water survey and that all outstanding documentation would be submitted upon completion.

The required documents were subsequently received, and a valid permit was issued on 3rd April 2025. A final check on the UK VMS hub on 8th April 2025 confirmed no fishing activity between the correspondence with the applicant and the issue of the permit. No offences were identified, and the investigation was closed.