Fishing in English European marine sites: update 23 Jan 2014

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NATURAL ENGLAND

Summary

- Govt changed its approach
- Partnership / I.G.
- The Matrix
- Progress with the “Reds”
- Lessons from Reds process
- Preparatory work for Ambers
- Next Steps

Revised approach overview

- Revised approach implemented by Defra (Aug 2012) to ensure full compliance with legal obligations under EU directives by end 2016.

- This will ensure that all existing and potential commercial fishing activities in EMS are assessed for their impact on the conservation objectives for site features.

- The revised approach will be applied on a **risk-prioritised**, phased basis which will be applied to both UK and non-UK fishing vessels in accordance with the EU requirements.

The Matrix: fishing gears v habitat feature

Fishing gear type	Generic sub-features	Intertidal boulder and cobble reef	Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef	Subtidal bedrock reef	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef	Sabellaria spp reef	Subtidal mussel bed on rock	Kelp forest communities	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	Saltma spp Salico and Se
Towed (demersal)	Beam trawl (whitefish)									
	Beam trawl (shrimp)									
	Beam trawl (pulse/wing)									
	Heavy otter trawl									
	Multi-rig trawls									
	Light otter trawl									
	Pair trawl									
	Anchor seine									
	Scottish/fly seine									
Towed (demersal/pelagic)										
Towed (pelagic)	Mid-water trawl (single)									
	Mid-water trawl (pair)									
	Industrial trawls									
Dredges (towed)	Scallops									
	Mussels, clams, oysters									

Matrix categorisation

- **Red :** High risk - management required.

  Consistent with provisions of Article 6(2) in order to implement protection to avoid habitat deterioration

- **Amber:** Medium risk - site level assessment to assess whether management is required.

  This assessment will be consistent with the provisions of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

- **Green:** Low risk - an assessment will be needed if there are “in combination effects” with other plans or projects.

- **Blue:** No risk - no management required.

  No feasible interaction between the gear types and habitat features.

* Precautionary principle will be applied if extent of feature(s) unknown

Timeline

- By end 2013: management measures in place for all inshore (<12nm) **red** gear/feature combinations.
- By end 2014: management measures in place for all offshore (>12nm) sites.
- By end 2016: management measures in place for all sites (**amber** & **green**).

- 25 sites identified with **red/high risk ambers** features (mostly reef / maerl / eelgrass **+** mobile gear)

Roles & Responsibilities

Defra has the overall lead, responsibility and accountability for this project.

MMO has the role of coordinating delivery of the project objectives in respect of the responsibilities of the MMO and the IFCAs, including monitoring issues and risks so that contingency arrangements (e.g. emergency byelaws) can be used if necessary.

MMO to report quarterly to Defra on progress.

Roles and Responsibilities

MMO/IFCAs/EA and other relevant regulators are responsible and accountable for the implementation of management measures. 10 IFCAs are represented at the PB by the Association of IFCAs.

NE and JNCC are responsible for providing advice on conservation status and operations likely to damage European marine Sites.

IG/Fishing Industry/NGOs to provide advice on how the revised approach can be implemented effectively.

UK Management Measures

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs):

Manage fisheries in 0-6nm in respective IFCA districts.

Will manage 21 high inshore risk sites. Reef/Eelgrass/Maerl

MMO: Manage fisheries in 6-12nm and are expected to lead on 4 sites that straddle the 6 nm limit.

- Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SCI
- Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SCI
- Land's End & Cape Bank SCI
- Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SCI

Red Results

- Byelaws drafted, QA'd, consulted, IA'd, and all bar 3 passed by IFCA Committees and SoS.
- Remainder before end March.
- MMO intl engagment & 4 passed.
- EC endorsement of approach so far.

= a **Big achievement** – eg Southern 24.3% and D&S 33.6% of districts now closed to mobile bottom gear.

Rob Clarke can elucidate..

