

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

NWIFCA-MB-EMS-009

Date completed: 24/05/2016

Completed by: J.Haines

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
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary pSPA

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

A026 *Egretta garzetta*; Little egret (non-breeding)
A038 *Cygnus Cygnus*; Whooper swan (non-breeding)
A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (non-breeding)
A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (non-breeding)
A050 *Anas Penelope*; Wigeon - (non-breeding – Ramsar only)
A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (non-breeding)
A063 *Somateria mollissima*; Common eider (non-breeding – Ramsar only)
A067 *Bucephala clangula*; Goldeneye - (non-breeding – Ramsar only)
A069 *Mergus serrator*; Red-breasted merganser - (non-breeding – Ramsar only)
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)
A142 *Vanellus vanellus*; Lapwing - (non-breeding – Ramsar only)
A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (non-breeding)
A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (non-breeding)
A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (non-breeding)
A151 *Calidris pugnax*; Ruff (non-breeding)
A156 *Limosa limosa*; Black-tailed godwit (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)
A176 *Larus melancephalus*; Mediterranean gull (non-breeding)
A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding, non-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)
Phalacrocorax carbo; Cormorant – (non-breeding – Ramsar only)
Podiceps cristatus; Great crested grebe - (non-breeding – Ramsar only)
Seabird assemblage
Waterbird assemblage

Site sub-feature(s)/Notable Communities:

SAC and Ramsar

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

Estuaries - Intertidal mud, intertidal sand and muddy sand, intertidal mixed sediments, intertidal coarse sediment, intertidal rock, intertidal stony reef, intertidal biogenic reef: intertidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp., mussel beds, subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal mixed sediments, subtidal sand, subtidal mud, Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*).

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 seagrass beds, intertidal coarse sediment.

Coastal lagoons

Large shallow inlets and bays – Intertidal mud, intertidal sand and muddy sand, intertidal mixed sediments, intertidal seagrass beds, intertidal coarse sediment, intertidal rock, intertidal stony reef, intertidal biogenic reef: mussel beds, intertidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp., subtidal stony reef, circalittoral rock, subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal mixed sediments, subtidal sand, subtidal mud, Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*).

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

Perennial vegetation of stony banks: Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves

Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand: Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Pioneer saltmarsh

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

Embryonic shifting dunes

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

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

Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*); Coastal dune heathland

Dunes with *Salix repens* spp. *Argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*); dunes with creeping willow

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

Annual vegetation of drift lines, Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-puccinellietalia maritima*), coastal lagoons, freshwater and coastal grazing marsh, intertidal biogenic reef: mussel beds, intertidal coarse sediment, intertidal mud, intertidal rock, intertidal sand and muddy sand, intertidal seagrass beds, intertidal stony reef, Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, water column.

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):	Pots / Creels Crustacea / Gastropods
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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 of ‘Pots / Creels’ has a likely significant effect on the qualifying features of the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary European Site and on the basis of this assessment whether or not it can be concluded that ‘Pots / 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 (Annex 1)
- Natural England's consultation advice (Annex 2)
- Site map(s) – sub-feature/feature location and extent (Annex 3)
- Fishing activity data (map(s), etc) (Annex 4)

2. Information about the EMS

(See cover pages).

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

The Morecambe Bay and Duddon European Site interest features, boulder and cobble reef, *Sabellaria alveolata* reef and Seagrass beds are protected from all bottom towed gears. In addition Seagrass beds are protected from bait collecting or working a fishery by hand or using a hand operated implement through a prohibition under [NWIFCA Byelaw 6](#), introduced in May 2014.

4. Information about the fishing activities within the site

NWIFCA IFCOs regularly patrol the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary European Site and report that there are 10 boats with commercial shellfish licences that pot in the area. Six of these are based at Barrow, of which there is only one full time operator who fishes between 200 and 300 pots between March and October, hauling gear every two days depending on weather. Four boats have been known to fish in the Ravenglass area, two in 2015, fishing between 50 and 100 pots each between March and November. Fishing activity levels within the SAC are very low. They occur within a very small proportion of the SAC (5.2km² which is 0.86% of the total SAC area), with the main target area for the potting vessels lying outside of the SAC boundary (Annex 4). It is a seasonal fishery which occurs between March and November. The Broadscale Habitat Map is shown in Annex 5.

