

Potting Permit Byelaw

Policy Statement & Potting Permit Conditions for the Live Wrasse Fishery

Changes to the Potting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions have been introduced to manage the Live Wrasse Fishery within D&S IFCA district. D&S IFCA is tasked with managing a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry. The changes to the Potting Permit conditions are being brought in to fulfil this remit.

The following **management measures** are now part of the Potting Permit conditions:

- 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

Under Paragraph 17 of the Potting Permit Byelaw, D&S IFCA can request relevant information to discharge its duties. In order to manage the Live Wrasse Fishery and as part of the fully documented fishery the following information is required:

1. The name and contact details of the Salmon Farm company, agent or associated company who the fishermen are supplying live wrasse to.
2. Name and contact details of transport company.
3. Transport documents for all those consignments sent to the Salmon Farm Company.
4. Number of pots actively being used in the Live Wrasse Fishery.
5. Completion of weekly returns including information on the dates and times of hauling, location of strings, number of strings hauled, number of pots hauled, and the number of wrasse retained on board per day.

Other requirements

- Fishermen will also be required to allow D&S IFCA officers on board their vessels to collect catch data for the fishery.

Management Review Process:

- The Authority has decided that if there is an increase in the number of vessels entering the live wrasse fishery this will trigger a review of the permit conditions for the Live Wrasse Fishery, and may lead to further changes to the permit conditions, which may include a reduction in the number of pots per vessel.
- The Authority has decided that a review of the management of the Live Wrasse Fishery will be undertaken in November 2017. Data collected from fishermen and on-board surveys will inform the review of the permit conditions for the Live Wrasse Fishery, and may lead to changes to these conditions.
- Failure to meet all conditions set out in this policy statement may also trigger a review of the permit conditions.
- In addition to formal management under the Potting Permit Conditions, the Authority may introduce further voluntary measures to support the management of the Live Wrasse Fishery. Failure to adhere to these voluntary measures may lead to a review of the permit conditions.