



Fisheries Management Plan for the Studland to Portland Marine Protected Area (MPA)

November 2019

Title: Studland to Portland 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 Studland to Portland 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 Studland to Portland 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 Studland to Portland 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 Studland to Portland 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 332 km² of marine reef habitats between Studland Bay and the Isle of Portland, Dorset. The habitats are known as a biodiversity 'hotspot' and support rare species such as the coral and pink sea fan.

The site is co-managed by a number of competent authorities and landowners. Southern IFCA are the lead regulators for inshore fisheries in the Studland to Portland 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 the Marine Management Organisation.

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 Studland to Portland 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, IFCA's have a duty to further the conservation objectives of MCZs, as such IFCA's 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 Studland to Portland SAC is located in an area which is now overlapped by or in close proximity to the following MCZs:

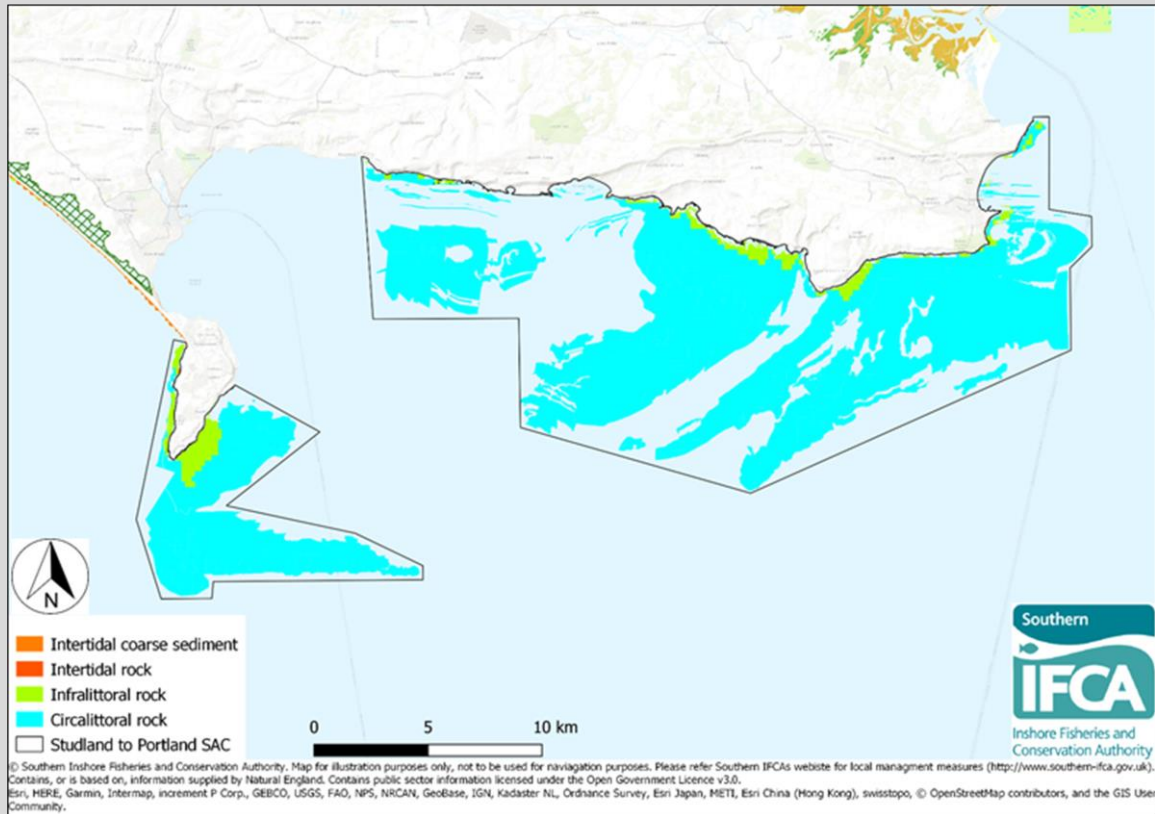
- Purbeck Coast MCZ;
- South of Portland MCZ;
- Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ and;
- Studland Bay MCZ.

