

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending May 2015

General Situation

Chief Officer T Robbins

This Quarter has been particularly busy for the whole team. It has also demonstrated how stretched the team has become with the resignation of the two enforcement officers and the dramatic increase in work required as a result of the implementation of the two new byelaws and from additional national requests on IFCA time. Two posts are currently being advertised to bring us back up to full strength as soon as possible.

The Potting and Diving Permitting Byelaws were confirmed on 17th March 2015. Officers have continued to publicise the Byelaws by distributing flyers and attending meetings. One of the new management measures, increasing female edible crab from 140mm to 150mm did result in concerns being raised by a number of commercial potters both in the Plymouth and East Devon areas. Both groups of fishermen reported being totally unaware of the proposed increase and indicated that such an increase would have a significant and detrimental impact on their businesses. Officers have been in contact with both groups of fishermen and attended a meeting in Budleigh Salterton to hear directly the fishermen's concerns from East Devon.

The Members of the Byelaw and Permitting Sub-committee felt strongly that the consultation process for the potting permit byelaw had followed all legal guidelines. The Sub Committee felt that although it is desirable for the IFCA to inform stakeholders of as much information as possible, the commercial fishing sector in particular does have some responsibility to examine finer details of any new legislation/permit conditions. The Sub-committee agreed that the existing permit conditions should not be altered immediately. However, to reflect the economic concerns raised by fishermen, the Authority should begin a period of evidence collection/research relating to the new 150mm landing size for brown hen crab. Data will be obtained from surveys at sea and by landing inspections.

At the beginning of June, 278 permits had been issued, 115 commercial potting permits, 95 recreational potting permits, 7 commercial diving permits and 61 recreational diving permits.

The new byelaws highlighted two issues for the Authority to consider going forward, firstly the issuing of the permits requires a great deal of officer time to complete. Permits are being issued every two years for all current permits. This means that at the end of 2015 we will need to re-issue the Mobile Gear Permits and then the following year the Potting and Diving Permits will need re-issuing. Effectively the D&SIFCA will now be issuing permits every year. Whilst work is being undertaken to streamline the application and issuing of permits there is a large volume of work in December and January. The use of agency staff may be the best solution to a short term problem, this will enable the office manager to undertake her normal duties and for the agency temporary officer assistant to complete the permit work.

The second and potentially more complicated issue is that of communications from the D&SIFCA to outside interests and fishermen. The problem of the increase in landing size for crab from 140mm to 150mm and the overall response to the consultation on the two new byelaws has highlighted the need for resources to be allocated by the D&SIFCA to improve this situation. Officers working with the Byelaw & Permitting Sub Committee have endeavoured to develop a communications strategy to help deliver this important work, in addition to setting up and maintaining the D&SIFCA website, social media and various information leaflets. There is no specific expertise in the area of work within the team and it is a specialist field in which companies provide a very technical service. There is a need to recognise that the D&SIFCA is going to require professional assistance with communications

in the very near future, especially with the next round of byelaw reviews which will include a netting byelaw which is expected to be complicated and probably controversial. Several other IFCA have specialist 'in-house' expertise to help them undertake this work having already identified it as important work requiring highly trained staff.

A letter from Defra was sent to all Chairs and Chief Officers of the ten IFCA in May to ask that the IFCA and MMO look at ways to increase their joint working to provide savings to the overall Defra budget ahead of a Comprehensive Spending Review triggered by the General Election. The new Government will be seeking more savings from public finances and as such Defra funding will be subject to cuts. The MMO are entirely funded through a Defra grant and as such any additional joint working with the IFCA may be able to identify areas in which savings can be made. The areas that we have been asked to explore closer working are with greater use of cross-warranting and sharing of assets (patrol vessels). The national Chief Officer's Group are preparing some ideas and costs ahead of a meeting of the Association of IFCA on 9th June. The work is expected to be completed in mid-July to meet the request from Defra. The letter from Defra is attached for information. The IFCA are clear that there is an imperative to save costs where ever possible and that joint working is a solution to this where synergies exist, but, the IFCA are also clear that we are to here to subsidise national enforcement. Partnership working must be for equal partners to recognise how best they can work together to deliver our shared statutory duties.

