

**NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw
Sub-Committee
16 August 2013: 10:00am**

**REPORT
NUMBER
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Supplementary
Report

Solway Firth Reef

On Friday [09/08/13] NWIFCA received official guidance from Natural England relating to the features in the Solway Firth EMS. This advice has changed from the initial informal advice and interpretation of the generic matrix (Annex 4).

This new advice states that when looking at site specifics, the subtidal boulder and cobble in the Solway (area 2) should be classed as an “Amber” subfeature. This means that immediate protection is not required, instead assessment will be required in the future.

The advice also states that there is no evidence for the presence reef forming *Sabellaria alveolata* to the north of the intertidal area (area 3). Therefore no immediate protection is required for this area.

In the Dubmill area *Sabellaria alveolata* reef is present and does require protection from bottom towed gear. A new closed area has been drawn up to encompass the minimum area that requires closure (Annex 5).

**A Leadbeater
(Science Officer)**