

## Amendments to the Netting Permit Conditions – Proposal (4)

### Officers Recommendation

**That Members agree not to proceed with proposal (4).**

### Proposal 4 - Supply of Data.

A Category One Netting Permit Condition will be introduced that will require all operators of **non-powered vessels** with a Category One Netting Permit to supply catch related data to the Authority each month.

The data to be supplied will include:

- Dates of fishing activity;
- Location of fishing activity;
- Species caught and weight;
- Types of net used;
- Length of nets used;
- Where the catch was landed;
- The registered buyer (if applicable);
- A nil return is required if no fishing activity takes place.

This proposal was formulated by Members during discussions at the February 2026 B&PSC meeting. The proposal only relates to operators of **non-powered vessels**.

### Response:

Eight responses commented on proposal (4) and these were all from organisations rather than individual stakeholders. There were no responses from commercial fishers operating powered or non-powered vessels. There were **no objections** to proposal (4).

### Support:

All the organisations supported the proposal from the B&PSC. Both the Environment Agency and the Angling Trust urged D&S IFCA to go further and extend the requirement for submission of catch data to also apply to operators of powered vessels with a Category One Netting Permit.

### Objection:

There were no objections to proposal (4).

**Consideration by B&PSC:**

The Angling Trust did ask for two questions to be considered by the B&PSC when deciding to potentially introduce this provision:

1. how submitted data will be verified and cross-referenced with other sources (e.g., registered buyer records) to identify potential discrepancies, and
2. whether there is scope to share aggregated data with other IFCA's, the MMO, and representative bodies (including the Angling Trust) to support wider stock assessments.

The masters of licensed fishing vessels are already required to record and submit landing information. The information provided by the master can be cross checked with sales notes by the MMO. Registered buyers are required to submit sales notes of any quantity of fish bought from a licensed fishing vessel. Each sales notes includes the name of the licensed fishing vessel. The cross-checking process creates greater confidence in the data and reduces the risk of using poor data to inform management decisions.

If the requirement to provide landing data was extended to the permit holders of non-powered vessels there would be no means to verify information from sales notes. Registered buyers are required to use the generic code of NPV001 when buying fish from a non-powered vessel and therefore individual non-powered vessels cannot be identified to enable cross-checking.

Whilst the presumption should be that the landings data provided are correct, cross checking by the MMO has shown that this is not always the case. Officers are concerned that the data generated may not be accurate and should not be relied upon.

Officers' previous experience of a landings return scheme associated with a seasonal surface fixed net fishery highlights the resource necessary to chase fishers for landing returns including nil returns. There is potentially administrative and enforcement resources required to support the scheme.

In summary, the Netting Permit Byelaw already enables D&S IFCA to seek data on a case by case basis as required, but not as a Permit Condition. If the decision was not to require data through a permit condition, there is still the ability to collect data should the need arise. It is the Officers' view that the proposal to collect catch data from non-powered vessels should not be taken forward despite there being no objections following public consultation.

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