Changes to bass management to enable the EU to meet the required 80% reduction in catches continue with Directives being issued by the EU to member states and work going on between Defra and the IFCA to look at increased national measures to deliver greater protection for this important fish stock. Recently the EU has imposed a 1 tonne per month restriction on netting and longline fisheries, 1.5 tonne per month restriction on trawled fishing and a three bass per day limit for recreational fishermen. National measures are looking at how best to improve the protection afforded to bass nursery areas and bass aggregation areas. There are also measures being considered by the EU to increase the landing size for bass to 42cm.

Following a joint application between Common Seas and D&SIFCA to the John Ellerman Foundation, <http://ellerman.org.uk/what-we-fund>, and a meeting with some of its board members it was confirmed in May that a grant of £75,000 towards the cost of fitting iVMS on all vessels currently holding a Mobile Gear Permit was being offered. This will allow D&SIFCA and our partner, Common Seas, to purchase 114 iVMS units and have them fitted to local fishing vessels to enable far better monitoring of compliance with IFCA byelaws to protect Marine Protected Areas but will also allow for discussions to allow mobile gear vessels some limited access to protected sites where it has been demonstrated designated features are not present.

Enforcement activity was relatively low during this quarter. The Authority has been operating for some time with only two officers in post. With officers committed to delivering other work streams, the amount of time that could be directed towards enforcement was reduced. Fishing activity was reported to also be lower than normal with shellfish generally being slow to start moving and many towed gear vessels working outside of the district.

A meeting was held with the five EA enforcement officers to review working arrangements and refresh officers on aspects of the legislation that they can enforce under their IFCO warrants. The EA officer that had been in charge of 'Proteus' retired. This provided an opportunity to review the work arrangements around the use of the vessel.

Byelaw Review

Please see Agenda Item 13

Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (iVMS)

It is understood that a second device has been submitted to the MMO for testing under the national Type Approval project. Confirmation has been received that through a European Fisheries Fund grant and other funding the Authority has secured enough support to pay for the procurement and installation of up to 114 iVMS units on board vessels using mobile fishing gear. As reported previously the over 12 metre fleet is now required to provide 2 hourly positional reports. The national type approval project would require these units to report more frequently. With full funding for the system some over 12m vessel may choose to have a second unit from another supplier to build some redundancy into their fishing operations. Vessels that do not have an operational iVMS unit will not be allowed to operate in the D&SIFCA district.

At the recent National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group meeting held in Exeter, it was agreed that the SW IFCAs along with the MMO would draft the wording of a Byelaw setting out the iVMS requirements. In D&SIFCA's case it would be drafting the wording for the permit conditions. This group would also consider how to manage vessels without operational iVMS units. MMO and Wales already have procedures in place. The joint work is designed to achieve a consistent approach nationally.

Angling Zones and Bass

The monitoring programme to understand the usage of the Angling Zones started in May. The monitoring programme provides the opportunity for officers to undertake enforcement surveillance and inspections whilst at sea. The surveys at sea are undertaken from the Authority's own RIB but also on board a chartered unmarked vessel.

In March the Council Regulation (EU) 2015/523 was introduced. The legislation introduced a three bass per angler per calendar day restriction on any person engaged in the recreational fisheries. This control measure was part of the overall management strategy to achieve a reduction of 80% in the fishing mortality occurring in the bass fisheries. IFCAs, including this Authority, have tried to fill the information vacuum on the new legislation by producing information flyers and distributing them whilst on coastal patrols and at meetings. Feedback from anglers has been mixed and many have highlighted difficulties in the IFCAs ability to enforce the legislation. The initial issue was very clearly identified; IFCAs had no powers to enforce the legislation. This matter was resolved by the MMO cross warranting officers with limited Marine Enforcement Officer powers. D&SIFCA officers were already

cross warranted to enforce certain aspect of the general fishing licence's conditions and restrictions. The second issue was more ambiguous and centred on how to determine when a person was engaged in a recreational fishery. These issues can be overcome with some well planned and executed enforcement. In line with the Authority's overall enforcement strategy the approach to applying the legislation will be targeted. Identified high risks activities include rod and line vessels fishing wrecks where large catches of bass are a regular occurrence.

Training

One enforcement officer, skipper of the Authority's research vessel attended a two day training course in Great Yarmouth with one of the environment team. The training course was Operational and Maintenance for Edgetech Sidescan Sonar & Sub-Bottomed Systems. The Authority has a similar model of sidescan, which is expected to be used later this year at sea, with deployment from the IFCA research vessel "Black Jack".

The DCO attended a two day course with one of the environment team to obtain a Home Office licence to perform tagging of rays as part of the two ray projects planned for North Devon and South Devon.