North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority was set up in 2011 under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and replaced the Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee and North Western Sea Fisheries Committee. This meant that the new NWIFCA boundary covered two SFCs and that there are two sets of existing byelaws. The point in which the district byelaws are split is Haverigg Point (A line drawn true south west from 54.18967, -3.31833 to the 6nm boundary) as shown in Annex 4.

The Cumbria SFC Byelaw 25 regulates the smaller main fishing area located off of the Drigg coastline (North of the NWSFC/CSFC boundary in Annex 4). The North Western SFC Byelaw 31 regulates the main fishing area and general fishing area located off of Walney Island (South of the NWSFC/CSFC boundary in Annex 4).

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)

Regulation in Cumbria SFC Boundaries

[Cumbria SFC Byelaw 25](#) regulates fishing of pots, creels and traps. The byelaw states 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.

Regulation in North Western SFC

[North Western SFC Byelaw 31](#) Protection of V-Notched Lobsters

1. No person shall fish for or take any lobster of the species *Homarus gammarus* that is V-notched with an indentation in the shape of the letter "V" in one or more of the five flaps of the tail fan, or otherwise marked in any way or mutilated in such a way that any of the five tail flaps of the tail are missing or mutilated in such manner as could hide or obliterate a V-notch or other marking.
2. Any lobster so marked shall be returned immediately to the sea.

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 plan or project 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: All intertidal and terrestrial features and sub features (including SPA supporting habitats) have been screened out as the potting activity occurs from a boat, targeting subtidal substrates and all of the fishing boats are from ports, harbours and established moorings. When mapping the areas fished by potting vessels (Annex 4) on to the broadscale habitat mapping (Annex 5), the substrate types which fishing can interact with is circalittoral rock and subtidal sand, with circalittoral rock being the targeted ground due to it being crab and lobster habitat. All other subtidal features and sub features have been screened out as there is no interaction with fishing. All SPA features (bird species) have been screened in.

Pressures: All pressures from the Advice on Operations table provided in the Morecambe and Duddon Estuary Conservation Advice package have been screened out, other than the pressures in the following table, due to the nature of the fishing activity.

Qualifying Feature	Sub-feature	Potential pressure(s)	Sensitivity	Potential for Likely Significant Effect?	Justification and evidence
H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks	Subtidal sand	Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed	Sensitive	No	The area in which potting may interact with the SAC is very small (5.2km ² , 0.86% of the total SAC area, seasonal (March to November) and outside of the main potting area (Annex 4). The fishing is also relatively small scale (maximum of 10 vessels but currently 3 fishing, using between 50 and 300 pots) and in a highly dynamic and changeable environment. It is therefore unlikely at the current activity levels to have a significant effect on the extent, distribution structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features.
H1170. Reefs	Circalittoral rock				
A026 <i>Egretta garzetta</i> ; Little egret	All	Collision above water	Sensitive	No	The chance of a collision

