

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending September 2016

General Situation

Chief Officer T Robbins

The second quarter of the year has again been very busy for all officers. The main focus for the team has been on the consultation around the proposed netting byelaw and the completion of all the Habitat Regulation Assessments ahead of the December 2016 deadline from Defra.

The byelaw consultation has required all members of the team to be actively involved with answering phone calls, manning the publicity trailer at the consultation events and preparing information to be handed out to interested parties to help inform their comments with regard to the proposed netting byelaw. During the two weeks of the road show ten venues were visited spread around the district, but close to areas where netting activity may be impacted by the byelaw, 163 people visited the exhibition trailer and spoke with officers, 11,171 views of the D&SIFCA Twitter account were recorded and 1217 miles were driven by the team. This is a huge amount of time and commitment from the officers to ensure that as many people as possible will know about the consultation and will have the ability to respond. The consultation finishes 22nd September.

As well as the consultation on the netting byelaw the road show was also used to publicise the current work being undertaken by officers on the minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) for whelks within the district. D&SIFCA research has shown that the whelks within the district reach sexual maturity at a much greater size than the current 45mm and that there will be a need to introduce a permit condition requiring a larger size in the future. The whelk fishery is the most valuable fishery within the IFCA district and as such requires management to ensure the fishery is sustainable.

As well as the byelaw consultations the environment team have been continuing to work hard towards the December 2016 deadline for completion of all the Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRA) so that the D&SIFCA is able to demonstrate appropriate management of the fisheries within the coastal Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the district and thus avoid possible infraction by the EU. To date the team have completed 18 full HRA covering 728 gear interactions within the MPA network. Again this is a huge amount of work which the Environment Team have been tasked with completing and are well on track to achieving.

The issue over the loss of certain enforcement powers to the D&SIFCA IFCOs has been a huge problem over the past few months. Authority members have received two letters to date to inform them of what is a delicate and tricky issue. The CO has been heavily involved in discussions with Defra and the MMO as well as the other IFCAs, their legal teams and the legal advisers to D&SIFCA and Cornwall IFCA to try and find the best solution to this so that the IFCOs can once again enforce all relevant fisheries legislation within the district. The situation will continue to evolve and members will be kept fully up to date as the new advice arrives and decisions are made. But, at all times the CO will strive to ensure that the best interests of the D&SIFCA are protected and that all staff are legally protected in their roles as enforcement officers.

Joint working between the IFCAs and the MMO continues to be very important and with the recent loss of powers for the IFCOs this arrangement has become even more so. It enables the IFCA to continue to target key enforcement areas such as the Inshore Potting Area and local bass fisheries by working alongside MMO enforcement officers. Joint meetings are held monthly between the two organisations which help to set out priorities for the month and for joint enforcement action to be planned. With this current arrangement, which very much mirrors the previous good working relationship between the IFCA and the MMO, there is very little difference in terms of fisheries protection on the coast.

The type approval work on the new inshore vessel monitoring systems (iVMS) has now been completed with two units passing at the moment and a third expected to gain approval by mid-September. This work is important to the D&SIFCA as it will enable the Authority to require all mobile gear vessels fishing within the district to have the tracking device fitted. This will enable the Authority to monitor fishing activity with greater accuracy, target those vessels that are fishing illegally more efficiently and also to look at the possible more flexible management of some of the MPA within the district. The data from the trackers can also be used to more accurately map fishing activity within coastal waters giving increased confidence when responding to consultations on designation of new MPA or siting of new marine renewable areas.

The better weather during the quarter allowed the enforcement officers to get to sea regularly on the Authority's RIB *Enforcer* and also on the Environment Agency's RIB *Endeavour*. With Autumn around the corner and the winter to come the officers are looking to identify suitable vessels to deal with the worsening weather conditions and the return of spatial infringements predicted to coincide with the opening of the scallop fishery in October.

The enforcement focus during the quarter has been on static gear, pots and nets. A significant amount of pots have been seized from the Plymouth and Torbay areas. A number of investigations are currently being processed involving the retention of berried lobsters, in excess of the recreational bag limit for lobsters and the use of undersize crab for bait.

Despite the focus being on static gear, a number of towed gear infringements were also detected and investigated during the reporting period.

Unfortunately it has been reported by local boat watch teams that the level of marine crime has increased significantly in the last two months. In the Yealm alone over 30 outboards were reported to have been stolen. The theft is normally associated with illegal netting activity. CCTV footage has been provided to the Authority showing two persons on board a Dory hauling an illegally set net. The footage is being analysed in order to determine whether a full investigation can be conducted.