Working together

EA officers have supported the Authority by distributing information flyers on bass and the new permit byelaws during their coastal patrols and dealer inspections. EA have confirmed that they are happy to extend the secondment of the two officers in North Devon and to the continued joint use of their patrol vessels. Salcombe Security have also agreed to extend their contract with the Authority. Joint sea patrols have been carried out with MMO staff. MMO nationally have been asked to identify where there are opportunities for joint working. The Authority's relationship with the MMO and other partner organisations are used as examples of good practice. A further initiative with the MMO is described under matters arising.

Enforcement

One new case involving a vessel using demersal towed gear in a closed area is currently being investigated. Three other cases involving vessels suspected of fishing in prohibited areas are still being investigated with case files close to completion. One further demersal towed gear case has now been completed and formal court proceedings have been instigated. The Authority has taken the lead in these investigations but has also been supported by SIFCA and MMO officers.

The master of the FV Carhelmar, BM23, Mr G Podschies accepted a £250 Financial Administrative Penalty for fishing with demersal towed gear in the Authority's district without a permit issued under the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw.

On 22nd April 2015 Newton Abbot Magistrates heard Mr Keith Grainger, the Master and Owner of the British registered fishing vessel Deano II (Port Letters and Numbers, PH996), plead not guilty to two charges brought by Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

1st Charge – Between the 28th September 2014 and 1st October 2014 in the British registered fishing vessel Deano II PH 996 in Salcombe harbour tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 900 true from Splat Point to Limebury point he fished for bass contrary to The Bass (Specified Areas) (Prohibition of Fishing) Order 1990 as amended and sections 5(1) and 11 of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967.

2nd Charge – Between sunset on the 29th September 2014 and sunrise on the 30th September 2014 within United Kingdom waters being the Master and Owner of the British

registered fishing vessel Deano II PH996 failed to comply with Rule 26 (Fishing vessels) of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972.

After a full day's trial Mr Keith Grainger was found guilty on both charges and was fined £2000 and order to pay £750 towards the costs.

The case was brought by Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as a result of a joint enforcement operation carried out by Devon and Severn IFCA, Salcombe Security Solutions and the Police. Following the sharing of intelligence an operation over four nights tackling marine crime including theft from motor craft and illegal fishing was conducted by the three organisations. In court the prosecution successfully demonstrated that the 15 bass found by officers when the vessel was inspected at 0109hrs on 30th September 2014 had been illegally taken from within the designated waters of Salcombe harbour and that the vessel had not displayed correct lights during the fishing trip.

Investigations

Offence Date	Investigation complete	Prosecuting Authority	Offence	Location	Outcome/ Current Status
18-21/09/14	Yes	D&SIFCA	Using demersal towed gear without a Mobile Fishing Permit.	SW of Bolt Tail	£250 FAP accepted
29/09/14	Yes	D&SIFCA	Fishing (netting) for bass from a boat in a closed area (Bass Nursery Area)	Salcombe	£2,000 FAP declined. Plead Not guilty – Found guilty fined £2,750
28/11/14 – 01/12/14	No	D&SIFCA	Using demersal towed gear in a closed area.	South of Start Point	Ongoing
15/12/14	No	D&SIFCA	Using demersal towed gear in a closed area.	South of Start Point	Ongoing
17-18/12/14	No	D&SIFCA	Using demersal towed gear in a closed area.	Lyme Bay	Information and summons forwarded to Courts
08/02/15	No	D&SIFCA	Using demersal towed gear in a closed area.	East of Start Point	Ongoing
16/03/15	No	D&SIFCA	Using demersal towed gear in a closed area.	Start Bay	Ongoing

