



## SOUTHERN IFCA NEWSLETTER No.2 2019

### The Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw

Since late 2017 the Authority have been undertaking a review of the Solent Bivalve fisheries. Following this review, in December 2018 the Authority made the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw ('Permit Byelaw'). Following formal advertisement, the Permit Byelaw was sent to Defra on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 for Quality Assurance (QA) checks and an assessment of evidence prior to its pending recommendation for confirmation by the Secretary of State. Following nine rounds of QA between April and December 2019, the Permit Byelaw is still pending.

More details on the ongoing work of the Authority can be found in the minutes from The **Technical Advisory Group** and **Meeting of the Full Authority** [www.southern-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)

### The District wide Potting Review

Following the first meeting of the Potting Working Group (WG) on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the Authority's Technical Advisory Group (TAC) decided that draft measures were to be developed by the Authority in the following fisheries:

- Recreational potting;
- Commercial whelk potting;
- A review of Codes of Conduct for crab, lobster and cuttlefish fisheries

Two further WGs were held in October and December, with a further planned for February 2020. It is the intention for draft recommendations to be presented to the TAC in May 2020, prior to a period of informal consultation with the community.

### The District wide Netting Review

Following a number of working groups during 2019, Officers are currently drafting the Netting Byelaw, as well as supporting documents to include The Habitats Regulation Assessments and SSSI requirements as well as an Impact Assessment, which will set out anticipated costs and benefits, discuss nature conservation, sustainable development, social, environmental and economic implications. Further stakeholder engagement on the draft documents is planned in the New Year following purdah.



## FLAG Community Planning in MPAs

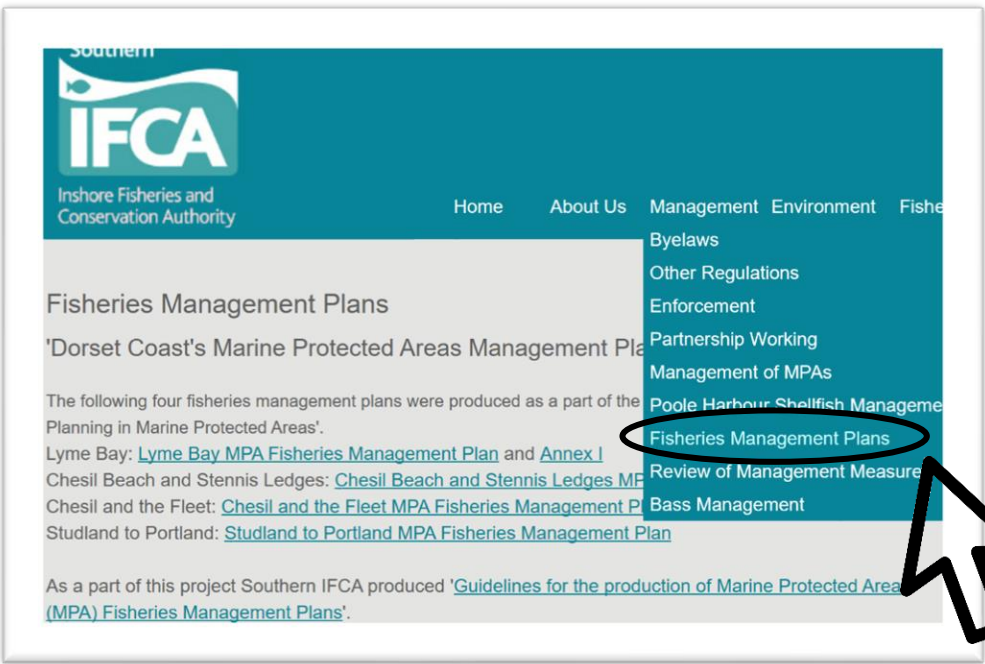
Southern IFCA and Dorset Wildlife Trust successfully received funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) through the Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) to lead a partnership project on 'Community planning for MPAs'. This project brought together a range of partners and community stakeholders to produce a series of MPA Fisheries Management Plans and media materials that are easy to understand and communicate to a wide audience the benefits of well managed MPAs. The project aims were to provide greater community support and awareness of MPAs, thereby increasing the value of both the marine environment and fisheries within these sites.

The project focused on the four MPAs within the East Devon and Dorset FLAG region, being:

- Studland to Portland SAC;
- Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC;
- Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ;
- Chesil and the Fleet SAC.

Find the Fisheries Management plans on our website (see below)

For information of Dorset's Marine Protected Area (MPAs) visit the **\*NEW\*** [Dorset MPA Website](http://www.dorsetmpas.uk) at [www.dorsetmpas.uk](http://www.dorsetmpas.uk)







## Update on Tranche III MCZs

Under a third phase of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) designation, the Government designated 41 new sites and 12 additional features in May 2019. Within the Southern IFCA District this phase includes the designation of 6 new MCZs and additional features to a further 2 existing MCZs. Under section 154 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009, IFCAs have a duty to further the conservation objectives of MCZs.

Officers are currently working hard to determine the high-risk activities in the following sites:

- Yarmouth to Cowes (newly designated site);
- Bembridge (newly designated site);
- Southbourne Rough (newly designated site);
- Studland Bay (newly designated site);
- Purbeck Coast (newly designated site);
- South of Portland (newly designated site);
- Poole Rocks MCZ (additional features);
- Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ (additional features).

In order to determine the most suitable management approach for fishing activities, Southern IFCA has begun a process of assessing the impacts of those activities which occur, or have the potential to occur over the designated site features. This workstream, together with the associated development of any necessary management measures has been planned through the Authority's Five-Year Legislative Forecast, with an estimated timeframe of June 2019- June 2021.

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

**Solent Bivalve Stock Assessment 2019**

**Poole Harbour Bivalve Stock Assessment 2019**

**Solent Oyster Stock Assessment 2019**

Find at  [www.southern-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)