These MCZs 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 IFCA's statutory duty, the authority will assess the impact of fishing activities within these sites. 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 produce individual management plans for each of the sites.

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

2.3 Studland to Portland SAC

The Studland to Portland SAC, covering 332 km² of marine habitat, is located off the south coast of England adjacent to the county of Dorset. There are two separate areas of the SAC; the Studland Bay to Ringsted Bay reefs and the Portland reefs. These areas support a diverse collection of underwater reef habitats.



Studland Bay to Ringsted Reefs

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 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.

Portland Reefs

The bedrock and boulders provide hard surface for extensive mussel beds (*Mytilus edulis*) to form on bedrock in the shallow subtidal zones east off Portland Bill amongst the kelp. These beds can also form on soft sediments and create hard structures known as biogenic reefs.

These communities include significant populations of commercially important species such as crabs, lobsters and wrasse including ballan wrasse (*Labrus bergylta*) and goldsinny wrasse (*Ctenolabrus rupestris*). The reef communities also include rare species such as the rare cup coral (*Caryophyllia inomata*) and the pink sea fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*) which in turn supports the sea slug (*Tritonia nilsodhneri*).

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

3 A thriving Studland to Portland SAC

Following community input and regional management intervention, the Studland to Portland SAC...

Internationally recognised for its conservation importance

Is highlighted as an area of high conservation value by the designation it holds, as well as lying adjacent to the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. The area is locally valued as an underwater biodiversity hotspot and a tranquil area which brings in thousands of tourists to visit every year.

Has an abundance of marine life

The reefs are considered to be of both national and international conservation importance. This because they are home to nationally rare and important species such as the nationally scarce pink sea fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*) which is living at the eastern edge of its range in the UK. 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 as well as snorkellers at sites such as the Kimmeridge Snorkel Trail hosted by Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Supports valuable marine education programmes

The sites reef also form a key location for the national Sea search project, whereby volunteer sports divers survey out near-shore habitats around the coast. This type information is extremely useful and is used to monitor the condition of these reef habitats. The area also supports a visitor centre the 'Fine foundation Wild Seas Centre'⁴ in Kimmeridge which has a strong marine focus.

Supports strong socio economics

These valuable reefs are home to many species of fish which support a large local recreational angling industry with up to eighteen angling charter boat operators, eight dive businesses and four ocean activities centres. The reefs support a fleet of commercial fishing vessels which contribute greatly to the local economy. In **2018**, over **4,000 tonnes** of fish and shellfish caught inside and outside the SAC were landed in Weymouth, Lulworth and Kimmeridge worth approximately **£11,000,000**⁵ at first sale value.

Recognises and builds upon cultural heritage

In addition to the economic value of marine life associated with fishing and recreational industries, the marine life in Studland to Portland also has a social value associated with it as it forms part of the cultural heritage of the area. A number of local events, incorporating arts, crafts, music and education are associated with marine life and livelihoods. These include 'Dorset Seafood Festival'.

⁴ The Fine Foundation Wild Seas Centre: <https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/wild-seas-centre>

⁵ Figure collected from Marine Management Organisation landings data request.



Supports strong and diverse harvesting of fish

The designation of the Studland to Portland SAC and the implementation of regulatory management has ensured that fishing practices continue sustainably throughout the site.

The site's reef habitats support crab, lobster, cuttlefish and wrasse species, and the main commercial fishing activity targets these using baited pots and traps. A small number of recreational pot fishers also use the site.

Fish species are targeted by both recreational sea anglers, charter boat anglers and commercial fishing vessels and are caught using rod and line, longlines or nets. Species include bass, sole, plaice, rays, brill, turbot, grey mullet, wrasse and mackerel.

Scallops are hand caught by commercial and recreational diver, and, outside of an area closed to bottom towed fishing, trawling occurs for fish species such as rays, sole and plaice.

Historically, dredging for young blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), known as seed mussel, has occurred inside the site. The mussels are re-laid in a local sheltered harbour (commonly Poole Harbour) and grown on for sale for human consumption. This longstanding activity ceased in 2014 to allow population recovery following winter storm damage and only resumed in 2019 outside of the MPA under a tightly restricted permission, running alongside a population monitoring programme.

