

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending August 2017

General Situation

Chief Officer T Robbins

The quarter has been dominated by the live fishery for wrasse and the campaigns by the Devon Wildlife Trust and the Angling Trust to have the fishery stopped.

D&S IFCA has taken the lead in introducing restrictive management of the live wrasse fishery and has created one of the most restrictive fisheries both nationally and in the South West. Information relating to the management measures introduced, as well as the process leading to the introduction of these measures that were agreed by Authority members of the D&S IFCA can all be found on our website. Authority members have requested that there is a detailed review of the fishery in November 2017, and in addition to this if there is an increase in the number of vessels working in the IFCA district (i.e. greater than 4 vessels) this will also trigger an immediate review.

The fishery is localised in the Plymouth Sound and surrounds and is limited to four small inshore boats that have restrictions on the number of pots deployed, a spawning season closure and minimum and maximum sizes for each species that can be landed. These, together with specific marking of gear and a fully documented fishery where weekly data on landings and location of effort must be provided to the IFCA, make it a highly restricted fishery. Furthermore, IFCA officers are conducting weekly on-board surveys with the fishermen to gather information on the total catches, the numbers of juveniles and larger fish returned, the spawning condition of the fish, the size distribution of the catches and specific location of strings of pots. IFCA officers are also about to embark on further research to look at the population of wrasse in the areas fished, through a pot saturation study. The IFCA has also introduced voluntary closed areas to the live wrasse fishery to act as refuge areas.

There has been a press release issued by the D&S IFCA and sent to all elected members who have been listed on the campaign literature by the Angling Trust. The press release has also been sent to local MPs who have been contacted about the fishery by the Devon Wildlife Trust.

Neither organisation has sought to clarify any of the points made in their respective campaigns with the D&S IFCA and to seek a meeting about the proposed management measures prior to the launch of their campaigns.

Both campaigns have resulted in a great deal of requests for information about the fishery and the management measures from individuals, the local and national press. Once the situation has been explained to those enquiring they seem happy with the work that the D&S IFCA is undertaking.

The answering of the queries and the survey work being undertaken has taken up a huge amount of officer time over this past quarter.

DCO Sarah Clark was also interviewed by the local BBC evening news about the fishery.

There have also been issues with fishermen's gear being damaged as a result of the publicity about the fishery in the Plymouth area.

It has also required a great deal work by the D&S IFCA's new Communications Officer. Alison Heimann has her own communications company and is working with the D&S IFCA on a part-time basis of nine days per month. Alison has been a great asset to the Authority already in

preparing press releases and dealing with press enquiries about the wrasse fishery as well as other issues that have arisen during the quarter.

A meeting was held in July with the Welsh Government Fisheries Department to look at the possibility of closer joint working and the sharing of expertise and assets. The meeting discussed enforcement and the research aspects of fisheries work within the Bristol Channel and possible joint working for the future. A second meeting has been timetabled with a view to meeting three times a year to look at planning this work. A suitable method for sharing intelligence is also being explored to enable the enforcement teams to plan joint operations more effectively.

Following a long and frustrating wait the funding has now been agreed for the Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (iVMS) (black box recorder and transmitter) to be fitted to all mobile gear fishing vessels under 12m, with a permit to fish within D&S IFCA districts. Vessels over 12m are already fitted with a black box device under an EU Regulation. The D&S IFCA will be the first IFCA district to fit all towed gear vessels with iVMS units and as such will be a test area for the rest of the IFCA districts who should follow suit over the next eighteen months. The funding comes from the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

A significant amount of work has been undertaken by officers to support the Authority's case against two Brixham based scallop vessels. The cases are listed at Plymouth Crown Court for the week commencing 2nd October 2017. This will be an important further step in determining how much reliance can be placed on the use of VMS data evidence in criminal cases.

Funding has been secured from Defra and NE for a survey to look at the impacts of small trawlers on the Torbay Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) during the three months of the cuttle fishery. The survey will cost £40,000.

On 2nd October, Adam Walters, will start work with the IFCA as the replacement enforcement officer for Laura Bullock who left in May. Adam has a good background in working in the marine environment and is also a PCO in Plymouth where he currently lives.

