

Fisheries in European Sites Habitats Regulations Assessment for **Amber** and **Green** risk categories

NWIFCA-SF-EMS-011

Date completed: 18th May 2017

Completed by: J.Haines

Site: **Solway Firth**

European Designated Sites: UK0013025 Solway Firth Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
UK9005012 Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Special Protection Area (SPA)
UK11079 Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Ramsar
Solway Firth pSPA

European Marine Site: **Solway Firth**

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

Qualifying Feature(s):

SAC and Ramsar

H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
H1130. Estuaries
H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
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
H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*); Atlantic salt meadows
H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland (NON MARINE)
S1095. *Petromyzon marinus*; Sea lamprey
S1099. *Lampetra fluviatilis*; River lamprey
Natterjack toad (NON MARINE)

SPA and Ramsar

A001 *Gavia stellata*; Red throated diver (non-breeding) †
A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (non-breeding)
A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (non-breeding)
A045 *Branta leucopsis*; Barnacle goose (non-breeding)
A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern Pintail (non-breeding)
A062 *Aythya marila*; Greater Scaup (Ramsar only)
A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (non-breeding)
A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (non-breeding) †
A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover
A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (non-breeding)
A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (non-breeding)
A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (non-breeding)
A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (non-breeding)
Waterbird Assemblage

† Solway Firth pSPA feature

Site sub-feature/Notable communities(s):

SAC and Ramsar

Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time – Subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal sand.

Estuaries - Intertidal mud, intertidal sand and muddy sand, intertidal mixed sediments, intertidal coarse sediment, intertidal stony reef, intertidal biogenic reef: mussel beds, intertidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp., subtidal biogenic reef: mussel beds, subtidal stony reef, subtidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp. subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal sand, subtidal mud, lower-mid saltmarsh, mid-upper saltmarsh, pioneer saltmarsh.

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats – Intertidal mud, intertidal sand and muddy sand, intertidal mixed sediments, intertidal coarse sediment.

Reefs – Intertidal biogenic reef: mussel beds, intertidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp., intertidal rock, intertidal stony reef, subtidal biogenic reef: mussel beds, subtidal stony reef, subtidal stony reef, subtidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp., subtidal stony reef.

Perennial vegetation of stony banks

Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand

Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*) (referred to as Saltmarsh) – lower to mid saltmarsh, mid to upper saltmarsh, pioneer saltmarsh.

Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (“grey dunes”); Dune grassland

River Lamprey

Sea Lamprey

Supporting habitat: Natterjack Toad (NON MARINE)- coastal sand dunes

SPA and Ramsar

Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-puccinellietalia maritima*), freshwater and coastal grazing marsh, intertidal biogenic reef: mussel beds, intertidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp., intertidal coarse sediment, intertidal mixed sediments, intertidal mud, intertidal rock, intertidal sand and muddy sand, intertidal stony reef, subtidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp., subtidal sand, subtidal stony reef, water column, salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand.

Generic sub-feature(s):

Subtidal gravel & sand; Intertidal mud & sand; Intertidal gravel & sand; Saltmarsh spp., Sea lamprey; River lamprey; Subtidal boulder & cobble reef; Intertidal boulder & cobble reef; *Sabellaria* spp. Reef; Estuarine Birds; Benthic feeding Seabirds.

High Level Conservation Objectives:

Solway Firth 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.

Upper Solway Flats & Marshes SPA

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (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, 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):	Pots / Creels Crustacea
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1. Introduction

1.1 Need for an HRA 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 “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.

If measures are required, the revised approach requires these to be implemented by 2016.

The purpose of this site specific assessment document is to assess whether or not in the view of NWIFCA the fishing activity fishing with pots and creels has a likely significant effect on the qualifying features of the Solway Firth European Site, and on the basis of this assessment whether or not it can be concluded that fishing with pots and creels will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of this European Site.

1.2 Documents reviewed to inform this assessment

- Natural England's risk assessment Matrix of fishing activities and European habitat features and protected species¹
- Reference list²
- Natural England's consultation advice
- Site map(s) – sub-feature/feature location and extent
- Fishing activity data (map(s), etc)

2. Information about the EMS

(See cover pages)

The Solway Firth European Site is a cross boundary site between England and Scotland, this assessment only covers the English/NWIFCA area.

3. Interest feature(s) of the EMS categorised as 'Red' risk and overview of management measure(s) (if applicable)

- Reefs: All bottom towed gear prohibited around area of *Sabellaria alevolata* reef by NWIFCA Byelaw 6.

4. Information about the fishing activities within the site

Monthly Shellfish Activity Returns (MSAR) have been used for the activity information of fishing within the site. Returns have been used for ICES sub-rectangle 38E6 (Annex 5) and averaged to give a five year mean for 2012 to 2016 inclusive, and the data summarised below in Table 1. Sub-rectangle 38E6 covers a greater area than the Solway pSPA as shown in Annex 5, but is the smallest reporting area available from the MSAR's data. Thus the values in Table 1 are likely to be an over estimation of the amount of activity but they are the most accurate data available. The returns are submitted monthly and contain information on the number of days fished, number of pots set and hauled, and the landings of shellfish.