Warnings

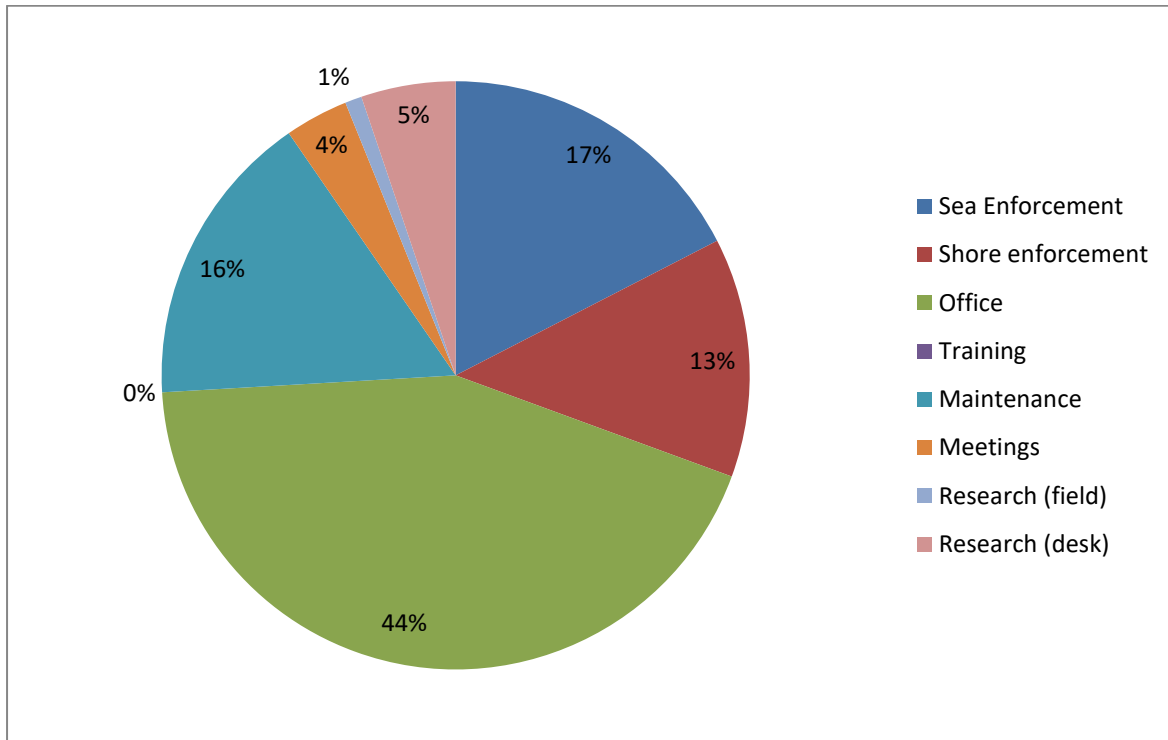
No additional actions were taken during the quarter.

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

Success Criterion (SC)	Activities undertaken
SC1: IFCAs have sound governance and staff are motivated and respected	Production of March to May quarterly reports. Enforcement officers provide crewing and enforcement coaching to research staff. Enforcement officers are encouraged to participate in a full range of duties.

	DCC HR undertaking 360 feedback surveys and appraisal interviews of all staff.
SC2 Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the District.	Potting Permit Byelaw and Diving Permit Byelaw confirmed. Crab and Lobster catch data obtained from at sea surveys and landing inspections. Development of permit schemes to gather better evidence.
SC3 A fair and appropriate enforcement regime is in place	An enforcement risk register is part of the Enforcement Plan 2015-2016. A summary of enforcement actions available to deal with illegal activity is part of the Enforcement Plan 2015-2016. Development of a code of practice with CIFCA to ensure consistent approach in the enforcement actions taken by each Authority. Officers have conducted targeted enforcement operations through a risk based approach.
SC4 IFCAs work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders.	Officers have attended estuary partnership meetings – Avon and Kingsbridge & Salcombe to discuss enforcement concerns. Respond to legislation queries via telephone and website. Provide legislation information on website. Deal with legislation queries.
SC5 IFCAs make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.	Officers' enforcement activities are guided by the targeted enforcement plan referring to received information (SARs and NIRs) Review of enforcement activity for 'lessons learnt' Case review of Salcombe netting case Patrol vessels task and review logs maintained. Officers use information on illegal activity to inform and develop enforcement plans EA emergency hotline operatives aware of D&SIFCA D&SIFCA introduced out of hours contact number 07740 175479 to report suspicious activity. D&SIFCA secured finance to fully fund purchase and instalment of IVMS units on all towed gear vessels operating in D&SIFCA District.
SC7: IFCAs are recognised and heard	IFCOs attend all meetings within District in uniform. Authority's vehicles are badged and byelaw review notices displayed Website redeveloped.

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



Environment/Research Overview

DCO (Environment) S Clark

This quarter has seen the preparation for the Environment team's work programme over the summer along with continued research and fisheries assessments within MPAs. The core actions highlighted in the Annual Plan 2014-2015 have been the focus of the environment team's work.