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

A038 <i>Cygnus Cygnus</i> ; Whooper swan	supporting habitats have been screened out as there is no interaction with the fishing activity.	with static or moving objects not naturally found in the marine environment.			above water is highly unlikely, due to the scale and intensity of the potting activity being low, seasonal, and vessels mainly fishing in the daylight. It is therefore unlikely at the current activity levels to have a significant effect on the population or distribution of the qualifying features.				
A040 <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ; Pink-footed goose									
A048 <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ; Common shelduck									
A050 <i>Anas Penelope</i> ; Wigeon									
A054 <i>Anas acuta</i> ; Northern pintail									
A063 <i>Somateria mollissima</i> ; Common eider (Breeding)									
A067 <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ; Goldeneye									
A069 <i>Mergus serrator</i> ; Red-breasted merganser						Collision below water with static or moving objects not naturally found in the marine environment.	Sensitive	No	The chance of a collision below water is highly unlikely due to the low number of pots fished in the area (maximum 500 pots) and the way pots fish (on the substrate attached by rope and buoyed at each end) -it is unlikely a bird will become entangled in the fishing gear. It is therefore unlikely at the current activity levels to have a significant effect on the population or distribution of the qualifying features.
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									
A142 <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ; Lapwing									
A143 <i>Calidris canutus</i> ; Red knot									
A144 <i>Calidris alba</i> ; Sanderling									
A149 <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ; Dunlin									
A151 <i>Calidris pugnax</i> ; Ruff						Visual disturbance	Sensitive	No	The scale and intensity of the potting activity is low (maximum of 10 vessels but currently 3 fishing) compared against background vessel activity, resulting in limited visual disturbance which is unlikely to have a significant effect on the population or distribution of the qualifying features
A156 <i>Limosa limosa</i> ; Black-tailed godwit									
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									
A176 <i>Larus melancephalus</i> ; Mediterranean gull									
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)									
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ; Cormorant									
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ; Great crested grebe									
Seabird assemblage									
Waterbird assemblage									

<p>Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?⁴</p>	<p>Alone</p> <p>No</p> <p>Comments :</p>	<p>OR In-combination⁵</p> <p>Uncertain</p> <p>Comments :</p> <p>These activities also occur at the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beam trawl (whitefish) • Beam trawl (shrimp) • Light otter trawl • Fixed nets (gill, trammel, entangling) • Longlines • Shrimp push-net • Fyke and stakenet • Hand working (cockles and mussels) <p>In combination effects will be assessed when all initial TLSEs for a site are completed.</p>
<p>Have NE been consulted on this LSE test? If yes, what was NE's advice?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	

6. Conclusion⁶

Taking into account the information detailed in the fishing activity and the Test of Likely Significant Effect, it can be concluded that fishing with pots / creels at the current activity levels, has no likely significant effect on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary 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 Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary European Site in the NWIFCA district, there is no need to conduct an integrity test for this activity.

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 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 Protection Area (UK9005081),

UK9005081_Morecambe_Bay_SPA_Advice_on_Operations

UK9005081_Morecambe_Bay_SPA_Generic_SAT_Birds

Natural England Marine Interim Conservation Advice for Special Area of Conservation (UK0013027),

UK0013027_Morecambe_Bay_SAC_Advice_on_Operations

UK0013027_Morecambe_Bay_SAC_Generic_SAT_Habitats

UK0013027_Morecambe_Bay_SAC_Generic_SAT_Species

Personal communication from IFCA local fisheries officers – 10th November 2015

Annex 2: Natural England's consultation advice

Date: 03 June 2016
Our ref: 185004
Your ref: Formal Sign Off – MB EMS



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Dear Jon

Formal Advice to NWIFCA. Review of Fisheries in Marine Protected Areas. Assessments for Solway Firth European Marine Site

Thank you for your consultation on the above which was received by Natural England on 24 May 2016.

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 two Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) 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 assessment and the conclusions it makes. The assessments consider the effects of the following fishing activities in the Morecambe Bay European Marine Site which includes Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsars, Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary pSPA and Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) :

- NWIFCA-MB-EMS-009 - Shrimp Push Nets
- NWIFCA-MB-EMS-013 - Potting

¹ 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>



Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Service Excellence Standard

We are content that the best available and most up to date evidence has been used to carry out the HRAs 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 (tLSEs) for a site are completed.

Subject to the outcomes of the in combination assessments, it is Natural England's view that through their two HRAs, 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.