The number of cases investigated so far since December 2015 stands at 44. Not all of these have been taken forward from the initial evidence gathering stage for example, unmarked and seized pots and nets or reported pot losses resulting from illegal towed gear activity. The number of investigations represents a significant workload for the officers to undertake in addition to their other work streams. This overall workload has meant that some investigations are taking longer to process than is desirable.

Byelaw Review

Following the decision at the last Authority meeting to make the Netting Permit Byelaw the formal consultation was delayed by a number of weeks. The delay was caused by MMO and Defra looking at the submitted Byelaw to ensure that the drafting was legally correct. Following confirmation from Defra that the Byelaw was drafted correctly the formal, public consultation commenced on 28th July.

In line with Defra's IFCA byelaw making guidance the byelaw notices were duly placed in six publications for two consecutive weeks. The publications cost a total of £5745 +VAT. In addition, officers hired a purpose built mobile exhibition trailer and located it at 10 strategic positions around the district for two weeks from 15th August. Those that attended the events were generally impressed with the standard of the display material and the information packs. A total of 163 people attended the roadshow events. The majority of attendees were from the commercial netting sector. Recreational netters and anglers (sea fish and salmon and sea trout) were also present. Officers took the opportunity to discuss the increase in whelk size proposals as well as the netting proposals with commercial fishermen. Officers' tweets about the events were seen by 11,171 people and the events were publicised through an article in the Western Morning News about the issues in the Taw and Torridge. The total cost of hiring the trailer and producing the information boards was £1635 +VAT.

The events took a considerable amount of planning and a minimum of three officers were required to run the events. In addition to the officers, David Rowe attended seven of the events. Having representation of the Authority at the meetings was much appreciated by officers and those that attended the event.

The consultation closes on 22nd September.

IVMS

Officers have been notified that two Inshore Vessel Monitoring System units have met the national type approval standard. It is expected that a further manufacturer's unit will pass the national testing programme.

Officers will consider how to proceed given that the testing results indicate that there is now competition in the market for the under 12 metre vessels. Officers will also need to understand whether the vessel monitoring system already installed on the over 12 metre fleet will meet the required standard.

Officers intend to apply to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to obtain a grant that would support the fishermen's purchase and installation of the required units.

Officers also intend to formally submit proposals to Natural England that would see two areas within European Marine sites reopen to mobile fishing gears. It was always expected that a pre-requisite of any consideration of such proposals would be the installation and operation of IVMS on all towed gear vessels.

The number of detected offences shows the potential risk posed by a small number of vessels in the towed gear sector. Officers believe that the introduction of vessel monitoring systems on all sizes of towed gear vessels may lead to further incidents being detected but should lead to a reduction of cases over time.

Officers have been testing software that will lead to the Authority having the ability to download all of the closed areas on to memory sticks that can be issued, free of charge, to the towed gear sector. To roll out this development officers will look to test the memory sticks on a selected number of towed gear vessels using different navigation plotters.

Training

One of the new enforcement officers successfully completed a week long RYA Coastal Skipper/ Yachtmaster Offshore theory course. It is intended that the officer undertakes her practical exams to obtain the advanced power boat certificate.

Working together

For reasons already explained to Members of the Authority, enforcement officers have needed to work alongside marine enforcement Officers from the Marine Management Organisation in the last month. Joint enforcement work has always been carried out between the two organisations so the requirement to work more regularly together was not difficult for either organisation to achieve.

Officers have also undertaken joint patrols with the Environment Agency from Appledore in North Devon. One of the patrols aboard the Environment Agency's vessel *Endeavour* also involved the MMO when an inspection of an Ilfracombe boat was conducted in Welsh waters.

Enforcement

Five cases are listed to be heard in Torquay Magistrates' Court during September and October 2016. A further investigation involving a towed gear vessel fishing in a prohibited area of Lyme Bay resulted in the owners of the vessel accepting a £2000 Financial Administrative Penalty. A total of 26 further incidents were investigated during the quarter including a further six cases involving towed gear. For completeness the full list of investigations is set out below. Where any case continues beyond the immediate gathering

of potential evidence the case is forwarded to the Authority's prosecuting solicitor for consideration. The solicitor considers the case against the evidential and public interest tests and advises the officers on how he would proceed in each case.

