

Fishery Guidance

To minimise the impact of static gear on sensitive habitats (seagrass beds and dense live maerl beds) and other features within marine protected areas (MPAs)

Any person using static gear (pots and nets) within the Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) District is asked to follow this guidance:

- Avoid using or placing pots and nets on seagrass beds or dense live maerl beds to minimise damage to sensitive habitats, especially during periods of bad weather
- If blades of seagrass, fragments of live maerl, pink sea fans or other fragile species (e.g. sponges, corals, anemones) are attached to gear when hauled, relocate gear elsewhere



Potting

If a seagrass bed or dense live maerl bed cannot be avoided;

- use single pots instead of strings of pots
- use floaty ground rope for strings of pots to limit abrasion on sensitive habitats
- haul pots vertically to avoid dragging across seabed
- ensure pots are in good condition to limit the potential to snag seagrass or maerl

Netting

If a seagrass bed or dense live maerl bed cannot be avoided;

- avoid using anchors that may dig into the seabed
- haul nets in a way to avoid dragging across seabed

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