

# Fisheries in European Sites Likely Significant Effect audit for **Amber** and **Green** risk categories

NWIFCA-MB-EMS-001

Date completed:03/06/2015

Completed by: S. Temple & A. Leadbeater

## Site: Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary

European Designated Sites: UK0013027 Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

UK 9005031 Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area (SPA)

UK11045 Morecambe Bay Ramsar

UK9005031 Duddon Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)

UK11022 Duddon Estuary Ramsar

European Marine Site: **Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary**

### Qualifying Feature(s):

#### SAC and Ramsar

H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks

H1130. Estuaries

H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

H1150. Coastal lagoons

H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays

H1170. Reefs

H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves (NON MARINE)

H1310. *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Pioneer saltmarsh

H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes (NON MARINE)

H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram (NON MARINE)

H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland (NON MARINE)

H2150. Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*); Coastal dune heathland (NON MARINE)

H2170. Dunes with *Salix repens ssp. argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*); Dunes with creeping willow (NON MARINE)

H2190. Humid dune slacks (NON MARINE)

S1166. *Triturus cristatus*; Great crested newt (NON MARINE)

Natterjack Toad (NON MARINE)

#### SPA and Ramsar

A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (non-breeding)

A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (non-breeding)

A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (non-breeding)

A063 *Somateria mollissima*; Common eider (Breeding)

A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (non-breeding)

A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (non-breeding)

A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (non-breeding)

A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (non-breeding)

A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (non-breeding)

A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (non-breeding)

A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (non-breeding)

A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (non-breeding)

A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (non-breeding)

A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (non-breeding)

A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)

A184 *Larus argentatus*; Herring gull (Breeding)

A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)

A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)

A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (non-breeding)

Seabird assemblage

Waterbird assemblage

## Site sub-feature(s)/Notable Communities:

### SAC and Ramsar

**Large shallow inlets and bays-** intertidal boulder and cobble skewer communities, subtidal boulder and cobble skewer communities, brittlestar bed communities, intertidal boulder clay communities, coastal lagoon communities, sublittoral mixed sediment, intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities, pioneer saltmarsh communities, saltmarsh communities

**Intertidal mudflats and sandflats-** sand communities, mud communities, eelgrass bed communities

**Pioneer saltmarsh-** Glasswort *Salicornia* spp. communities

**Saltmarsh-** low marsh communities, mid marsh communities, high marsh communities, transitional high marsh communities

**Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time** (subtidal sandbanks)

### Estuaries

#### Coastal lagoons

**Reefs** – Biogenic reefs: mussel beds, sublittoral stony reef

#### Perennial vegetation of stony banks

**Atlantic salt meadows** (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*) (referred to as Saltmarsh)

#### Embryonic shifting dunes

**Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria*** (“white dunes”)

**Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation** (“grey dunes”)

**Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes** (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)

**Dunes with *Salix repens* spp. *Argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*)**

#### Humid dune slacks

**Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)**

**Supporting habitat:** Great crested newt (NON MARINE) – coastal sand dunes  
Natterjack Toad (NON MARINE)- coastal sand dunes

### SPA and Ramsar

Intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities, intertidal and subtidal boulder and cobble skewer communities, saltmarsh communities, coastal lagoon communities, Shingle areas

### Generic sub-feature(s):

Intertidal mud and sand, Intertidal mud, Seagrass, Saltmarsh spp., Brittlestar beds, Subtidal muddy sand, Intertidal boulder and cobble reef, Subtidal boulder and cobble reef, *Sabellaria* spp. reef, Intertidal boulder and cobble reef, Surface feeding birds, Estuarine birds, Intertidal mud and sand, Intertidal boulder and cobble reef, Saltmarsh spp., Coastal lagoons.

### High Level Conservation Objectives:

#### Morecambe Bay SAC

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the ‘Qualifying Features’ listed above), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

#### Morecambe Bay SPA

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified and the Ramsar Site and the wetland habitats and/or species for which the site has been listed (the ‘Qualifying Features’ listed above), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the wise use of wetlands across the UK, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

#### Duddon Estuary SPA

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified and the Ramsar Site and the wetland habitats and/or species for which the site has been listed (the ‘Qualifying Features’ listed above), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the wise use of wetlands across the UK, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

## Fishing activities assessed:

### Gear type(s):

Towed (demersal)- Heavy otter trawl,  
Multi-rig trawl,  
Pair trawl,  
Anchor seine,  
Scottish/fly seine

Towed (pelagic/ demersal)

Dredges (towed)- Dredge (scallop),  
Dredge (clams, oysters not mussels)  
Dredge (pump scoop)

Dredges (other)- Dredge (suction)

Static (pots/traps)- Cuttle pots,  
Fish traps

Lines- Longlines (pelagic)

Seine nets and  
other- Purse seine  
Fyke nets

Miscellaneous- Commercial diving,  
Bait dragging

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Need for a Likely Significant Effect assessment

In 2012, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced a revised approach to the management of commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites (EMS). 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.