Investigations

Offence Date	Investigation complete	Prosecuting Authority	Offence	Location	Outcome/ Current Status
03-13/12/15	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging within the Lyme Bay to Torbay SAC and contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	Lyme Bay	First hearing Torquay Magistrates' Court 20/09/16
16-23/12/15	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	South of Salcombe	First hearing Torquay Magistrates' Court 20/09/16
13/01/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Potting without a permit	Lyme Bay	Written warning issued
15/01/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Landing of undersize bass	Brixham Market	Written warning issued
15/01/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Landing of undersize lobsters	Brixham Market	Written warning issued
21-25/01/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Beam trawling contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw and Vessel Size Byelaw	South of Salcombe	First hearing Torquay Magistrates' Court 20/09/16
23/10/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Trawling without a permit	Torbay	Written warning issued
01 -19/02/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	South of Salcombe	First hearing Torquay Magistrates' Court 20/09/16
09/02/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Potting with no permit	Brixham	Written Warning
10/02/16	Yes	MMO	Fishing commercial from an unlicensed powered vessel and retaining prohibited species (Small eyed Ray)	Lyme Bay	Case file forwarded to MMO, written rebrief issued
11/02/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	Lyme Bay	£2,000 FAP accepted
11/02/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Potting with no permit	Brixham	Written Warning
14/02/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Fishing with a fixed net contrary to Fixed Engine	Salcombe	First hearing Torquay Magistrates' Court

			Byelaw		04/10/16
31/03/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Retaining undersize female edible crab	Dartmouth	Written warning issued
01/04/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	Start Point	Insufficient evidence to proceed no further action
05/04/16	No	MMO	Scallop dredging contrary to fishing licence conditions	South of Start point	On going - case file to be forwarded to MMO
26/04/16	No	MMO	Undersize spider crab	Beer	On going - case file forwarded to MMO
28/04/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Potting with no permit	Brixham	Written Warning
13/05/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	13 pots seized not marked correctly	Plymouth	On going
17/05/16	No	MMO	Undersize spider crab	Beer	On going - case file forwarded to MMO
23/05/16	No	MMO	Scallop dredging contrary to fishing licence conditions	South of Salcombe	On going - case file to be forwarded to the MMO
24/05/15	Yes	D&SIFCA	Potting with no permit	Brixham	Written Warning
27/05/16*	Yes	D&SIFCA	Escape gap not compliant with Potting Permit Byelaw	Paignton	Written rebrief
27/05/16	No	D&SIFCA	Using undersize spider crab for bait contrary to potting permit byelaw	Beer	On going
28/05/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Scallop dredging contrary to the Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw	Start Bay	Insufficient evidence to proceed no further action
30/05/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Potting with no permit	Torquay	On going
30/05/16*	Yes	D&SIFCA	12 pots seized no escape gaps fitted to parlour pots, contrary to potting permit byelaw	Brixham	On going
01/06/16*	Yes	D&SIFCA	No escape gap fitted to pots	Brixham	Written Warning
03/06/16	Yes	MMO	Recreational anglers retaining bass on commercial	Axmouth	Case file forwarded by

			licensed angling vessel		MMO No further action
03/06/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Using undersize spider crab for bait	Beer	On going
06/06/16	No	D&SIFCA	Retaining on board berried lobsters	South of Lundy	On going
09/06/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	12 pots seized no escape gaps fitted to parlour pots, contrary to potting permit byelaw	Brixham	On going
09/06/16	No	MMO	Scallop dredging contrary to fishing licence conditions	South of Salcombe	On going - case file to be forwarded to MMO
14/06/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Retaining undersize female edible crab	Dartmouth	£500 FAP offered
05/07/16	No	D&SIFCA	Scaloping in closed season contrary to Mobile fishing permit Byelaw	East of Lundy	On going
07/0716*	No	D&SIFCA	Exceeding recreational bag limit of lobsters contrary to Potting Permit Byelaw	Sidmouth	On going
08/07/16	No	D&SIFCA	No escape gaps/undersize lobster contrary to potting permit byelaw	Torbay	On going
12/07/16*	No	D&SIFCA	Exceeding number of pots contrary to potting permit byelaw	Torbay	On going
15/07/16	No	D&SIFCA	Whelking with no permit	Lyme Bay	On going
20/07/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Potting with no permit	Brixham	On going
22/0716	No	D&SIFCA	No escape gap fitted to pots contrary to potting permit byelaw	Torbay	On going
23/07/16	No	D&SIFCA	Scaloping in closed season contrary to Mobile fishing permit Byelaw	South of Salcombe	On going
29/07/16	Yes	D&SIFCA	Trawling prohibited in	Start Bay	Insufficient evidence to proceed no further action