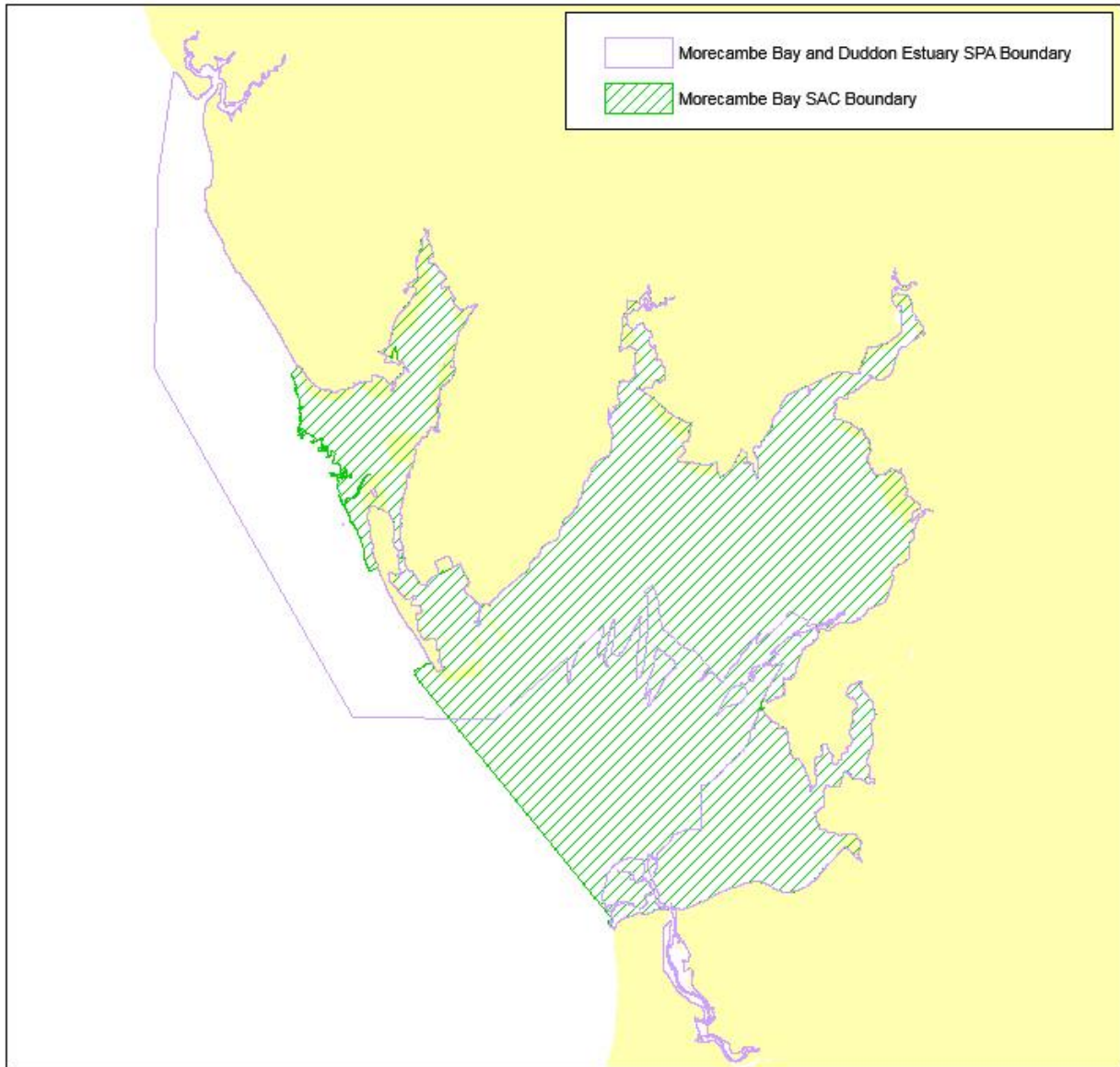
Yours sincerely



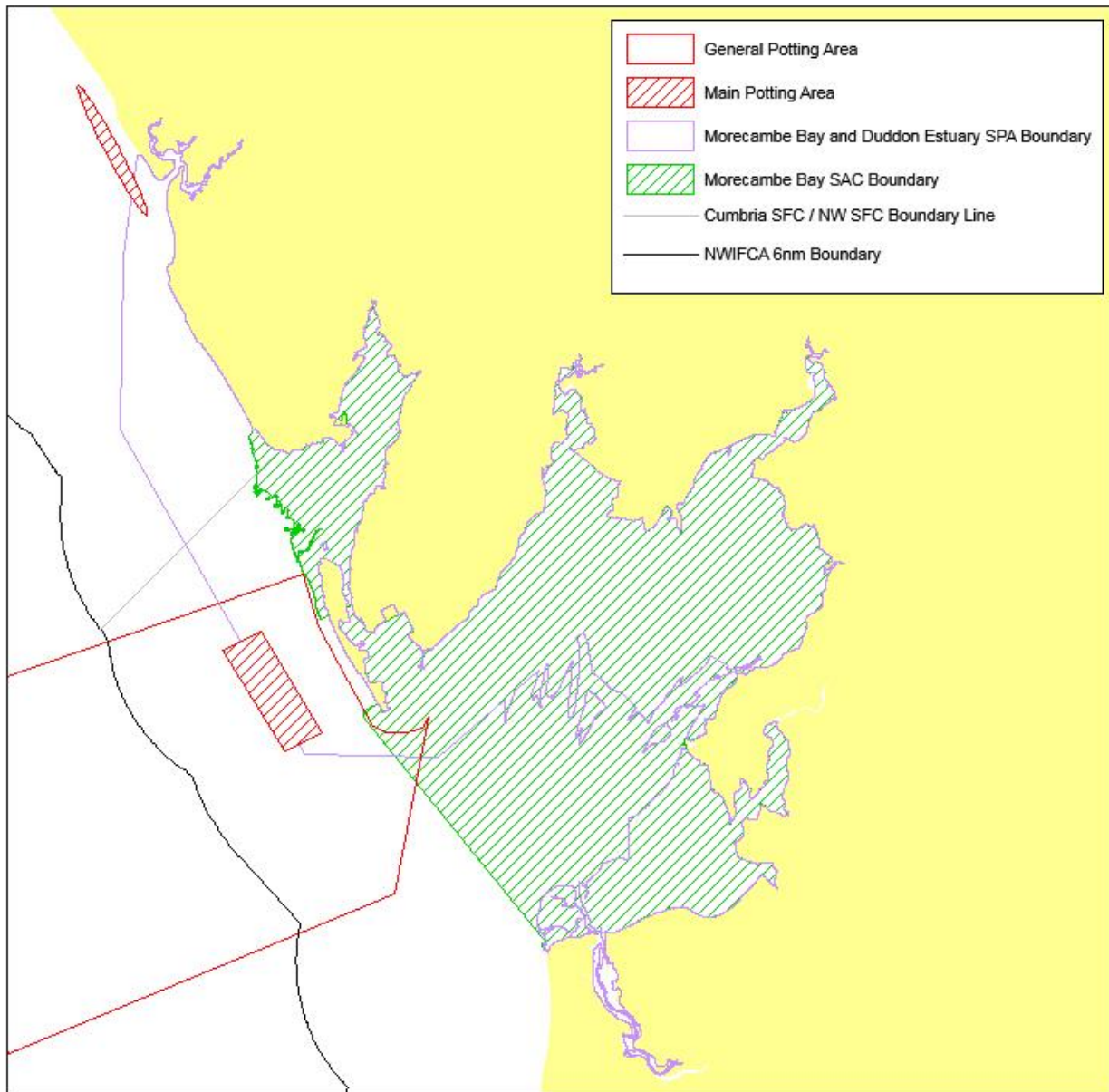
Helen Ake
Cumbria Area Team
Email: Helen.Ake@naturalengland.org.uk
Tel: 0300 060 0493