This approach is being implemented using an evidence based, risk-prioritised, and phased basis. Risk prioritisation is informed by using a matrix of the generic sensitivity of the sub-features of EMS to a suite of fishing activities as a decision making tool. These sub-feature-activity combinations have been categorised according to specific definitions, as red, amber, green or blue.

Activity/feature interactions identified within the matrix as red risk have the highest priority for implementation of management measures by the end of 2013 in order to avoid the deterioration of Annex I features in line with obligations under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

Activity/feature interactions identified within the matrix as amber risk require a site-level assessment to determine whether management of an activity is required to conserve site features. Activity/feature interactions identified within the matrix as green also require a site level assessment if there are potential “in combination effects” with other plans or projects.

Some European Sites within the NWIFCA District consist of features that are not fully marine (eg. sand dunes) and therefore fall outwith of the EMS Review process. They have not been included in the original risk matrix. Due to the nature of some of the fisheries in the District, particularly intertidal fisheries, the NWIFCA has adopted the approach of carrying out full HRA on all the features (including non-marine) within European Sites to ensure that any potential risk from fishing activity has been identified and assessed.

Site level assessments are being carried out in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, that is to determine that fishing activities are not having an adverse effect on the integrity of the site, to inform a judgement on whether or not appropriate steps are required to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as disturbances of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of this directive.

**Fishing activity / feature interactions that have been classified as “Blue” in the Matrix (i.e. no possibility of interaction) are not considered in this assessment.**

Fishing activities included in this assessment have not recently occurred in the European Site. Certain fishing activities may have occurred historically in the past, but have since ceased to operate. More details can be found in the relevant “Fishing activity information from local IFCOs” spreadsheet (Jan 2014). As with activities that have never occurred, the NWIFCA continues to monitor fishing activity in the district and will assess any new fishing activity if and when it occurs.

## 2. Test for Likely Significant Effect (LSE)

Qualifying Feature	Sub-feature	Gear type	Potential for Likely Significant Effect?	Justification and evidence
H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S. Brown & I. Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H1130. Estuaries		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S. Brown & I. Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats	Sand communities, mud communities, eelgrass bed communities	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S. Brown & I. Dixon, Jan 2014)).  NWIFCA Byelaw 6 prohibits use of bottom towed gear and bait digging in specified closed area for protection of eelgrass beds.  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.

H1150. Coastal lagoons		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays	Intertidal boulder and cobble skear communities, subtidal boulder and cobble skear communities, brittlestar bed communities, intertidal boulder clay communities, coastal lagoon communities, sublittoral mixed sediment, intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities, pioneer saltmarsh communities, saltmarsh communities	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H1170. Reefs	Biogenic reefs: mussel beds, sublittoral stony reef	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  NWIFCA Byelaw 6 prohibits use of bottom towed gear in specified closed area for protection of <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reef.  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves (NON MARINE)		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.

H1310. <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Glasswort <i>Salicornia</i> spp. communities	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H1330. Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	Low marsh communities, mid marsh communities, high marsh communities, transitional high marsh communities	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes (NON MARINE)		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram (NON MARINE)		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.

H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland (NON MARINE)		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H2150. Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> ); Coastal dune heathland (NON MARINE)		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H2170. Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salicion arenariae</i> ); Dunes with creeping willow (NON MARINE)		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
H2190. Humid dune slacks (NON MARINE)		Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.

S1166. <i>Triturus cristatus</i> ; Great crested newt (NON MARINE)	Coastal sand dunes	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
Natterjack Toad (NON MARINE)	Coastal sand dunes	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
A040 <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ; Pink-footed goose	Intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities, intertidal and subtidal boulder and cobble skewar communities, saltmarsh communities, coastal lagoon communities, Shingle areas	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
A048 <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ; Common shelduck				
A054 <i>Anas acuta</i> ; Northern pintail				
A063 <i>Somateria mollissima</i> ; Common eider (Breeding)				
A130 <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ; Eurasian oystercatcher				
A137 <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ; Ringed plover				
A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; European golden plover				
A141 <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ; Grey plover				
A143 <i>Calidris canutus</i> ; Red knot				
A149 <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ; Dunlin				