14/08/16	No	D&SIFCA	Scalloping in closed season contrary to Mobile fishing permit Byelaw	Lyme bay	On going
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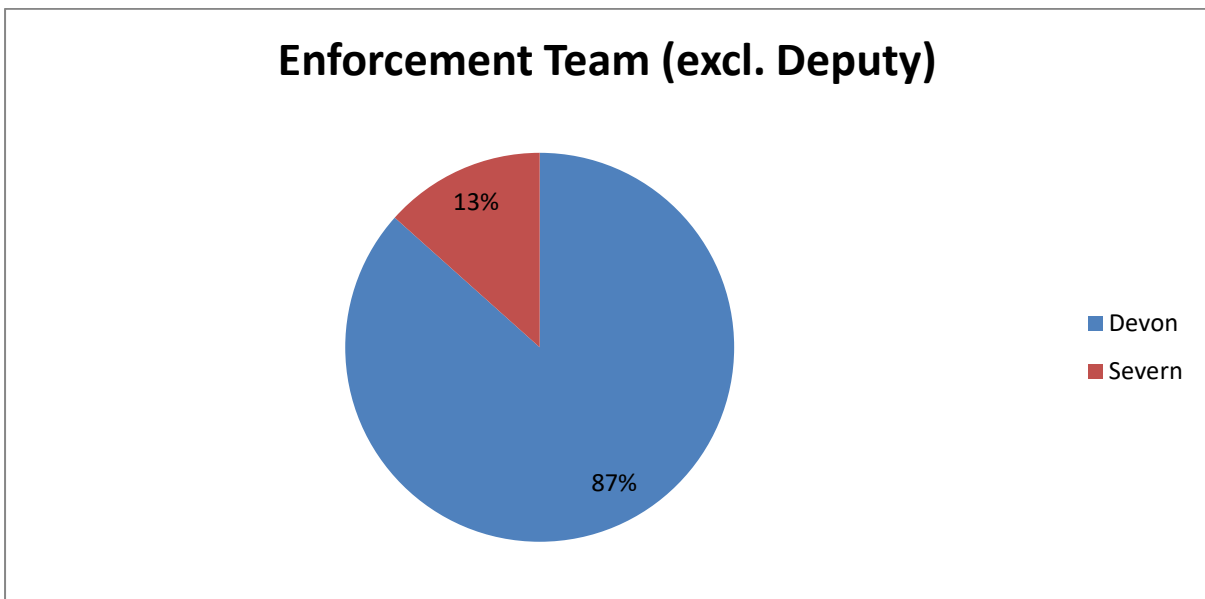
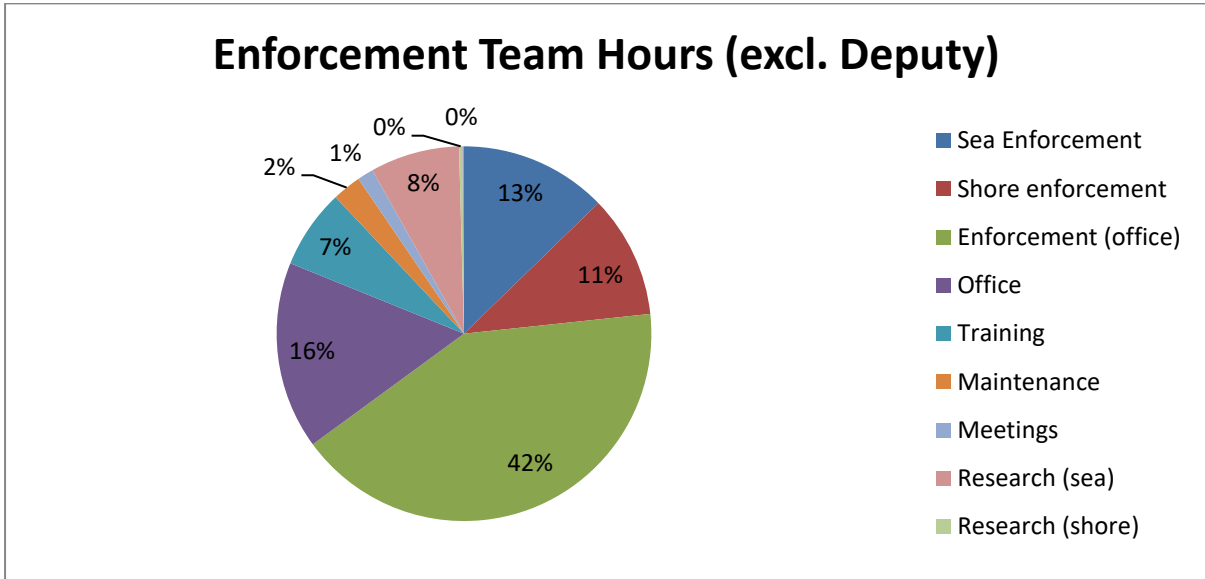
*Denotes recreational fisher

