



Wrasse Fishery Guidance

To maintain a sustainable population of wrasse and to enable the enjoyment of the species by other users, the points listed below should be followed by any person commercially fishing for live wrasse within the district of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA):

- **Minimum and maximum conservation reference sizes** – All live wrasse outside of the following size ranges should be returned to the fishery immediately:
 - Ballan wrasse (*Labrus bergylta*): 18cm to 28cm;
 - Corkwing wrasse (*Symphodus melops*): 14cm to 22cm;
 - Rock cook wrasse (*Centrolabrus exoletus*) and Goldsinny wrasse (*Ctenolabrus rupestris*): 12cm to 18cm; and
 - all live Cuckoo wrasse (*Labrus mixtus*) should be returned to the fishery immediately.
- **No take zones** – All forms of commercial fishing for live wrasse should not take place within the coastal areas:
 - Within Poole Rocks Marine Conservation Zone¹;
 - From Broad Bench (50° 36.495' N 002° 08.777'W) to Anvil Point (50° 35.489'N 001° 57.583'W);
 - From Grove Point (50° 32.965'N 002° 24.965'W) to Portland Bill (50° 30.848'N 002° 27.375'W);
 - From Chesil Cove (50° 33.549'N 002° 26.907'W) to a point East of Burton Mere (002°41.40'W);
 - From the base of Golden Cap (50° 43.360'N 002° 50.400'W) to the western boundary of the district; and

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zone-2013-designation-poole-rocks>

- within 50 metres of Swanage Pier, Weymouth Pier, West Bay Pier and Ferrybridge.

Potting for live wrasse should not take place in the area between Portland Bill and Chesil Cove.

- **Maximum fishing depth** – The placing of pots and rod and line fishing for wrasse should not take place in water deeper than 10 metres.
- **Effort limitation** – Any fishing vessel using baited wrasse pots should use no more than 80 pots per vessel.
- **Closed season** – The commercial fishing for live wrasse should not take place between the 1st April and the 30th June each year.
- **Catch data** – All first-sale buyers of wrasse must register with the UK fisheries authorities and submit a 'sales note'. In addition fishers within the District are requested to submit monthly catch returns detailing the quantities of species caught, fishing locations and fishing effort.
- **Biosecurity and husbandry** – When storing and transporting live fish and seawater, appropriate biosecurity and husbandry measures should be followed in order to prevent the mixing of genetic structure and the transport of disease, parasites and non-native species.

Explanatory Note

This Fishery Guidance aims to protect the long-term sustainability of wrasse populations within the Southern IFCA District and maximise the enjoyment of the species by other users, notably recreational sea anglers, divers and snorkelers.

This industry-led approach was developed in June 2017 as a first alternative to a byelaw. Should the approach prove ineffective, Southern IFCA will consider the introduction of regulatory measures to address the issue of wrasse fishery management.