

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Welsh Office Agriculture Department

BASS



**NURSERY AREAS
AND OTHER
CONSERVATION MEASURES**

FOREWORD

This leaflet on bass has been prepared by the Fisheries Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Welsh Office to advise both commercial fishermen and anglers of the measures which have been taken to safeguard the bass fishery in the coastal waters of England and Wales. It includes information about the nursery areas in which fishing for bass is prohibited for all or part of the year, the minimum landing sizes for bass and other species and the restrictions on the use of gill and similar enmeshing nets.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE BASS FISHERY

1. The recent designation of nursery areas for bass completes the implementation of the strategy adopted by the Fisheries Departments for the long term conservation and management of the bass fishery in the coastal waters of England and Wales.

2. The strategy involves:

- an increase in the minimum landing size from 32 to 36 cm;
- restrictions on the use of gill and similar nets;
- a prohibition on bass fishing in nursery areas for all or part of the year.

The aim is to move the focus of fishing effort away from juvenile bass to fish over 36 cm with the objective of improving recruitment to the spawning stock and maintaining and increasing yields to the fishery. The prospects for achieving these objectives have been enhanced by a succession of above average strengths of the year classes spawned in 1987, 1988 and 1989. These year classes should benefit from the measures now in place.

3. The measures adopted for the conservation and management of the fishery are based on:

- the recommendations of the Ministry's Directorate of Fisheries Research following a detailed study of the fishery undertaken between 1981 and 1986. (Laboratory leaflet No. 59: The Bass and Management of its fishery in England and Wales; M. G. Pawson and G. D. Pickett);
- further investigations and field work between 1986 and 1989;
- extensive consultations with the fishing industry, anglers and other interests during 1988 and 1989.

The conservation strategy seeks to strike a fair and reasonable balance between the interests of both commercial fishermen and anglers and the need to protect juvenile stocks of bass.

MINIMUM LANDING SIZES

4. Any bass *landed, stored, sold, displayed or offered for sale*, and taken from the waters surrounding the United Kingdom, must be

at least 36 cm in length as measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin. Any bass retained on board a vessel or transhipped must also exceed 36 cm. *These provisions apply to both commercial fishermen and anglers.* Any bass below 36 cm must be returned immediately to the sea.

5. The minimum landing size of 36 cm applies to all bass taken from Regions 2 and 3 of Community waters, stretching from north of the Shetlands to Gibraltar. This requirement forms part of the European Community's technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources (Council Regulation (EEC) No.3094/86 as amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4056/89).

6. The minimum landing sizes for other species taken from the waters surrounding the United Kingdom are listed at Appendix I.

MESH SIZE CONTROLS

7. The use of gill and similar enmeshing nets, with a mesh size between 65 and 89 mm, is prohibited within British fishery limits lying south of lines of latitude drawn through Haverigg Point in Cumbria on the West Coast and Donna Nook in Lincolnshire on the East Coast. Exemptions exist for:

- the carriage of any nets which are properly lashed and stowed;
- the carriage and use of attended drift nets, beach seines and ring nets within that part of the 3 mile limit stretching from Rame Head in Cornwall to Beachy Head in Sussex.

These mesh size controls apply to gill nets, beach seines, trammel nets, tangle nets, stake nets, drift nets, ring nets, T.nets, J.nets, hoop nets and any similar nets used for the enmeshing or entrapment of fish, but not to trawls, Danish seines or any similarly towed nets. The legislation is The Sea Fish (Specified Sea Area) (Regulation of Nets and Prohibition of Fishing Methods) Order 1989: SI 1989 No.1284.

8. The controls do *not* override any more restrictive measures such as the byelaws of local sea fisheries committees, (whose jurisdiction extends out to the 3 mile limit) or of the National Rivers Authority.

NURSERY AREAS

- 9.** Fishing for bass from any vessel is prohibited in 34 separate areas for all or part of the year. These areas, their extent and the seasonal duration of the prohibition are set out in Appendix II. The legislation is The Bass (Specified Sea Areas) (Prohibition of Fishing) Order 1990: SI 1990 No. 1156.
- 10.** The nursery areas comprise river estuaries, harbours and power station outfalls where juvenile bass usually predominate and are more easily caught, particularly during the summer months. In certain nursery areas, fishing may also be subject to other restrictions implemented by the local sea fisheries committee or the National Rivers Authority. Such restrictions may include prohibitions on the setting of fixed nets or restrictions on the use of mobile gear.
- 11.** The prohibition on bass fishing in nursery areas does not apply to fishing from the shore. However it is expected that shore anglers and their associations will respect the need for this prohibition and return to the sea any bass caught within nursery areas.