5yr Average	Number of Vessels Fishing	Total Number of Pots Fished	Total Number of Pots Hauled	Edible Crab Landing (KG)	Lobster Landing (KG)	Combined Number of Days Fished by All Vessel	Average Number of Days Fished Per Vessel
Jan	2	51	383	55	51	10	7
Feb	1	43	191	11	18	6	5
Mar	3	129	1136	118	146	25	10
Apr	4	188	1497	413	179	32	7
May	4	209	1731	493	209	39	9
Jun	6	238	1957	246	248	49	9
Jul	6	265	3162	199	648	69	12
Aug	6	364	3445	323	602	61	9
Sep	6	344	2864	293	385	46	7
Oct	5	287	1806	250	224	33	7
Nov	3	142	691	207	107	16	5
Dec	3	109	568	133	89	15	5

Table 1. Summary of MSAR data, 5 year average 2012-2016

¹ See Fisheries in EMS matrix:

http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/protecting/conservation/documents/ems_fisheries/populated_matrix3.xls

² Reference list will include literature cited in the assessment (peer, grey and site specific evidence e.g. research, data on natural disturbance/energy levels etc)

Using the five year average the highest number of boats fishing in one month is six boats, with the highest number of 364 pots fished for all boats combined and the average number of days fished by each boat is between 5 days and 12 days per month.

Annex 4 contains NWIFCA sightings information showing the areas targeted by the potting vessels, which are close inshore as this is where the rocky habitat that brown crab and European lobster inhabit and is concentrated between Maryport, Whitehaven and St. Bees.

Potential Footprint (Based on a 5 year average)

The footprints provided below are based on the pot base area only and does not take into account anchors, ropes or potential movement of pots.

Total footprint maximum number of pots set (based on a 5 year average)

Largest pot used area	= 0.91m by 0.51m = 0.48 sq. m per pot.
Maximum number of pots set	= 364
Footprint	= 0.0017 sq. km (174.72 sq. m)

Total footprint for the year (based on a 5 year average)

Largest pot used area	= 0.91m by 0.51m = 0.48 sq. m per pot.
Total number of pots hauled	= 19,431
Footprint	= 0.0093 sq. km (9326.88 sq. m)

Total area of the Solway pSPA that falls within the NWIFCA district

Area	= 563.1 sq. km
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The percentage of the total footprint of the pots for the year based on the figures above is 0.00165 percent of the area of the Solway pSPA that falls within the NWIFCA district.

NWIFCA Regulations Covering Potting

Cumbria SFC District

CSFC Byelaw 3	Size limits of boats allowed inside the district	
CSFC Byelaw 4	Marking and siting of fixed nets, traps, pots and lines	
CSFC Byelaw 8	Berried Lobster	(Annex 7)
CSFC Byelaw 15	Vessels with a registered engine power > 221kw	
CSFC Byelaw 25	Requirement for escape gaps in pots, creels and traps	(Annex 7)

5. Test for Likely Significant Effect (LSE)

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a step-wise process and is first subject to a coarse test of whether a fishery will cause a likely significant effect on an EMS³.

Is the activity/activities directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation? NO

5.1 Table 1: Assessment of LSE

Features: The following habitats have been screened out:-

- All SAC features as the activity only occurs in the Solway pSPA extension area.
- All sand dune and saltmarsh pSPA supporting habitats have been screened out due to fishing activity happening from a boat. It is not considered that any of the fishing activities will have an effect on the coastal processes which saltmarsh and sand dune features and sub features require.
- Subtidal mud has been screened out as fishing activity does not occur over it.

All features and supporting habitats that fishing activity interacts with have been screen in to the table below. The follow habitats have been screened into the assessment:-

- Potting targets the hard substrate habitat that crab and lobsters inhabit and all hard substrates have been screened into the assessment; subtidal biogenic reef and subtidal stony reef. However these habitats are patchy with subtidal sand and subtidal coarse sediment lying between them. To ensure robustness of the HRA these substrates have been screened in.
- All SPA and pSPA features (bird species).

Pressures: All pressures from the Advice on Operations table provided in the Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA Conservation Advice package have been screened out, other than the pressures in the following table due to:-

- The nature of the fishing activity.
- The areas where the activity occurs.
- The footprint of the pots.
- The number of days fished
- The length of vessels (majority being around 10m in length).
- The number of vessels prosecuting the fishery (maximum of six in any one month).
- The relatively low impact of the gear used.

