



Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve

Voluntary Code of Conduct

General

The Voluntary Code of Conduct is applicable within the Lyme Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Fishermen agree to comply with statutory regulations and the articles of the Code of Conduct and will work to promote compliance across the industry.

Fishermen will engage with managers and scientists to improve knowledge and understanding of Lyme Bay fisheries and wildlife. Experimental and monitoring areas will be respected, and their preservation promoted to other fishermen.

The Code

- All gear will be clearly marked
- Fishermen will not fish more than 250 crab/lobster pots
- Strings will not exceed a maximum of 10 pots in each
- Escape hatches will be fitted to all parlour pots and soft-eyed creels
- Voluntary V-notching will be carried out at the individual fisherman's discretion
- Fishermen will not fish more than 500 whelk pots
- Strings of whelk pots will not exceed a maximum of 30 in each
- Vessels will not fish a total net length of more than 4,000 yards with a mesh size of less than 7.5 inches
- Vessels will not fish a total net length of more than 8,000 yards with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or more
- Pots and traps that become encrusted with cuttlefish eggs will either be left in the sea by extending the season until the cuttlefish eggs have hatched or washed off at shore to maximise survival
- Fishermen targeting wrasse will adhere to SIFCA's [Wrasse Fishery Guidance](#) and D&SIFCA's [Potting Permit Byelaw](#)
- Vessels will not use, in conjunction with fishing operations, a 'crab crusher' or any other mechanical device designed or capable of clearing crab species from nets through the act of crushing.