

Devon and Severn IFCA Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw

The Permit Conditions (Category 2 – Estuary)

Interpretations

In the following permit conditions:

“the Authority” means the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as defined in articles 2 and 4 of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 2212);

“co-ordinate” means a co-ordinate on the World Geodetic System 1984 Datum (WGS84 as revised in 1984 and 2004);

“demersal” means any part of the fishing gear is in contact with the sea bed at any time;

“elevator harvester” means a device that is pushed along the seabed and lifts the Mussel using a conveyor system;

“fishing” includes searching for sea fisheries resources, shooting, setting, towing, hauling of a fishing gear, and taking sea fisheries resources on board;

“using” in the context of mobile fishing gear shall for the purposes of this permit means moving, towing, pushing or dragging it on the seabed and or on the surface of the sea and or anchoring and or leaving it on the seabed with or without the intention to take sea fisheries resources and “use” and “used” shall be construed accordingly;

Species:

“mussel” means a mussel of the species *Mytilus spp.*

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1. Catch Restrictions

As provided by paragraph 22 (a) of the Devon and Severn IFCA Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw, the following permit conditions apply:

- 1.1 A permit holder or named representative is only authorised under this permit to remove mussel from a fishery within the Exe Estuary.
- 1.2 All other sea fisheries resources must be immediately returned to the water without further injury as near as possible to the place from which they were taken.

2. Gear Restrictions

As provided by paragraph 22 (b) of the Devon and Severn IFCA Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw, the following permit conditions apply:

Mussel dredging

- 2.1. A permit holder or named representative is not authorised to use any demersal mobile fishing gear within the Exe Estuary, other than an elevator harvester.
- 2.2. A permit holder or named representative is not authorised to fish with an elevator harvester unless the vessel does not exceed 14.99 metres in overall length.
- 2.3. A permit holder or named representative is not authorised to fish with an elevator harvester where:
 - a) the maximum width of the conveyor exceeds a width of 1.4 metres; or
 - b) where a blade is attached to the front of the conveyor the width of the blade exceeds one metre.

3. Spatial Restrictions

As provided by paragraph 22 (c) of the Devon and Severn IFCA Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw, the following permit conditions apply:

- 3.1 In the areas as defined by the coordinates set out in the attached Annex 1 of this permit (Exe Estuary) a permit holder or named representative is authorised under this permit to use an elevator harvester.

4. Time Restrictions

As provided by paragraph 22 (d) of the Devon and Severn IFCA Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw, the following permit conditions apply:

- 4.1 A permit holder or named representative is only authorised to use to fish with an elevator harvester within the area as defined in Annex 1 (Exe Estuary) providing the Authority is informed in writing:
 - a) prior to fishing for the first time each calendar year; and
 - b) at the end of each calendar year, of the total weight of mussel landed during that calendar year.

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Explanatory Note (not part of the Category Two Permit Conditions)

Private fishery areas that exist within the Exe Estuary are not managed under the Category Two Permit Conditions.