³ Managing Natura 2000 sites: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm

Qualifying Feature	Sub-feature	Potential pressure(s)	Sensitivity	Potential for Likely Significant Effect?	Justification and evidence
SPA supporting habitats	Subtidal sand	Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed	Sensitive	No	<p>Due to the following reasons NWIFCA can conclude that abrasion and penetration to the substrate is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SPA and pSPA supporting habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low number of vessels engaged (maximum of six vessels in any one month). - Low number of pot (max of 364 pots used in any one month). - An average of between 5 and 12 days fished per month per boat. - Low impact of gear. - Small footprint of pots 0.0093 sq. km equating to 0.0017% of the pSPA which falls within the NWIFCA district. - Areas fished exposed to high currents and water with high sediment content. <p>Due to the scale and intensity of the activity, the management measures in place and the high survivability of undersized and unwanted species in the pot it is unlikely that removal of target species will have a significant effect on the SPA and pSPA supporting habitats.</p>
	Subtidal coarse sediment	Penetration and/or disturbance of the substrate below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion	Sensitive	No	
	Subtidal biogenic reef: mussel beds				
	Subtidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp.				
	Subtidal stony reef	Removal of target species (Crab and Lobster)	Sensitive	No	
A001 <i>Gavia stellata</i> ; Red throated diver †	Supporting Habitats assessed above	Collision above water with static or moving objects not naturally found in the marine environment (e.g., boats, machinery, and structures)	Sensitive	No	<p>Due to the following reasons NWIFCA can conclude that collision above water is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SPA and pSPA features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low number of vessels engaged (maximum of six vessels in any one month). - An average of between 5 and 12 days fished per month per boat. - Higher concentration of activity in the summer when the majority of the bird species numbers are at the lowest. - The size of vessels (all vessels being under 10m) - The relative slow speed at which the vessels fish at. - The majority of fishing occurring in the day.
A038 <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ; Whooper swan					
A040 <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ; Pink-footed goose					
A045b <i>Branta leucopsis</i> ; Barnacle goose					
A 054 <i>Anas acuta</i> ; Northern Pintail (non-breeding)					
A062 <i>Aythya marila</i> ; Greater Scaup (Ramsar only)					
A130 <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ; Eurasian oystercatcher		Collision below water with static or moving objects not naturally found in the marine environment (e.g., boats, machinery, and structures)	Sensitive	No	<p>The species most at risk are the diving birds (Red throated diver, Scaup, Common scoter, Goosander and Cormorant). Due to the following reasons NWIFCA can conclude that collision below water is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SPA and pSPA features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low number of vessels engaged (maximum of six vessels in any one month). - An average of between 5 and 12 days fished per month per boat - Higher concentration of activity in the summer when the majority of the bird species numbers are at the lowest. - Very low chance of a bird colliding with the fishing gear (ropes and pots). Low number of pot (max of 364 pots used in any one month).
A137 <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ; Ringed plover (non-breeding)					
A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; European golden plover					
A143 <i>Calidris canutus</i> ; Red knot					
A160 <i>Numenius arquata</i> ; Eurasian curlew					
A162 <i>Tringa totanus</i> ; Common redshank					

A157 <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ; Bar-tailed godwit		Removal of target species (Crabs and Lobsters)	Sensitive	No	Crab and lobster not a key prey source for any of the SPA and pSPA species, removal of target species (crab and lobster) unlikely to have a significant effect on the SPA and pSPA features.
		Removal of non-target species (bird species)	Sensitive	No	The species most at risk are the diving birds (Red throated diver, Scaup, Common scoter, Goosander and Cormorant). Due to the following reasons NWIFCA can conclude that collision below water is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SPA and pSPA features.
Waterbird Assemblage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>; Common shelduck - <i>Anas crecca</i> Teal - <i>Anas clypeata</i> Shoveler - <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; Grey plover - <i>Calidris alba</i>; Sanderling - <i>Caladris alpine</i>; Dunlin - <i>Arenaria interpres</i>; Turnstone - <i>Melanitta nigra</i>; Common scoter † - <i>Mergus merganser</i>; Goosander † - <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>; Lapwing † - <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>; Cormorant † - <i>Larus ridibundus</i>; Black-headed gull † - <i>Larus canus</i>; Common gull † - <i>Larus argentatus</i>; Herring gull † † Solway Firth pSPA features		Visual disturbance	Sensitive	No	Due to the following reasons NWIFCA can conclude that visual disturbance is unlikely to have a significant effect on the SPA and pSPA features. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low number of vessels engaged (maximum of six vessels in any one month). - An average of between 5 and 12 days fished per month per boat - Higher concentration of activity in the summer when the majority of the bird species numbers are at the lowest. - Very low chance of a bird colliding with the fishing gear (ropes and pots). Low number of pot (max of 364 pots used in any one month)

Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant? ⁴	Alone	OR In-combination ⁵ Uncertain – In combination effects will be assessed when all initial TLSEs for a site are completed. Comments : These activities also occur at the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trawling (Nephrops) • Fixed nets • Shrimp beam trawling (<i>Crangon crangon</i>) • Drift nets • Longlines • Hand working (cockles and mussels) In combination effects will be assessed when all initial TLSEs for a site are completed.
	No Comments :	
Have NE been consulted on this LSE test? If yes, what was NE's advice?		Yes

⁴ Yes or uncertain: completion of AA required. If no: LSE required only.

⁵ If conclusion of LSE alone an in-combination assessment is not required.

