

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

**NWIFCA-MN-SPA-004**

Date completed: 16/12/2015

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-004)*  
*(UK9020294 Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl SPA adjoins this site)*

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

**Gear type(s): Longlines (demersal)**

The NWIFCA has assessed demersal longline fishing activity in the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore European Site.

Activity data was collected by NWIFCA Fishery Officers who report that to their knowledge, the only demersal longlining activity in the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore European Site was one fisherman who fished in the north Wirral foreshore area on a recreational basis (pers. comm. local IFCO, 2015). This was several years ago and has not occurred since.

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

As demersal longlining in the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore European 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 demersal longlining in the Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore European Site change 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



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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  
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<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>