3.1 On-going management within the SAC

Southern IFCA aim to achieve compliance with fishing regulations within the Studland to Portland SAC, 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 Studland to Portland SAC seek to achieve the objectives underpinning the IFCA vision.

Southern IFCA is responsible for the management of fishing activities in the Studland to Portland SAC 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 Framework⁶. Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) carry out regular compliance patrols with a focus on the priorities set under our Compliance Risk Register⁷. 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.

⁶ Southern IFCA's Compliance and Enforcement Framework:

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

⁷ Southern IFCA's Compliance Risk Register: <https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/25364/sitedata/files/Compliance-Risk-Reg-18.pdf>

An important part of these patrols is engagement with the industry. During inspections IFCOs inform 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 Book⁸. 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 requirements of the technical conservation measures. There are however, many exceptions to this obligation.

⁸ The Fishing Regulations Blue Book: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fishing-regulations-the-blue-book>

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 Net fishing

Net fishing traditionally takes place throughout the site, particularly around the Isle of Portland and in the Ringsted to Worbarrow area. Species targeted include bass, sole, plaice, rays, grey mullet and mackerel.

Net fishers must comply with a series of minimum conservation reference sizes for fish species, outlined in European legislation and Southern IFCA byelaws. These include a larger local minimum size for grey mullet species.

It is important that net fishers in the MPA follow the Southern IFCA Netting Code of Practise to ensure sea birds do come to harm through this fishery.

3.3.2 Pot and trap fishing

The reef habitats found in the area support good populations of crabs, lobster, cuttlefish and whelks. Both commercial and recreational fishers use baited pots or creels to target these species. These fishers must follow species minimum conservation reference sizes and a national restriction on the prohibition of removing berried (egg bearing) lobsters and crawfish.

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.

Since 2015 local fishers have targeted live wrasse with modified fish traps. Fishers target wrasse species, particularly Ballan wrasse, for use as cleaner fish in Scottish salmon farms as a biological alternative to chemicals as a means of controlling lice numbers.

The area’s wrasse fishers follow ‘Southern IFCA’s Wrasse fishery Guidance’ - a community-led code of practice to ensure wrasse are fished for in a sustainable way, implementing the most restrictive suite of wrasse fishery measures in Europe. This includes a number of no take zones, minimum and maximum conservation reference sizes, a pot limit and seasonal closure.

