

NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw Committee

15th May 2018: 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.
11**

NWIFCA NETTING BYELAW

Purpose: To introduce early thinking on a new NWIFCA netting byelaw for the District.

Recommendation: The approach set out is endorsed for further development.

Background

1. As a part of the review of Byelaws enforced by NWIFCA there is a clear need to review byelaws concerning inshore netting. Some progress has now been made with this review
2. There are currently byelaws regulating inshore netting across the district from the North Western Sea Fisheries Committee, Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee, National Rivers Authority and Environment Agency. This had led to differing legislation across the NWIFCA district which is confusing for stakeholders and difficult to enforce. In the North Western area alone there are seven byelaws which relate to netting. There are differences such as straight lines creating closed areas in the old North Western area and semi circles around estuaries in Cumbria. One of the biggest differences is that the Cumbrian Sea fisheries byelaw 10 is prohibitive while the North Western Byelaws 26/27 are permissive.

Proposed approach to a review of netting byelaws

3. A new Byelaw is required to facilitate better management of all recreational and commercial inshore netting.
4. Following recent experience, a flexible permit scheme byelaw is recommended to allow permit conditions to be set as required to meet local and timely requirements. Conditions could include catch limits, gear size, spatial and time restrictions as required to meet conservation and fishing needs of the area.
5. It is expected that two categories of permit for recreational and commercial netters would be required. This would greatly enhance the regulation of "unlicensed" netting. Having standard legislation across the NWIFCA district would allow stakeholders to experience a consistent approach across the North West.
6. The Head of Enforcement has highlighted a number of legislative targets for the byelaw and has informally consulted with IFCO's to highlight current issues across the district.
7. Devon & Severn IFCA's netting permit byelaw has been attached as an annex of this report as an example of the sort of byelaw we could develop for NWIFCA District.
8. If members approve this approach, a more detailed proposal will be developed including a first draft byelaw showing the measures to be included.
9. A consultation with industry will also be undertaken.
10. The new byelaw would replace NWSFC byelaws 2, 3, 7, 10, 8, 26, 27 and Cumbria byelaw 4, 10, 20.

Head of Enforcement and CEO, May 2018