



Fisheries Management Plan for the Lyme Bay area of the Lyme Bay and Torbay Marine Protected Area (MPA)

November 2019

Title: Lyme Bay Marine Protected Area Fisheries Management Plan

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About this document: This document has been developed as part of the 'Community Planning in Marine Protected Areas' Project, carried out in partnership with the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, the Dorset Wildlife Trust and funded by the East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group. The plan reflects input from community and stakeholder representatives in a series of workshop events held during December 2018.

The purpose of this Fisheries Management Plan is to create a clear and accessible document to provide information on the Lyme Bay and Torbay Marine Protected Area (MPA), its evolution in community led and regulatory management overtime, an insight into the thriving MPA which is recognised as a site of international importance and a summary of ongoing fisheries management within the MPA, detailing the role of partners and opportunities for the community to complement the governance of the site.

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Forward

The coastal waters off the Dorset coast are some of the most diverse and productive areas in the world. The multifarious marine habitats support a variety of spectacular marine wildlife. This incredible marine environment has, for centuries, supported the county's important fishing communities. The long fishing tradition in Dorset has shaped the culture and traditions of our coastal ports and towns and today fishing remains an integral part of our coastal communities. Coastal fishing is not just an important economic activity, it remains a way of life contributing to what makes Dorset special.

In recognition of the national and international importance of this marine environment much of the coastal sea area is designated, in a variety of forms, as a Marine Protected Areas. Whilst there are a number of differing types of Marine Protected Areas their overall objective is similar; namely to conserve and enhance the habitats and species within.

Fishing activities and practices which are compatible with the protection of the marine environment are sustainable, the sustainable management of our marine resources enable coastal fisheries to continue to be productive. In the production of this plan we have worked to create a clear and accessible blueprint to provide information on the Marine Protected Area and how it is managed.

At its heart the plan is a framework which aims to engender support and raise awareness of the marine protected areas, and provide detail as to how the regulatory system combines with community led actions to deliver sustainable fisheries alongside the protection of the marine area.

The plan provides a summary of ongoing and proposed fisheries management within the protected area, detailing the role of partners and enabling opportunities for the community to contribute and complement the management of the site, ensuring not only the integrity of conservation objectives of the area, but also to enable sustainable fishing activity to flourish. Through the production of this plan we aim to engender community engagement and develop opportunities for ownership of actions to support sustainable management of our seas. The plan aligns with the objectives set out in 'Dorset's 25 Year Environment Plan'.

The plan reflects input from community and stakeholder representatives in a series of workshop events held during December 2018. This engagement reflects the commitment of those involved to deliver effective management of the marine areas. The plan was developed as part of the 'Community Planning in MPAs' Project, carried out in partnership with the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, the Dorset Wildlife Trust and funded by the East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group.

Effective management of the marine protected area relies of the many partners who are involved in the management and monitoring of the area. It is through these networks and by working together we can collectively deliver social and economic development alongside the protection of our spectacular coastal waters.

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Chief Executive Officer

Q. Geling Clark

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Executive summary

Over the past decade great progress has been made in the protection of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network, sites which are designated in order to protect habitats and wildlife at sea. Alongside their designation management of activities within these sites which could cause damage or disturbance to the species and habitats within them has been key in their development. However, often this process has led to stories of conflict rather than benefits.

This Fisheries Management Plan aim is to create a clear and accessible document to provide information on the Lyme Bay Marine Protected Area, its evolution in community led and regulatory management overtime and an insight into the thriving MPA which is recognised as a site of international importance, demonstrating a vibrant and valuable site underpinned by community engagement and local management initiatives.

MPAs in the UK are co-managed by a number of competent authorities and landowners. Therefore, these authorities and stakeholders must work together to meet the conservation objectives of each site. This management plan has been written by the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities which are responsible for the management of fishing activities within the site. Therefore, this Fisheries Management Plan provides a summary of ongoing and proposed fisheries management within the MPA, detailing the role of partners and opportunities for the community to complement the governance of the site, ensuring not only the integrity of conservation objectives attributed to the site, but also the sustained promotion of thriving communities across Lyme Bay as a direct result of joined up management initiatives and active community engagement and ownership within the MPA.

This document has been developed as part of the 'Community Planning in MPAs' Project, carried out in partnership with the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, the Dorset Wildlife Trust and funded by the East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group. The plan reflects input from community and stakeholder representatives in a series of workshop events held during December 2018.

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1 Introduction

Over the past decade, Dorset's marine habitats have been widely recognised as some of the most diverse, high quality in the UK, with a number of large areas being designated as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). These sites have not only been important in recent years. Many have a long history of being harvested and protected by local fishers as well as being enjoyed by recreational users creating economic, cultural and environmental value. The fishing industry itself have created tourist hotspots, giving towns the 'fishing town' brand, and protecting inshore sites from larger fishing industries. Despite this, the recent designations have most often focused on stories of conflict within the sites rather than those of benefits and added value.

This Fisheries Management Plan has been created as a part of the partnership project: 'Community Planning for MPAs'. The projects aspiration was to engage Dorset's local communities in the exceptional recent development of the Marine Protected Area network and the management of fisheries practices within them. The management of which simultaneously enables small-scale sustainable fisheries to continue to thrive alongside the environmental and cultural benefits of MPAs. The purpose of this fisheries management plan is to raise awareness of the site, and how good fisheries management within MPAs can enable and add to the economic, cultural and environmental benefits of those sites.

