

Devon & Severn IFCA



Setting Pathways for Pioneering Approaches to Fisheries Management

*Developing Bristol Channel Fisheries Research and
Management Strategies*

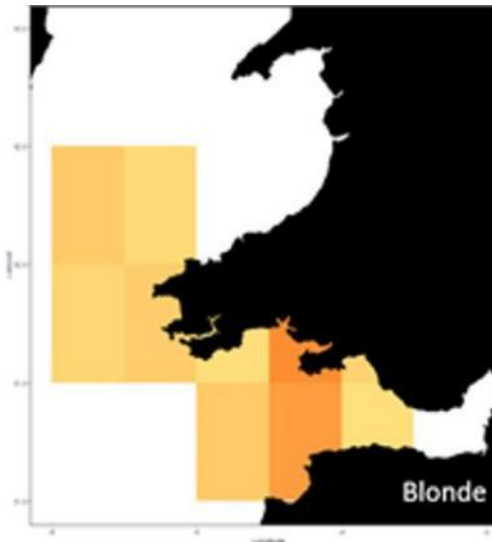
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What are Fisheries Research and Management Plans?

Pioneering because:

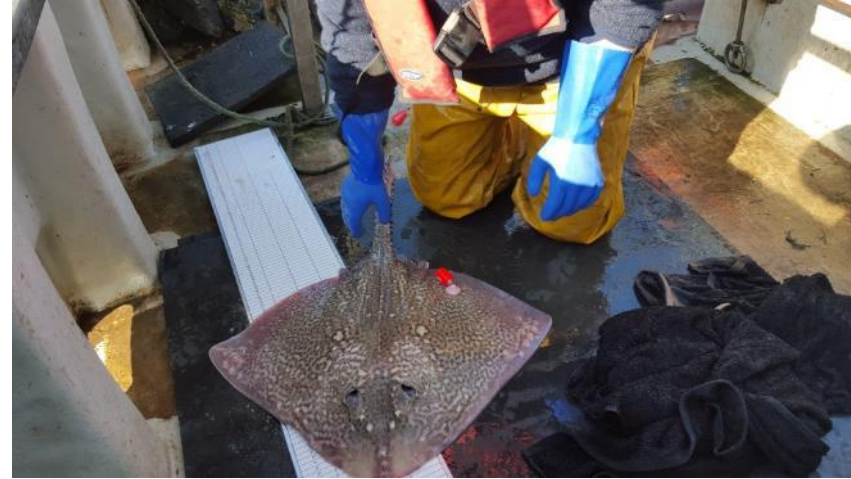
- Can incorporate local knowledge and anecdotal information
- Review other factors which may affect fish populations – aggregate dredging, water quality, tidal power, water intake for nuclear power stations
- Could include review of socio economic evidence and heritage information

- Stock take of all the available science on ecology and biology for species alongside information on fisheries and their management
- A gap and analysis and prioritisation exercise
- Clear signposting to other relevant documents; legislation, science



Why do we need research and management plans?

- Complex fisheries data collection frameworks: ICES, UK, Local
- Lots of different organisations
- Rarely considered at a local level
- IFCA has had to be reactive in its research e.g. bass, rays
- Resource limitations – need to invest IFCA time and resources carefully



Why do we need research and management plans?

- Complex fisheries data collection frameworks: ICES, UK, Local



Reality check: Regional/local management is often cited as a cure-all for problems in fisheries management, but has not been strategically reviewed in a real-world context for UK fisheries

In its research e.g. bass, rays

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Ultimate purpose

Needs to work alongside a consideration of what institutional changes would be required to provide more local/regional approach to fisheries management for some species- review

- Identify **suitable species** for a more regional/local approach to management
- Explore the additional evidence required to be able to manage those stocks at a regional level and prioritise and develop a **strategy for data collection for each species**
- Clearly identify & justify where local management is **not appropriate** or unlikely to be achievable
- Move towards an **ecosystem approach** that considers all industries and activities , pathways of impact



Devon & Severn



Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Enhancing ND fisheries - conservation & value

A demonstration project

Bristol Channel Herring project

- Herring - A heritage fishery of North Devon
- Bristol Channel believed to be an important spawning ground for lots of fin fish- including herring
- Utilising the *'fisher/scientist/regulator'* partnership
- **First step** - gathering samples from North Devon (Clovelly, Minehead) & fisheries further afield to determine genetic distinctness (Plymouth University/Swansea University)
- **Next** to gather data on spawning grounds- when? where? how big? - this winter
- **Why?** Ecosystem level data collection to demonstrate the ecological and economical importance of spawning grounds to North Devon MP
- Understand how commercial developments/activities may impact these habitats and species in the future - assess current management/protection