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

Success Criterion (SC)	Activities undertaken
SC1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D&SIFCA is building on its own database through the introduction of permit byelaws. • Netting byelaw communication strategy revised and implemented • Website development to allow purchase of permits on line. • Undertake roadshow events to publicise netting permit byelaw
SC2 IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime	<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
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed information of the pre-consultation process, data collection and summary reports available on website • Detailed minutes of the byelaw and Sub-committee meetings made publicly available.
SC4 IFCAs have appropriate governance in place and staff are trained and professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QGIS mapping training • Appropriate behaviour training • Powerboat commercial endorsement training • Quarterly reports produced
SC5 IFCAs make best use of evidence to deliver their objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers' enforcement activities are guided by the targeted enforcement plan referring to received information (SARs and NIRs) • Patrol vessels task and review logs maintained. • Officers use information on illegal activity to inform and develop enforcement plans

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA emergency hotline operatives and Police aware of D&SIFCA D&SIFCA introduced out of hours contact number 07740 175479 to report suspicious activity.
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Summary of Enforcement Officers' duties carried out during the quarter.



Acronyms used:

- MPA = Marine Protected Area*
- HRA = Habitat Regulation Assessment*
- EMS = European Marine Site*
- SAC = Special Area of Conservation*
- SPA = Special Protection Area*
- MCZ = Marine Conservation Zone*
- NE = Natural England*
- DCO = Deputy Chief Officer (Environment)*
- MCRS = Minimum Conservation Reference Size (aka Minimum Landing Size)*

This has been a very busy quarter for the Environment Team where the workload has been split between HRA work; shore and sea surveys; attending meetings and stakeholder engagement events and training. The DCO has also been putting important time and effort into the Personal Development and Performance Review Plans for team members. Meetings with each team member to discuss performance and development will take place in September. Several Environment Team Officers and the DCO have been involved in the Netting Permit Byelaw Roadshow Consultation event. This included planning locations, permission to position the trailer at ten locations around the district; risk assessment for each site/event; preparing posters and attending the event alongside Enforcement Officers to discuss the Netting Permit Byelaw and disseminated information regarding the 2016 Whelk Survey.

Marine Protected Area Management

The Environment team have been working hard to finalise the important EMS HRA work stream. The IFCA is on target to complete all the necessary assessments by the end of 2016 and have the appropriate management in place. All but three completed HRA have been checked by the DCO and sent to NE for formal advice. There are only six HRAs left to complete – three of which are being amended before sending off to NE for formal advice and the other three are awaiting informal advice back from NE. So far, NE has agreed with the IFCA on 187 full HRAs covering 728 gear feature interactions. These are in addition to the screening TLSE that were done early in the process.

This quarter has seen the completion of the final draft Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) for commercial fishing activities in the Severn Estuary European Marine Site. These considered interactions between fixed nets and the 'fish assemblage' sub-feature and the Annex II species – twaite shad and sea and river lamprey. Because of the complex nature of the assemblage (over 100 species of fish) and the sensitivity of the Annex II species, these interactions required detailed Appropriate Assessments. Informal advice for Severn Estuary SPA vs. static nets was received and WeBS peak mean counts were added to the appropriate assessment.

HRAs for Plymouth Sound and Estuaries EMS have all been completed and sent to Natural England for formal advice. A recent meeting with NE discussed some of the HRAs submitted for Plymouth Sound EMS relating to the sea grass habitat. Additionally, templates for crab tiling and bait digging HRAs for Plymouth Sound and Estuaries EMS and Severn Estuary EMS have been completed, ready to start the assessments, which require completion by the end of 2018. Bait digging and recreational sea angling codes of conduct are being developed by the IFCA and the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA). These are being drawn up as part of the wider ASERA work plan, which focuses on managing recreational activities in the Severn EMS.

HRAs for towed demersal gear and scallop dredging on the sand and coarse sediment in the northeast corner of Lundy SAC are at the final stages of completion. Informal advice from NE has been received and this was discussed at the recent meeting and amendments to the HRAs are being made. The final HRA on handgathering for Exe Estuary SPA is close to completion with some amendments being made to the activity maps using survey data gathered throughout June and July, on the level and location of the activity. Activity effort information for Braunton Burrows has been gathered and the HRAs for longlining and bait digging have since been completed. Extra HRAs have also been carried out to assess several derogation requests the IFCA has received for undertaking survey work within European Marine Sites.