The summer seems to have slipped by very quickly this year – this may be due to the author's increasing age but general feeling is that after a period of early settled weather the summer months have been characterised by strong winds and plenty of rain.

The enforcement team, despite being an officer down, have managed a good number of targeted patrols along the south coast of the district. Officers are aware that the Authority has two coasts to patrol but the main fishery of concern, the bass fishery, cannot be directly enforced by the Authority's officers at present. Officer Hobson has been able to support fully the other two main officers both on the shore and at sea and has already brought her police experience to improve and change some of the way that the enforcement team operates.

The recruitment process for a new officer has been completed and the new officer will be starting their employment with the Authority on 2nd October 2017.

The main enforcement actions have resulted from inspections of shellfish boats but the lobster scrubbing testing is still to be rolled out. The DCO's experience of undertaking the testing has been identified as a key factor to ensure the success of the initial inspections that the team undertake. Unfortunately, other work pressure has stopped this from happening to date.

Officers have continued to develop the working arrangements that will hopefully see the Authority using Southern IFCA's 7.8 metre RIB patrol vessel during the late Autumn / Winter months. This vessel will increase significantly the Authority's opportunity to monitor and enforce the towed gear sector, mainly scallop vessels, that becomes more active during this period.

After a number of quiet months, illegal netting activity has once again been reported and officers have responded by undertaking night time patrols.

Byelaw Review

The MMO Marine Conservation Team provided their comment on the Authority's Netting Permit Byelaw on 23rd June 2017. Officers have discussed the comments with the MMO team and have resubmitted the Byelaw and Impact Assessment for further consideration. The Authority's officers believed that all of the comments that were received were simple to address. Officers were confident that the Byelaw, with MMO's recommendation of confirmation, would be forwarded to the Secretary of State for their consideration in the near future, possibly before the quarterly meeting in September.

Following the Authority's decisions that were made at the Quarterly meeting in June 2017, the potting permit holders were notified of the amendments to their potting permits that were necessary to manage the live wrasse fishery. At a meeting in Plymouth, officers issued 120 tags to each of the four fishermen that were participating in the fishery. The requirement for a potting permit holder to have tags issued by the Authority prior to fishing introduced an effective means by which to control any possible expansion of the fishery.

The mobile fishing permit holders were also formally notified of the changes effecting demersal gear activity in two of the MCZs located in the Authority's district. The notification of permit holders via letters and the production of charts showing the changes in access to specific demersal gear types did add further resource pressure both in financial and staff terms. However, without the permit approach it is likely that the Authority would have needed to introduce at least three new byelaws to introduce the necessary management. It would have taken a lot longer to deliver the management, unless emergency byelaws were used, and would have required far more resource to complete.

The Byelaw and Permitting Sub-committee met on 17th August 2017 to consider further amendments to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw and to begin the scoping work necessary to support the anticipated development of the Hand Gathering Permit Byelaw.

IVMS

The Authority's funding application to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund for the introduction of an Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (IVMS) for all the under 12 metre mobile gear fishing vessels operating in the Authority's district has been successful.

Members of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-Committee agreed that the Authority should consult with the mobile gear permit holders regarding the proposed introduction of IVMS at the meeting held on 17th August 2017.

The Authority's officers are facilitating the national working group tasked at drafting policy to support the introduction of IVMS. The working group will draft policy around issues such as non functioning units. It is envisaged that these policies would be adopted by other IFCAs as and when the roll out of IVMS expands around the country.

Training

One of the enforcement officers, Gavin Mayhew, successfully completed the two weeks, fisheries enforcement course run by the MMO for MMO, Navy and IFCA officers. This is a very demanding and thorough course and it is credit to Gavin that he was nominated as the top student.

Working together

The cross warranting issues are still to be resolved so the Authority's enforcement officers have continued to work alongside Marine Enforcement Officers from the Marine Management Organisation during the quarter. A number of joint patrols from Plymouth have been conducted during the quarter looking at bass fishing around the Eddystone reefs and the scallop dredging activity around the SCIs. As previously reported, officers were working on the basis that the new Statutory Instrument to reintroduce the ability to enforce EU legislation, including the 2017 Bass Regulations, would be in place by the end of June. Unfortunately, the June deadline passed but Defra's updated timeline would see the introduction of the new Statutory Instrument by the end of October 2017.

