

DSIFCA 09_25 – Dredging within MPA

On the 17th March 2025, D&S IFCA officers received a call from the master of a scallop dredging vessel describing how they had hauled several lobster pots while dredging close to an area closed to dredging. The master explained that they were unable to lift the entire string of pots and so dragged them in to the closed area and left them there. The master gave officers the GPS coordinates where he had left the pots. The call coincided with reports from other fishers at this time, explaining how their strings of pots had been cut, and their subsequent loss of potting gear.

A thorough investigation was undertaken, however on review the Authority determined the evidential test had not been met and no offence had been identified.