



Fisheries Management Plan for the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges Marine Protected Area (MPA)

November 2019

Title: Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges 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 and Dorset 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 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges 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.



Chief Executive Officer

Robert Clark

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 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges 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 Authority 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 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges 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 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges. 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 37 km² of marine reef and sediment habitats in Dorset. The habitats are known as a biodiversity 'hotspot' and support rare species such as the pink sea-fan coral.

The site is co-managed by a number of competent authorities and landowners. Southern IFCA is the lead regulators for inshore fisheries in the Chesil 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 IFCA, Natural England and stakeholders.

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 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges 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.

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

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>

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.

2.2.2 Tranche three Marine Conservation Zones May 2019

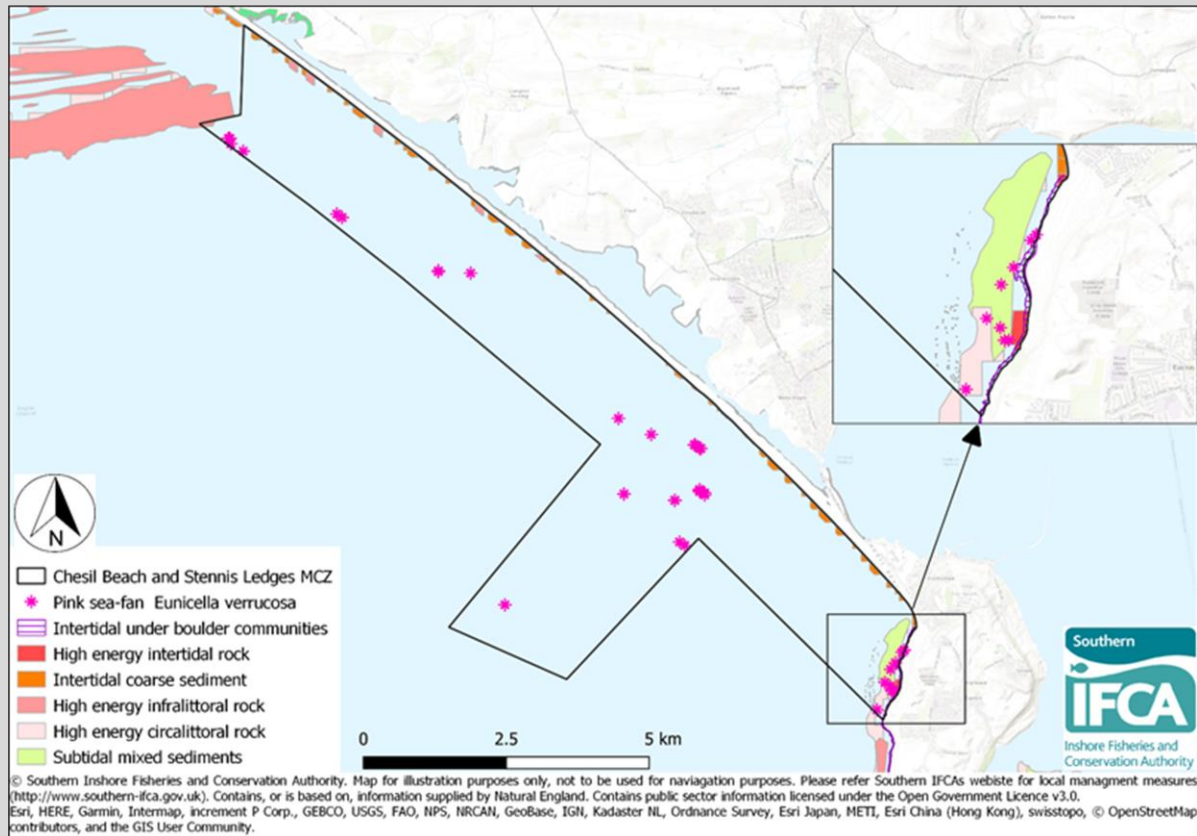
On the 31st of May 2019 the UK Government announced the designation of a third round of MCZs totalling 41 new sites across English water as well as many additional features for existing sites. The Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ was designated for and additional number of features at this stage.

These additional features are beyond the scope of the 'Community Planning in MPAs' project and therefore have not been incorporated into this management plan. However, by 2023, under Southern IFCAs statutory duty, the authority will assess the impact of fishing activities within the site in relation to these new features. If these assessments find that fishing activities are preventing the site from achieving its conservation objectives management may be brought in. Management could take the form of voluntary measures or Southern IFCA byelaws. Alongside this process, Southern IFCA will update this management plan to reflect any changes in management made.

