

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

## NWIFCA-DE-EMS-007

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 but is classed as a blue gear-feature interaction)*  
*(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): Handlines, Jigging/ Trolling**

The NWIFCA has assessed handline and jigging/trolling fishing activity in the Dee Estuary European Site.

Activity data was collected by NWIFCA Fishery Officers who report that handlining and jigging/trolling in the Dee Estuary European Site is only performed on a recreational basis (pers. comm. local IFCO, 2015).

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

As handlining and jigging/ trolling in the Dee Estuary European Site is only carried out recreationally, the NWIFCA has screened it out of this process.

Activity will continue to be monitored and should the nature of handlining and jigging/trolling 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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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 EMSs<sup>1</sup>. 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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<sup>1</sup> 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>