The focus of this fisheries management plan is Lyme Bay (part of the Lyme Bay and Torbay MPA). This site has a well-documented history of fishing, fisheries management and cultural benefits of the area now a marine protected area. The site protects an area of around 271 km² of marine reef habitats between Branscombe and Abbotsbury, stretching across the counties of Devon and Dorset. The habitats are known as a biodiversity 'hotspot' and support rare species such as the sunset cup coral (*Leptopsammia pruvoti*).

The site is co-managed by a number of competent authorities and landowners. Southern IFCA & Devon and Severn IFCA are the lead regulators for inshore fisheries in the Lyme Bay area and have produced this Fisheries Management Plan to consolidate and coordinate collaboration to achieve the shared objectives of the site. The FMP will be delivered through a partnership between Southern and Devon and Severn IFCAs, Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve and Natural England.

The plan describes the many ongoing and planned future management actions for ensuring our responsibilities for fisheries with the sites are met. The plan includes ongoing compliance monitoring and enforcement action within the site as well as district wide reviews of minimum sizes and potting management.

The MPA Fisheries Management Plan will be reviewed and updated every six years, in line with Natural England's (the responsible authority for the sites monitoring) schedule of site monitoring. Should the Lyme Bay designation, the site features or the fisheries use change significantly, a review of this MPA Fisheries Management Plan will be carried out outside of the six-yearly cycle.

2 Marine Protected Areas

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are areas in the marine environment, which are designated in order to protect habitats and wildlife at sea. In the UK, there are a number of protected areas, which fall under the umbrella term of an MPA, most notably European Marine Sites (EMS) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

2.1 European Marine Sites

European Marine Sites are designated to protect wildlife and habitats, which are important at a European level. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transpose Council Directives 92/43/EEC¹ ('Habitats Directive') and 79/409/EEC² ('Birds Directive') on the conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and species into national law. The Directives provide for the designation and protection of European Marine Sites (EMS), referring to those marine areas including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). These sites are afforded protection in order to conserve habitats or species which have been identified as rare, special or threatened within Europe and are as such subject to protection from damage and disturbance.

European Marine Sites are designated based upon a scientific basis; as such no consideration is given to social or economic factors.

2.1.1 Conservation Objectives

Each EMS has a set of Conservation Objectives, which directly apply to all listed habitats or species for which the site is protected. The Conservation Objectives are set to ensure that the features of the site are maintained or restored as appropriate and that the general structure and function of the whole site i.e. its integrity to be protected.

A number of characteristics are used to decide whether or not the condition of a habitat or species is considered 'favourable'. For habitats, these characteristics can include the area covered by the habitat, its ecological structure and function and the typical species associated with the habitat type. Where species are a feature, these characteristics include population size, species range and size of the species habitat.

2.1.2 Monitoring and Management of European Marine Sites

The Habitats Directives requires that activities which take place within EMS '...do not damage, disturb or have a negative effect on the protected species or habitats...' as such where necessary appropriate management must be put in place to ensure that the conservation objectives of the site are achieved.

The management of EMS is the responsibility of Competent Authorities, as defined under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. For the inshore waters (out to 6 nautical miles) this management responsibility falls upon the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) to ensure that fishing activities do not damage or have detrimental effects on an EMS.

The UK government's Statutory Nature Conservation Body, Natural England (NE), carry out condition monitoring of each EMS every six years. If required, following this condition monitoring, IFCAs will undertake assessments of each EMS in order to ascertain whether fisheries activities were likely to cause damage and prevent the conservation objectives of the EMS being achieved, and where appropriate, the IFCA will develop and introduce suitable

¹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147

management measures to ensure the integrity of the site specific conservation objectives are upheld.

2.2 Marine Conservation Zones

In England, nationally important habitats and species are protected through Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). The UK Government designated the MCZ network through a phased approach, designating the first 27 sites in 2013, a further 23 sites were introduced in 2016 and finally in May 2019 an additional 41 sites were added, completing the UK Blue Belt through the contribution of an ecologically coherent network in the North East Atlantic in terms of the representation of species and habitats in the marine environment.

2.2.1 Monitoring and Management of Marine Conservation Zones

Under Section 154 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009³, IFCAs have a duty to further the conservation objectives of MCZs, as such IFCAs are responsible for managing fisheries activities in MCZs for the purpose of marine conservation.

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³ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents

3 The evolution of Lyme Bay and Torbay overtime

Lyme Bay and Torbay's ecological value has supported prosperous commercial fisheries in the area over the years, hosting rich fishing grounds for scallops, brown crabs, lobsters, cuttlefish, whelks and sole.

In 1989 and 1996, in response to the increasing fishing pressure from modern trawlers and scallop dredgers, recognising the impact on traditional fisheries and the marine environment, Devon Sea Fisheries Committee and Southern Sea Fisheries District Committee independently introduced maximum vessel length restrictions for fishing within the inshore regions of their districts.

The importance of Lyme Bay and Torbay as a **rich marine biodiversity hotspot** was first recognised by Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) in **1991**⁴. However, it was also heavily targeted by fishers for scallop dredging and beam trawling activities.