Recreational Sea Angling

Several meetings have been attended by Libby Ross, Senior Environment Officer, relating to recreational sea angling in the district and presentations given to the IFM and angling clubs and groups including the Bristol Channel Federation of Sea Anglers. These meetings have provided the opportunity to discuss recent developments in relation to bass as well as updating the groups on IFCA byelaws and MPA management. With the development of the D&S IFCA Angling zone there has been a huge focus on the design and implementation of the Angling Zone monitoring plan for the Skerries bank zone. Libby has worked closely with Cefas to ensure that the monitoring programme provides the best evidence for use by the IFCA. Survey forms were designed, based upon modified Sea Angling 2012 formats and trials were run in early May. A target of two boat-based with the Skerries Angling Zone and two shore-based (Beesands and Hallsands) surveys per week began in May and these are being successfully carried out with good input from anglers. The IFCA also inputted into a Stage-1 Interreg bid 'RENEW-COAST' led by the University of Greenwich. If successful the

project will develop a socio-economic study in Start Bay and the Skerries Bank and possibly a second case study in North Devon.

MPA Management

This quarter saw the end of the yearlong bait surveys carried out in the Severn, Plymouth Sound, Tamar and Estuary Exe European Marine Sites. The data has been inputted and GIS mapping is underway. Results and conclusions on this activity within the EMS will help inform any future management through permitting byelaws after a Habitats Regulation Assessment has been undertaken or shared with Natural England to inform SSSI legislation consenting.

Video footage from the filming which took place in 2013 and 2014 in EMS and MCZ has been analysed and the result of this analysis will be used to inform the HRAs and also to discuss with Natural England any changes that may be needed on the location and extent of features.

Several meetings relating to the Exe Estuary EMS have been attended. These included a meeting to discuss the Exe Recreational Framework and the potential creation of a "Sensitive Area" to provide a safe roosting and feeding area for birds. There was also a consultation meeting for the new Conservation Advice package for the Exe Estuary SPA, as well as the Exe Estuary Management Group. A similar process was undertaken for the new conservation package for the Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA. Habitat Regulation Assessments have been undertaken this quarter, with several assessments being completed for the Exe Estuary and Lundy EMS. Preparation of HRAs for other sites and activities continues and will be completed once more evidence has been gathered to inform these assessments.

Extra HRAs have also been completed to assess numerous derogation requests from Cefas, Environment Agency and Marine Biological Association to undertake survey work including the use of towed gear within European Marine Sites. A meeting was held with Andrew Knights (Natural England) to discuss how the IFCA and NE can work together to streamline the process for derogation requests within EMS. Further information has been gathered this quarter on netting activities in the Severn with fishermen filling in forms and leaving them at a location in Watchet for collection. This information will feed into both HRAs and the netting byelaw review.

Projects / Surveys

North Devon Skate (Ray) Pilot Project

Following confirmation of the bid's success a meeting was held with Chrissie Ingle from northern Devon FLAG and L. Ross and H. Mitchell in order to go through the bid in detail and agree a programme of work. A further meeting was held with D&S IFCA Vice Chair J. Butterwith to update IFCA officers on his extensive work on behalf of North Devon fishermen and the progress local industry has already made to ensure the mixed fisheries in North Devon are conservation minded wherever possible.

A workshop was organised as outlined in the bid to bring fishermen, industry, regulators, NGOs and suppliers together to discuss issues surrounding ray sustainability in North Devon. A morning meeting was held alongside the Cefas project Shark By-Watch UK 2 for fishermen to discuss their concerns and highlight the main issues affecting their activities, including issues surrounding ray and spurdog quota as well as the upcoming demersal discard ban. This was followed by an afternoon workshop for a wider audience. Attendees included fishermen, representatives from industry, Marine Conservation Society, Shark Trust, academia, Cefas, IFCA and Defra. Outcomes included the highlighted need for a focused stakeholder group to continue to work on issues surrounding rays in North Devon.

The second part of the project will involve tagging 50 rays with data storage tags. This is a heavily regulated activity and therefore a 2-day statutory training course was attended in order to apply for a Personal Licence under the Animals in Scientific Procedures Act (1986).

European sea bass *Dicentrarchus labrax* developments

This quarter desk-based research on the current status of European sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) both within the D&S IFCA district and throughout the species range was undertaken. Senior Environment Officer Libby Ross has worked hard on producing a paper about bass for the Authority. She has also put information together to put on the D&S IFCA website and created flyers for circulation to clubs, anglers, shops and harbour offices throughout the district. Following the implementation of a new bag limit on bass for recreational sea anglers, a flyer was produced and text written for the D&S IFCA website.

