

Amendments to the Netting Permit Conditions – Proposal (1)

Officers Recommendation

That Members agree to amend the Category One Netting Permit Conditions as proposed in the formal public consultation, and set out below, with the changes to apply from 1st July 2026.

Proposal 1 - Bass Authorisation.

A Category One Netting Permit Condition will be introduced that prohibits the catch, retention of, and landing of bass by a Category One Permit Holder operating a non-powered vessel or a licenced fishing vessel without a bass authorisation.

In addition to the proposed Netting Permit Condition an interpretation (as set out below or similar) will be added to the Netting Permit Conditions:

Licensed fishing vessel means a vessel that has been granted a licence under Section 15 of the Fisheries Act 2020.

The proposal (1) is to add a completely new Permit Condition, but it is based on a similar paragraph relating to catch restrictions (shellfish entitlement). In February 2026, the B&PSC recognised that this proposal would close a loophole that is present in national legislation and result in the same restrictions being applicable to **both powered and non-powered** vessels that do not have a bass authorisation.

Support:

There were eight responses (all from organisations), and **all were supportive** of proposal (1). The organisations could see benefit in the application of consistency in management involving both powered and non-powered fishing vessels.

Consideration by B&PSC:

It is the Officers' view that there is no new information or evidence to suggest that the B&PSC should not proceed with the change as proposed. The Permit Conditions can be amended and circulated to apply from 1st July 2026.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers

B&PSC Papers and meeting minutes ([Section B of D&S IFCA Website Resource Library](#)) and Agenda Item 6 (Annex A) – A summary of Response from the Formal Consultation