

Illegal Netting removed at Weston – April 2018



As a result of a report from a member of the public, Officers from Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&S IFCA), investigated the use of an illegal fixed stake net off Uphill Beach, Weston Super Mare. Subsequently, shore patrols were made accompanied by officers from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), to establish the location of the net and identify the fisher to engage and ensure they were aware of the current fisheries legislation in place in the area. Following a second visit, a notice was placed on the net, to establish communication with the fisher.

From the 1st of March 2018, D&S IFCA introduced the Netting Permit Byelaw which requires commercial and recreational fishers wishing to use a net within the D&S IFCA district to have a D&S IFCA permit to do so. The activity of netting is then managed by permit conditions that include spatial, gear and catch restrictions.

On the 14th April, 2018 Officers from D&S IFCA visited the area of Uphill beach to establish if the net was still in place at the same location. As there was no permit issued relating to the net, our Enforcement Officers removed the net.

For the most efficient use of our resources, we often carry out targeted patrols, based on intelligence provided by members of the public. If you suspect illegal or suspicious fishing in the D&S IFCA district, this can be reported to us anonymously on 01803 854648, or if out of hours, 07740 175479 or by email: office@devonandsevernifca.gov.uk.