Enforcement

A significant amount of further work was undertaken to support the Authority's case against two Brixham based scallop vessels. The cases are listed at Plymouth Crown Court for the week commencing 2nd October 2017. This will be an important further step in determining how much reliance can be placed on the use of VMS data evidence in criminal cases.

The owner of a netting vessel from Plymouth pleaded guilty to two offences of setting fixed surface nets in a prohibited area at Torquay Magistrate's Court on 19th June 2017. The case was based primarily on the evidence provided by two members of the public and demonstrated the benefits of publicising the work of the IFCA and the use of the Duty Officer (out of office) phone number.

Further cases have been resolved during the quarter. The outcome of the investigations has varied from written warnings for minor breaches through to Financial Administrative Penalties (FAPs) being offered and accepted.

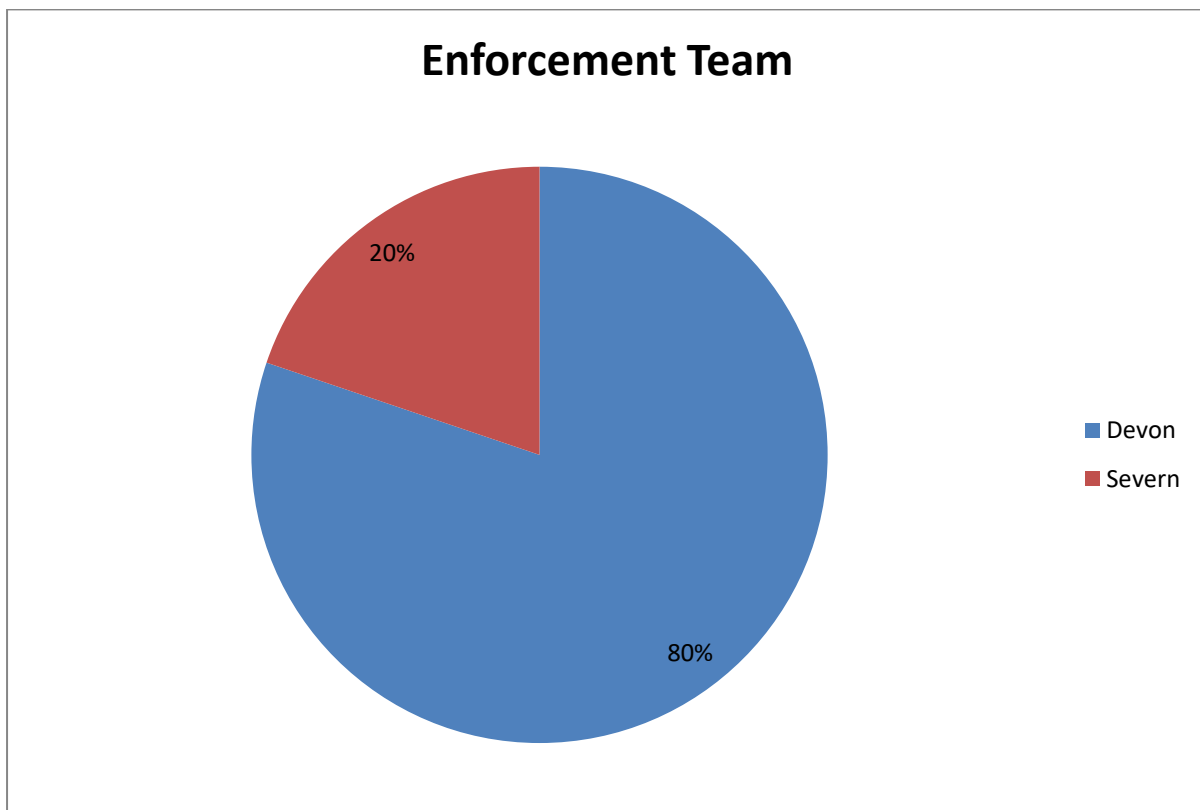
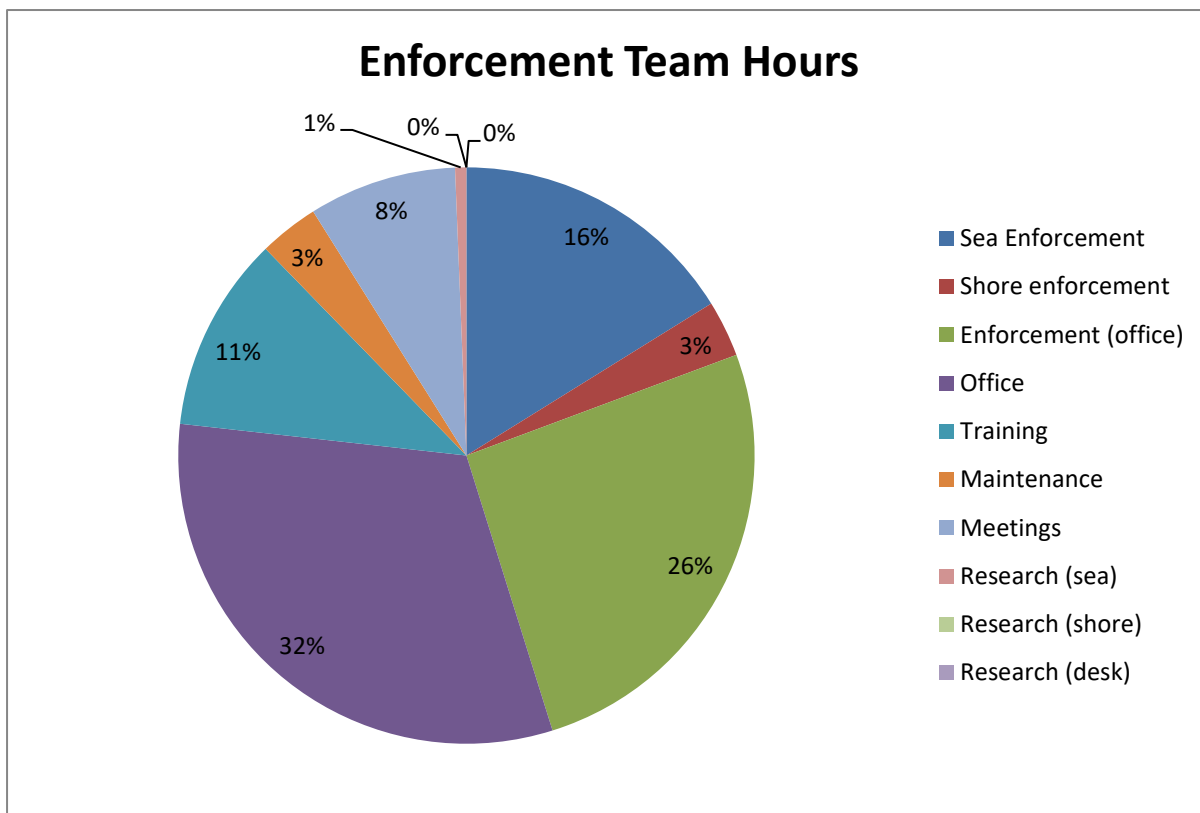
Investigations (selected)