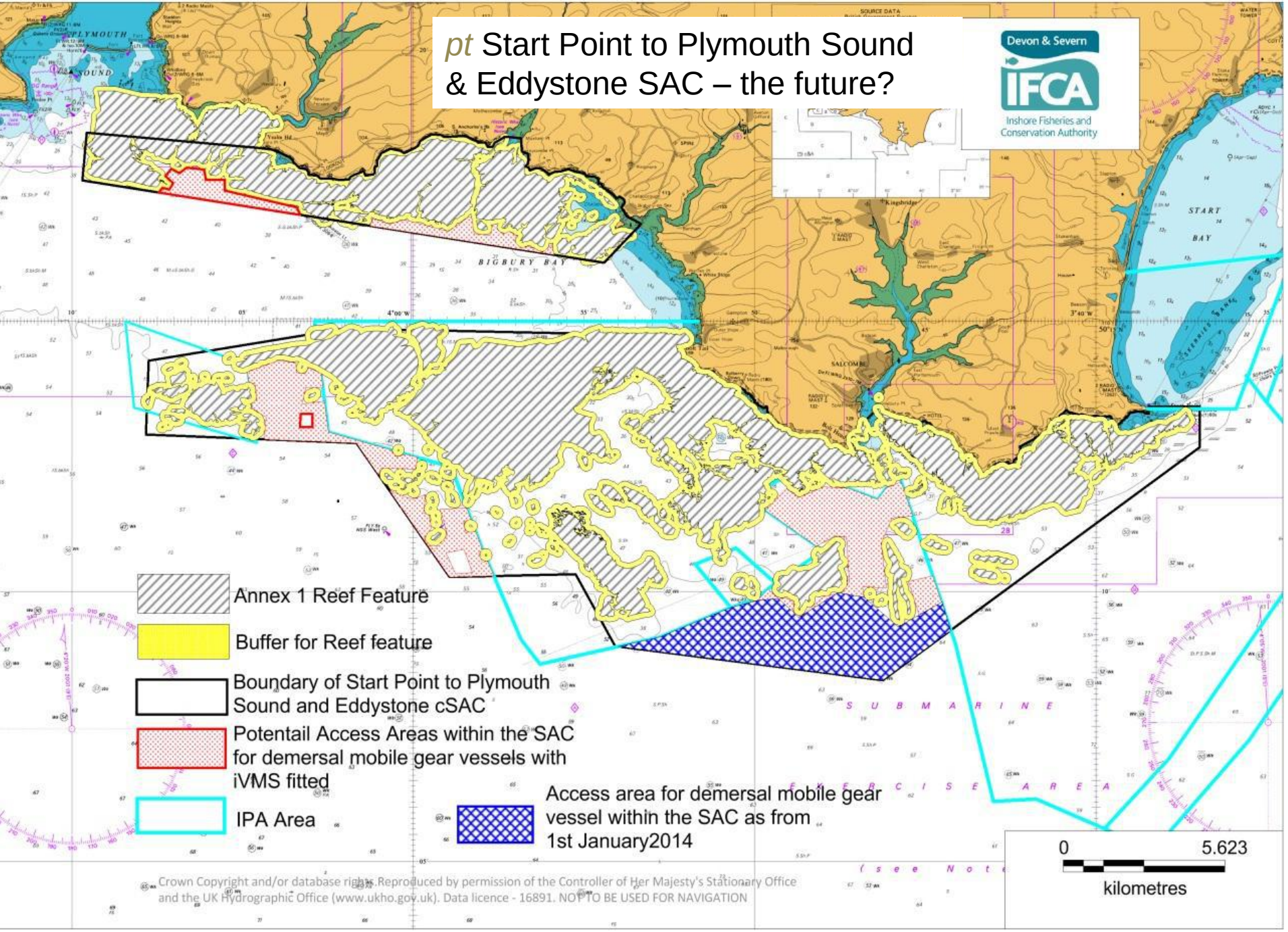
- D&S followed different approach – a "permitting byelaw".

D&S Permitting Byelaw

- Had to review all byelaws anyway.
- Existing considered rigid & inflexible– need to accommodate changed e.g. fish stocks & evolving gear technologies.
- **∴** Need a flexible mngt system (& reduce need for Emergency Byelaws).
- Set out part of the management in the permit conditions rather than in the byelaw.
- An open and inclusive management review system within the byelaw will describe the process by which changes to permit conditions will be made.
- All vessels operating towed gear will require a permit.
- Incorporates protection measures for MPAs designated as high risk within the D&SIFCA District.
- Maintaining access where possible in MPAs (iVMS)

pt Start Point to Plymouth Sound & Eddystone SAC – the future?