Taw-Torridge Mussel Survey

The annual stock assessments on the Taw-Torridge mussel beds were carried out this quarter, taking advantage of the exceptional spring tide in March. The surveys were assisted by officers from both Natural England and the Environment Agency. The stock data will be used both by D&S IFCA to feed into management, and by Natural England to assess food availability for the birds, for which the estuary is designated a SSSI, to determine suitable harvesting limits.

Whelk Size of Maturity Project

Following the completion of the Size of Maturity project for whelks in the Ilfracombe and Exmouth fisheries, an extension of the project is now underway for the whelk stocks in Start Bay. This additional data collection will allow the IFCA to gather information on the size of sexual maturity in the whelks in this area as members of the fishing industry believe that this is a different and smaller stock compared to other areas where whelks are found in the district.

On-board surveys

Preparation has been underway for the forthcoming survey season. All survey grids and forms have been compiled and printed and all equipment has been tested. Filming within the Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone SAC commenced in May and this is the third year of work to inform Sarah Gall's PhD work funded by the IFCA. Ground truthing of habitat to verify the presence of reef in areas that have not yet been filmed such as the 'Pinnacles' south of the Rutts will also be undertaken. Surveys on board potting vessels have also started this quarter. These surveys are being carried out to measure the number, size and sex of all the crab and lobster catches on board vessels surveyed. Initially this work will be focussed on the fishing boats working out of Plymouth and to the East in the Lyme Bay area, particularly out of Axmouth. The fishermen working in these areas are concerned that the increase in hen crabs MLS to 140mm, under the Potting Permit Byelaw, will significantly impact the businesses. The proportion of 140mm to 150mm hen crabs as part of the daily catch can be assessed to provide evidence for any forthcoming consultation relating to the size increase. The data collected will also feed into Cefas' stock assessments. Landings surveys of crab and lobster from potting vessels has also commenced this quarter. These surveys are following Cefas protocol so that data can feed into the annual stock assessments to ensure best evidence to predict stock sizes.

The Deputy Chief Officer is working with a student from Plymouth University to trial the methodology of putting cameras (go-pros) on nets to investigate the impact of nets on the

features of the EMS. There have been several meetings to discuss this and one fisherman from Salcombe is happy to take part in the trial. The field work should start in June.

Meetings & Outreach

The role of the IFCA within the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA) has involved developing the work plan for the newly appointed part-time ASERA officer as well as continued correspondence with Natural England regarding their role within ASERA. The IFCA attended the Severn Joint Advisory Committee day in Newport chairing the component ASERA meeting. The IFCA participated in a Fish Topic Group for the Cardiff Lagoon organised by Tidal Lagoon Power.

The South West Marine Ecosystem forum was attended at the PML in Plymouth. Some of the topics covered included applying ecological knowledge to marine policy, the impacts of the 2014 storms on the seabed in Lyme Bay, and whether overfishing has led to the replacement of demersal finfish with shellfish.

D&S IFCA gave an update at the Salcombe-Kingsbridge Estuary Forum on the new Potting and Diving Byelaws, as well as introducing the pre-consultation on the upcoming Netting Byelaw. The new byelaws were well received. A meeting was held with Rachel Cole, Project Officer for the Community Seagrass Initiative (CSI), to discuss sharing of seagrass maps and data between D&S IFCA and the CSI.

A meeting of the Sustainable Eel Group (SEG) was attended which proved an excellent opportunity to discuss recent developments in the Severn Estuary with the many other Severn interests. The IFCA attended a low-tide survey with Somerset Wildlife Trust which was held on the lowest tides in 200 years. It was attended by around 100 members of the public. The IFCA talked to participants about the fish assemblage of the estuary, historical fish weirs at Minehead beach and ongoing fishing in the estuary in the form of netting and angling. Cannington Festival of Nature was also attended in May with information on the species of the Severn, and the IFCAs angling work disseminated.

IFCA officers met with New England Seafood and Marks and Spencers in Brixham to discuss the new project being undertaken to try and launch a South West range of sustainable fish products in Marks and Spencer's. The IFCA presented on the permitting byelaw approach, management of EMSs and MCZs and gave an update to M&S on the work currently underway in North Devon relating to sustainable ray fisheries.

The Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group and Lundy Management Forum were attended this quarter. The IFCA reported on the work being undertaken in the MPA and how it can work closely with the Warden to gather evidence for enforcement purposes and also to monitor fishing activity in the MPA.

The SAGB Conference was attended in London and the Deputy Chief Officer chaired one of the sessions as Chair of the Crustacea Committee. The conference provided a good mix of academic presentation as well as fishermen's stories and statutory agencies' involvement in the shellfish industry. Other industry meeting have been attended including the South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen's Association and the East Devon fishermen's group meetings to discuss byelaws, management and research. DCO presented on the IFCA's research and evidence gathering to a MarCoPol group.

Training

Members of the Environment Team undertook extensive training this quarter. Training in the use of sidescan sonar was undertaken through a two day workshop in Great Yarmouth run

by STR and organised by CIFCA through the IFCA Technical Advisory Group. This training focussed on survey planning and deployment. Further to this a two day workshop was run by Cefas with a focus on data processing. Once again this was organised through the IFCA TAG. D&S IFCA officers also joined Cornwall IFCA for a day to test out its sidescan kit and refresh on the set-up process. All this training will enable the team to undertake sidescan sonar surveys within Torbay EMS and Bigbury Bay area of the Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone SAC and interpret the results. This will allow further the ground truthing of the habitat where necessary to inform the assessments of the impacts of fishing activities.

Advanced MapInfo training was delivered by Southampton University to IFCA officers in the D&S IFCA office in Brixham. This course expanded on existing knowledge as well and taught the team new skills which are being used to produce accurate and well displayed positional data and charts for both research and enforcement purposes. A MEDIN workshop held at the MBA in Plymouth was attended, to refresh on the procedures and data guidelines for uploading datasets onto MEDIN. This will allow the IFCA to fulfil its requirements under the EU INSPIRE directive. A training course was attended by officers in order to apply for a personal Home Office licence to carry out tagging of rays with Data storage tags.

Environment Officer Lauren Parkhouse undertook a 5 day theory day skipper course to build on her knowledge of navigational systems and provide her with the right training to be act as a supporting officer to the skipper of Black Jack.

Success Criterion (SC)	Activities undertaken
SC1: IFCA's have sound governance and staff are motivated and respected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of quarterly reports. • On-going meetings with all environment staff on the progress of research projects
SC2 Evidence based, appropriate and timely byelaws are used to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underwater video footage. • Whelk project has been extended for a further year to ensure best evidence to inform byelaws • Shellfish catches and landing surveys commenced to inform byelaw consultation
SC3: A fair and appropriate enforcement regime is in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many stakeholder meetings especially with members of the fishing industry were undertaken to inform the Byelaw review process and EMS and MCZ work
SC4: IFCA's work in partnership and are engaged with their stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authority Officers met, engaged and worked with members of SWT, DWT, SD&CSA, NE, EA, and with fishers around the district • Many recreational Sea angling meetings and events were attended and presentations given. • 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. • Officers attended several meetings and a workshop on developing projects on skate and ray management in the district. • Local partnership meetings were attended. • IFM and SAGB meetings were attended. • IFCA continue to chair ASERA and meetings attended.
SC5: IFCA's make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bait Collection surveys were completed in the EMS in the district to inform HRA.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mussel survey on Taw Torridge was complete to evaluate changes in stock and inform management. • SOM of Whelk project has been extended to undertake research on the Start Bay whelk population. • HRAs undertaken for amber gear feature interactions using available data and fishing activity reports completed. • Meetings with PhD and MSC students to look at impacts of fishing activities (potting and netting) in EMS have taken place. • On board and shore catch and landings surveys of shellfish commenced this quarter • Extensive training undertaken.
<p>SC6:IFCAs support and promote the sustainable management of the marine environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed shore and boat monitoring of the Angling Zones has commenced. • Bass management papers, fliers and information produced • Meetings with angling clubs, angling representatives and the Angling Trust to discuss its development and management. • Management of the Waddeton Regulating order
<p>SC7: IFCAs are recognised and heard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage is being developed to provide information of angling areas and species and other relevant RSA info. • ENv Officer sits on TAG. The D&SIFCA is the TAG netting champion collating evidence on this gear type & its impacts. • EnvO presented the work of the IFCA at angling club meetings • EnvO and DCO attended national meetings of SAGB • DCO presented on Environmental legislation and matters to IFCA national training course

Summary of Environment Officers' duties carried out during the quarter

