

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

**NWIFCA-MN-SPA-006**

Date completed: 02/12/2015

Completed by: S. Temple

**Site: Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore**

European Designated Sites: UK9020287 Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Area (SPA)  
UK11042 Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar  
(UK0030131 *Dee Estuary/Aber Dyfrdwy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) UK9013011, The Dee Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and UK11082 The Dee Estuary Ramsar Site overlaps this site- assessed separately in NWIFCA-DE-EMS-008*)  
(UK9020294 *Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA adjoins this site*)

**European Marine Site: Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore**

**Gear type(s): Shrimp push-nets**

The NWIFCA has assessed shrimp push netting fishing activity in the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore European Site.

Activity data was collected by NWIFCA Fishery Officers who report that shrimp push netting in the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore European Site has only been seen on one occasion where one fisherman push netted on a recreational basis in the north Wirral foreshore area (pers. comm. local IFCO, 2015). This activity was seen 5 years ago in 2010.

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

As shrimp push netting in the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore 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 shrimp push netting in the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore European Site recommence 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 – MN SPA



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

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sarah

## Formal Advice to NWIFCA. Review of Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas. Assessments for Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Area

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 –  
MN-SPA-004 - Longline (demersal)  
MN-SPA-005 - Beach seine/ring nets  
MN-SPA-006 - Shrimp push nets

We acknowledge that North Western IFCA have identified these activities as being undertaken within Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Area 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  
Cumbria Area Team  
Email: [Helen.Ake@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Helen.Ake@naturalengland.org.uk)  
Tel: 0300 060 0493

<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>