The MCZ assessments for Torbay MCZ and Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ are being progressed. Screening assessments for Tamar Estuary MCZ are all complete, apart from bait digging. The process of completing screening assessments for Torbay MCZ is well underway, these include pots/traps, nets and commercial diving. Furthermore, a fishing activity report for Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ has been completed. Ongoing discussions are being had with MMO and NE regarding the management of activities within the Skerries Bank and Surrounds MCZ. These discussions bring into question the need for any change in management as MCZ co-locates with the Inshore Potting Agreement where a formal management system is in place under Licence Variation, and the recommendation and agreement throughout the Finding Sanctuary Project and Site Designation process that management would remain unchanged within the site.

Recreational Sea Angling

Angling Zone (AZ) surveys have continued at the Burnham, Berrow and Brean site at a rate of approximately one four-hour high tide survey per week.

European funding for the production of four videos has been received, as part of the FishTrail project with West Country Rivers Trust and partners in Slovenia, Portugal and Ireland. The videos will encourage good-practice and a conservation approach to fishing to angling tourists as well as promoting angling tourism. As part of the project D&S IFCA are helping to develop a 'Fish Planner' which will signpost visiting sea anglers to the relevant legislation.

Finfish Research

IFCA officers have worked closely with the PhD student and supervisory team at Plymouth this quarter: A full update on bass research is provided in a separate paper for this quarterly meeting.

The IFCA's involvement in elasmobranch research has continued with attendance at a meeting with Cefas, fishermen, Defra and the Shark Trust in Newlyn. The meeting gave an update on progress surrounding several projects of interest to North Devon fishermen – including a new spurdog avoidance scheme, which will allow boats involved in the scheme the ability to land a certain amount of dead bycatch of spurdog in return for collecting data. The development of the Shark By-Watch 3 project was also discussed. D&S IFCA officers have submitted suggestions for the next iteration of this project, including sidescan sonar and ray habitat mapping exercise in North Devon and a recreational sea angling tagging project for rays in the inner Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary.

Protection of salmon and sea trout from bycatch in coastal netting was the focus for a meeting between IFCA officers and the EA. Gaps in knowledge relating to both salmon ecology and the socio-economic importance of netting in the D&S IFCA district were identified. The IFCA plans to address some of these gaps with the bass ecology PhD, and

will gain better information on the levels of activity through the implementation of the permitting process.

The Institute of Fisheries Management Tagging and Telemetry workshop was attended. The workshop included presentations on work using a range of tagging methods and afforded an excellent opportunity for discussion with people with similar research interests regarding fish movements in inshore areas.

Consultations

Tidal Lagoons are currently the subject of an independent review, to which IFCA officers have submitted a response. The IFCA highlighted concerns relating to potential effects on fish stocks throughout the Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel. The IFCA is also responding to consultations regarding aggregate dredging in the Severn Estuary, the Bridgwater tidal barrier, Hinkley Point C development and a number of smaller projects.

Projects / Surveys

Start Bay Whelks

The possible management, that is currently being discussed to protect the whelk populations within the district, is to increase MCRS by 5mm per year, up to 60mm or maybe to 65mm. The phased increase would allow the IFCA to monitor the effectiveness of the changes. Coombe Fisheries in North Devon contacted the DCO and requested a meeting to discuss the implications of any increase in MCRS on its business, which was attended by the DCO and Kat Stephenson, and Andy Lawler from Cefas attended via skype. Coombe Fisheries have collected data on the size distribution on a large quantity of whelks landed to them. These data will help inform the IFCA on the impact any change in management would have on the fishery. Cefas discussed the benefits of yield per recruit modelling, which would give a good indication on how an increase in MCRS would benefit the stock.

Survey forms and charts have been sent out to all whelk fishers to gather more information on where they fish and their level of effort. This survey will identify any locations, where the fishery is prosecuted, which has not been sampled to date. If areas are identified samples will be taken during the months of September, October and November to analyse the SOM of the whelks in these areas.

Lyme Bay Filming

Underwater video surveys were carried out in a number of locations in Lyme Bay. The focus was to ground truth the areas, which are covered by the Lyme Bay SI but outside of the Lyme Bay and Torbay SCI. An area of reef by Beer Head, which is not within the SI or the SCI, was also surveyed. This work was carried out on survey vessel Black Jack.

