

Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee (B&PSC) Report

1. Officers' Recommendation:

That the Authority note the content of the Officers' Report.

2. Background

The most recent B&PSC meeting took place on 4th June 2026. The Officers' papers from this B&PSC meeting are published on D&S IFCA's website, along with the draft minutes (version 0.5).

- [Authority & B&PSC Meetings page](#)
- [Section B of the website Resource Library](#)

3. B&PSC Meeting: 4th June 2026

Netting

Members considered responses to the formal consultation that were documented in a report (Agenda Item 6 Annex A). Members were presented with five Officers' papers relating to the five separate proposals set out in the formal consultation. In addition to the responses documented in the report, Members accepted that an additional response would be considered during their decision making. The additional response had been submitted before the closing date of 24th April 2026, but it had been sent to an incorrect D&S IFCA email address.

The five proposals considered by Members:

1. **Bass Authorisation:** A prohibition on the catch, retention of, and landing of bass by a Category One (commercial) Netting Permit Holder operating a non-powered vessel or a licenced fishing vessel without a bass authorisation.

Members agreed¹ to make the amendments to the Category One Netting Permit Conditions, as proposed, with the changes to apply from 1st July 2026.

2. **Shellfish Entitlement:** A prohibition on the removal of more than five lobsters (including spiny lobster), and twenty five crabs (mixture of species as defined) in any calendar day from a fishery within the District from a non-powered vessel or a licenced fishing vessel without a shellfish fishing entitlement.

¹ 15 in favour, 1 against, and 1 abstain

Members agreed² to make the amendments to the Category One Netting Permit Conditions, as proposed, with the changes to apply from 1st July 2026.

3. **Limits on number and length of net:** The introduction of Category One Permit Conditions limiting the amount and lengths of nets that can be fished by a Category One Netting Permit Holder operating a non-powered vessel.

Members agreed³ to make the amendments to the Category One Netting Permit Conditions, as proposed, with the changes to apply from 1st July 2026.

4. **Supply of Data:** The proposal in the formal consultation related to a requirement for operators of non-powered vessels (netting) to supply catch related data to the Authority each month as a Permit Condition.

Members considered the Officers' recommendation not to proceed with the change as proposed in the formal consultation. Members⁴ agreed not to proceed with the change.

5. **Gear Marking (Flags):** To remove a Permit Condition requiring that fixed nets are marked with flags.

Members agreed⁵ that the Permit Condition should be removed with the changes to apply from 1st July 2026.

Changes to the Permit Conditions and Communication

Officers amended the Netting Permit Conditions which were then directly circulated to Permit Holders on 30th June 2026 with a covering letter/email to explain the changes. A news item about the changes to the Netting Permit Conditions was posted on the D&S IFCA website and Facebook on 2nd July 2026. It can be viewed [here](#). The news item about the changes to the Netting Permit Conditions was directly circulated to all B&PSC Members on 10th July 2026. The news item was also sent to the AIFCA.

Mobile Fishing

Members considered responses to the formal consultation that were documented in a report (Agenda Item 7 Annex A). Members were presented with three Officers' papers relating to the three separate proposals set out in the formal consultation.

1. **Opening a New Dredge Fishery for Razor Clams:** This included agreement to the design of the dredge (an interpretation), the areas to be fished (areas to be

² 15 in favour, 0 against, and 2 abstain

³ 16 in favour, 0 against, and 1 abstain

⁴ 13 in favour, 0 against, and 3 abstain

⁵ 16 in favour, 0 against, and 0 abstain

established within a larger site), and the installation of a REM system. The opening of the fishery would also be subject to a Monitoring and Control Plan.

Members agreed⁶ to the opening of the fishery, subject to the criteria of dredge design, areas to be fished (an Annex or Annexes within a larger area as set out in the formal consultation), the installation of REM, and subject to the agreement of the Authority for the Monitoring and Control Plan.

Members were informed that the Monitoring and Control Plan would be presented at the Authority meeting on 18th June 2026.

- 2. Introducing Protective Measures for Two Mariculture Sites:** This related to prohibiting the use of demersal mobile fishing gear in two sites that have already been licenced by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in Labrador Bay, South Devon and Bideford Bay, North Devon.

Members agreed⁷ to amend the Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions, as proposed, with the changes to apply from 1st July 2026.

- 3. Transmission of IVMS Data:** The proposal related to a change in the requirements relating to the transmission of IVMS data to reflect the installation of Rewire Devices. The change in the Permit Conditions would result in Permit Holders with a Nemo (CLS UK (Fulcrum Maritime Ltd)) and a Rewire Security Vessel Monitoring Device fitted to their vessels being compliant with the requirements relating to the transmission and availability of relevant data.

Members agreed⁸ to amend the Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions, as proposed, with the changes to apply from 1st July 2026.

Changes to the Permit Conditions and Communication

Officers amended the Category One Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions (and Annexes) which were then directly circulated to Permit Holders on 30th June 2026, with a covering email/letter to explain the changes.

A news item about the changes to the Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions was posted on the D&S IFCA's website and Facebook on 2nd July 2026. It can be viewed [here](#). The news item about the changes to the Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions was directly circulated to all B&PSC Members on 10th July 2026. The news item was also sent to AIFCA

⁶ 8 in favour, 4 against, and 3 abstain

⁷ 12 in favour, 0 against, and 0 abstain (three Members were not present for voting)

⁸ 14 in favour, 0 against, and 1 abstain

Other Topics

As time was short at the B&PSC meeting, Members agreed to defer discussion on the Potting and Octopus Officers' paper, which would become an Agenda Item for the full Authority meeting on 18th June 2026.

Members noted the Officers' paper relating to the development of a Molluscan Shellfish Hand Gathering Byelaw.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers

B&PSC Papers from 4th June 2026 ([Section B of the D&S IFCA website Resource Library](#))

[Draft B&PSC Meeting Minutes \(V0.5\) from 4th June 2026](#)

[D&S IFCA News Item: Changes to D&S IFCA's Netting Permit Conditions](#)

[D&S IFCA News Item: Changes to D&S IFCA's Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions](#)