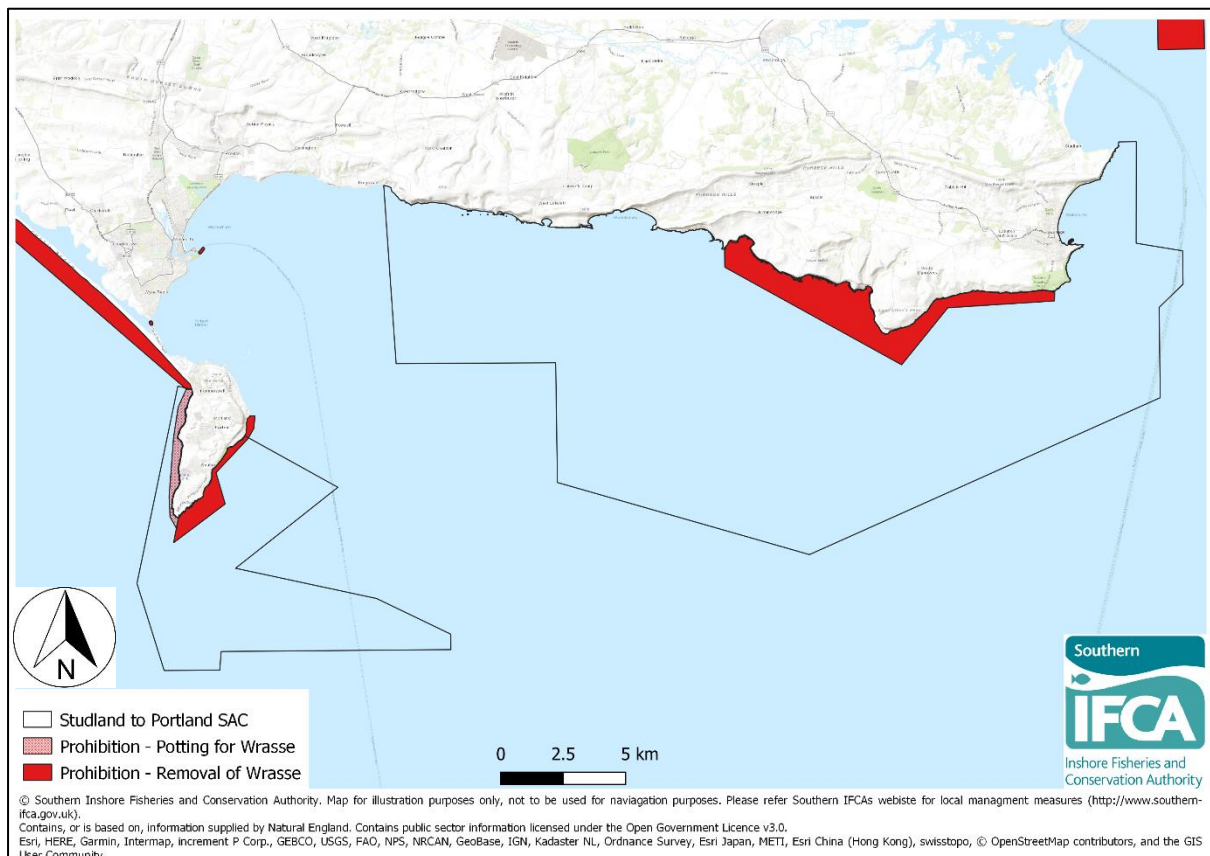


Figure 1. A map showing the wrasse fishery guidance area's in the Studland to Portland SAC.

3.3.3 Sea angling

Sea angling is carried out in the SAC both on a recreational and commercial basis. From the shore, recreational anglers’ fish for a range of marine species, including mackerel, cod, pollack, bass, rays and plaice. Charter vessels provide fishing trip opportunities to the SAC where similar species, plus black sea bream, are targeted. 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 to enjoy the past-time.

The main commercial angling fishery in the SAC is the bass fishery predominantly occurring in the Portland and St. Alban’s races, two areas where strong tidal currents meet. A more recent angling fishery has also proved successful in which fishers target wrasse. This fishery underwent a review which led to the implementation of the Wrasse Fishery Guidance

Measures. The fishery is monitored annually and will be reviewed again if voluntary measures are not successful or the fishery changes significantly.

All sea anglers must comply with a series of minimum species sizes set out under Southern IFCA byelaws.

3.4 Bottom towed fishing gear

Within most of the site towed fishing gear, including benthic trawling and seabed dredging, is prohibited by Southern IFCA in order to protect the delicate reef features found on the seabed. Therefore, only a very low level of towed gear fishing occurs within the site, predominantly trawling in the area south of Worbarrow Bay for species such as plaice, sole and skate and ray.

