

Guidance Note - Live Wrasse Fishery

The Potting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions have been changed to introduce management to the Live Wrasse Fishery within D&S IFCA district. The management measures are:

- To have a fully documented Live Wrasse Fishery
- To limit the number of pots used by each vessel in the live wrasse fishery to 120 pot limit per permit holder
- To mark all strings of pots used in the Live Wrasse Fishery with 'WRA' and Vessel's PLN
- To mark each pot used in the Live Wrasse Fishery with a tag supplied by D&S IFCA
- To have a closed season from 1st April to 30th June for the Live Wrasse Fishery
- To introduce minimum and maximum conservation reference sizes for five species of wrasse

Further to these regulatory conditions, D&S IFCA has developed additional guidance to support these measures and the fishery. This guidance is in the form of voluntary measures to be adopted by those fishermen participating in the Live Wrasse Fishery.

1. The Live Wrasse Fishery currently takes place within the Plymouth Sound and Surrounds SAC and in a small area at the western end of the Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SCI (Bigbury Bay reef area). It is not occurring in the other thirteen MPAs in the district.
2. A series of small closed zones to the Live wrasse pot fishery or 'No Wrasse Pot Zones' have been identified through discussions with the fishermen. These areas lie within the fishery area in the Plymouth Sound and associated area and include reef habitat known to be favoured by the wrasse species fished. From research in Norway such areas have been found to afford protection for wrasse species that have high site fidelity and small home ranges/territories. Figure 1 shows the areas to be closed.
3. Mount Batten Breakwater is known to be a popular angling mark and in order to remove any conflict with anglers in this area, fishermen are requested to keep their pots 30 m from the pier.

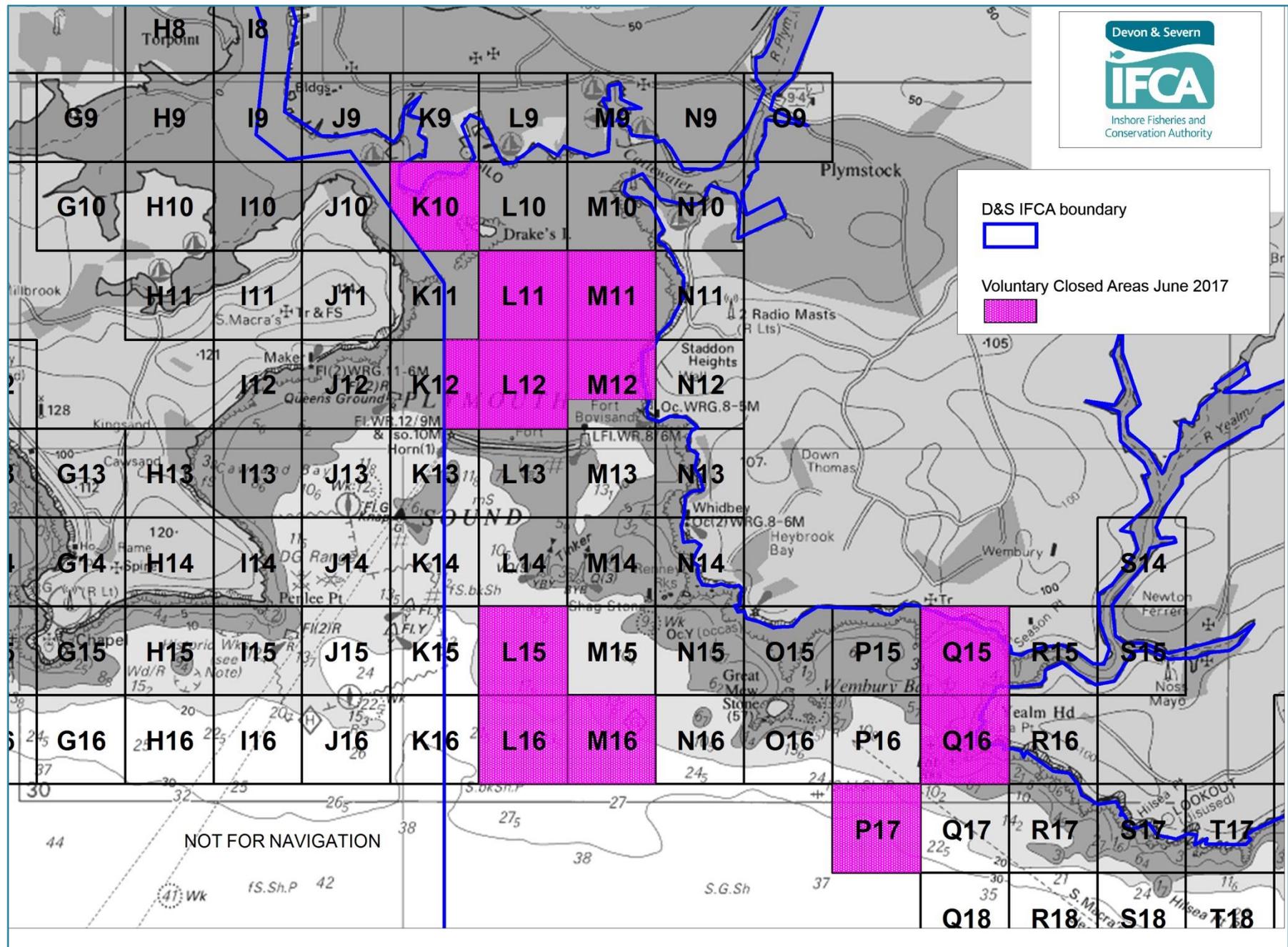


Figure 1 Voluntary Closed Areas to the Live Wrasse Fishery