A series of further studies in the years following confirmed these findings but it wasn't until 1996 that Lyme Bay first became a consideration in the countries Nature Conservation Review.

In **2001 a community voluntary agreement** was set up between the Wildlife trust, local fishermen and South West Fish Producers Organisation (SWFPO) in order to initiate the protection of the reefs from bottom trawling and scallop dredging.

Following a failure of the 2001 voluntary agreement, and with ongoing concern regarding the impact of scallop dredging and bottom trawling on the sensitive reef ecosystem at Lyme Bay, 60 square miles of sea area was closed by the Government to bottom towed fishing gear in 2008, through the introduction of **The Lyme Bay Designated Area (Fishing Restrictions) Order 2008**¹. This Order prohibits the dredging for shellfish and demersal trawling in specified areas of Lyme Bay.

 In 2010 the ecological value of Lyme bay and Torbay was formally recognised through the designation of the Lyme Bay and Torbay candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) under the European Commission's Habitats Directive.

In 2011, in recognition of the social and economic value of the area, the Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve project was established. This group, facilitated by the Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) charity brought together local fisherman, scientists, conservationists, marine managers and other stakeholders, with the aim to achieve the establishment of a multiple use marine protected area where fishing is sustainable and well-managed, important habitats and features are protected and the fishing communities receive benefits from fishing responsibly. See Annex 1 for a summary of the project.

This group recognised the possible impacts of intensive or damaging fishing practices and as part of the project, **voluntary codes of conducts** were introduced to aid the regulation of fishing activity, following an undertaking of evidence gathering. The measures included limits on the number of pots and total length of nets used by fishing boats within the SAC.

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⁴ **Devon Wildlife Trust** (1993). Lyme Bay. A report on the nature conservation importance of the inshore reefs of Lyme Bay and the effects of mobile fishing gear *Report*. *Devon Wildlife Trust*, pp.

In addition, the group commissioned scientific research (such as a report looking into the levels of potting within the SAC⁵), which further informed fisheries management and created the 'Reserve Seafood Label' in order to promote responsibly sourced fish and shellfish harvested in Lyme Bay.

Community engagement and education was fundamental to the project, with information about the project featuring in the local Seaton Jurassic Centre, as well as an undertaking of a school's outreach programme. In **2014** the group published an **Integrated Fisheries Management Plan**⁶, which highlighted the value of the community-led approach to the management of the site and the on-going requirement for sustainable fishing practices.

Following the outcomes of Defra's Revised approach, which required a review of the impact of fishing activity on an MPA, in 2013 Southern IFCA and Devon and Severn IFCA introduced spatial closure restrictions for all methods of bottom towed fishing gear under the Southern IFCA Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw. This legislation aimed to protect the MPA site's designated sensitive reef habitats from potentially damaging fishing practices, via a closure to all methods of dredge and demersal trawl fishing. The geographic coverage of management significantly expanded on the area already managed under SI 1584/2008.

The Lyme Bay and Torbay site was designated and received **SAC** status in September **2017**.

In 2019, Blue Marine Foundation published its Paper titled 'The Lyme Bay experimental potting study'⁷. The study shows that there is a 'threshold' at which fishing effort begins to be damaging to crustacean populations and the reef environment. Additionally, lower fishing effort increases the quality of catch. This finding supports the 'high quality; low volume' ethos encouraged in the reserve.

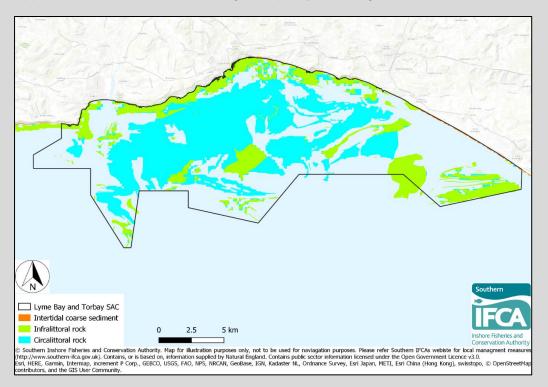
http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=18771&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=lyme

⁵ https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3357819/

⁶ https://www.lymebayreserve.co.uk/download-centre/management-plan.php

3.1 Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC

The Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC, covering 31,248 hectares of marine habitat, is situated mostly within the Western English Channel and lies off the south coast of England adjacent to the counties of Dorset and Devon. The Lyme Bay area of the SAC stretches from Branscombe in the west to Abbotsbury in the East. This area supports reef features and submerged or partly submerged sea caves.



Lyme Bay reefs

The Lyme Bay section of the SAC, which this fisheries management plan focusses on, has been designated to offer protection to a reef habitat. The reef habitats found within the site extend over a large area and include a complexity of bedrock reef and a patchwork of stony reef consisting of boulders and cobbles mixed with finer sediments that are unique in the region. The reef habitats are considered to be a 'hotspot' for marine life, supporting some of the most biologically diverse reef communities in England.

The SAC is one of only five areas in the British Isles where the sunset cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti* is known to occur. These communities include significant populations of nationally important species such as the pink sea fan (*Eucinella verrucosa*) and nationally scarce sponge (*Adreus fascicularis*).

For more information on the features of the site please visit <u>Natural England's</u> Conservation Advice Package⁸

⁸https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030372&SiteName=lyme%20bay&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=

4 A thriving Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC

Following community, regional and national management intervention, as documented in Section 3.0, the Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC...