Offence Date	Investigation complete	Prosecuting Authority	Offence	Location	Outcome/ Current Status
16-23/12/15	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	South of Salcombe	Listed for trial at Plymouth Crown Court on 02/10/17
01 -19/02/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	South of Salcombe	Listed for trial at Plymouth Crown Court on 02/10/17
06/09/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Towing in Start Point to Plymouth Sound SCI	Bigbury Bay	Master owner entered not guilty pleas to 16 charges, case adjourned
08 & 15/11/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Use of fixed net	Bigbury Bay	Guilty plea entered to both charges at Torquay Magistrates' Court on 19/06/17 Fined £4,750
27/03/17	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop Dredging	Tor Bay	FAP £2,000 accepted
21/04/17	Yes	D&SIFCA	Retaining undersize crab	Start Bay	FAP £1000 accepted
02/05/17	Yes	D&SIFCA	Landing undersize crab	Dartmouth	FAP £500 accepted
09/05/17	Yes	D&SIFCA	Unmarked static gear & no escape gaps fitted to commercial crab pots	Plymouth	FAP £500 accepted
09/05/17	Yes	D&SIFCA	Retaining undersize spider crab and lobster	Plymouth	Summons issued 23/10/17 Newton Abbot Magistrates' Court
25/05/17	Yes	D&SIFCA	Retaining undersize edible crab	Plymouth	Summons issued 23/10/17 Newton Abbot Magistrates' Court
31/05/17	Yes	D&SIFCA	Retaining undersize edible crab and lobster and berried lobster	Plymouth	Summons issued 23/10/17 Newton Abbot Magistrates' Court
07/06/17	Yes	D&SIFCA	Retaining undersize edible crab and lobsters	Tor Bay	FAP £500 offered
12/07/17	No	D&SIFCA	Removal of scallop during closed season	Plymouth	Case file being prepared