Devon & Severn IFCA
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority



Lessons Learnt

- Sub/Feature definition, presence and extent (& timing).
- Application of appropriate buffers.
- NE update of Maps (co-ord with NE advice update).
- Ephemeral Features e.g., *Sabellaria spinulosa.*
- Mobile species / Birds?
- Scope for adaptive management – monitor and learn.
  + *Dogger Bank Euan Dunn later*
- Spread good practice & HRA training.
- Paucity of knowledge over gear-habitat interactions;
  - Cefas review of NE Reds impacts - lead to the commission of ***Ambers*** Evidence Matrix –
  - Still many gaps: Impacts evidence database to be updated (TAG….)

Amber process going forward....

(i) Evidence on feature/sub-feature extent

- NE evidence & mapping project will deliver site-based feature maps for all EMS (spring 2014).
- ***Pr E+*** to assess confidence in feature presence & extent

  → help inform evidence gaps and site-based assessments (e.g. application of precaution).

- Prioritisation of evidence gaps, and associated timescales, will need to be decided in partnership between NE & Regulators (& others).

(ii) **Evidence on fisheries impacts** - (gear & feature interactions)

Existing evidence currently being collated in form of evidence database and matrix (Cefas, NE) Will identify gaps in evidence to help inform the *evidence needs* prioritisation -

IFCA Technical working group to be set-up, focussing on specific gear - feature interactions (share learning).

(iii) Spatial & temporal fishing activity data

- Regulators to establish evidence-base for interaction betwee activities & features/sites.

Next Steps (A &G):

- Collation & interpretation of existing evidence (Cefas database/matrix, current research, other sources e.g. academic, NGOs).
- Prioritisation of evidence gaps.
- Determine ways & timescales to address priority gaps.
- Help provide interpretation of evidence for site-level assessments, etc
- Co-ordination of contributions from all interested/relevant parties.

Amber & Greens stage 1 screening

•Initial/draft **LSE** tests (gear & feature based, site-specific) by March 2014.
•IFCAs, MMO & NE *together.*
•Help inform evidence gaps prioritisation
•Integrate new CA timetable.
•An eye to T1 MCZs

Next Steps..

Evidence requirements/risk prioritisation (wider)

- Drawing on knowledge of IG members.
- Strategic and local level where appropriate.