Internationally recognised for its conservation importance

Is recognised to be of both national and international conservation importance and the site has been feted as the nation's 'flagship MPA'. The site-specific research, management and above all, community-led engagement programmes have gained international recognition as an example of best-practice in MPA management.

Has an abundance of marine life

The nationally rare and important species that the SAC site supports, such as the sunset cup coral is found in only five locations around the British Isles.

The site is home to a variety of marine mammals, including the white-beaked dolphin, bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise, and nationally scarce seabird species such as grebes and scoters are also found passing through the site, attracting wildlife watchers to the area and a large and a large number of recreational divers each year.

Supports valuable marine education programmes The Lyme Bay reefs form a key location for the national 'Sea Search' project, whereby volunteer sports divers survey habitats around the coast. This type information as well as data collected by Plymouth University is extremely useful and is used to monitor the condition of these reef habitats.

The marine life in Lyme Bay also supports and provides social and cultural heritage, with a number of local events, incorporating arts, crafts, music and education are associated with marine life and livelihoods. These include 'Marine Week' as well as numerous visitor centres such as Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre with a marine focus.

Recognises and builds upon cultural heritage Recreational **Diving**, together with other leisure and recreational activities, such as **sea angling were estimated to be worth over £3.9 million within the Lyme Bay closure area in 2008**⁹. In 2018, the local recreational and leisure industry supported 51 chart boat operators and 10 dive businesses.

⁹ https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2010.01.009

Supports strong socio economics

The Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC and its surrounding area support a number of valuable commercial and recreational fish and shellfish species, many of which are accessible within a mile of the area's main harbours and ports The rich seasonal abundance of fish and shellfish species in the area provides opportunities for local fishers to participate in mixed fisheries using a range of fishing techniques.

Supports strong and diverse harvesting of fish Since the designation of the Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC and associated implementation of community lead and regulatory management, the way in which the site is used by fishers has changed dramatically. There has been a clear shift away from unsustainable towed gear fishing practices to lower impact-fishing methods.

The site supports a range of fish and shellfish fisheries, harvested by a mainly small-scale fleet of vessels operating predominantly out of West Bay, Lyme Regis, Axmouth and Beer. In 2015, approximately 45 commercial fishing vessels landed over 1,000 tonnes of fish and shellfish within the Lyme Bay area, worth approximately £1.7 million.

Static gear, such as pots and traps are used to harvest a variety of species in the SAC to include crabs, lobsters, whelks and cuttlefish. Existing static gear fishers have found a balance to their fishing intensity and recognise greater yields and financial returns from fishing in a more sustainable manner. Nets, targeting species such as sole, ray, plaice and monkfish are also a popular method of fishing gear type.

There has been an increased focus on hand-diving for the high value species of scallops in the area, which may be in part due to the protection afforded by the spatial closure measures introduced overtime.

Low levels of commercial angling also occur.

Lyme Bay is an important area for recreational sea anglers. Both from the shore and onboard charter vessels anglers hope to catch a variety of species including pollack, plaice, bass, bream, cod, rays, sharks and mackerel.

4.1 On-going management within the SAC

Southern IFCA and Devon and Severn IFCA aim to achieve compliance with fishing regulations within the Lyme Bay part of the SAC, as well as across their districts. This is achieved through a combination of education via engagement, monitoring and enforcement.

The IFCAs vision is to '…lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry…'. The management actions, identified in the Fisheries Management Plan for the Lyme Bay area of the SAC seek to achieve the objectives underpinning the IFCA vision.

Southern IFCA is responsible for the management of fishing activities in the Dorset section of the SAC, whilst Devon and Severn IFCA have similar responsibilities for the management of the area of the site falling within Devon waters.

Both IFCAs continually strive to improve public awareness and understanding of fishing regulations through active engagement across all sectors. It is through this engagement that the community and fishers are aware of existing fisheries regulations, and further have an understanding of how and why regulations are developed.

Compliance with regulations are conducted in accordance with Southern IFCA's Compliance and Enforcement Framework¹⁰. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) carry out regular compliance patrols with a focus on the priorities set under our Compliance Risk Register¹¹. Devon and Severn IFCAs operate similar compliance and enforcement monitoring which is outlined in its Enforcement and Compliance Strategy¹². Throughout the districts, patrols are carried out at day, night and on weekends year-round, in patrol vessels on the water and on foot in ports and harbours. During patrols, officers inspect the catches, landings and fishing gears of fishing vessels, recreational vessels, charter vessels and recreational anglers.

An important part of these patrols is engagement with the industry. During inspections IFCOs educate the community on the current regulations and update them when changes are made. These patrols are also important for the industry to feedback to IFCOs with their views on the status of the fisheries within the district and any suggestions they may have for their management.

When inspections reveal that non-compliance with regulations has occurred, the IFCA ensures there is an effective deterrent to prevent future non-compliance via the issuing of warnings, financial penalties or prosecution of offenders.

4.2 National and International Management

Fisheries resources in the United Kingdom (UK) are managed through several layers of International (European), National and Local regulations. These regulations follow a hierarchy: Local regulations must not undermine National or International regulations, and National regulations must not undermine International regulations. The international and national regulations are gathered together by the Marine Management Organisation into a single collection of all UK and EU laws called The Blue Book¹³. Fishers are expected to have read and understood the regulations which apply to their vessel, fishing methods, species targeted and areas in which they fish. However, support is available to them through their local MMO Marine Enforcement Officer or team.

