

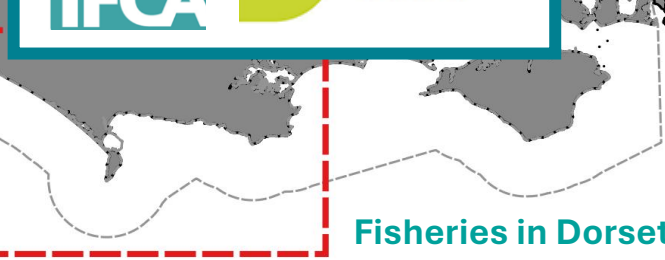


Commercial fishing activity includes trawling, netting, pot & trap and rod & line. There is also a mussel spat fishery for the purposes of aquaculture. **Key species** harvested include crab, lobster, black seabream, bass and whelk.

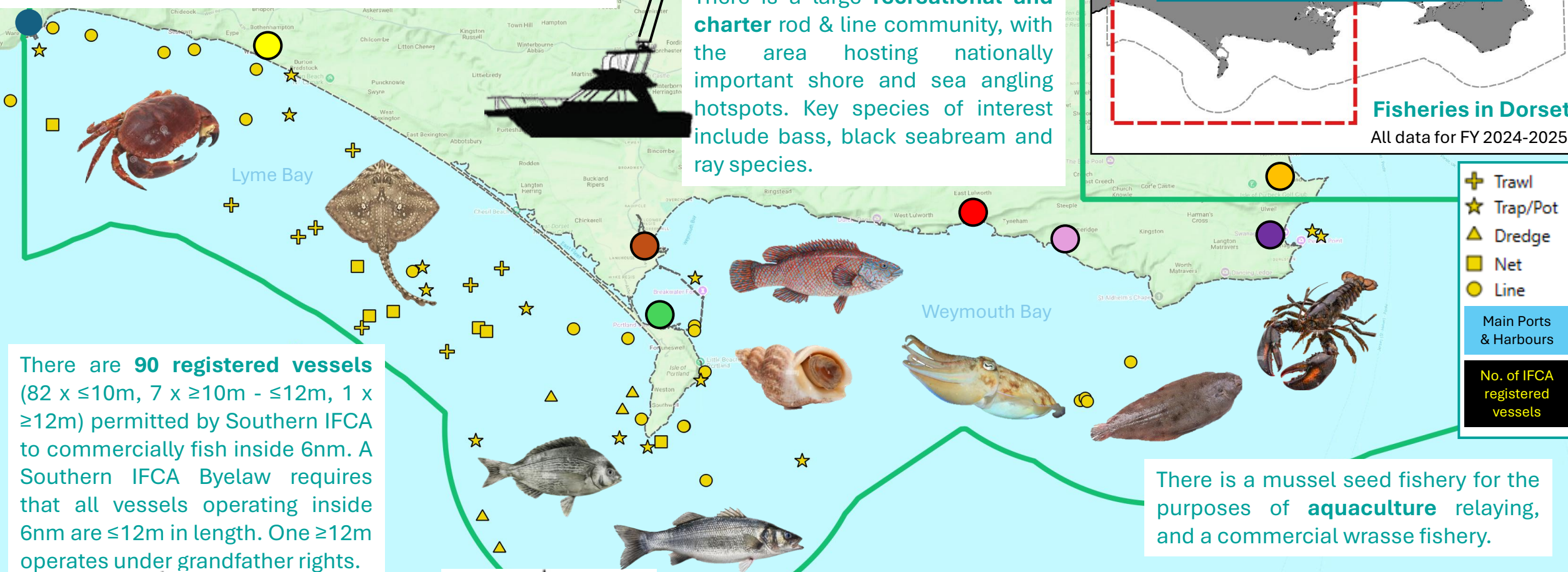
There is a large **recreational and charter** rod & line community, with the area hosting nationally important shore and sea angling hotspots. Key species of interest include bass, black seabream and ray species.