  e.g. understand fisheries disturbance vs. natural disturbance

HRA-type assessments & outcomes

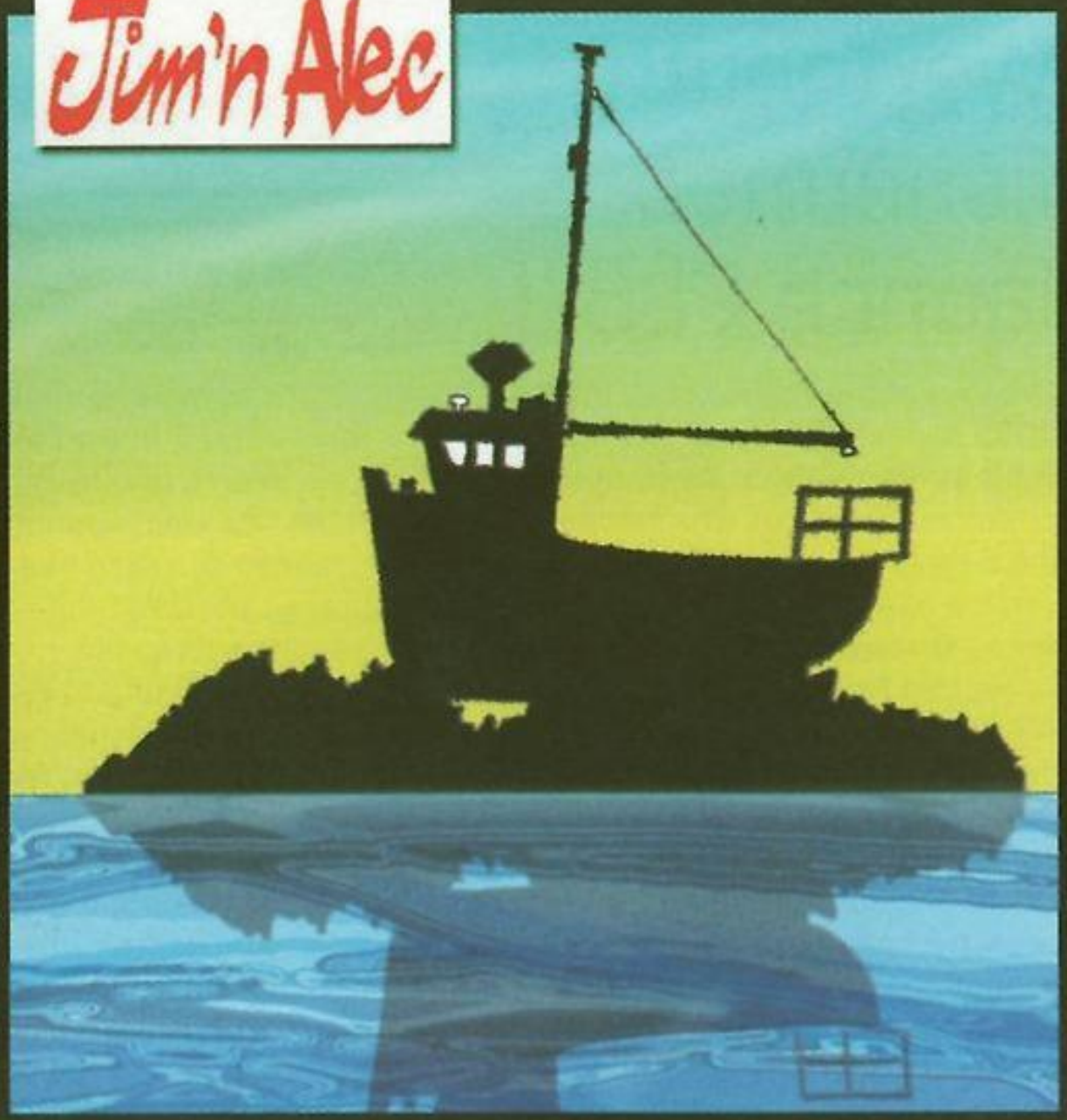
•Undertake full HRA assessments (inc. in-combination).
•Identify appropriate management options.
•Implement management options e.g. MMO/IFCA byelaw process.
•Deadline: end of 2016.

New fishing byelaws in England

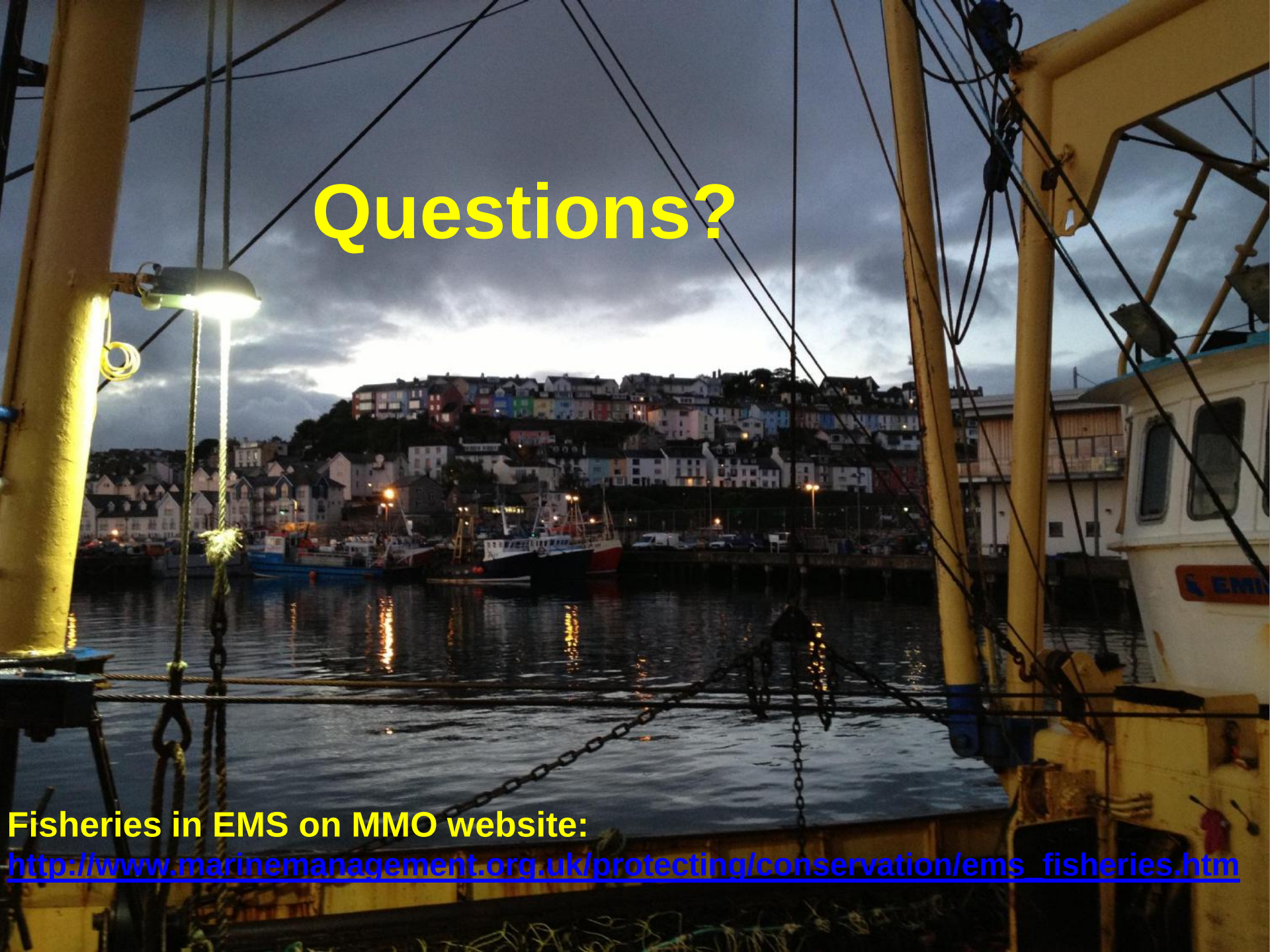
The UK's Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has brought in new byelaws to protect reef habitats in four European marine sites (EMS) from bottom towed fishing in England.