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

2.3 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ

Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges is located off the Dorset coast, covering an area approximately 37 km². It runs the entire length of Chesil Beach from Abbotsbury to Weston on the Isle of Portland, and extends seawards to cover an area of rocky reef known as Stennis Ledges.



Habitats

Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledge MCZ is designated for three habitat types: intertidal coarse sediment, high energy intertidal rock and high energy infralittoral rock. *Intertidal coarse sediment* makes up the area of Chesil Bank which is exposed at low water and covered at high water. The 29km long stretch of sediment and has accumulated over the past 7,000 years. *Intertidal rock* habitats subject to high energy levels are found running the length of the eastern end of the site and supports communities which thrive in strong wave action such as barnacles. *Infralittoral rock* starts at low tide and finishes where the light levels are no longer sufficient to allow for kelp, a type of seaweed, to grow. The communities of large kelps and red seaweeds are exposed to strong waves and currents. In May 2019 four additional features were added to the site; subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal mixed sediments, subtidal sand and high energy circalittoral rock.

Species

The Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ is designated for two species; the native oyster and the pink sea-fan. Native oysters are a marine invertebrate known as a bivalve (two shells). *Native oysters* can live as long as 20 years. They are found up to depths of 80 metres and can live on any type of seabed as long there is something hard to grow on. *The pink sea-fan* is a soft coral made up of a colony of tiny anemone-like creatures. The colonies attach to a hard surface in strong currents, growing at a right angle to the water currents to catch microscopic animals. The delicate branching structure can grow up to 80 cm high and 100 cm wide, however growth is extremely slow.

For more information on the features of the site please visit [Natural England's Conservation Advice Package](#).

3 A thriving Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ

Following community input and regional management intervention, the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ is...



Is highlighted as an area of high conservation value by the designation it holds, as well as lying in the centre of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. The beach is locally valued as a nature reserve and unique geological area which brings in thousands of tourists every year. Under water Stennis Ledges are an underwater biodiversity hotspot.

The reefs on the ledges are considered to be of national conservation importance and support the rare species native oyster and pink sea fan. Oysters beds provide habitat for many other species of fish, molluscs and crustaceans whilst pink sea fans play host to sea slugs and rare anemones. They are also used by small sharks to which they attach their egg cases. Unsurprisingly, the opportunity to observe such species, as well as the highly diverse reef communities and features of interest such as ship wrecks, attract a large number of recreational divers each year

The sites underwater ledges also form a key location for the national Sea search project, whereby volunteer sports divers survey our near-shore habitats around the coast. This type information is extremely useful and is used to monitor the condition of these reef habitats. On the Beach the Fine Foundation Chesil Beach Centre runs regular public marine education events such as 'shark school' and Seashore Safari's.

The unique physical nature of Chesil Beach, as one of three major shingle structures in the UK, combined with the extraordinarily rich wildlife associated with the Fleet lagoon and surrounding areas, attract up to **150,000 visitors** a year for a multitude of reasons, predominantly for recreational and educational purposes. Bird watching, walking and sea angling, along the site are among them, as well as the opportunity for educational field trips organised by school and study groups.

The MCZ supports small scale commercial fishing activity. A pot fishery occurs mainly over the Stennis Ledges area of the site, where commercial fishers catch whelks, crab and lobster. Cuttlefish are targeted during the spring time using specially designed traps that are set within ½ mile of Chesil Beach. Low levels of net fishing take place within the site, targeting a range of species including sole, plaice and rays. Bottom trawling for species such as plaice and sole as well as dredging for scallops also occurs outside of the site's bottom towed fishing prohibited areas.

However, Chesil Beach's seaward facing shore supports a very popular recreational sea angling fishery for a range of fish species.



Supports strong and diverse recreational fishing

The beach plays host to a number of highly subscribed angling competitions throughout the season targeting species such as cod.

Chesil Beach is a nationally important site for recreational sea angling and fishing by rod and line takes places on the seaward and landward sides of the shingle bank, throughout the year, targeting a range of fish species.

The area of the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ is one of multiple overlapping MPA designations including the MCZ, a Special Area of Conservation, a Special Protection Area and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Natural England are the lead authority of the SAC and SPAs as they are underpinned by a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – a national designation to protect habitats, species and geomorphology. They are also the lead authority for MCZs in the 0-12nm inshore zone. Multiple designations can complicate how the site is managed, particularly if an activity benefits one site but damages another. Information on the condition of protected habitats and species is provided by Natural England.