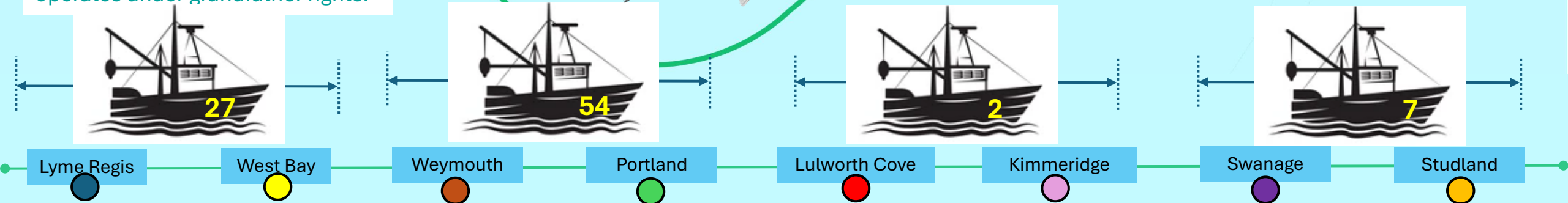
Fisheries in Dorset

All data for FY 2024-2025



There are **90 registered vessels** (82 x $\leq 10m$, 7 x $\geq 10m - \leq 12m$, 1 x $\geq 12m$) permitted by Southern IFCA to commercially fish inside 6nm. A Southern IFCA Byelaw requires that all vessels operating inside 6nm are $\leq 12m$ in length. One $\geq 12m$ operates under grandfather rights.

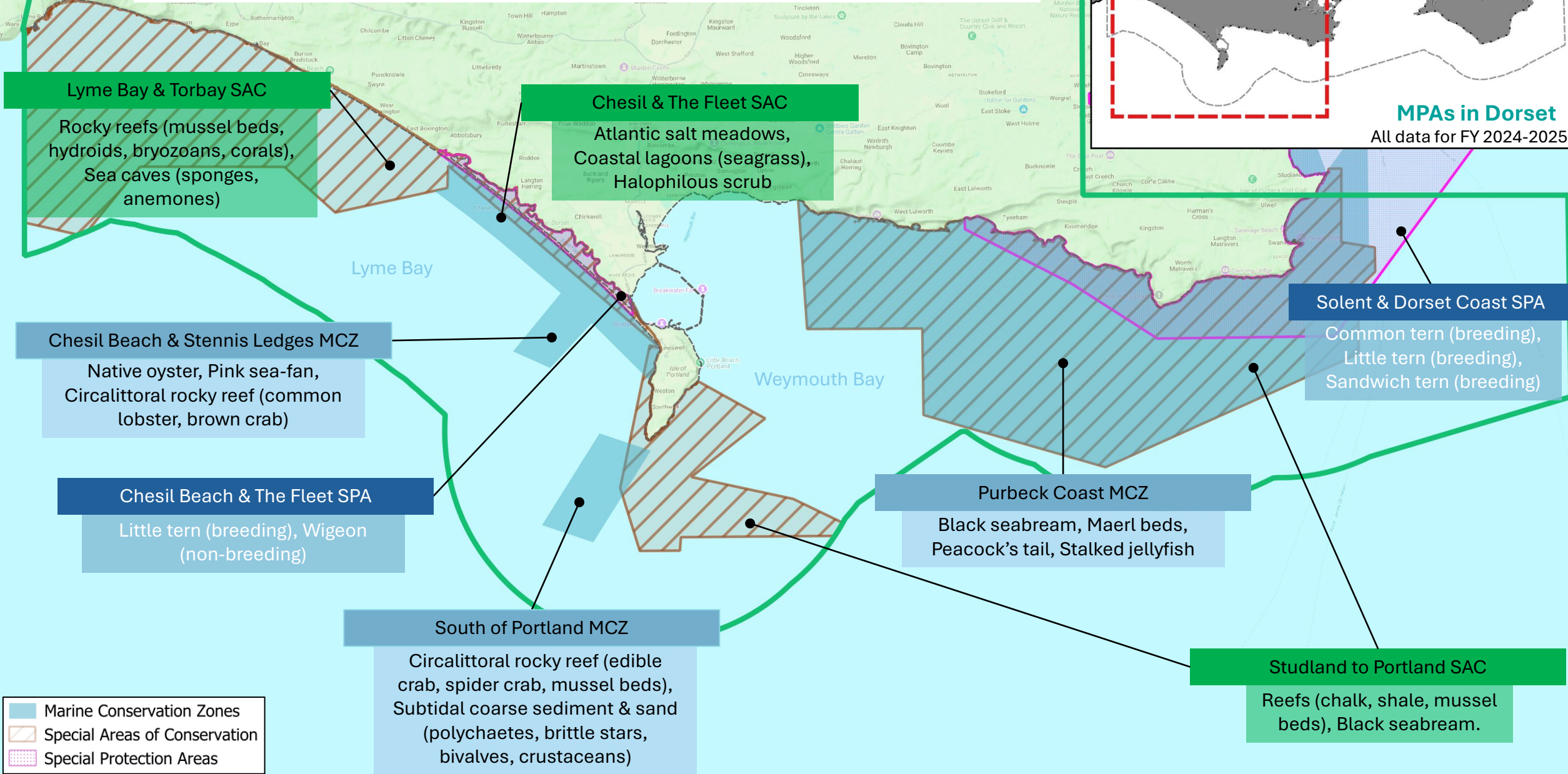
There is a mussel seed fishery for the purposes of **aquaculture** relaying, and a commercial wrasse fishery.