6. Conclusion⁶

Taking into account the information detailed in the fishing activity and Test of Likely Significant Effect, the NWIFCA can conclude that at the current level of potting for crab and lobster there is no likely significant effect on the Solway Firth European Site interest features.

7. In-combination assessment¹⁴

In combination effects will be assessed in a separate document when all initial TLSEs for a site are completed.

8. Summary of consultation with Natural England

See attached advice from Natural England (Annex 2).

9. Integrity test

As this assessment has concluded at the current activity levels there is no likely significant effect on the interest features of the Solway Firth European Site in the NWIFCA district, there is no need to conduct an integrity test for this activity.

⁶ If conclusion of adverse affect alone an in-combination assessment is not required.

Annex 1: Reference list

Natural England Marine Interim Conservation Advice for Special Area of Conservation (UK0013025), Solway Firth.

- UK0013025_Solway_Firth_SAC_Advice_on_Operations
- UK0013025_Solway_Firth_Bay_SAC_Generic_SAT_Habitats

Natural England Marine Interim Conservation Advice for Special Protection Area (UK9005012), Upper Solway Flats and Marshes

- UK9005012_SPA-Upper Solway Flats and Marshes_Advice on Operations_Sept15
- UK9005012_Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA_Seasonality Table

Scottish Natural Heritage Solway Firth proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA)

- Site Selection Document
- Advice to support management

Annex 2: Natural England's consultation advice

Date: 8 June 2017
Our ref: 215950
Your ref: NWIFCA-SF-EMS-011

Jonathan Haines
North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
Preston Street
Carnforth
Lancashire
LA5 9BY

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Jonathan

Formal Advice to NWIFCA: Fisheries in EMS Habitats Regulations Assessment for Amber Risk Categories in Solway Firth EMS including Solway Firth pSPA, for gear types: pots/creels (NWIFCA-MB-SF-011).

Thank you for your consultation on the above which was received by Natural England on 18 May 2017.

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. This document states that for 'green' risk activities a site level assessment will be required if there are 'in combination effects' with other plans or projects. 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 2) following assessment, can be concluded to have no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

Natural England has considered the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) prepared by North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (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 the assessments and the conclusions they make. The assessments consider the effects of fishing activities using pots and creels on the Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Special Protection Area, and Solway Firth potential SPA (pSPA). The Solway Firth Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has been excluded from the Test of Likely Significant Effect as these fishing activities only occur within the Solway Firth pSPA extension area.

¹ Defra revised approach:

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



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We are content that the best available and most up to date evidence has been used to carry out the HRA by North Western IFCA 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.

We note that in combination effects will be assessed in a separate document when all initial Tests of Likely Significant Effects for a site are completed.

Subject to the outcomes of the in combination assessments, it is Natural England's view that through their HRA, North Western IFCA officers appear to have appropriately identified those activities that are likely to have a significant effect in view of the site's conservation objectives, and whether management measures are required in order to ensure that the assessed fishing activity or activities will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the EMS.

It is Natural England's view that any foreseeable risk, or harm to the site has been appropriately assessed; and a robust mechanism for re-assessing that risk is in place. This view is based on our current knowledge of the impacts of these fishing activities on the designated features.