Exe Intertidal Handgathering

To help inform the HRAs for the Exe Estuary, shore visits were carried out throughout May and June to collect information on handgathering activities (shellfish collection, bait digging and crab tiling). These visits took place twice weekly, around the hours of low tide. Data was collected on how many people were handgathering, what species they were collecting and by which fishing method, and where these activities were taking place on the estuary. Natural England also undertook shore visits to supplement this data. This data has now been analysed and has fed into the HRAs for Intertidal Handwork activities.

Crab Tiling

The quadrennial survey of crab tiles within the D&S IFCA District is taking place over the spring tides this summer/early autumn. This involves counting and mapping the crab tiles on each estuary within the District, to monitor the effort levels of this fishery. So far the rivers Dart and Yealm have been surveyed by boat; the Axe and Otter estuaries by foot and more surveys are planned for the large spring tide at the start of September. Some parts of the Plymouth Estuaries have also been surveyed. Due to its size, the Exe survey will be carried out using a drone, the planning for this survey is underway.

Training

Environment Officers attended a three-day course on the statistical package “R”, held by University of Hull, Scarborough Campus and North Eastern IFCA. This course provided officers with the opportunity to learn how to use this package, with a focus on fisheries data, and to share examples of best practice for fisheries data collection and analysis with other IFCAs. The course was also an excellent opportunity to talk about stock assessment techniques and shared research interests with other IFCAs

A two-day small fish survey workshop was run by Sussex IFCA in Hastings, where they demonstrated different techniques that could be used for these surveys. This included seine netting and other equipment demonstrations, fish identification and a knowledge-sharing workshop to produce best practice guidance.

Lauren Parkhouse completed her Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster theory course this quarter. This was undertaken to ensure that Lauren is fully trained to be a competent crew member and to progress to the level to undertake the practical courses, which will allow her to skipper the vessel if needed.

Enforcement

Environment Officer assisted enforcement officers on RIB patrols this quarter. The Bass Nursery Areas in the Exe and Teign were checked, and pots along the coast were hauled to check for compliance the Potting Permit Byelaw.

Following reports of unregistered pots in Porlock Bay in Somerset, IFCA officers met with a local registered fisherman to mark the locations and discuss possible enforcement actions. Leaflets advertising the Netting Byelaw consultation were dropped off in key locations at Minehead, Dunster and Watchet.

Meetings & Outreach

An update on the D&S IFCA’s netting byelaw consultation and the new EU bass regulations was given at the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and the Exe Estuary Officer’s Working Group. Both the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum and the Officer’s Group were attended. Updates were given on the netting byelaw consultation. Officers were involved in the preparation, planning and attending the Netting Permit Byelaw Consultation ‘Roadshow’ event.

The MMO held a workshop to discuss evidence and issues for South West Marine Plans in Plymouth and Bristol. D&S IFCA provided information on how fisheries can fit in to the Marine Planning process.

Officers attended the two-day Shellfish Association of Great Britain Annual Conference. The DCO, as Chair of the Crustacea Committee, chaired the afternoon session of the first day. Topics covered included Aquaculture Stewardship Council accreditation, meeting the demands of the landing obligation, bird disturbance and crab tiling, and cephalopod fisheries.

D&S IFCA continues to take part in the monthly Fisheries in EMS teleconferences, with all IFCAs, Natural England and the MMO.

Katherine Stephenson spent a day visiting the Offshore Shellfish mussel farm in Lyme Bay to learn more about how the farm is developing and to assist University of Plymouth PhD student, Dani Bridger, collect her samples for her study of the mussel farm

A meeting was held with officers of the Somerset, North Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucester Local Authorities prior to the June 2016 quarterly meeting to discuss IFCA work in the Severn area and more widely. IFCA officers also met with the Severn and recreational Sea Angling representative John May to discuss IFCA work on bass, RSA and finfish. Governance in the Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel has been a focus for many meetings this quarter. These included an ASERA meeting to discuss IFCA progress relating to the Severn Estuary Management Scheme and an interview with a researcher at the University of West of England (UWE) who is studying differing governance models for fisheries management. Porlock Marsh 'bioblitz', run by Somerset Wildlife Trust, was attended to look at species in the intertidal zone.

The IFM Estuarine and Marine Committee met in London to discuss a number of issues including bass and the ongoing development of position statements relating to transitional fisheries management. Libby Ross attended this as she sits on the Committee.

A TAG meeting was attended in London by members from IFCA, NE, Cefas and guest speakers. Topics discussed included; HRAs, potting impact studies and research currently being planned by IFCA's and NE. A meeting was attended via telecom, with Cefas and other IFCAs to discuss research plans for each organisation and whether there can be more joint working on projects.

