



ILFRACOMBE HARBOUR ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

1. Harbour Authorities have a general duty to exercise their functions with regard to nature conservation and other related environmental considerations in accordance with Section 48A of the Harbours Act 1964 (inserted by the Transport and Works Act 1992). They also have an obligation, where a Special Protection Area for Birds or Special Area of Conservation has been designated under the Wild Birds or Habitats Directives, to have due regard to those directives when exercising their functions.
2. There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) within the jurisdiction of Ilfracombe Harbour Authority. However, a number of statutory designations and natural heritage interests within the surrounding area have been considered when formulating this plan. They are;
 - a. Hillsborough County Wildlife Site

Hillsborough has been designated as a county wildlife site and area of outstanding natural beauty. Within Hillsborough there is also a regionally important geological site.
 - b. Capstone Hill

Capstone Hill has been designated as a potential county wildlife site due to the species present in the area.
 - c. Hele, Sampsons and Combe Martin Bays geological SSSI

The Hele, Sampsons and Combe Martin Bays geological SSSI has been designated as a geological site of special scientific interest for its middle Devonian Ilfracombe bedrock formations. The site is also comprised of a number of sandy bays and beaches.
3. North Devon Voluntary Marine Conservation Area

The North Devon Voluntary Marine Conservation Area stretches for 18km from Hangman Point in the East to the edge of Woolacombe Sands in the West, and from the cliff base out to the 20m contour. Species in the area include Devonshire Cup Coral, Pink Sea Fan and the Leopard Spotted Goby.
4. Fisheries

A number of commercial lobster and crab potters and small fishing vessels are located in the Harbour. Shellfish catch is stored in pots at the Harbour entrance and is vulnerable to contamination. Commercial long lining, gill netting and trawling activity takes place in offshore areas surrounding Ilfracombe. The catch is dominated by lobster and mixed fisheries which include mackerel, dogfish, plaice, turbot, skate, sole, conger and pollock in the summer and brown crab in the winter. Annual landings in 1999 for Ilfracombe were 153 tonnes of fish and 52 tonnes of crustaceans.
5. Waste Reception

Ilfracombe Waste Management Plan gives comprehensive guidance on disposal of waste. However, it is the responsibility of all to help keep the Harbour and it's approaches free from litter and other forms of waste.

6. Code of Conduct

In order to maintain a litter free environment everyone can help by following this simple guidance:

- Not throwing anything over the side, even biodegradable rubbish can collect on the shoreline. Bottles, cans and plastics are especially dangerous to humans, birds and animals.
- The disposal of plastics at sea is illegal. Birds and fish mistake small pieces of plastic for food and discarded fishing line, nets and ropes are particularly hazardous to birds, seals and dolphins. Plastic bags, ropes and sheeting can also become entangled in propellers and block cooling water intakes.
- Oil and fuel can enter the water in a number of ways, mainly through re-fuelling operations and the pumping of bilges. Please take great care to ensure that you minimise the risk of fuel spills and make sure you do not pump contaminated bilge water over the side.
- Please use absorbent materials, rags and drip trays to prevent fuel or oil spillages.
- If you do accidentally spill oil or fuel, please notify the Harbour Office immediately.
- All boat owners are requested to use shoreside facilities as much as possible to reduce the input of sewage discharges. The chemical sewage disposal site is marked on the Waste Management Plan.
- Active compounds found in anti-fouling paints are by their nature toxic to aquatic life. However, these compounds are designed to enter the water from the boats hull in a controlled manner. Spillages and debris, which enter the water from maintenance or application are uncontrolled and could have unwanted effects on other non-fouling aquatic plants and wildlife.
- Excessive abrasion or hosing on your boat may increase the loss of the active component of the paint. Collect hosing debris and scrapings and dispose of them safely.
- Products containing TBT (Tributyltin) are not allowed in Ilfracombe Harbour.
- The Harbour Authority wish to ensure that disturbance to wildlife is kept to a minimum and wherever possible reduced.
- Make sure dogs are kept well clear of birds, particularly when walking on coastal footpaths or areas of foreshore.
- All stranded marine mammals, whether dead or alive should be reported immediately to the RSPCA on 0870 555 999.

For more information Contact Ilfracombe Harbour Office – 01271 862108