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

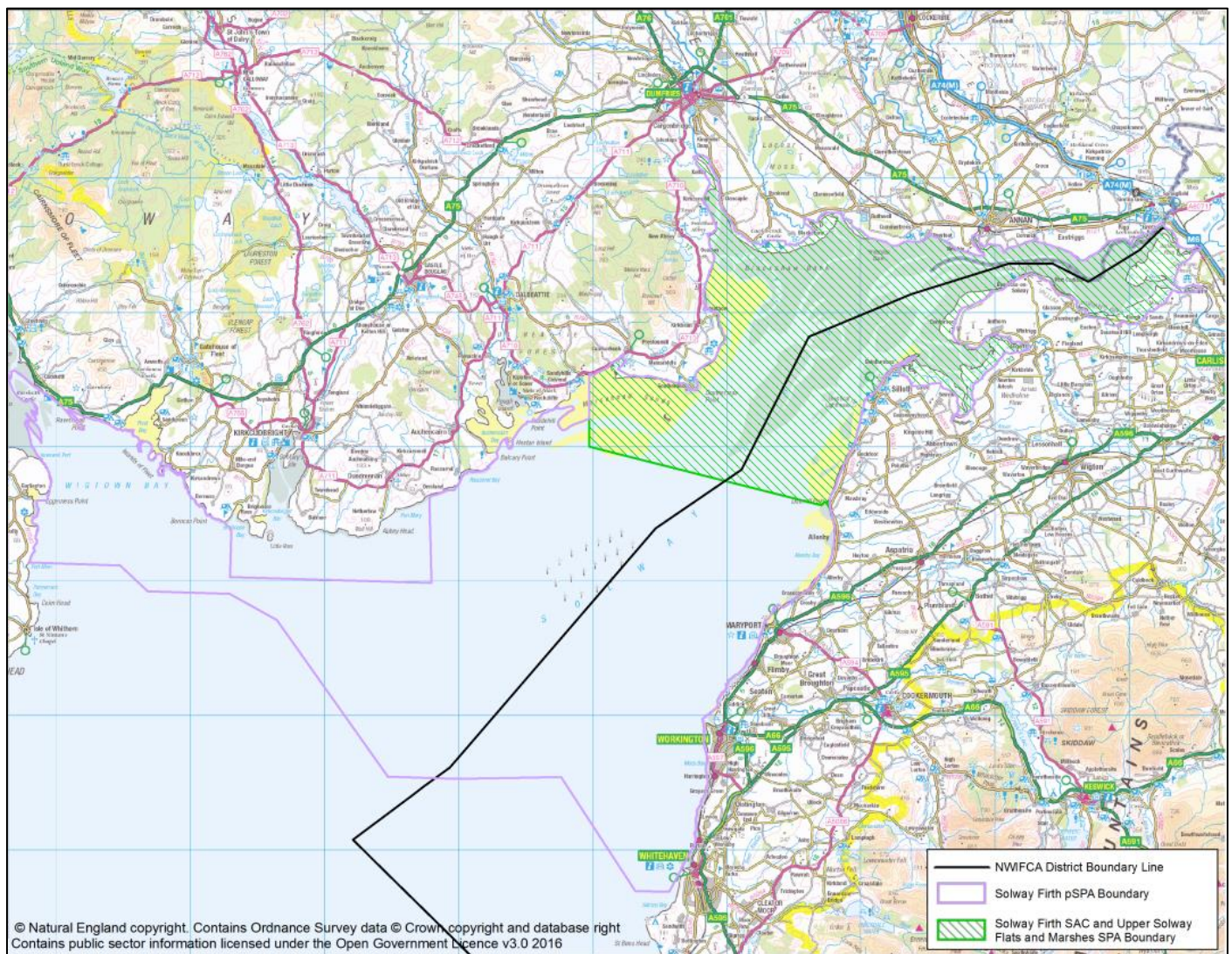
Yours sincerely



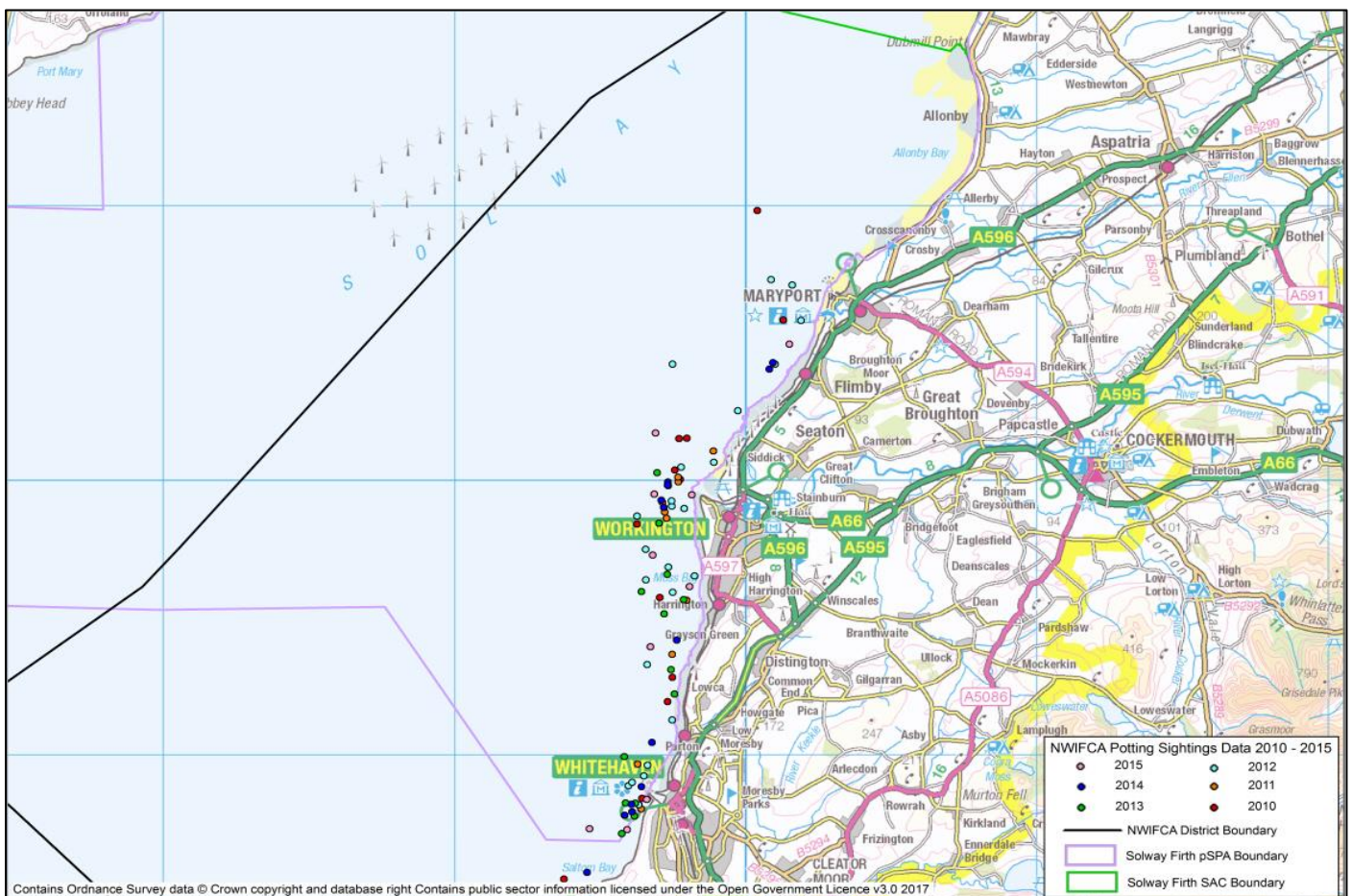
