Enforcement and Compliance

"Southern IFCA compliance patrols of Poole Harbour continue and are particularly important at this time of year; when the licenced Poole Clam fishery is in full swing and when the market demand for shellfish is high during the run up towards Christmas and the New Year. Of particular recent significance is the introduction of a regular meeting between the Southern IFCA and various other enforcement agencies, including Dorset Police, the Environment Agency, the Borough of Poole Council, Poole Harbour Master, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), CEFAS and the Gangmasters Licensing Authority. The meetings will enable those involved to better share information and will hopefully address some of the enforcement issues common to all. The new initiative is going under the banner of ‘Operation Foreman.’"

During the beginning of November 2013 the Southern IFCA assisted the Environment Agency with the interview of 2 suspects for Environment Agency and Southern IFCA offences. These offences were detected during Environment Agency patrols of Poole Harbour during August 2013. Enquiries into these incidents are ongoing." - IFCO Dave Mayne

Renewal of Poole Fishery Order (1985) and the Future of Harbour Shellfish Management

Southern IFCA held an informal drop-in day for all users of the Harbour about the Poole Fishery Order (1985) and the process of reviewing management of shellfisheries in the Harbour for 2015 onwards. The Poole Fishery Order (1985) is currently a hybrid Several and Regulating Order for shellfish management in the Harbour. The Poole Order has been in place since 1915 and is an important management tool for all stakeholders involved.

The drop-in day was an excellent opportunity for discussing thoughts and concerns of our stakeholders on shellfish management. Thank you to all who attended. We will continue to work on our management plan and keep stakeholders updated on progress.

Date for the calendar: 15/03/14—Ocean and Earth Day, Southampton NOC—come visit our stall!

Thanks for reading. Please get in touch if you would like more information about any of our articles.

E. enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk  T. 01202 721373

Southern IFCA
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

New European Marine Site (EMS) Byelaws in the Southern IFCA District

European Marine Sites (EMS) protect wildlife habitats and species of EU importance and include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). SACs conserve habitats and species listed in Annex I and II of the EU Habitats Directive. SPAs, under the EU Wild Birds Directive, conserve areas for species listed in Annex I of the Directive and/or regularly occurring migratory birds within the EU. To ensure that EMS have the right level of protection and comply with legal obligations under EU Directives, Southern IFCA is following a government-led risk-based assessment of the impact of fishing activities on EMS designated features.

There are seven EMS with a range of designated features within the Southern IFCA District. Demersal towed fishing activity has been highlighted as presenting a high risk to both seagrass beds and reef areas and hand-worked fishing has been highlighted as presenting a high risk to seagrass beds.

Through extensive consultation with the wider community, Southern IFCA has developed two new byelaws to address these high-risk fishing activities within European Marine Sites. These byelaws have been signed by the Secretary of State and are now in place. Because of the introduction of these byelaws, an existing Southern IFCA byelaw has also been revoked.

1. BOTTOM TOWED FISHING GEAR BYELAW

2. PROHIBITION OF GATHERING (SEA FISHERIES RESOURCES) IN SEAGRASS BEDS BYELAW

Will the byelaws benefit the fishing industry?

Both reefs and seagrass beds are known to provide important nursery areas for young fish and shellfish that in turn act as feeding grounds for commercially important fish species. The anticipated benefits of these protected areas include the population increase in commercially available fish species, potentially leading to increased catches outside of the sensitive areas.

How can I find out more about these byelaws?

The full text, maps and co-ordinates for both byelaws and further information on the management of fishing activities within the Southern IFCA District can be found on the Southern IFCA website: www.southern-ifca.gov.uk. Full paper copies of the byelaws can also be obtained from the Southern IFCA office by calling 01202 721373 or by writing to: Southern IFCA, 64 Ashley Road, Poole, Dorset, BH14 9BN.
**Marine Conservation Zones**

On the 21st of November 2013 DEFRA announced the designation of the first substantial suite of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in inshore offshore waters around England. The 77 sites will help conserve the diversity of marine life and geology found in our seas. These MCZs will further contribute to the network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in UK waters. The UK designates MPAs within inshore and offshore waters under European and national legislation to contribute to the vision of ‘clean, safe, healthy, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas’. UK Government and administrations are all designating MPAs to contribute to an ecologically coherent, well-managed network of MPAs by the end of 2016 to fulfil international and European commitments.