These byelaws have been put in place with immediate effect to protect these areas from fishing activities as a result of a project led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

A full consultation by MMO and the IFCA on the proposed new measures, including draft byelaws and impact assessments, ran from September to October 2013.



"I've got the MMO on the phone ... they're worried about their bloody reef."


Questions?
Fisheries in EMS on MMO website:
http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/protecting/conservation/ems_fisheries.htm

	Lead regulator	Site (0 to 6 nautical miles unless stated)	Feature	Sub-feature	Generic matrix sub-feature
1	Northumberland IFCA	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast	Mudflats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide	Eelgrass communities	Seagrass
			Reefs	Subtidal faunal turf communities	Subtidal bedrock reef, subtidal boulder and cobble reef
2	Southern IFCA	Chesil and the Fleet	Coastal lagoons	Seagrass bed communities	Seagrass
3	North Western IFCA	Dee Estuary	Estuaries	Notable intertidal hard substrata communities[1]	*Sabellaria* spp. reef
4	Kent and Essex IFCA	Essex Estuaries	Estuaries, mudflats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide	Muddy sand communities[2]	Seagrass
5	Cornwall IFCA	Fal and Helford	Large shallow inlets and bays, reefs	Subtidal rock and boulder communities	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef
			Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Eelgrass bed communities	Seagrass
				Maerl bed communities	Maerl
6	North Eastern IFCA	Flamborough Head	Reefs	Subtidal faunal turf communities	Subtidal bedrock reef, subtidal boulder and cobble reef

	Lead regulator	Site (0 to 6 nautical miles unless stated)	Feature	Sub-feature	Generic matrix sub-feature
				Rocky shore communities	Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef
7	MMO[3], (Eastern IFCA)	Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton (0 to 200 nautical miles)	Reefs	*Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs	*Sabellaria* spp. reef
8	North Eastern IFCA, (Eastern IFCA)	Humber Estuary	Mudflats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide	Eelgrass bed communities	Seagrass
9	MMO[3], (Eastern IFCA)	Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge (0 to 200 nautical miles)	Reefs	*Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs	*Sabellaria* spp. reef
10	Isles of Scilly IFCA	Isles of Scilly Complex	Reefs	Vertical rock	Subtidal bedrock reef
				Subtidal rock and boulder communities	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef
				Subtidal faunal turf communities	Subtidal bedrock reef
			Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Eelgrass bed communities	Seagrass
11	Cornwall IFCA, MMO[4]	Land's End and Cape Bank (0 to	Reefs	Coastal upstanding bedrock reefs	Subtidal bedrock reef