Summary Table: Enforcement Officers' activities undertaken this quarter that fulfill Devon and Severn IFCA Success Criteria.

Success Criterion (SC)	Activities undertaken
<p>SC1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D&SIFCA is building on its own database through the introduction of permit byelaws. • Development of new consultation documents for permit condition reviews • Detailed minutes of the Byelaw and Sub-committee meetings made publicly available.
<p>SC2 IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All investigations follow the Enforcement procedures for infringements of fisheries legislation adopted by CIFCA and D&SIFCA • Case file review undertaken. • Adoption of the National Intelligence Model best practices
<p>SC3 IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environment protection within their districts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the three year review of Mobile Fishing Permit conditions undertaken • Consultation on proposed permit condition changes to introduce management of live wrasse fishery completed
<p>SC4 IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External enforcement training • Intelligence / MCSS reporting training • Quarterly reports produced • Performance Assessment and Personal Training meeting conducted
<p>SC5 IFCAs make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers' enforcement activities are guided by the targeted enforcement plan referring to received information (IRs) • Patrol vessels task and review logs maintained. • Officers use information on illegal activity to inform and develop enforcement plans • EA emergency hotline operatives and Police aware of D&SIFCA • D&SIFCA introduced out of hours contact number 07740 175479 to report suspicious activity.

Summary of Enforcement Officers' duties carried out during the quarter.



Summary

Survey work has been the priority workstream of the Environment team with bait collection surveys, on-board wrasse surveys, sea grass surveys, intertidal mussel surveys, and underwater filming in Lyme Bay being undertaken this quarter. IFCA officers also took part in joint survey work with NE and the EA undertaking grab sampling in Lundy SAC and sonar camera work within Torbay MCZ.

The Live Wrasse Fishery has involved a great deal of work not only in terms of undertaking on-board surveys, but also with inputting survey data and fishermen's data. It has felt, at times, as though the IFCA has been fire-fighting with many enquiries about the fishery being received and answered, and press articles have been produced. Working closely with the new Communications Officer the IFCA responded well to these enquiries and in some cases criticism of our approach. Interviews have been held with the Sunday Times, The Times and the Western Morning News to discuss the fishery and promote the work and management measures introduced by the IFCA. IFCA officers were also interviewed for the BBC Spotlight programme.

Marine Protected Areas

Part of the Marine Protected Areas work this quarter has focused on the development of a monitoring and control plan for shad in the Severn Estuary and Plymouth Sound and Estuaries EMS.

Partnership work was carried out with NE and the EA to carry out drop down video surveys and grab survey in the Lundy SAC. This work was part of the MPA evidence gathering programme and the results will be used as a condition assessment of the site. A second component of the survey was the grab surveys in and around the area of the site which is used by the squid fishery. The fishery has not occurred for two years. The results will be part of an impact study if the squid fishery occurs again, this is one of the components of the monitoring and control plan to allow the fishery to continue. Two days were spent on the survey vessel Solent Guardian in Torbay with EA and NE to observe and assist in trials for a new sonar technique for monitoring subtidal seagrass beds. The areas were ground-truthed using a drop down GoPro camera frame.