Permissions to carry out activities on the site are complicated as they must be granted by both the Government’s Statutory Nature Conservation Body, Natural England, and the land owner. Much of Chesil Beach and the Fleet is privately owned. This can create challenges for controlling access to the site as well as further increasing the complications of managing the site.

The management of sea fisheries resources within the site is carried out by Southern IFCA, in reality, in order to achieve effective fishery management collaborative working relationships are required between Southern IFCA, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation and landowners.

3.1 On-going management within the MCZ

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

The IFCA’s 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 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ seek to achieve the objectives underpinning the IFCA vision.

Southern IFCA is responsible for the management of fishing activities in the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ as it entirely sits within their district.

The IFCA’s 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 Framework⁵. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) carry out regular compliance patrols with a focus on the priorities set under our Compliance Risk

⁵ Southern IFCA’s Compliance and Enforcement Framework: <https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/25364/sitedata/files/EnforcementFramework.pdf>

Register⁶. Throughout the district, 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.

3.2 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 Book⁷. 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.
- 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

⁶ Southern IFCA's Compliance Risk Register: <https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/25364/sitedata/files/Compliance-Risk-Reg-18.pdf>

⁷ The Fishing Regulations Blue Book: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fishing-regulations-the-blue-book>

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.

3.3 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 sections.

3.3.1 Pot fishing

The site's location, situated in exposed waters to the east of West Bay and west of Portland, has historically led to relatively low fishing pressure. Vessels do access the site from Weymouth and West Bay to fish for crabs and lobsters using baited pots over Stennis Ledges and other smaller reef areas in the west, off Langton Herring. Whelk pot and cuttlefish trap fisheries also occur seasonally throughout the site. Pot fishers must comply with national and international minimum conservation reference sizes.

In order to encourage fishers to allow cuttlefish eggs to develop and hatch Southern IFCA has a Cuttlefish Traps Code of Practise.

A management review of the three pot fisheries (crab and lobster, cuttlefish, whelk) is currently underway lead by Southern IFCA. Therefore, the management measure in these fisheries could change over the coming two years.

3.3.2 Sea Angling

Sea angling is carried out from Chesil Beach on a mostly recreational basis. The site is of national importance for recreational sea anglers, sometimes attracting hundreds of participants on a daily basis to fish for a range of marine species, including mackerel, cod, pollack, bass, rays and plaice. Fishing activity is focussed around the 18-mile-long shingle bank's several access points, from Chesil Cove, Portland in the east, the Chesil Beach Centre car park, Abbotsbury and West Bexington, towards the western end. More determined participants may also row across The Fleet at points such as Langton Hive, or walk distances along the beach to access preferred fishing locations. The site is highly valued by anglers due to the diversity and accessibility of fish species available, whilst it is important that fishing activities are carried out in a sustainable manner, it is also important to recognise the social and economic value of the activity to the local community, as well as those who may travel further to enjoy the past-time.

Although not directly affecting sea angling activities, the Southern IFCA 'Fishing under mechanical power – closed area' legacy byelaw seasonally prohibits the use of fishing trawls within 1nm of Chesil Beach (from a point close to Langton Herring to Golden Cap). This historic byelaw reduces conflict between trawlers and recreational sea anglers and supports the access by Chesil Beach's anglers to fish populations.

3.3.3 Dredge and trawl fishing

Low levels of dredge and trawl fishing activity for scallops and flat fish species such as plaice and sole occur within the site. Southern IFCA has introduced management⁸ to prohibit the use of bottom towed fishing gear in three areas of the site which protect delicate reef habitats to support the recovery of the pink sea fan population across the site.

⁸ Southern IFCA Bottom Towed Fishing Gear byelaw 2016 - <http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/byelaws#BotTowedFishGear>