	Lead regulator	Site (0 to 6 nautical miles unless stated)	Feature	Sub-feature	Generic matrix sub-feature
		12 nautical miles)		Offshore upstanding bedrock reefs	Subtidal bedrock reef
12	Cornwall IFCA	Lizard Point	Reefs	Flat bedrock reefs, coastal upstanding reefs, offshore upstanding reefs	Subtidal bedrock reef
13	Devon and Severn IFCA	Lundy	Reefs	Subtidal bedrock and stable boulder communities	Subtidal bedrock reef, subtidal boulder and cobble reef
				Vertical rock	Subtidal bedrock reef
14	Devon and Severn IFCA, Southern IFCA[5]	Lyme Bay and Torbay	Reefs	Bedrock reef communities	Subtidal bedrock reef
				Biogenic reef communities	Subtidal mussel bed on rock
				Stony reef communities	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef
15	North Western IFCA	Morecambe Bay	Mudflats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide	Eelgrass bed communities	Seagrass
			Reefs	Intertidal boulder and cobble skears[6]	*Sabellaria* spp. reef
				Subtidal boulder and cobble skear communities	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef

[5] Eastern side of Lyme Bay falls within Southern IFCA district.
[6] Attribute = Extent of characteristic biotopes: mussel beds, honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs, tide-swept boulders and cobbles with serrated wrack, sponges, sea squirts and red seaweeds.

	Lead regulator	Site (0 to 6 nautical miles unless stated)	Feature	Sub-feature	Generic matrix sub-feature
16	Cornwall IFCA, Devon and Severn IFCA	Plymouth Sound and Estuaries	Reefs, large shallow inlets and bays	Subtidal rocky reef communities	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef
			Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Eelgrass bed communities	Seagrass
17	Devon and Severn IFCA	Severn Estuary/Môr Hafren	Estuaries	Assemblage of vascular plant species[7], hard substrate habitat notable communities[8]	Seagrass[9]
			Reefs[10]		*Sabellaria* spp. reef
18	North Western IFCA, MMO[11]	Shell Flat and Lune Deep (0 to 12 nautical miles)	Reefs	Stony reef communities	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef
				Bedrock reef communities	Subtidal bedrock reef
19	Southern IFCA, Sussex IFCA[12]	Solent Maritime[13]	Mudflats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide	Intertidal muddy sand communities[14]	Seagrass

	Lead regulator	Site (0 to 6 nautical miles unless stated)	Feature	Sub-feature	Generic matrix sub-feature
			Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Subtidal eelgrass *Zostera* marina beds	Seagrass
20	North Western IFCA	Solway Firth	Reefs	Intertidal boulder and cobble skears[15]	*Sabellaria* spp. reef
				Subtidal boulder and cobble skear communities	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef, *Sabellaria* spp. reef
21	Southern IFCA	South Wight Maritime	Reefs	Subtidal faunal turf communities	Subtidal bedrock reef, subtidal boulder and cobble reef
				Rocky shores	Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef
22	Cornwall IFCA, Devon and Severn IFCA[16], MMO	Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone (0 to 12 nautical miles)	Reefs	Bedrock reefs[17]	Subtidal bedrock reef
23	Southern IFCA	Studland to Portland	Reefs	Bedrock reef communities	Subtidal mussel bed on rock
					Subtidal bedrock reef

	Lead regulator	Site (0 to 6 nautical miles unless stated)	Feature	Sub-feature	Generic matrix sub-feature
				Stony reef communities	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef
24	Kent and Essex IFCA	Thanet Coast	Reefs	Intertidal chalk cliff algal and lichen communities	Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef
				Intertidal red algal turf communities	Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef
				Subtidal animal-bored chalk communities	Intertidal and subtidal chalk reef
25	Eastern IFCA	The Wash and North Norfolk Coast	Large shallow inlets and bays, Reefs	Subtidal boulder and cobble communities	Subtidal boulder and cobble reef
				Subtidal mixed sediment communities (such as *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs)	*Sabellaria* spp. reef
			Mudflats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide	Muddy sand communities[18]	Seagrass