

Fisheries in EMS Habitats Regulations Assessment for Amber and Green risk categories

NWIFCA-DE-EMS-004

Date completed: 16/12/2015

Completed by: S.Temple

Site: Dee Estuary

European Designated Sites: UK0030131 Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
UK9013011 The Dee Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)
UK11082 The Dee Estuary Ramsar Site
(UK9020287 Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Area (SPA) and UK11042 Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar overlaps this site- assessed separately in NWIFCA-MN-SPA-004)
(UK9020294 Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA adjoins this site)

European Marine Site: Dee Estuary

Only features within the English part of the EMS are assessed by NWIFCA.

Gear type(s): Longlines (demersal)

The NWIFCA has assessed demersal longline fishing activity in the Dee Estuary European Site.

Activity data was collected by NWIFCA Fishery Officers who report that to their knowledge, the only demersal longlining activity in the Dee Estuary European Site was one fisherman who fished in the north Wirral foreshore area on a recreational basis (pers. comm. local IFCO, 2015). This was several years ago and has not occurred since.

Defra's Revised Approach to the management of Fisheries in European Marine Sites (EMS) is limited to commercial fishing.

As demersal longlining in the Dee Estuary European Site has only been carried out recreationally, the NWIFCA has screened it out of this process.

Activity will continue to be monitored and should the nature of demersal longlining in the Dee Estuary European Site change and become commercial it will be assessed in accordance with the Revised Approach.

Annex 1: Natural England's consultation advice

Date: 18 January 2016
Our ref: 174648
Your ref: Formal Sign Off – DE EMS



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sarah

Formal Advice to NWIFCA. Review of Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas. Assessments for Dee Estuary European Marine Site

Thank you for your consultation on the above which was received by Natural England on 18 December 2015.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

In 2012, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced a revised approach to the management of commercial fisheries in EMSs¹. The objective of this revised approach is to ensure that all existing and potential commercial fishing activities are managed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

Thank you for providing Natural England sight of the following documents –

DE-EMS-004 – Longline (demersal)
DE-EMS-006 – Beach seine/ring nets
DE-EMS-007 – Handlines – Jigging and trolling
DE-EMS-008 – Shrimp push nets

We acknowledge that North Western IFCA have identified these activities as being undertaken within the Dee Estuary European Marine Site recreationally and fall out of Defra's revised approach. We will amend our records accordingly to reflect this.

If you require any further comments or have any queries regarding the above please contact me to discuss them further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Helen Ake".

Helen Ake
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¹ Defra revised approach:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revised-approach-to-the-management-of-commercial-fisheries-in-european-marine-sites-overarching-policy-and-delivery>