



Potting Permit Byelaw

Development and Management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery



Extract from the Development Report, Focussed Consultation Items and Permit Condition Proposals for the Formal Review

1st edition – 1st January 2018

Consultation – Potting Permit Byelaw Permit Conditions

Introduction

This information focusses on the “identified” consultation items only. This information is an extract from the overarching report – Potting Permit Byelaw – Development and Management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery - Development Report, Focussed Consultation Items and Permit Condition Proposals for the Formal Review (1st edition 1st January 2018). The full report (displayed on the D&S IFCA website) contains far more detail as follows:

- **Demonstrates the measures that have already been taken to manage potting activity, in particular the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery**
- **Documents the findings of the consultations and the evidence base used for decision making**
- **Demonstrates how, when and why decisions have been taken**
- **Provides background information to all stakeholders about D&S IFCA and how the organisation functions**

This focussed consultation on potting permit conditions relates to changes to the management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. A separate consultation is being conducted that focusses on potential changes to the more generalised potting permit conditions.

What are D&S IFCA consulting on?

- **Change to the closed fishing season – 1st May to 15th July**
- **Change to the slot size for corkwing wrasse – 140mm to 180mm**

All stakeholders, regardless of interest or fishing sector have the opportunity to respond to the consultation. Some items such as the managing gear conflict apply to other fishing sectors.

THE CONSULTATION WILL BEGIN ON 31st JANUARY 2018 AND END ON 14th MARCH 2018.

This is not a detailed questionnaire or a multi-choice consultation. Stakeholders have freedom to respond to all of the identified items as they wish. It is useful if stakeholders identify their interest or fishing sector and add detail and reasoning in their responses.

Although a designated email is available to be used, stakeholders have other options to respond. Written responses (letters) will be collated. In addition, stakeholders can contact the office of D&S IFCA and arrange an appointment¹ to discuss the consultation items.

¹ Telephone session, or personal interview with an officer

The Consultation Items

In order to introduce changes in the proposed management of the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery, the current potting permits have been subjected to re-drafting. As a consequence of this re-drafting process and the legal advice taken during this exercise, the formatting of the permits has altered along with some of the wording and paragraph numbering. To aid stakeholders fully appreciate what the changes consist of and all the implications that they have, explanations (*in bold blue italics*) has been provided.

Change to the closed fishing season:

The potting permit conditions (time restrictions) currently detail when pots are not authorised to be used for the purposes of fishing for wrasse. The proposal is to change the dates when this restriction (closed season) applies. It is anticipated that the amended relevant proposed potting permit conditions would take the following form:

4. Time Restrictions

- 4.2 A Category One permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this permit to use a pot, for the purpose of fishing for wrasse within the District, between 1st May and 15th July (inclusive).***

Explanation

The interpretations (definitions) in potting permit conditions have been amended to clarify which species are subject to the time restriction and also to clarify that this restriction is for those commercial fishers that are targeting Live Wrasse. The species included are ballan, corkwing, cuckoo, goldsinny and rock cook. Although not a new provision, section 1.5.3 of the potting permit prohibits Category Two permit holders (recreational fishers) from retaining live wrasse. This fishery is for Category One permit holders (commercial fishers) only.

Slot size (change to the slot size for corkwing wrasse)

The potting permit conditions currently contain a species list that are relevant to potting activity. The list includes five species of wrasse including corkwing wrasse. Paragraph 1.3 specified the size range (slot size) that a corkwing wrasse (and the other wrasse species) must be within in order to be removed from a fishery. The proposal is to narrow the size range for corkwing wrasse to 140mm to 180mm. The original slot size for corkwing wrasse was 120mm to 230mm. A change in the formatting of the permits has produced a change to section 1.3 and this is further explained below. To facilitate this proposed amendment in the slot size, it is anticipated that relevant proposed permit conditions would take the following form:

2.6 Additional Category One Gear Restrictions

2.6.1 *A Category One permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this permit, for the purpose of fishing for wrasse, within the District to use a pot unless;*

- (a) *in addition to paragraph 2.3 above (which is a general gear marking provision), each floating buoy or dahn is clearly marked with the letters 'WRA';***
- (b) *the maximum number of pots used does not exceed 120;***
- (c) *each pot is tagged with a tag issued by the Authority; and***
- (d) *the retained live wrasse complies with the sizes as set out in paragraph 2.6.2;***

2.6.2 *A permit holder or named representative is not authorised to remove live wrasse within the District other than within the size ranges as set out in (a-e) below;*

- a) *ballan wrasse less than 150mm or greater than 230mm, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin;***
- b) *corkwing wrasse less than 140mm or greater than 180mm, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin;***
- c) *cuckoo wrasse less than 150mm or greater than 230mm, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin;***
- d) *goldsinney wrasse less than 120mm or greater than 230mm, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail;***
- e) *rock cook wrasse less than 120mm or greater than 230mm, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin.***

Explanation

The re-drafting process has added the slot size restriction to specific gear restrictions rather a general catch restriction. Although this would appear to be at odds with the general formatting of the permit restriction categories, it does add clarity that this size restriction is linked to those fishers (Category One) that are authorised under the permit conditions to target the five species of Live Wrasse. Those fishers (Category One and Category Two) who use pots (not targeted towards Live Wrasse) are not subjected to either paragraph 2.6.1 or the slot sizes (2.6.2). The five species of wrasse can therefore be taken of any size and retained providing that the wrasse is not being kept alive for the purpose of supplying the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery. It is a fact that relatively small numbers of wrasse are caught and used as pot bait, and the permit does not prohibit this activity.

Your Response

As explained, all stakeholders, regardless of interest or fishing sector have the opportunity to respond to the consultation. The consultation will begin on 31st January 2018 and end on 14th March 2018.

This is not a detailed questionnaire or a multi-choice consultation. Stakeholders have freedom to respond to all of the identified items as they wish. It is useful if stakeholders identify their interest or fishing sector and add detail and reasoning in their responses.

Although a designated email is available to be used, stakeholders have other options to respond. Written responses (letters) will be collated. In addition, stakeholders can contact the office of D&S IFCA and arrange an appointment² to discuss the consultation items.

Contact details



Brixham Laboratory
Freshwater Quarry
Brixham
Devon
TQ5 8BA
Tel: 01803 854648
Email:
consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

You can choose to respond using the email below or on the on-line survey form on social media

- consultation@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk

² Telephone session, or personal interview with an officer

Data Protection - how we use your information?

D&S IFCA has a privacy policy.

The information you provide for this consultation will be used to assist the Authority in decision making. All personal data submitted will be held securely at all times, and, as part of this review of permit conditions, used only by the Authority. All personal data will be anonymised and summarised for insertion into the overarching development report. Personal data will not be held for longer than necessary. We may disclose your information if required by law.

End of report extract.