There are **8 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** which are designated to protect important habitats, species and features. Each MPA may require bespoke feature-based management, relevant to the risk posed by fishing activity.



MPAs in Dorset
All data for FY 2024-2025



The **Southern IFCA Data Collection, Survey & Monitoring Programme** seeks to further understandings of fisheries, working with industry to provide the best available evidence to inform relevant annual reviews, ensuring that any management interventions in place remain aligned to their overarching objectives.

Wrasse Data collection via monthly catch returns from the live fishery and buyers is used to analyse outputs from the fishery and identify any changes over time.



The **Whelk Population Survey** assesses the distribution and abundance of common whelk across Lyme Bay, in collaboration with fishers.



Industry support the **whelk survey programme** via industry led data collection and chartered use of fishing vessels to collect data. Lab facilities are provided by Bournemouth University for sample analysis.



The **Juvenile Fish Survey** assesses the occurrence and distribution of young fish. The time series data-set allows changes in fish communities to be observed overtime. The survey is undertaken with a range of partners.



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH



Solent
Seascapes



Research relevant
to Dorset

All data for FY 2024-2025



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Southern IFCA monitoring programme also supports the following **Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)** via provision of data to support FMP objectives for the Wrasses complex, Seabreams, Celtic Sea & Western Channel Demersal and Whelk FMPs.



Review: Phase 1

Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 submitted to the MMO & Defra for quality assurance prior to ratification, outcome of the BTFG Review Phase I.



MMO QA Process

Apr 24 to Sept 24
Rounds 2 to 5 of QA with the MMO received and addressed



Submission to Defra

Following QA with the MMO, the byelaw package was submitted to Defra for QA.



Defra QA

Dec 24 to Mar 25
3 rounds of QA completed with Defra



Next stage

Await notification of submission to Minister's Office for ratification

Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Review

37% (469km sq.) of the Dorset marine environment is protected from Bottom Towed Fishing Gear via the Southern IFCA BTFG Byelaw 2016 Following the pending ratification of the BTFG Byelaw 2023 these protections will increase to **39% (494km sq.)**

During the year Southern IFCA have been working closely with the relevant fishing sectors, via a staged approach to begin the co-development of draft **shared principles of management**, to be considered as one of the management tools relevant to black seabream fisheries in three Dorset MPAs.

The Pot Fishing Byelaw will introduce (following ratification) effort management for pot fisheries through the issuing of commercial & recreational permits with permit conditions including pot limitations, escape gap requirements and catch data provision (recreational only).

Shore Gathering restrictions will be introduced in **0.4% (4.5km sq.)** of the Dorset marine environment via the Shore Gathering Byelaw (following ratification), which is further supported by the Seaweed Harvesting Code.

Collectively this work is helping to meet the **UK Government target of 30% protections by 2030** in the inshore environment.



Policy Development & Review relevant to Dorset

All data for FY 2024-2025



Previous Work

Pot Fishing Byelaw submitted to MMO & Defra for quality assurance prior to ratification



MMO QA Process

Apr 24 to Mar 25
Rounds 2 & 3 of QA with the MMO received and addressed. Additional information provided on request.

Pot Fishing Review



Previous Year

Consideration of draft measures as output from the Shore Gathering Review.



