



FISHING NETS USED IN THE FALMOUTH BAY TO ST AUSTELL BAY pSPA
CODE OF PRACTICE

Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay pSPA is frequented by many species of seabirds, several of which may be at risk from being accidentally caught through interaction with static fishing nets. As a practical measure, to reduce the chance of significant numbers of seabirds being affected by nets, it is recommended that the following points should be followed:

- If seabirds are seen gathering to prey on fish in an area where you want to use nets, only shoot and haul them in the dark when birds are not diving below the surface of the sea;
- If there is a significant chance that weather conditions may prevent retrieval of nets before daylight in an area where birds are feeding, do not shoot nets there;
- If you shoot a net in the dark to avoid seabirds and find that you cannot haul it before daylight, look for assistance from other fishermen who may be in a position to help. If you cannot organise your net to be hauled before daylight, report the situation to Cornwall IFCA, as it may be able to assist recovery of your net;
- If you do accidentally catch a Slavonian grebe, black-throated diver or great northern diver in a net, or significant numbers of any other seabird species, ensure that officers of the Cornwall IFCA or Marine Management Organisation are informed as soon as possible, and if practicable, any other net fishermen working in the area. If you belong to a fishermen's association, tell its secretary, chairman or chief executive;
- If you are informed of an area where accidental capture of seabirds in nets has just occurred, any nets you have set there during daylight should be hauled as soon as possible. No nets are to be used in the affected area during daylight until seabirds have moved away.

Contacts:

Cornwall IFCA.....	01736 336842
MMO.....	01736 362805
Cornwall Fish Producers Organisation (P Trebilcock).....	01736 351050
St Mawes & District Fishermen's Association (T Tomlinson)	
Mevagissey Fishermen's Association (C Mitchell)	
Cadgwith, Helford & District Fishermen's Association (D Muirhead)	

Explanatory note

This Code of Practice was developed in response to incidents involving fishing nets and interactions with seabirds in a localised part of Falmouth Bay. In view of a pSPA for three over-wintering species of seabirds already existing off that part of the coast, it was agreed that it would be sensible to bring it in for the whole pSPA, using its boundaries which were already defined and known by the fishing industry. Therefore, it could have a beneficial effect for the designated seabird species, as well as those seabirds which are more susceptible to interaction with fishing nets. The CoP is not designed as a specific measure to manage net fishing for the designated seabird species of the pSPA.