Work has been on-going for Tranche 2 MCZs, with a focus on Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ. Members of the fishing industry have been contacted and areas of fishing activity have been mapped with the information provided. A telecom between MMO, CIFCA and D&S IFCA was attended to discuss the management of fishing activities in the Hartland Point to Tintagel MCZ, which crosses the boundary between the two IFCAs and extends outside the 6nm. The main action from this meeting was for all parties to gather information on the fishing activities and level of effort in the MCZ.

DCO Clark submitted a proposal to the Defra MPA Impact Evidence Group to bid for funding for a Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI) Study on the impact of otter trawling on the mud feature of the Torbay MCZ. This will inform the Monitoring and Control Plan that is being developed for the site. £40,000 of funding from Defra (£33,000) and Natural England (£7,000) was awarded to the IFCA to carry out this study. The IFCA will work with the fishing industry, SeaFish and Cefas to carry out the study.

The Biennial sea grass survey in Torbay commenced this quarter and should be completed by the end of August. Underwater filming in the Lyme Bay SI was also undertaken.

Hand Gathering/ Bait Collection

Hand gathering and bait digging surveys were carried out on the intertidal areas of the Torbay MCZ in order to inform MCZ assessments. They are being carried out to provide more information on the level of effort occurring in Torbay MCZ. This data will feed into the relevant MCZ assessments for this site. These surveys are ongoing until November 2017. Bait collection surveys began this quarter on the Tamar, at Ernesettle. This is to gather more information on the level of effort to feed into the HRA and MCZ assessments for the site.

Analysis of bait digging data for the Severn, Exe and Plymouth Sound and Estuaries EMS is also ongoing. An MMO questionnaire on bait digging was completed as part of a National project to look at hot spots of activity. A meeting was held with Natural England to discuss bait digging work and other ongoing work.

The MMO are currently collecting data from IFCA's on bait collection which is occurring in MPAs. Maps and effort data, to the best of officer knowledge, was provided to the MMO as part of this work.

Fin Fish

Work on European sea bass, this quarter, has included supervisory duties relating to the D&S IFCA-Plymouth University PhD. A meeting was held with Plymouth University and the Environment Agency to develop a joint project, which hopes to tag 20 sea trout in two of the estuaries, which will host acoustic receivers as part of the I-BASS project. These data will help inform management of fixed nets in coastal areas. D&S IFCA has also been inputting into an EMFF bid being co-ordinated by Cefas which will gather more evidence on bass movements and would result in 100 Data Storage Tags (DSTs) being released from our District. A regional management forum would also be developed to co-ordinate research and discuss possibly management options.

A meeting was held with Natural England to discuss the development of research into the fish habitat use in the Severn Estuary, including 2 PhDs. This research would help inform decisions on applications for marine developments in the Severn and investigate how important the Severn Estuary is to commercial and recreational fisheries in the inner & outer Bristol Channel and Celtic Sea. Assistance was given to Dr Ben Ciotti (Plymouth University) and his survey team who completed a juvenile flatfish survey at Berrow and Uphill as part of a study looking at flatfish utilisation of different habitats in South West England. The highest density of flatfish anywhere in the sampling programme was found at Berrow, with nearly all fish sampled being dover sole.

On-board Wrasse surveys have been carried out on three out of the four vessels operating out of Plymouth. These surveys aim to gather more information on effort, stock, and spawning season of Wrasse in Plymouth Sound due to the new emerging fishery. The data gathered, along with landings data, will help inform management of the fishery. Data collected from these surveys together with the fishermen landing data have been entered into spreadsheets and basic analysis has commenced. Baited GoPro cameras were used in Brixham in order to obtain images of wrasse for the use in press and communications. Detailed work relating to survey design for a pot saturation experiment for the Live Wrasse Fishery has been undertaken. The experiment will help to inform the interpretation of catch per unit effort (CPUE) data being collected from reported landings by the fishermen, as part of the fully documented fishery, and on-board surveys by members of the Environment Team. This work undertaken so far has involved a literature review and discussions with Matthew Witt from Exeter University.

Shellfish

Mussel bed surveys were carried out for the Lypstone beds on the Exe Estuary. The data is being analysed. However, from the initial survey the intertidal beds in the estuary are depleted and in some places non-existent.

Desk based research is on-going on the subject of using hydrographic modelling for scallop spat settlement areas. This is to see what has currently been carried out and whether it would be feasible for the IFCA so carry out similar work in the district in the future.