The national and international management of fisheries can be grouped into several themes. Control Regulations, The Landing Obligation and Technical Conservation. These can be described as follows:

Control Regulations set out what procedures, policies and licences a fishing vessel or merchant must follow and have in place in order to catch, sell and buy fish. This includes the requirement that they pay to be licenced appropriately and that logbooks of activities are completed to meet certain criteria. Merchants or fishers wishing to buy vessel's fish must be RBS registered (Regulation of Buyers and Sellers). Under both the fishing licences and RBS register the fisher or merchant will have to conform to a number of rules for both health and safety and protection of fisheries resources benefits.

¹⁰ https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/25364/sitedata/files/EnforcementFramework.pdf

https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/25364/sitedata/files/Compliance-Risk-Reg-18.pdf

¹² https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Enforcement-Legislation/Devon-and-Severn-IFCA-Enforcement-Compliancy-Strategy

<u>Strategy</u>

13 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fishing-regulations-the-blue-book

Technical Conservation regulations aim to ensure that the fishing for certain species in the entire fishery, and in specific areas of that fishery remains sustainable. They may govern the total fishing effort in a fishery, the gear types used, the allowable catch composition for a particular gear type (to account for unavoidable bycatch), species minimum and maximum conservation reference sizes, prohibited species and additional area specific requirements. See table 1. for further explanation of these individual measures.

The Landing Obligation stipulates which species, size of species and bycatch quantities can be discarded and landed. The aim of the obligation is to prevent the wasteful discards of unavoidable species or fish sizes that do not meet the requirements of the technical conservation measures. There are however, many exceptions to this obligation.

Management Technique	Explanation
Licence/ entitlement	A vessel may only catch the species for which it has a licence or/and an entitlement which is often based on having a historic track record of fishing for this species.
Quotas and Catch Allowances	A vessel will be allowed to catch and land a given amount of any one species specific to the area they fish.
Prohibited species or reproductive stages	Endangered species such as sharks and some rays are prohibited as well as certain species at vulnerable times of their reproductive stage.
Gear type and design specifications	Vessels may only be allowed to use a certain type of fishing gear to target a particular species and that gear must be set up or made to set of specifications.
Minimum and maximum conservation reference sizes	Fishers cannot take fish which are under the minimum size or over the maximum size. These sizes are set so that they enable a proportion of the stock to breed at least once or to remain within the stock as highly mature breeding stock.
Closed seasons	During all or part of the year vessels may not be allowed to catch and retain particular species in certain areas.

Table 1. A summary of the Technical Conservation measures which may be applied through fisheries regulations in order to ensure fisheries remain sustainable.

4.3 Local Management

Throughout England, ten IFCAs manage their individual districts out to 6 nautical miles from the shore. Within these districts they may establish byelaws (which at a minimum meet the requirements of International/ National regulations) to further control the inshore fisheries resources. Byelaws can be made to include any number of the measures set out in Table 1 as well as other appropriate measures such as the permitting of a fishery.

In order to create a byelaw IFCAs must follow a detailed process of evidence gathering, public consultations and reviews by the MMO, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and approval from the Secretary of State. The byelaws specific to the Southern IFCA and Devon and Severn IFCA districts MPA and relevant fisheries are described in the next section.

Additionally, as the Statutory Authority responsible for migratory species the Environment Agency also creates regulations to protect stocks of species such as the European eel and salmonids.

4.3.1 Pot and net fishing

Fishers use baited pots to target crabs, lobsters, whelks and cuttlefish. Static nets are used to catch fish species such as sole, ray, plaice and monkfish.

After the introduction of bottom towed gear closures in the site in 2013 the use of static gear, particularly whelk pots, was reported to significantly increase leading to potential overfishing of target species and possible damaging impacts to reef habitats.

To address this issue, voluntary measures were introduced for commercial fishermen as part of the Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve project¹⁴. The measures include limits on the number of pots and total length of nets used by fishing boats within the MPA. Scientific research into sustainable levels of potting within the MPA has also been funded as part of the project and concluded in late 2017¹⁵.

In the Devon and Severn IFCA district fishers must have a permit to fish using pots or nets. Within the Permit the fishers are be required to abide by many permit conditions which limit the fishing effort and protect the fisheries stock. Whilst, in Southern IFCAs district all pot and net fishers must comply with a series of minimum species sizes set out under byelaws.

Over the Course of 2019/2020 Southern IFCA will be undergoing a review of potting management measures throughout the district and therefore the management of this activity could change.

4.3.2 Sea angling

Lyme Bay and Torbay is an important area for recreational sea anglers. Both from the shore and onboard charter vessels anglers hope to catch a variety of species including pollack, cod, plaice, rays, sharks and mackerel. Comparatively low levels of commercial angling occur for bass and pollack. All sea anglers must comply with a series of minimum species sizes set out under Southern IFCA byelaws.

4.3.3 Diving

Since the reefs were closed to methods of dredging and trawling commercial fishermen have turned to diving to catch by hand the high value species scallops within the reserve. Divers must comply with scallop species minimum sizes set out under national and international law and daily curfew restrictions on scallop fishing.