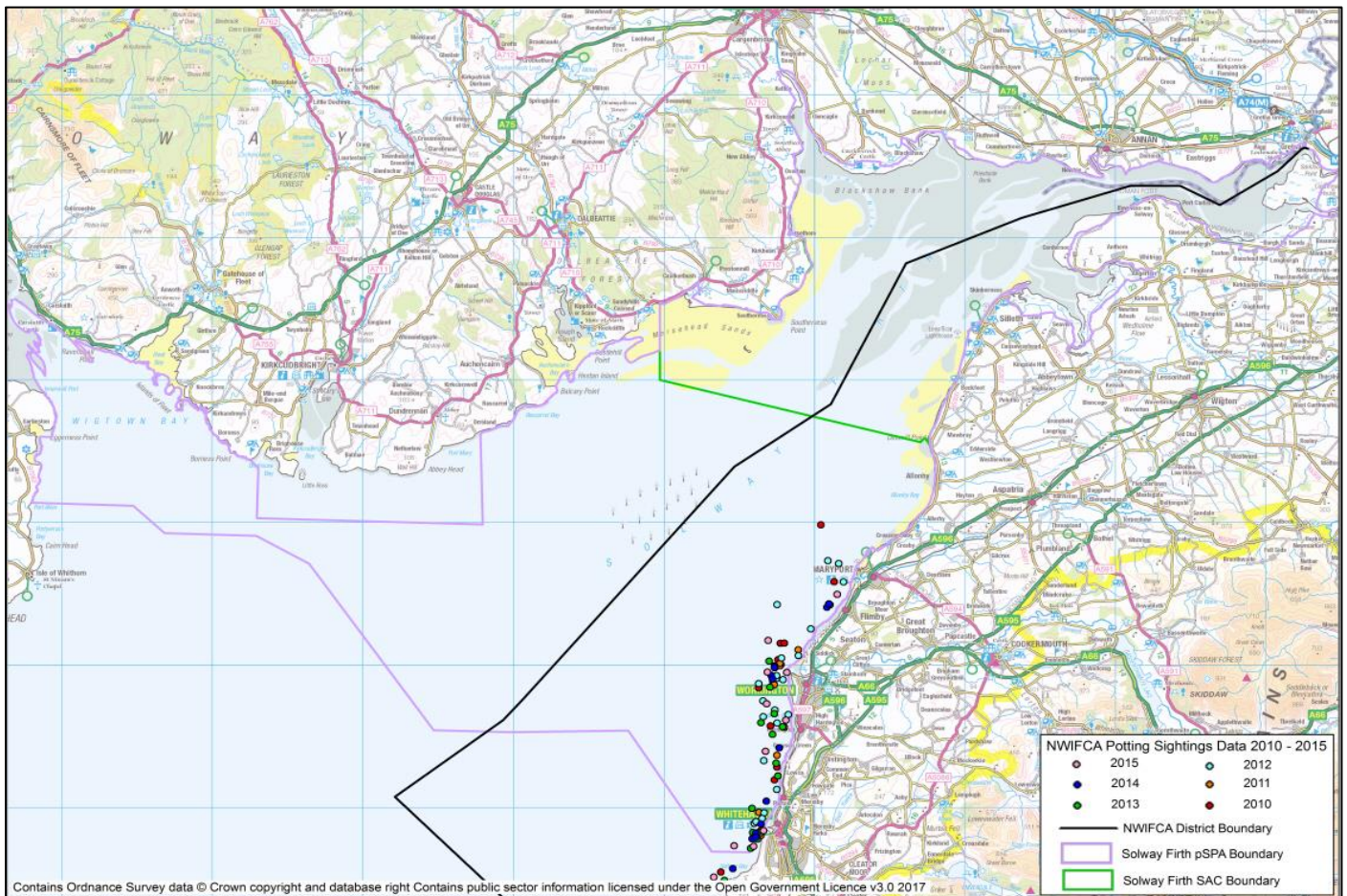
Lucy May
Marine Adviser
Natural England
Email: lucy.may@naturalengland.org.uk
Tel: 0208 22 56003