A meeting was held with members of the shellfish industry and Plymouth University staff at the Brixham laboratory to discuss the possibility of developing aquaculture facilities on site.

Other Survey Work/ Desk Research Work

Members of the environment team spent two days with the EA on the survey vessel Solent Guardian in Torbay to observe and assist in trials for a new sonar technique for monitoring subtidal seagrass beds. Survey planning has been carried out for various upcoming surveys including; the scallop stock assessment methodology study and the Torbay seagrass survey. Dispensation requests were dealt with and three dispensations were issued for survey work within the District.

Recreational Sea Angling

A large amount of time was spent on the FishTrail project this quarter. The project has included working with Wiseman Productions and local anglers to film the final two FishTrail videos; one on smoothhound fishing from Bossington in Somerset and one on targeting plaice from Charter Boats and the D&S IFCA Angling Zone on the Skerries Bank, South Devon. Two project meetings were also attended, one in Killarney and Waterville, Ireland and a final meeting at Figueros de Vinhos in Portugal. This project was funded by EU COSME funding and aims to promote conservation-minded angling practice and better awareness of legislation relating to anglers, especially amongst visiting anglers. In Ireland, D&S IFCA officers met officers from Inland Fisheries Ireland to discuss management of bass and sea trout, iVMS and permitting byelaws.

Data analysis of two years of survey data for the Burnham, Berrow and Brean and the Skerries Angling Zones has started and will continue throughout the Autumn. This will feed into the review of the D&S IFCA Angling Strategy.

Severn Estuary Advocacy & Governance

D&S IFCA Officers and Welsh Government Fisheries and Marine Function Officers met in July in Cardiff. Shared interests in enforcement, management of whelks, implementation of iVMS, research into bass and rays and the management of the Severn Estuary European Marine Site were discussed. It was agreed that renewed effort into more joined-up working was required and this is currently being taken forward.

A telecom to discuss joint research interests and concerns relating to tidal lagoons in the Severn Estuary was held with the RSPB. A separate meeting with the Severn Vision manager discussed the outcomes of the Severn Vision project. A meeting with the head of fisheries research for Tidal Lagoon Power was attended in order to discuss the current stage of development of each lagoon in the Severn, recent fisheries research findings and sharing data from acoustic arrays located in the Bristol Channel.

D&S IFCA officers and Somerset Wildlife Trust officers met several times this quarter to discuss IFCA work in Somerset and the development of the SWT Living Seas programme & potential joint working for surveys.

Meetings

Teleconferences regarding MPAs have been joined, including the monthly Management of Fisheries in EMS, which involves all IFCAs, the MMO and Natural England. A teleconference was held with Natural England regarding potting and netting assessments for Torbay MCZ. Several meetings were attended including the Exe Estuary Officers Working Group and Exe Estuary Management Group with a field trip to Dawlish Warren. The Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) was attended, and updates were given on survey work, the progress of the Netting Permit Byelaw and wrasse fishery. Additionally, a meeting was held regarding bait collection with Plymouth City Council Natural Infrastructure Officer to look at marine recreational impacts.

Various telecons have been attended this quarter. DCO Clark dialled into the Project UK Scallop and Monkfish Fisheries Improvement Plan (FIP) meeting in June and the Crab & lobster FIP meeting in July. A meeting was also attended with a researcher from Plymouth University to discuss the possibility of a project undertaking research on the Spiny lobster or Crawfish. Many reports have been received of sighting of juvenile crawfish from divers and potters. Some members of the potting sector report every catch with information on sex and location and size. D&S IFCA has discussed work with divers within the district and last summer went out to Lundy to try and tag crawfish. The discussions had at this meeting will help formulate a research programme to investigate the recovery of crawfish in the district and find out more information about their biology, movement and larval distribution working with other partners including Cornwall IFCA and Isles of Scilly IFCA.

Several meetings have taken place with the new Communications Consultant Alison Heimann. Environment Officers have inputted information and photos to Alison to feed into press releases, media article and communications documents to promote the work the IFCA does.