¹⁴ Lyme Bay voluntary code of conduct: https://www.lymebayreserve.co.uk/download-centre/files/Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Voluntary+Code of Conduct.pdf

Centre/files/Lyme Bay Pisiteries and Conservation Reserve Co.uk/download-centre/research-reports.php

4.3.4 Dredge and trawl fishing

All areas of reef habitat within the site are closured to methods of dredge and demersal trawl fishing. Low levels of demersal trawling occur outside of these closed areas with vessels targeting high value fish species such as sole, rays, cuttlefish, squid and lemon sole.

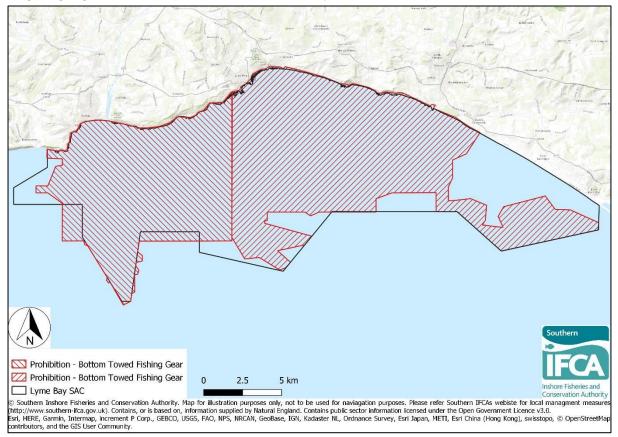


Figure 2. A map showing the two areas are closed to methods of bottom toed fishing gear in the Lyme bay and Torbay MPA; the west in Devon and Severn IFCA district and the east in the Southern IFCA district.

4.4 Community and regulatory fisheries management

The Lyme Bay and Torbay Fisheries Management Plan (Section 4) summarises on-going and proposed fisheries management within the larger Lyme Bay section of the SAC, stretching from Branscombe in Devon to Abbotsbury in Dorset, designated to protect excellent examples of subtidal reefs.

It seeks to describe the role of partners in the successful management of the SAC, ensuring the integrity of conservation objectives as well as the continued promotion of thriving communities across Lyme Bay and Torbay as a direct result of joined up management and active community engagement and ownership within an MPA.

The plan also seeks to provide details of how the local community can continue to champion the continued environmental, social and economic development of the area.

4.5 Local Management Measures in the Lyme Bay SAC.

Fishing Activity	Management Area	Regulation	Management measures summary
	Devon part of Lyme Bay	Potting Permit Byelaw	 In order to fish for certain species a fishing vessel requires a permit. Under the permit they must abide by a number of conditions: Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes Edible Crab (F) 150, (M) 160mm, Lobster 90mm, Whelk 55mm (to increase to 65mm in November 2020), Spider Crab 130mm. Escape gapes required to be installed in pots. Gear required to be marked. Recreational catch limits 2 3 edible crab, 2 lobsters, Maximum of 5 pots per fisher.
Pot and Net Fishing	Devon part of Lyme Bay	Netting Permit Byelaw	In order to fish for certain species using a net a fishing vessel requires a permit. Under the permit they must abide by a number of conditions: V notched or mutilated lobster, berried lobster or crab, parts of edible crab of lobster, and 'soft' crab and lobster are not permitted to be removed Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes Edible Crab (F) 150, (M) 160mm, Lobster 90mm, Whelk 45mm (to increase to 65mm in November 2020), Spider Crab 130mm, velvet swimming crab 65mm, bass 42cm Catch limits for different permit categories Net marking Net mesh size, and deployment method restrictions Net set area restrictions
cg	Dorset Part of Lyme Bay	Protection of Berried (egg bearing) Lobsters Byelaw	Lobsters whish are carrying eggs must be returned immediately to the sea.
	Dorset Part of Lyme Bay	Minimum Fish Sizes Byelaw Skates and Rays – Minimum Size Byelaw Grey Mullet – Minimum Size Byelaw	Any fisher must not remove from the sea a fish which does not meet the minimum conservation reference size specified (more than 14 species)
	Lyme Bay Reserve	Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Voluntary Code of Conduct	 Any registered fishing vessel wishing to fish within the Lyme cSAC will voluntarily fit Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (iVMS) All gear will be clearly marked Fishermen will not fish more than 250 crab/lobster pots and strings will not exceed a maximum of 10 pots in each. Escape hatches will be fitted to all parlour pots and soft-eyed creels Voluntary V-nothing will be carried out at the individual fisherman's discretion Fishermen will not fish more than 500 whelk pots and strings of whelk pots will not exceed a maximum of 30 in each.