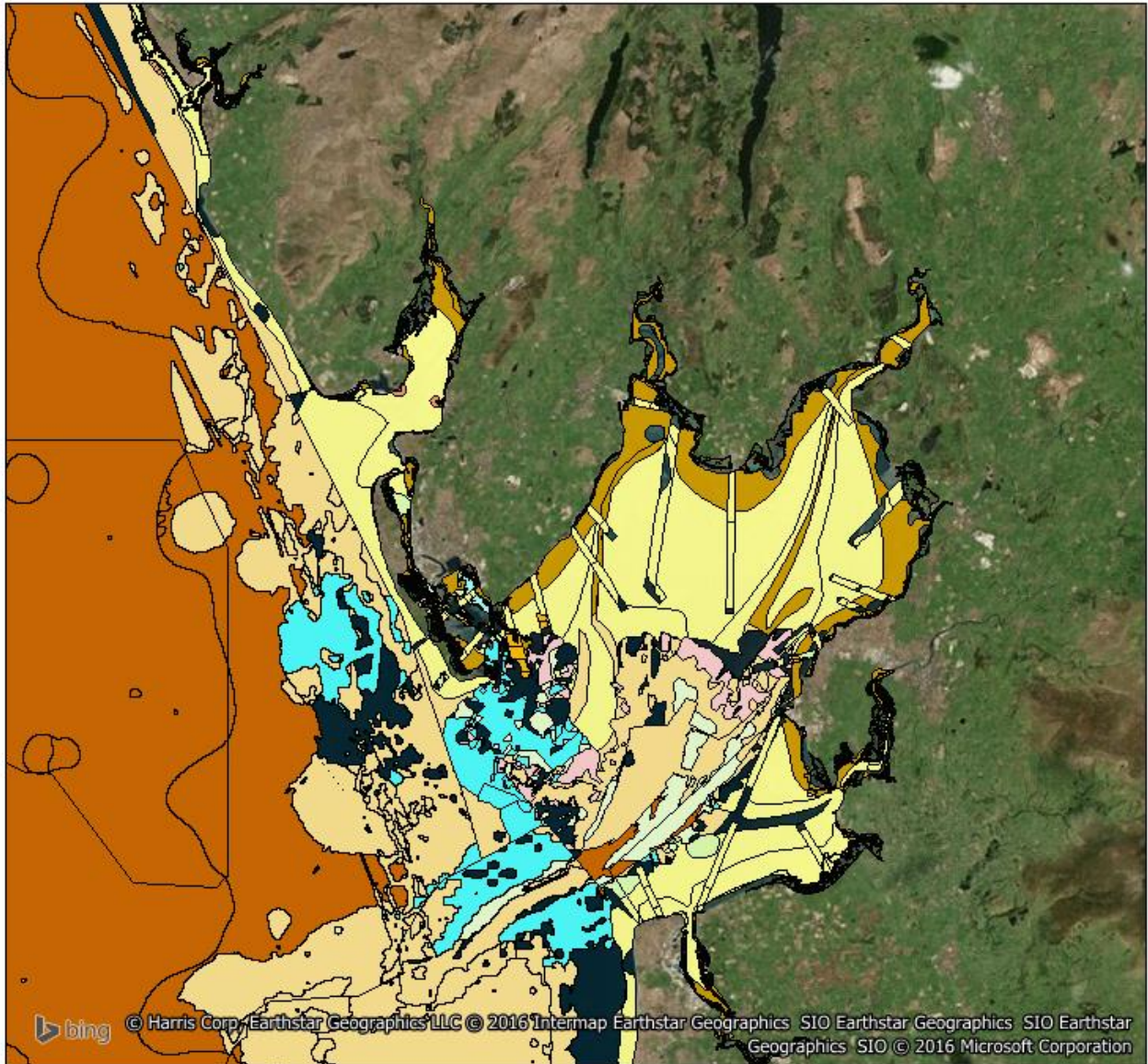
Annex 3: Site Map



Annex 4: Fishing activity maps



Annex 5: Broad scale Marine Habitat Map



Broad scale habitat data from Natural England November 2015 release

Broad Scale Habitats

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 sediments
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 sediments
SF_SH_5	Intertidal biogenic reef: mussel beds
SF_SH_6	Subtidal biogenic reef: mussel beds