A157 <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ; Bar-tailed godwit				
A160 <i>Numenius arquata</i> ; Eurasian curlew				
A162 <i>Tringa totanus</i> ; Common redshank				
A169 <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ; Ruddy turnstone				
A183 <i>Larus fuscus</i> ; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)				
A184 <i>Larus argentatus</i> ; Herring gull (Breeding)				
A191 <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ; Sandwich tern (Breeding)				
A193 <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ; Common tern (Breeding)				
A195 <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ; Little tern (Breeding)				
A144 <i>Calidris alba</i> ; Sanderling				
Seabird assemblage	Intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities, intertidal and subtidal boulder and cobble skear communities, saltmarsh communities, coastal lagoon communities	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.
Waterbird assemblage	Intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities, intertidal and subtidal boulder and cobble skear communities, saltmarsh communities, coastal lagoon communities.	Heavy otter trawl, Multi-rig trawl, Pair trawl, Anchor seine, Scottish/fly seine, Towed (pelagic/demersal), Dredge (scallop), Dredge (clam/oyster), Dredge (pump scoop), Dredge (suction), Cuttle pots, Fish traps, Longlines (pelagic), Purse seine, Fyke nets, Commercial diving, Bait dragging	NO	Activity does not currently occur and has not recently occurred in European Site (IFCO local knowledge (S Brown & I Dixon, Jan 2014)).  Anchor seine, Scottish/Fly seine prohibited by NWSFC Byelaw 3.

### 3. Conclusion

Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect 'alone or in combination' on Morecambe Bay European Site? NO

### 4. Additional evidence documents

Steve Brown & Ian Dixon, NWIFCA (Jan 2014) **Fishing activity information from local IFCOs – Morecambe Bay Area**. *Available on request*.

[..\..\Activity information\Jan 2014-original versions from IFCOs\EMS\\_FishingActivity\\_IDixon.xlsx](#)

Updated May 2015- [..\..\Activity information\Up to date IFCO spreadsheets\EMS\\_FishingActivity\\_IDixon Updated to reflect new information 29.05.15.xlsx](#)

NWIFCA (Jan 2014) **Morecambe Bay EMS Matrix with activities not occurring blanked out (3<sup>rd</sup> edit)** (produced in conjunction with local IFCOs and agreed by Natural England). *Available on request*.

[S:\Science\Fisheries\\_Management\MPA\\_DEF\NWIFCA\3rd\\_EDIT\\_UP\\_TO\\_DATE\\_EMS\\_site\\_specific\\_matrices \(Jan 15th 2014\)\NWIFCA\\_EMS\\_SITES\\_Mbay blanked out.xlsx](#)

Natural England European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay SAC (published 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014). Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5314736417669120?category=4582026845880320>

Natural England European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay SPA (published 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014). Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6242841537806336?category=4582026845880320>

Natural England European Site Conservation Objectives for Duddon Estuary SPA (published 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014). Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5646893619085312?category=4582026845880320>

## Annex 2: Natural England's consultation advice

Date: 01 July 2015  
Our ref: 156315  
Your ref: Assessment of Fisheries Not Occuring



North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA)  
Preston Street  
Carnforth  
Lancashire  
LA5 9BY

Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

T 0300 080 3900

Dear Sarah,

### **Consultation: Formal Advice to North Western IFCA. Light Touch Assessments for North Western District Sites**

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 European Marine Sites (EMS)<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. This document states that for 'amber' risk activities a site level assessment will be required to assess whether management of an activity is required to conserve site features. The Department's strong preference is that site level assessments be carried out in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. Appropriate management measures should be put in place to ensure that the fishing activity or activities either 1) have no likely significant effect on a site in view of its conservation objectives or b) following assessment, can be concluded to have no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

Natural England has considered the 12 Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA) prepared by NW IFCA for the purposes of making an assessment consistent with the provisions of Article 6(3). Please accept this letter as Natural England's formal advice on those assessments including the conclusions reached in those assessments. Assessments have been made of the effects of activities not occurring within the following the listed sites or EMS's:

- NWIFCA-DE-EMS-001 – Dee Estuary EMS
- NWIFCA-DE-EMS-001A – Dee Estuary EMS
- NWIFCA-LD-SAC-001 – Shell Flat and Lune Deep SCI
- NWIFCA-LB-SPA-001 – Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA
- NWIFCA-DC-SAC-001 – Drigg Coast SAC
- NWIFCA-SF-EMS-001 – Solway Firth EMS
- NWIFCA-SF-EMS-001A – Solway Firth EMS

<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>



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- NWIFCA-RA-SPA-001 – Ribble and Alt SPA
- NWIFCA-MN-SPA-00 – Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA
- NWIFCA-ME-SPA-001 – Mersey Estuary SPA
- NWIFCA-MB-EMS-001 – Morecambe Bay EMS
- NWIFCA-MB-EMS-001A – Morecambe Bay EMS

We are content that the best available and most up to date evidence has been used to carry out the HRAs by NWIFCA officers, to determine whether management of an activity is required to conserve site features, and thus to ensure the protection of the features, from direct and indirect impacts from the collection of marine fisheries resources.

It is Natural England's view that through their 12 HRAs, North Western IFCA officers appear to have appropriately identified those activities that are not likely to have a significant effect in view of the site's conservation objectives.

It is Natural England's view that any foreseeable risk, or harm to the site has been appropriately assessed; and that there is a mechanism in place to allow assessments of fisheries if they are found to occur and to allow management to be implemented if needed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely,



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