	Devon part of Lyme Bay Dorset Part of Lyme Bay	Size of Vessels Vessels Used in Fishing 2012	 Vessels will not fish a total net length of more than 4,000 yards with a mesh size of less than 7.5 inches Vessels will not fish a total net length of more than 8,000 yards with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or more. Pots and traps that become encrusted with cuttlefish eggs will either be left in the sea by extending the season until the cuttlefish eggs have hatched or washed off at shore to maximise survival. Fishermen targeting wrasse will adhere to SIFCA's Wrasse Fishery Guidance and D&SIFCA's Potting Permit Byelaw No vessel which exceeds 15.24 metres overall length shall be used in fishing for or taking sea fish within the District A number of exceptions apply to this byelaw No person shall use any vessel which exceeds 12 metres in overall length for fishing for or taking sea fish. A number of exceptions apply to this byelaw
Sea Angling	Dorset Part of Lyme Bay	Minimum Fish Sizes Byelaw Skates and Rays – Minimum Size Byelaw Grey Mullet – Minimum Size Byelaw	 Any fisher must not remove from the sea a fish which does not meet the minimum conservation reference size specified (more than 14 species)
Diving	Devon part of Lyme Bay	Diving Permit Byelaw	 In order to dive fish for certain species a fishing vessel requires a permit. Under the permit they must abide by a number of conditions: V-notched, mutilated lobsters, berried lobsters and crabs, parts of edible crab and lobster, 'soft' edible crabs and lobsters, and spiny lobsters in certain areas are not to be removed from the fishery Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes Edible Crab (F) 150, (M) 160mm, Lobster 90mm, Whelk 55mm (to increase to 65mm in November 2020), Spider Crab 130mm, Scallop 100mm, spiny lobster 110mm Recreational catch limits 2 lobsters, 3 crabs, 15 scallops Closed season for commercial scalloping between July, August and September Curfew for commercial scalloping between 19:00 and 07:00 local time each day.
Dredge and Trawl Fishing	Devon part of Lyme Bay Dorset part of Lyme Bay	Mobile Fishing Permitting Byelaw Bottom Towed Fishing Gear byelaw 2016	 In order to use mobile fishing gear for certain species a fishing vessel requires a permit. Under the permit they must abide by a number of conditions: Vessels are required to have vessel positions tracking system onboard. All vessels are prohibited from towing fishing gear which interacts with the seabed, such as dredges and trawls, in the specified areas.

Dorset Part of Lyme Bay	Minimum Fish Sizes Byelaw Skates and Rays – Minimum Size Byelaw Grey Mullet – Minimum Size Byelaw	 Any fisher must not remove from the sea a fish which does not meet the minimum conservation reference size specified (more than 14 species)
Devon part of Lyme Bay	Size of Vessels	 No vessel which exceeds 15.24 metres overall length shall be used in fishing for or taking sea fish within the District A number of exceptions apply to this byelaw
Dorset Part of Lyme Bay	Vessels Used in Fishing 2012	 No person shall use any vessel which exceeds 12 metres in overall length for fishing for or taking sea fish. A number of exceptions apply to this byelaw
Lyme Bay	The Lyme Bay Designated Area (Fishing Restrictions) Order 2008	Dredging for shellfish and demersal trawling in the designated area are prohibited.

5 Lyme Bay SAC Fisheries Management Plan The table below summarises the fisheries management actions of the Lyme Bay MPA.

Area of concern within SAC	Management Measure	Lead partner(s) (supportin g partner)	Role of Partners	Community role
	Council Regulation (EC) No. 850/98. Article 17, Annex XII Minimum Sizes	• Southern IFCA • MMO	 Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in the SAC Ongoing - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Ongoing - Actively educate and engage with community, attend relevant outreach events (e.g. Dorset Seafood Festival), maintain and build on existing communication networks, promote fisheries management across the SAC via social media platforms 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non- compliance Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373
Removal of undersize fish and shellfish by commercial fishers and recreational fishers	Devon and Severn IFCA Permitting Byelaws	Devon and Severn IFCA	 Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Ongoing - Actively educate and engage with community, attend relevant outreach events (e.g. Dorset Seafood Festival), maintain and build on existing communication networks, promote fisheries management across the SAC via social media platforms Review permit conditions every three years 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance Devon and Severn IFCA Number: 01803 854648/07740175479 (out of hours) Feed into public consultation and engagement process
	Southern IFCA Minimum Fish Size Byelaws: Minimum Fish Sizes Byelaw Skates and Rays – Minimum Size Byelaw	• Southern IFCA	 Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Ongoing - Actively educate and engage with community, attend relevant outreach events (e.g. Dorset Seafood Festival), maintain and build on existing communication networks, promote fisheries management across the SAC via social media platforms 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non- compliance Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373

Grey Mullet – Minimum Size Byelaw		 By 2020 - Review existing evidence for grey mullet fish/shellfish species size of sexual maturity – where data is absent, seek to gather new data with a range of partners via stock assessments and surveys where appropriate. By 2022 - Where necessary, review and develop a minimum size byelaw, taking into account evidence submitted via public consultations 	Feed into public consultation and engagement process
Wyrasse	• Southern IFCA	 Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Ongoing - Actively educate and engage with community, attend relevant outreach events (e.g. Dorset Seafood Festival), maintain and build on existing communication networks, promote fisheries management across the SAC via social media platforms Ongoing - Educate and engage with community taking into account evidence submitted via public consultations 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373 Feed into public consultation and engagement process

Area of concern within SAC	Management Measure	Lead partner(s) (supporting partner)	Role of Partners	Community role
Physical damage to reef habitats through use of	May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	Natural EnglandPlymouth UniversityDefra	 Monitoring of the SAC site condition and effectiveness of management every six years Ongoing - Consider the effectiveness of fisheries management measures in the context of any new findings and evidence gathering 	
bottom towed fishing gear		Southern IFCA	Ongoing - Where necessary (if site integrity has lessened as a result of fishing practices following outcomes of NE site condition review) undertake a site assessment, and where required introduce effective measures to ensure integrity of SAC following site condition assessment	Feed into public consultation and engagement process