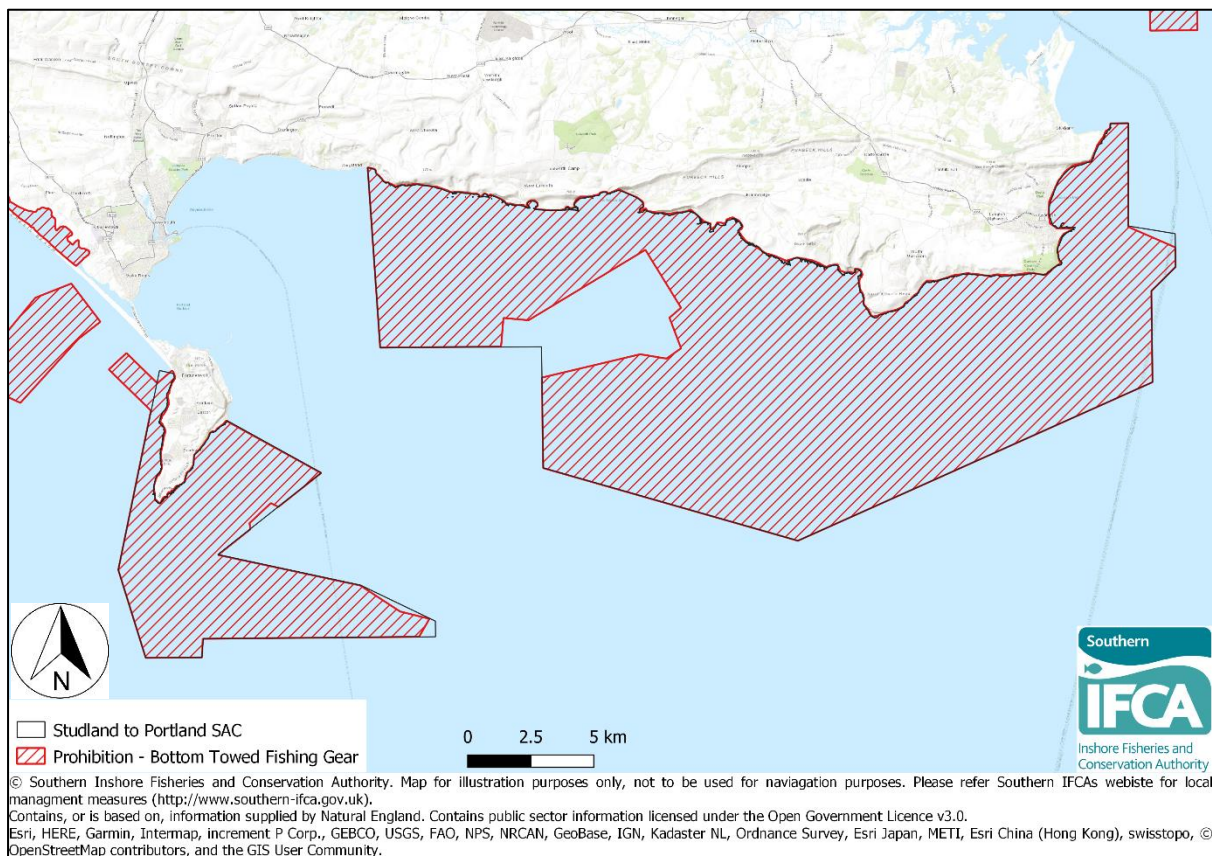


Figure 2. A map showing the areas in the Studland to Portland SAC which are closed to bottom towed fishing gear.

3.5 Community and regulatory fisheries management

The Studland to Portland Fisheries Management Plan (Section 4.5) summarises on-going and proposed fisheries management within the SAC, stretching from Studland Bay to the west coast of Portland, 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 Studland to Portland 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.

3.6 Local Management Measures in the Studland to Portland SAC

Fishing Activity	Management Area	Regulation	Management measures summary
Pot and Net Fishing	Studland to Portland SAC	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.
	Studland to Portland SAC	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)
	Studland to Portland SAC	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	Studland to Portland SAC	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	Studland to Portland SAC	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.
	Studland to Portland SAC	Minimum Fish Sizes Byelaw Skates and Rays – 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)

		Grey Mullet – Minimum Size Byelaw	
	Studland to Portland SAC	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

4 Studland to Portland Fisheries Management Plan

The table below summarises the fisheries management actions of the Studland to Portland MPA.

Area of concern within SAC	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 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 	<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 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 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 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 	<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 SAC	Management Measure	Lead partner(s) (supporting partner)	Role of Partners	Community role
Physical damage to reef habitats through use of bottom towed fishing gear	Council Directive 92/43/EEC of May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and 'Habitats Directive'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural England Plymouth University Defra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of the SAC site condition and effectiveness of management every six years Consider the effectiveness of fisheries management measures in the context of any new findings and evidence gathering 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern IFCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	Southern IFCA 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 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	<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 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 	Feed into intelligence model through notification of non-compliance: Marine Management Organisation: 0300 123 1032 Southern IFCA Number: 01202 721373

			communication networks, promote fisheries management across the SAC via social media platforms	
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Area of concern within SAC	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 Recreational Sea Angling Group (RSAG) 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 Ongoing - 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

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 static fishing gear	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 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 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 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 SAC. 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 	<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: 01202 721373</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 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 	<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 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	
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