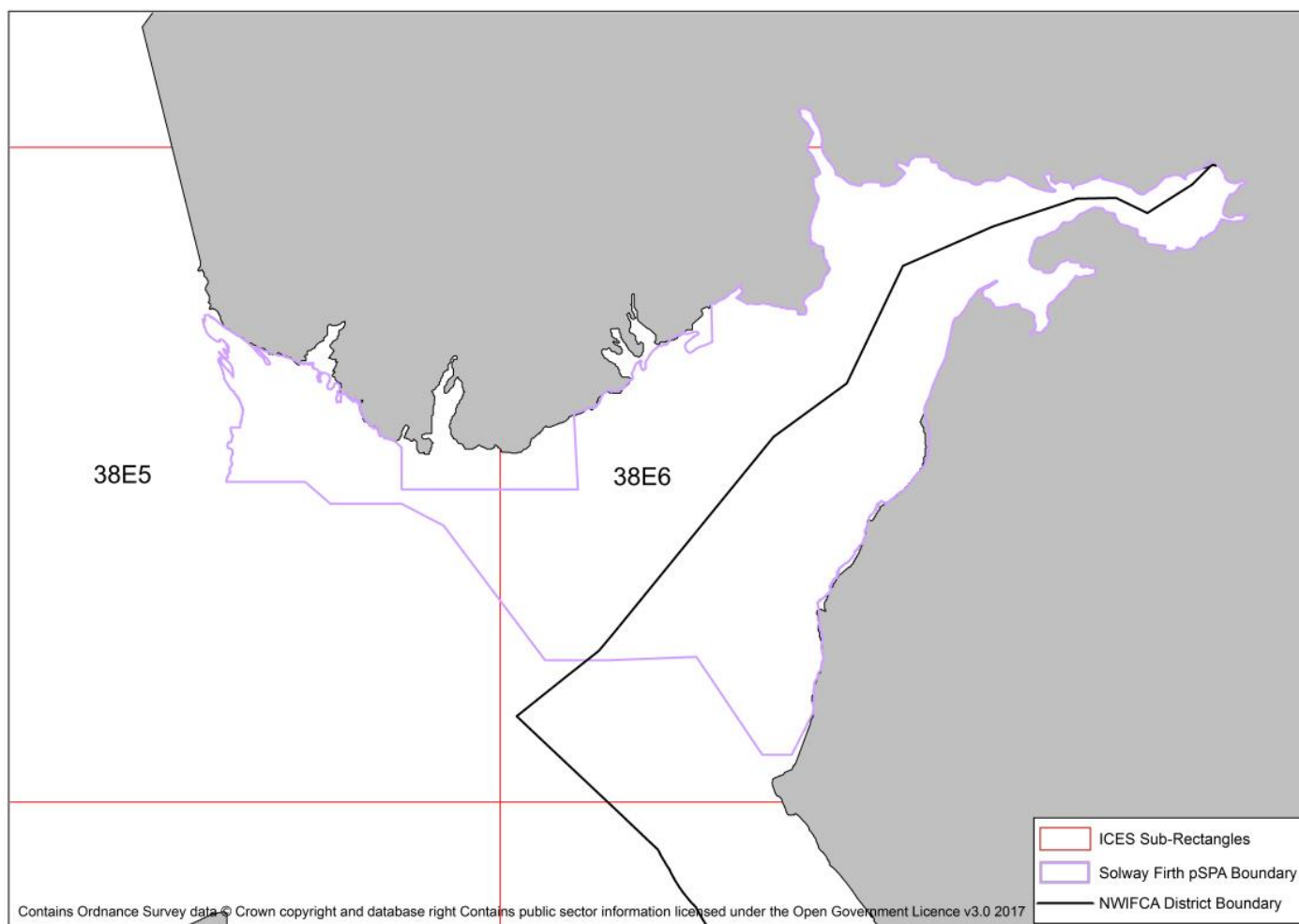
Annex 3: Site Map



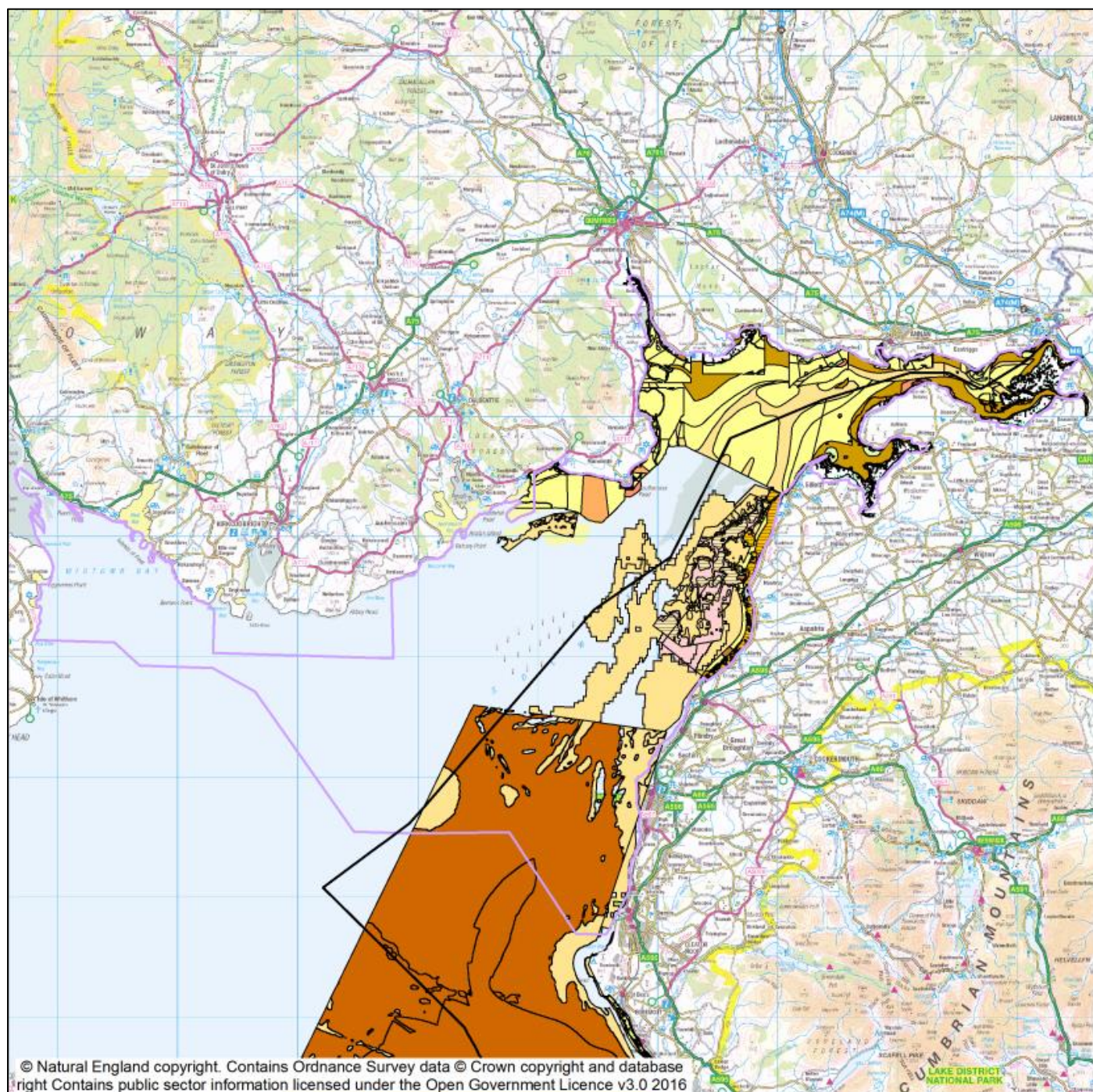
Annex 4 – Fishing Activity / NWIFCA Sightings Data 2010-2015



Annex 5: ICES Sub-Rectangles for MSAR's Reporting



Annex 6: Broad Scale Habitat Mapping



Broad Scale Habitats

Broad scale habitat data from Natural England February 2016 release

Eunis Code	EMS Subfeature Common Name
A1	Intertidal rock
A2.1	Intertidal coarse sediment
A2.2	Intertidal sand and muddy sand
A2.3	Intertidal mud
A2.4	Intertidal mixed sediment
A2.5	Saltmarsh
A2.61	Intertidal seagrass beds
A2.71	Intertidal biogenic reef. Sabellaria spp.

Eunis Code	EMS Subfeature Common Name
A3	Infralittoral rock
A4	Circalittoral rock
A5.1	Subtidal coarse sediment
A5.2	Subtidal sand
A5.3	Subtidal mud
A5.4	Subtidal mixed sediment
SF_SH_5	Intertidal biogenic reef. mussels beds
SF_SH_6	Subtidal biogenic reef. mussel beds

Annex 7: Regulations on Potting within the Solway

BYELAW 8 – BERRIED LOBSTERS. Byelaw confirmed 16.04.93

No person shall remove from a fishery any berried lobster.

BYELAW 25 - REQUIREMENT FOR ESCAPE GAPS IN POTS, CREELS AND TRAPS. Byelaw confirmed 20.10.97

No person shall use or cause to be used for the purpose of fishing for sea fish or crustacea any pot, creel or trap constructed of whatever material unless:-

(a) it has at least one unobstructed escape gap located in the lowest part of the pot, creel or trap or in the case of a parlour pot the parlour area; and

(b) is so designed and constructed that each escape gap is of sufficient size that there may be easily passed through the escape gap and completely passed into the pot, creel or trap, a rigid boxed shaped gauge which shall be a gauge 74 millimetres wide, 44 millimetres high and 100 millimetres long.

This byelaw applies to any part of the district within a line drawn on the seaward side of the baselines 6 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom is measured. For the purpose of this paragraph "the baselines" means the baselines as they existed at 25 January 1983 in accordance with the Territorial Waters Order in Council 1964 (1965 III p.6452A) as amended by the Territorial Waters (Amendment) Order in Council 1979 (1979 II p.2866).