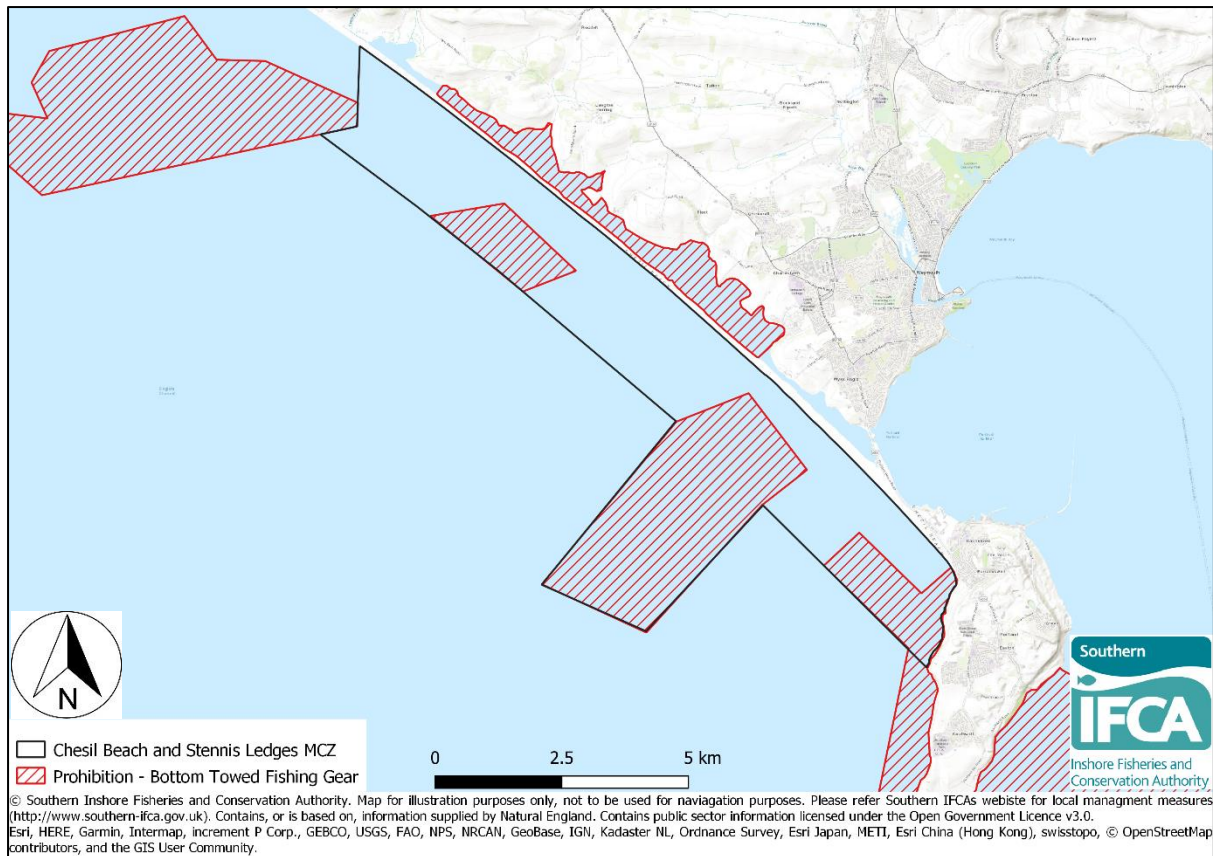


Figure 1. A map showing the areas closed to methods of bottom towed fishing gear in Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MPA.

3.4 Community and regulatory fisheries management

The Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges Fisheries Management Plan (Section 4) summarises on-going and proposed fisheries management in the MPA, stretching from West Portland 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 MCZ, ensuring the integrity of conservation objectives as well as the continued promotion of thriving communities across Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges 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.

3.5 Local Management Measures in the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ

Fishing Activity	Management Area	Regulation	Management measures summary
Pot and Net Fishing	Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ	Protection of Berried (egg bearing) Lobsters Byelaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lobsters which are carrying eggs must be returned immediately to the sea.
	Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ	Minimum Fish Sizes Byelaw Skates and Rays – Minimum Size Byelaw Grey Mullet – Minimum Size Byelaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Any fisher must not remove from the sea a fish which does not meet the minimum conservation reference size specified (more than 14 species)
	Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ	Voluntary code of conduct: Wrasse Fishery Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Live wrasse outside of the following ranges should be returned to the sea immediately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ballan wrasse 18 to 28 cm ▪ Corkwing wrasse 14 to 22cm ▪ Rock Cook and Goldsinny wrasse 12 to 18cm ▪ All live Cuckoo wrasse should be returned immediately. o All forms of commercial fishing for wrasse should not take place in the specified zones o Potting for live wrasse should not take place in the area between Portland Bill and Chesil Cove. o Fishing for wrasse should not take place in water deeper than 10m o Each fishing vessels should not use more than 80 baited wrasse pots o Commercial fishing for live wrasse should not take place between 1st April and 30 June each year o All fishers and buyers of wrasse species should submit catch information/ sales notes to Southern IFCA.
Sea Angling	Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ	Minimum Fish Sizes Byelaw Skates and Rays – Minimum Size Byelaw Grey Mullet – Minimum Size Byelaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Any fisher must not remove from the sea a fish which does not meet the minimum conservation reference size specified (more than 14 species)
Dredge and Trawl Fishing	Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ	Bottom Towed Fishing Gear byelaw 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All vessels are prohibited from towing fishing gear which interacts with the seabed, such as dredges and trawls, in the specified areas.
	Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ	Minimum Fish Sizes Byelaw Skates and Rays – Minimum Size Byelaw Grey Mullet – Minimum Size Byelaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Any fisher must not remove from the sea a fish which does not meet the minimum conservation reference size specified (more than 14 species)

	Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ	Vessels Used in Fishing 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No person shall use any vessel which exceeds 12 metres in overall length for fishing for or taking sea fish.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A number of exceptions apply to this byelaw
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4 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges Fisheries Management Plan

The table below summarises the fisheries management actions of the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MPA.

Area of concern within MCZ	Management Measure	Lead partner(s) (supporting partner)	Role of Partners	Community role
Removal of undersize fish and shellfish by commercial and recreational fishers	Council Regulation (EC) No. 850/98. Article 17. Annex XII Minimum Sizes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern IFCA MMO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in MCZ 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 MCZ via social media platforms 	<p>Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance</p> <p>Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373</p>
	Southern IFCA Minimum Fish Size Byelaws: Minimum Fish Sizes Byelaw Skates and Rays – Minimum Size Byelaw Grey Mullet – Minimum Size Byelaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern IFCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in MCZ 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 MCZ via social media platforms By 2020 - Review existing evidence for 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 	<p>Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance</p> <p>Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373</p> <p>Feed into public consultation and engagement process</p>
	Voluntary code of conduct: Wrasse Fishery Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern IFCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in MCZ 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 MCZ via social media platforms 	<p>Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance</p> <p>Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373</p> <p>Feed into public consultation and engagement process</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing - Educate and engage with community taking into account evidence submitted via public consultations 	
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Area of concern within MCZ	Management Measure	Lead partner(s) (supporting partner)	Role of Partners	Community role
Physical damage to reef habitats through use of bottom towed fishing gear	Bottom Towed Fishing Gear byelaw 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern IFCA • Natural England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in MCZ • 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 	<p>Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance:</p> <p>Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373</p> <p>Feed into public consultation and engagement process</p> <p>Submit species/habitat condition evidence to Natural England</p>
	Inshore Vessel Monitoring System Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Management Organisation • Southern and Devon and Severn IFCAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 MCZ • 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 	<p>Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance:</p> <p>Marine Management Organisation: 0300 123 1032</p> <p>Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 MCZ via social media platforms 	
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Area of concern within MCZ	Management Measure	Lead partner(s) (supporting partner)	Role of Partners	Community role
Reduce mortality of discarded fish	Southern IFCA Fish Handling Code of Conduct (pending)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern IFCA • <i>Recreational Sea Angling Group (RSAG)</i> • DWT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Engage local users through existing networks, including the RSAG, to facilitate development and compliance with the code • Educate and engage with community taking into account evidence submitted via public consultations 	Feed into public consultation and engagement process

Area of concern within MCZ	Management Measure	Lead partner(s) (supporting partner)	Role of Partners	Community role
Physical damage to reef habitats through use of static fishing gear	Voluntary code of conduct: Wrasse Fishery Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Southern IFCA</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing - Undertake regular compliance patrols in MCZ • 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 re-educate those who do not follow the guidance to prevent further instances of non-compliance • Ongoing - Monitor the condition and extent of reefs every six years in line with the Statutory requirements 	<p>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.</p> <p>Southern IFCA Number:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing - Periodically review the Guidance every five years and consider any changes necessary. • By 2021 - Gather data relating to the fishery effort, scale and impact to the benthic features in the MCZ. • By 2024 - Review voluntary codes where necessary and develop statutory measures via community and stakeholder engagement and consultation as part of the Southern IFCA Aquaculture Review. • Ongoing - Educate and engage with community taking into account evidence submitted via public consultations 	01202 721373
	Inshore Vessel Monitoring System Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Management Organisation • Southern and Devon and Severn IFCAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 MCZ • 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 MCZ via social media platforms 	<p>Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance:</p> <p>Marine Management Organisation: 0300 123 1032</p> <p>Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373</p>