Management Development

Draft measures formalised, presented with supporting documents to the Authority, Formal Advice sought from NE.



Byelaws Made

Shore Gathering Byelaw and Fishing for Cockles (Amendment) Byelaw Made by the Authority in Sept. 24. Supported by Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct.



Formal Consultation

On both Byelaws running until 14th November 2024.



MMO QA

Authority recommended that Byelaws are submitted to the MMO & Defra for quality assurance. Round 1 of MMO QA received.



Next stage

Await any further rounds of QA from MMO or Defra.

Shore Gathering Review



Previous Year

TAC Members agreed General, Evidence and Spatial Principles to help facilitate the progression of management considerations for BSB across 3 Dorset MCZs.



Quantification of Impact Exercise

Working with the community to understand potential impact of introduction of no take zones across 13 Indicative Habitat Areas & to consider social, economic, culture and heritage aspects of impact.



In Year Review

Three month review of BSB work undertaken to date. Consolidation of all relevant material considerations & understanding of route to designation. Contextual understandings for decision making taken to Member Working Group.



Co-development Phase

1. Member WG to explore draft Principles, defining Drivers & Headline Objectives and discussing management proposals.
2. Industry Workshop to consider & further inform draft principles
3. Officer feasibility exercise on management options
4. Member WG to draw together & review all co-developed components.



Next stage

Co-Developed Principles to be taken forward to public consultation.

Developing Management

Reviewing Management

Black Seabream Review

Port Visits: 94

Premises Inspections: 15

Vehicle Inspections: 9

Person Inspections: 2



Compliance & Enforcement Undertaken in Dorset

All data for FY 2024-2025

Compliance Focus Areas

- Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw
- Net Fishing Byelaw
- Bass Regulations & The Fleet Bass Nursery Area
- Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016
- Wrasse Fishery Guidance
- Handgathering



- Port visits
- Premises
- Person
- Vehicle
- Port landings (vessel)
- Inspections (Land & Sea)
- BTFG 2016 Byelaw
- Prohibit gathering in seagrass beds
- Net Fishing Byelaw:
 - Net Permit Area
 - Net Prohibition Area
 - Net Restriction Area
- Marine Conservation Zones
- Special Areas of Conservation

Monitoring & Control Plan



Wrasse Fishery Guidance



Enforcement Actions Taken

- **Verbal Warnings:** 2 x breach of MCRS Byelaw
- **Fixed Administrative Penalty:** 2 x BTFG spatial incursions.

Sea Patrols: 31

Boarding inspections: 68



★ Seabream Review Coastal Engagement

To help inform the development of the above-named review, engagement sessions were held along the coast.



Engagement Undertaken in Dorset

All data for FY 2024-2025

Lyme Bay Fisheries & Conservation Reserve Consultative Committee

Fleet Management Group

Dorset Coast Forum

Regional Fisheries Group Vlle,f,g

Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Marine Licensing Applications:

6 Applications received

■ No comment ■ Comment required

Responses requiring comment relevant to: Repair works (2), Aquaculture (1)

● REM Pilot Projects

During the year sensors (gear in-gear out) have been added to the trawl doors of one volunteer trawler operating in Lyme Bay, as well as cameras to monitor bycatch.

A vessel operating nets in Lyme Bay has also been fitted with REM to explore species interactions with nets via AI. This vessel also uses static gear, specifically whelk, crab and lobster pots, with additional sensors fitted on strings of pots.

● Angling for Sustainability Fisheries Industry Science Partnership Project

Southern IFCA joined the project team for 8 days tagging black seabream and elasmobranch.

Fisheries Management Plans

Southern IFCA have continued to input to the FMP process through provision of information & engagement opportunities to the community and input to the drafting (T3 & T4) and implementation processes (T1 & T2).

Meeting with West Dorset MP E. Morello

To discuss the measures Southern IFCA have in place to manage migratory salmonids.

● Fin Vision Fisheries Industry Science Partnership Project

As project partner, Southern IFCA facilitated exploratory work relating to camera observations of juvenile fish and helped to promote citizen science projects for the angling community, focussing on species ID.

Consultations

Southern IFCA responded to the MMO consultation on proposed measures for scallop fisheries in 7e for 2025.

Community Drop-in Surgery

- Lyme Regis: 14th November, Fisherman's College, 16:00-19:00
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