

General news – October 2017

Latest news on the Live Wrasse Fishery



Work on the live wrasse fishery continued into late summer with four boats operating out of Plymouth within the D&S IFCA district. The fishermen involved have complied well with management measures put in place in July, have supported the voluntary closed areas and have supplied all details of their catches and locations of their pots.

Twenty on-board surveys carried out by IFCA officers revealed that catches had been dominated by rock cook and Goldsinny wrasse, with Ballan wrasse only accounting for 4% and even less being retained. All caught cuckoo wrasse was returned to the sea and more than 6% of rock cook and Goldsinny caught in pots was returned due to minimum size requirements. Spawning fish were also identified from April, May, June and some of July, which suggested that the closed season introduced by the IFCA was appropriate for protecting most of the spawning species.

The surveys are set to continue, with plans to be put cameras on pots to analyse their ability and effect on the seabed in October. All data gathered will be presented to the permitting and byelaw subcommittee meeting in November as part of a review of the fishery.

[D&S IFCA Press Release \(July 2017\)](#)

[Measures taken by D&S IFCA](#)

[Cornwall IFCA's guidance on wrasse](#)

[Southern IFCA's guidance on wrasse](#)

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