

**NWIFCA Technical, Science and Byelaw
Committee**

5th February 2019: 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA
ITEM NO.**

7

NWIFCA POTTING PERMIT BYELAW 2019

Purpose: to report work since November TSB on the proposed flexible permitting byelaw for pot fisheries

Recommendations:

- i. The revised Potting Permit Byelaw is considered, comments returned and legal advice requested from Mr. Oliver in line with the new MMO byelaw making policy.
- ii Consider the permit charging options in Annex B and agree rates to be included in the byelaw.

Update:

1. This draft byelaw was discussed by members at November TSB. A further draft of the byelaw is at Annex A.
2. Industry has been widely consulted on the proposed measures. Preliminary advice from Mr. Oliver on flexible permitting byelaws received in December is incorporated resulting in amendment to the layout of paragraphs.
3. A report on whelk fisheries with recommended flexible permit conditions to be included in the potting byelaw is a separate agenda item.
4. The cost to the Authority of regulating pot fisheries is estimated in the spreadsheet at Annex C to facilitate decisions on the charges for commercial and recreational potting permits. Some charging options are presented in Annex B.
5. For comparison, the permits and charges operated by other IFCA for similar types of fisheries are listed in the table at Annex D.

Pressures on these fisheries

6. There are no current concerns over the amount of effort or activities in the commercial and recreational crab and lobster fisheries. It is not anticipated that measures such as restricted permit numbers, pot limitation, closed seasons, gear restrictions etc will be required at the present time for these fisheries. The Flexible Permit conditions will enable the NWIFCA to introduce these should evidence show they are required at some point in the future, which 'future proofs' the byelaw to a certain extent.
7. There is some concern over the increasing interest in whelk fisheries and the pressure this could bring on stocks. The proposed flexible permit conditions in the whelk paper are designed to address these concerns and ensure that whelk fisheries in the District are sustainable.

**Mandy Knott
24 January 2019**