The DCO attended a lobster project launch hosted by the National Lobster Hatchery to develop methodologies of on growing lobsters in cages to a larger size before release into the wild. A Defra Pioneer meeting was attended to discuss the possibility of a Marine Pioneer Project in Devon, and what this would entail. On-going discussions are being had in relation to this project.

DCO and Environment Team members spent the morning with MEP Molly Scott Cato on board the SV Black Jack within the Torbay MCZ to demonstrate the survey work undertaken and discuss evidence gathering and management of the MPAs in the district. A Shellfish Management and Science sub-group meeting with industry members, Cefas, SAGB and Defra was attended by the DCO. The DCO is supervisor to the Plymouth University student who is undertaking an investigation in the impacts of scallop dredging on the mud habitat in the Torbay MCZ. Several meetings were held this quarter to discuss progress of this research.

The DCO was asked to present at the 2nd Annual Scottish Fishing Conference in August on the Inshore Potting Agreement in South Devon. This was a very interesting conference held in St Andrews. Fisheries Innovation Scotland research projects were discussed and top of the agenda was the impact of Brexit on fisheries.

Success Criteria	
<p>SC 1: IFCAs are recognised and heard, whilst working in partnership and engaging with stakeholders</p>	<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 • Recreational Sea angling meetings were attended. • 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. • ASERA meetings chaired and partnership working discussed. • Meetings with NE to discuss HRAs, SPA and bird count data. • South West Marine plan workshops were attended • IFM meeting attended • Meeting held with whelk processors regarding whelk research and implications • Working with West Country Rivers and EU partners to develop FishTrail Project videos. • Somerset Bioblitz attended. • Elasmobranch research meeting attended with Cefas, fishers, Defra and Shark Trust • Meeting with Whelk processors to discuss future surveys and management of whelk stocks. • Mussel farm visit with fishers and student. • IFCA TAG meeting was attended. • IFCA Netting Permit Byelaw Consultation Events • Attended SAGB Conference • Presented at Scottish Fishing Conference • Meeting and survey trip with MEP • Env Officer sits on TAG. • SEO chaired ASERA meetings and AGM • Presentations given at fora and stakeholder meetings including TAG. • Engaged with the Bridgewater Barrier project • Development of website and on line payments system discussed.
<p>SC 2: IFCAs implement a fair, effective and proportionate enforcement regime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many stakeholder meetings especially with members of the fishing industry and anglers were undertaken to inform the Byelaw review process, EMS and MCZ work, and New Bass regulations. • Several shore and sea enforcement patrols were undertaken in the district • Statements and GIS charts were produced to support case files for prosecutions. • Reports of unregistered pots along the coast of Somerset were investigated
<p>SC 3: IFCAs use evidence based and appropriate measures to manage the sustainable exploitation of sea fisheries resources and deliver marine environmental protection within their districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRAs undertaken for amber gear / feature interactions in MPA using available data and fishing activity reports completed. • Meetings with PhD and MSC students to look at impacts of fishing activities have taken place • Meetings with Bass PhD student and supervisors have taken place both in the field and in the office. • Intertidal Hand-gathering surveys carried out on Exe Estuary SPA to inform HRA. • Side scan survey and grab survey in Torbay MCZ to inform

	<p>assessments completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRA undertaken for derogation requests • Meetings held with Natural England on EMS & MCZ in the district. • Meeting attended regarding PhD on Bass with student and supervisors • Meetings attended regarding MSc on impacts of Scalloping in mud within Torbay MCZ • Responded to consultations on Tidal Lagoons and aggregate dredging in the Severn Estuary EMS • Crab tile surveys carried out on Devon estuaries to inform bait collection HRAs • Berrow Brean and Burnham Angling Zone monitoring continued.
<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. • On-going meetings with all environment staff on the progress of research projects and HRA. • R-Training undertaken by Env Team. • Small fish survey workshop was attended. • Pre quarterly meeting with Severn Local Authority Officers was attended. • Coastal Skipper / Yachtmaster theory course completed by Env Officer Parkhouse
<p>SC 5: IFCAs make the best use of evidence to deliver their objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R-training course allowed for sharing of assessment techniques and research interests • IFM Tagging and Telemetry workshop attended. • Underwater video survey of areas of Lyme Bay SI • Env Officer sits on TAG and inputs into SOPS and shares research outcomes

Summary of Environment Officers' duties carried out during the quarter