FISHING FOR PROFIT

- 12.** Any United Kingdom owned vessel fishing for profit, must be registered as a fishing vessel under Part II of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988. Applications for registration should be made to the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen, PO Box 165, Cardiff CF4 4UX. Tel: (0222)-726222.

ENFORCEMENT

- 13.** Responsibility for the enforcement of the measures outlined in paragraphs 4 to 11 rests with the Fisheries Departments and their Sea Fisheries Inspectorate. The Inspectorate is assisted by the officers of local Sea Fisheries Committees who are empowered to enforce both national and Community conservation measures. The addresses of the local offices of the Sea Fisheries Inspectorate and the Sea Fisheries Committees are listed at Appendix III.

APPENDIX I

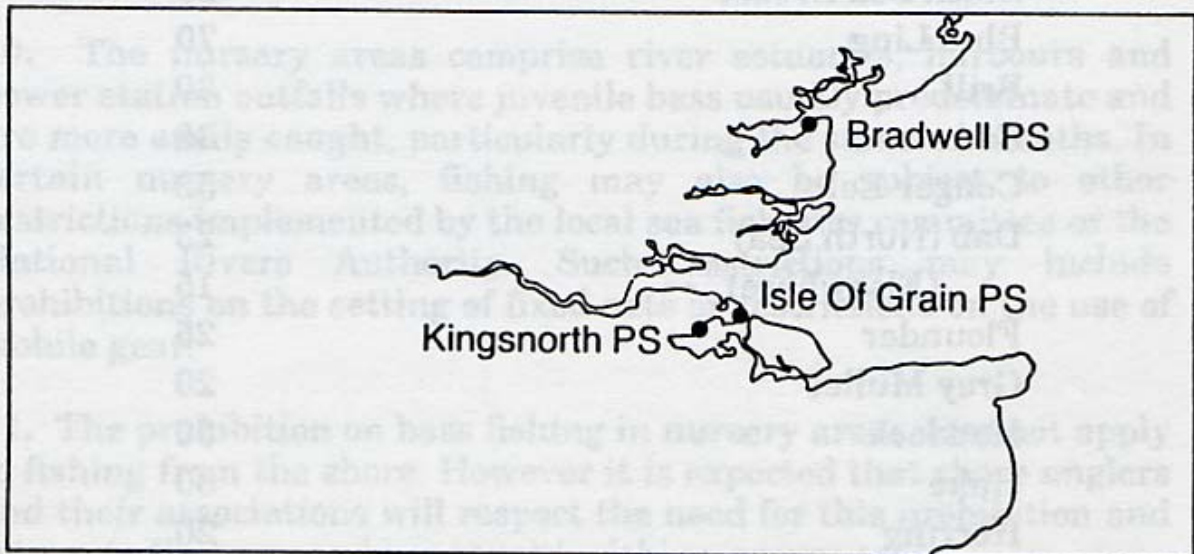
OTHER MINIMUM LANDING SIZES FOR FISH TAKEN FROM THE WATERS SURROUNDING THE BRITISH ISLES

Species	MLS (cm)
Black Sea Bream	23
Blue Ling	70
Brill	30
Cod	35
Conger Eel	58
Dab (North Sea)	23
(Elsewhere)	15
Flounder	25
Grey Mullet	20
Haddock	30
Hake	30
Herring	20
Lemon Sole	25
Mackerel (North Sea only)	30
Megrim	25
Plaice (North Sea)	27
(Elsewhere)	25
Pollack	30
Red Mullet	15
Red Sea Bream	25
Saithe	35
Shad	30
Sole	24
Turbot	30
Whiting	27
Witch	28

This information is correct as at 1 May 1990 and is intended for guidance only. It is not a comprehensive statement of the law, which is subject to change. Full information and advice may be obtained from your local MAFF fisheries office.