The Byelaw and Permitting sub-committee was attended in August. An update on the survey work and data collected as part of the fully documented Live Wrasse Fishery was given. The Hand Gathering Byelaw was also discussed and officers inputted into the Byelaw development paper and discussions on the activities taking part in the D&S IFCA district.

Pioneer Project

A number of pioneer project events were attended this quarter. The Pioneer Project includes a series of case studies (terrestrial and marine) which aim to 'pioneer' an approach for implementing the delivery of the Defra 25-year environment plan and adopting a Natural Capital approach to marine management. The North Devon Marine Pioneer programme is being hosted by the North Devon Biosphere Reserve. A meeting between the IFCA and North Devon Biosphere Reserve Co-ordinator Andy Bell was held in June to discuss the North Devon Pioneer project and fisheries. A Pioneer Steering Group meeting and telecom were attended in July and August to develop the project and steer the workstream of the Pioneer Project Officer. Demonstration projects are currently being discussed. A meeting was organised between the Pioneer Project Officer, North Devon Fishermen's Association and Project UK to allow for collaboration between the projects and ensure the North Devon fishermen have input to them. A Natural Capital Conference was attended in July at Exeter Racecourse.

Training

A Natural Capital training session was attended this quarter to give the DCO an introduction to Natural Capital and how that can feed into North Devon Marine Pioneer Project.

A non-native species identification course was attended at the MBA. This course will help officers recognise and report any non-native species they may come across when surveying to the appropriate bodies. Further data protection training was undertaken this quarter.

Enforcement

A patrol was undertaken with an enforcement officer to investigate a report of a scallop dredger operating within the district during the closed season. The case is on-going. Still images were taken from video footage from previous towed camera surveys carried out in an MPA in South Devon. These images will be used as part of a case file for a forthcoming court hearing prosecution. A great deal of time has been spent by the DCO creating charts and input these still images of the habitat type for the impending court case.

Success Criteria	
SC 1: IFCA's are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority Officers met, engaged and worked with members of SD&CSA, NE, EA, and with fishers around the district • Telecoms have been attended to discuss EMS and MCZ work. • Responded to research and environment enquiries via telephone, e-mail and attended telecoms. • Officers attended EMS working and management group meetings. • Local partnership meetings and fora were attended. • Presentations given at fora and stakeholder meetings • Mussels surveys were undertaken on the Exe Estuary. • Tidal lagoon and RSBP meetings were attended • Joint working with Somerset Wildlife Trust • Lundy MPA meetings attended • Joint survey work was undertaken with NE and EA. • Engaged with fishermen relating to activities in MCZ. • Working with communication consultant on press releases and media articles. • Natural capital workshops have been attended • Further data protection training was undertaken
SC 2: IFCA's implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement patrol undertaken off Plymouth Sound. • Exhibits and statement produced for forthcoming fisheries prosecution court case
SC 3: IFCA's use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scallop assessment survey undertaken and further planned • Wrasse survey data presented to Byelaw & Permitting Sub-Committee Bass studies • HRA undertaken for derogation requests

<p>exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings held with Natural England on EMS & MCZ in the district. • Meeting attended regarding PhD on Bass with student and supervisors • Meeting was held with NE to discuss the development of research into fish habitats in the Severn Estuary. • Joint working with Plymouth University on flat fish survey in the Severn. • Hand gathering surveys undertaken in Torbay MCZ • Exe Estuary mussel surveys undertaken • Tranche 2 MCZ habitat mapping and activity monitoring took place • D&S IFCA is part of the Pioneer Project has attended meetings and inputted into the project development • Fish trail project work continued and meetings attended in Ireland and Portugal. • Officers met with Inland Fisheries Ireland and Welsh Government Fisheries
<p>SC 4: IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of quarterly reports. • Natural Capital training session attended. • INNS id training was undertaken.
<p>SC 5: IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-board surveys of wrasse boats undertaken and results analysed • Fishers logbook return on wrasse landing were analysed • Bait survey data was analysed to inform HRA/MCZ assessments • MPAIEG Funding was received for BACI study on trawling impacts on Torbay mud • Fishing activity data being collected to feed into MCZ assessments • Angling survey data has been analysed

Summary of Environment Officers' duties carried out during the quarter.

