



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER No.1 2019

Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw sent to Defra

Photo credits: Sue Kellerman



Following the formal advertisement Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw ('Permit Byelaw') in January 2019 a total of six objections were received. Based on the nature of these objections it was decided by the Authority at the meeting on the 21st March 2019 to seek confirmation of the Permit Byelaw. This was sent to Defra on the 10th April for quality assurance checks and an assessment of evidence prior to recommendation of the Permit Byelaw for confirmation by the Secretary of State.

Update on District wide Netting Review

Photo credits: M Martinez de Osaba



Photo credits: Kieran McCarthy

Photo credits: Jim Howard

Following an eight-week period of pre-consultation with stakeholders in late 2018, the Authority have prepared a Summary of Response document (available on our website), which captures the high level of evidenced responses submitted (242 written responses, 27 verbal). The Authority have since been considering the responses and evidence received. A number of working groups have been held, and are planned throughout the Spring in order to identify any outstanding evidence gaps and in order to determine if any changes should be made to the proposed measures prior to a second period of pre-consultation later in 2019.

The Authority's Five-Year Legislative Forecast, Annual Plan and Strategic Research and Evidence Plan for 2019-2020 are now uploaded onto our website.



New Entrants for a Poole Harbour Dredge Permit



Between the 1st and 12th April new applicants were invited to apply for a Poole Harbour Dredge permit. All applicants who meet the criteria will be entered into a ballot which will be drawn at the Technical Advisory Committee on the 2nd May 2019. There is one permit available for the 2019-2020 season, so the first name out of the ballot will be offered a permit. The next 10 applicants drawn from the ballot will be entered onto a waiting list in the order in which they are drawn, up to a maximum of 10 people.

Photo credits: David Stahl

Poole Harbour Bass Fishers Prosecuted



In February 2019, at Poole Magistrates Court, two men pleaded guilty to taking a quantity of bass below the minimum size and to removing bass from the Poole Harbour Bass Nursery Area. The Magistrates ordered Mr. Hoang Tran of Thatcham in Berkshire and Mr. Doan Tran of Bournemouth, Dorset to pay fines and costs of £4060.

The prosecution follows an investigation by the IFCA following a report of fishing in Poole Harbour on the night of 26th August 2018, using a net from an unregistered vessel. The Magistrates heard that stocks of bass are subject to national and international catch limits to protect fish stocks which have in recent years declined.

Commenting on the case Poole Councilor, Cllr Ray Tindle, said *"Bass are a highly prized sea fish, valuable to the local recreational and commercial fishery. The Poole Harbour Nursery Area is an important refuge for juvenile fish, their abundance and protection in the Harbour allows them to grow and replenish the seriously depleted stocks"*.

Robert Clark, Chief Officer of Southern IFCA said *"The Authority is grateful for the witnesses who came forward with evidence which led to this prosecution...Southern IFCA is committed to the protection of our fish stocks and coastal fisheries. Poole Harbour is an important fish nursery area and legislation is in place to protect stocks...Further protection for bass has been introduced in recent years. Anyone fishing for bass is advised to check the bass fishing guidance and the local regulations for bass nursery areas."*



Photo credits: Liz West



Scallop Dredger Caught in Lyme Bay MPA

In a case heard in Weymouth Magistrates Court, the Plymouth based scallop fishing dredger Cristal Waters FY34 was found to have used scallop dredges within the Lyme Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA), contrary to the Southern IFCA's Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2016.

Weymouth Magistrates heard that on the 5th July 2018, the Fishing Vessel was intercepted by a Southern IFCA Fisheries Protection Vessel approximately 3 miles offshore from Burton Bradstock and consequently some 200m inside the protected area. Officers observed the vessel to have scallop dredges over the side of the vessel which were full of scallops.

Commenting on the case, Robert Clark, Chief Officer of Southern IFCA said *"The Lyme Bay MPA is designated for the protection of mud stone reefs for which it is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. The protected mud stone reefs provide a habitat for species including sea fans, sponges and corals. These habitats in turn attract many fish and crustacea. Fishing is allowed in the MPA, as long as the activities are not damaging to the seabed or to nature conservation. Coastal fishing communities from Lyme Regis, West Bay and elsewhere rely upon this productive ecosystem for their livelihoods. Illegal fishing, which damages the reefs, threatens both the marine environment and these coastal fishing communities. Southern IFCA byelaws protect this important and fragile habitat."*

The master of the vessel Matthew David Bull, of Exmouth, Devon was sentenced with a fine of £3000, costs of £2192 and a victim surcharge of £170 on the 21st January 2019.



Angler Fined for Taking Bass & Obstruction

At Weymouth Magistrates Court on the 25th of February 2019 Mr. Adrian Barron of Weymouth, Dorset, pleaded guilty to retaining a quantity of Bass from a recreational fishery and to intentionally obstructing an enforcement officer. The case against Mr. Barron was brought by Southern IFCA.

At the hearing, the Magistrates heard that the offences were detected on the 13th September 2018, just outside Portland Marina, Dorset, when officers of the Southern IFCA and the Marine Management Organisation inspected Mr. Barron's recreational fishing boat "Dragonfly".

The Magistrates fined Mr. Barron £70 for each of the two offences and ordered him to pay a victim surcharge of £30 and contribute £500 to the costs of the case, making a total of £684 to pay.

At the time the offences were detected, no bass were allowed to be taken by recreational anglers in an effort to protect stocks as part of a wider package of measures designed to rebuild the population of bass. A spokesperson for Southern IFCA said *"Southern IFCA is committed to the protection of our fish stocks and coastal fisheries...updated protection for bass has been introduced in recent years. Anyone fishing for bass is advised to check the bass fishing guidance and the local regulations for bass nursery areas."*