De (Fi	he Lyme Bay resignated Area Fishing restrictions) order 2008		 Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to noncompliance Ongoing - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of noncompliance Ongoing - Educate and engage with community 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance MMO Brixham Number: 01803 853383
Se Pe	evon and evern IFCA ermitting yelaws		 Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Monitor the condition and extent of reefs every six years in line with the Statutory requirements Periodically review the Byelaw every five years and consider any changes necessary. Ongoing - Educate and engage with community taking into account evidence submitted via public consultations Review permit conditions every three years 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance Devon and Severn IFCA Number: 01803 854648/07740175479 (out of hours) Feed into public consultation and engagement process Submit species/habitat condition evidence to Natural England
Bo Fis	outhern IFCA ottom Towed ishing Gear yelaw 2016	Southern IFCA Natural England	 Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Monitor the condition and extent of reefs every six years in line with the Statutory requirements Periodically review the Byelaw every five years and consider any changes necessary. Ongoing - Educate and engage with community taking into account evidence submitted via public consultations 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance: Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373 Feed into public consultation and engagement process Submit species/habitat condition evidence to Natural England

Inshore Vessel Monitoring System Project	Marine Managem ent Organisati on Southern and Devon and Severn IFCAs	 Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Upon work together to ensure compliance with the iVMS installations and maintenance program. Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Carry out regular monitoring of iVMS data to retrieve information relating to fishing effort and location Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Ongoing - Actively educate and engage with community, attend relevant outreach events (e.g. Dorset Seafood Festival), maintain and build on existing communication networks, promote fisheries management across the SAC via social media platforms 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance: Marine Management Organisation: 0300 123 1032 Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373
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Area of concern within SAC	Management Measure	Lead partner(s) (supporting partner)	Role of Partners	Community role
	Southern IFCA Fish Handling Code of Conduct (pending)	Southern IFCA Recreational Sea Angling Group (RSAG) DWT	 By 2020 - to review existing best practice and fisheries data to develop a code of practice for effective fish handling in order to reduce the mortality of discarded fish By 2020 - Engage local users through existing networks, including the RSAG, to facilitate development and compliance with the code Ongoing - Educate and engage with community taking into account evidence submitted via public consultations 	Feed into public consultation and engagement process
Reduce mortality of discarded fish	Devon and Severn IFCA Permitting Byelaws	Devon and Severn IFCA	 Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Ongoing - Actively educate and engage with community, attend relevant outreach events (e.g. Dorset Seafood Festival), maintain and build on 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance Devon and Severn IFCA Number: 01803 854648/07740175479 (out of hours) Feed into public consultation and engagement process

existing communication networks, promote fisheries manager	nent
across the SAC via social media platforms	

• Review permit conditions every three years

Area of concern within SAC	Management Measure	• Lead partner(s) (supporting partner)	Role of Partners	Community role
Physical damage to reef habitats through static gear	Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Voluntary Code of Conduct	• Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve Group (LBFCR)	 Annually review codes of conduct and, where necessary update to reflect new evidence presented Ongoing - Maintain effective systems to monitor compliance with voluntary codes of conduct Ongoing - Maintain feedback loop with Southern IFCA and other marine regulators, integrating effective measures and lessons learnt into ongoing fisheries management reviews. 	Provide evidence to LBFCR regarding compliance with measures and suggestions of new or amended voluntary codes. LBFCR Contact details: info@lymebayreserve.co.uk
		• Southern IFCA	 Ongoing - Actively participate and positively contribute towards LBFCR Steering Group Ongoing - To support and promote work of LBFCR group Ongoing - To contribute to delivery of LBFCR Integrated Fisheries Management Plan By 2021 - Review voluntary codes where necessary and develop statutory measures via community and stakeholder engagement and consultation as part of the Southern IFCA Potting Review 	Participate in Southern IFCA Potting review at relevant stages – to include: 'call for information', public consultation and formal consultation stages of the review and development of governance measures. Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373
	Devon and Severn IFCA Permitting Byelaws	Devon and Severn IFCA	 Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Ongoing - Actively educate and engage with community, attend relevant outreach events (e.g. Dorset Seafood Festival), maintain and build on 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance Devon and Severn IFCA Number: 01803 854648/07740175479 (out of hours) Feed into public consultation and engagement process

		existing communication networks, promote fisheries management across the SAC via social media platforms Review permit conditions every three years Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Upon work together to ensure compliance with the iVMS installations and maintenance program. Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Carry out regular	
Inshore Vessel Monitoring System Project	Marine Management Organisation Southern and Devon and Severn IFCAs	monitoring of iVMS data to retrieve information relating to fishing effort and location Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Undertake regular compliance patrols in SAC Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Maintain effective intelligence handling systems and respond through a risk-based enforcement approach to information relating to non-compliance Ongoing post the commencement of the project - Investigate any detected instances of non-compliance and ensure that an effective deterrent is in place to prevent further instances of non-compliance Ongoing - Actively educate and engage with community, attend relevant outreach events (e.g. Dorset Seafood Festival), maintain and build on existing communication networks, promote fisheries management across the SAC via social media platforms	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance: Marine Management Organisation: 0300 123 1032 Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373