Two MCZs were designated within the Southern IFCA district —

**Chesil Beach & Stennis Ledges MCZ** is an inshore site located off the Dorset coast. It runs along the length of Chesil Beach from Abbotsbury, to Weston on the Isle of Portland in the south-east. The site covers an area of approximately 37 km² and extends seawards to include the reefs of the Stennis Ledges, an area of rocky ridges and rugged seabed. The site’s designated features are the pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*), native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*), high energy intertidal rock and intertidal coarse sediment.

**Poole Rocks MCZ** is an inshore site covering an area of around 4 km² and is one of the smaller designated MCZs. The site lies to the east of the entrance to Poole Harbour and approximately 2 – 2 ½ km to the east of the beachfront at Sandbanks. The site protects an area of rocky outcrops with in the sediment-dominated Poole Bay. The site’s designated features are Couch’s Goby, native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*), subtidal mixed sediments and moderate energy circalittoral rock.

Southern IFCA will consider the most appropriate form of management for MCZs at a site specific level based on a nationally agreed management prioritisation tool. The management prioritisation tool has been developed by Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and the IFCAs. We are keen on working with local stakeholders in improving the mapping of habitats within these MPAs and also the monitoring of designated features and species—such as pink sea fan populations.

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**Useful links for further information:**

**Chesil Beach & Stennis Ledges MCZ**
http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5501887130370048?category=1721481

**Poole Rocks MCZ**
http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5580836816551936?category=1721481

**General MCZ information**

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**Netting Code of Practice**

Do you fish with nets in the Southern IFCA district?

If so, please follow our new ‘Netting Code of Practice’ to help eliminate the bycatch of diving seabirds.

This code has been brought about due to a few incidents of bycatch in recent years, for example by Portland. Helen Booker from the RSPB, describes the inshore waters within the Southern District to be of huge importance to wintering birds. She says that problems arise when nets are in place during daylight hours when the birds are feeding—as they dive to catch fish they become entangled in the nets. Martin Clade from the Portland Bird Observatory has reported an average of 25,000 auks in the area in mid-winter.

The document has been published and distributed—it is also available on our website and upon request.

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**Wreck to Reef Lobster Release**

In 2013 Southern IFCA decided to approve the advancement of the W2R application for £19,600 to purchase 12,000 juvenile lobsters from the National Lobster Hatchery to seed their purpose built reef. In addition to this, it was agreed to include a lobster tagging trial with the National Oceanographic Centre. This will allow Southern IFCA to assess the value of restocking as a tool for management purposes.

In early November, the first lobster release occurred (1,000 juveniles donated by the National Lobster Hatchery). For further information about the project, please visit their website.

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**Recent Publications**

**Sea Angling 2012**

Sea Angling 2012 was established to find out how many people go sea angling in England, how much they catch, how much is retained and the economic and social value of sea angling. The final report will hopefully help local and national policy makers make well balanced, well-informed decisions on sustainable development of all forms of sea fishing. Some interesting facts include:

- 884,000 sea anglers in England – 25% of all adults going sea angling.
- 5,900 commercial fishermen in England
- Nearly 200,000 tonnes of landings by England commercial fishermen, with 71,100 of landings being pelagic fish, 63,600 t being demersal fish and 54,600 t being shellfish.

**Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook and Journal**

DTA Publications has responded to increasing demand for a single source of detailed guidance on the interpretation and application of the Habitats Regulations for plans and projects. ‘The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook’ and accompanying Journal is now available on a subscription basis. Informed by discussions with Defra and key agencies; subscribers include Natural England, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Marine Management Organisation and the Planning Inspectorate. Aimed at practitioners, the Handbook will be regularly updated for changes in the law, policy and guidance and is fully consistent with the Defra guidance. The accompanying Journal is the only one in its field.

Visit [www.dtapublications.co.uk](http://www.dtapublications.co.uk) for further information.

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Visit [http://www.wrecktoreef.co.uk](http://www.wrecktoreef.co.uk) for further information.