APPENDIX 2

DESCRIPTIONS OF NURSERY AREAS SHOWING DURATION OF CLOSE SEASON



1. Bradwell Power Station Outfall **1 May – 31 October**

The area between the Baffle Wall and the Bradwell foreshore enclosed by lines drawn perpendicular (145° true) from the NE and SW corners of the Baffle Wall to the shore.

2. Grain Power Station Outfall **All year**

The area enclosed by a line drawn 120° true through Grain Martello Tower and Grain Hard Buoy to Garrison Point, and a line drawn 114° true from the foreshore at Grain Power Station to the western extremity of the Ro Ro Terminal, and the Isle of Grain and Sheerness foreshores.

3. Kingsnorth Power Station Outfall **All year**

The area enclosed by Bee Ness Jetty and a line drawn 204° true to the tip of Oakham Ness Jetty, thence 260° true to the SE tip of Kingsnorth Jetty, the seaward arm of Kingsnorth Jetty and then 298° true to the Kingsnorth power station foreshore.

4. Chichester Harbour **1 May – 31 October**

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 192° true from Eastoke Point to Chichester Bar Beacon, then 078° true to Cakeham Tower.

5. Langstone Harbour

1 May – 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 153° true from the Gunnery Range Light at Eastney Point to Langstone Fairway Buoy (50° 46.25'N, 01° 01.27'W), then 033° true to the foreshore east of Gunner Point.

6. Portsmouth Harbour

1 May – 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn from Gilkicker Point to Southsea Castle.

7. Southampton Water

1 May – 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 090° true from the Cadland foreshore to the Warsash foreshore passing through the north-west extremity of the Esso tanker jetty, but excluding those waters above the Redbridge Causeway on the River Test.

**8. Fawley Power Station Outfall
– Stanswood Bay**

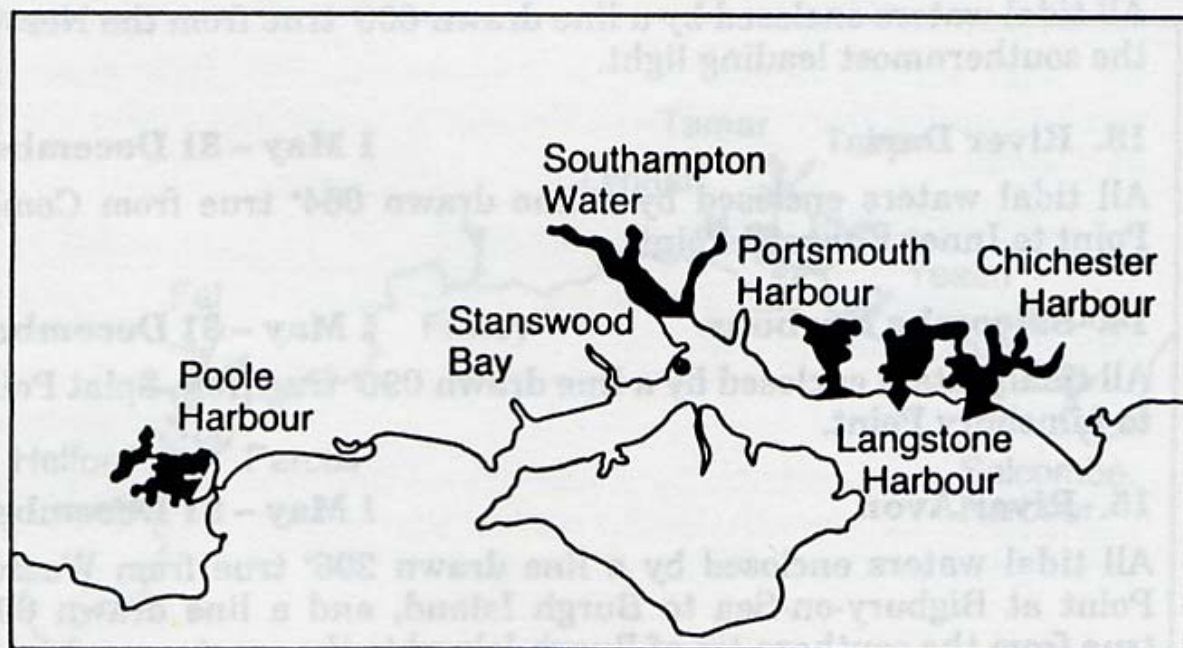
1 May – 31 October

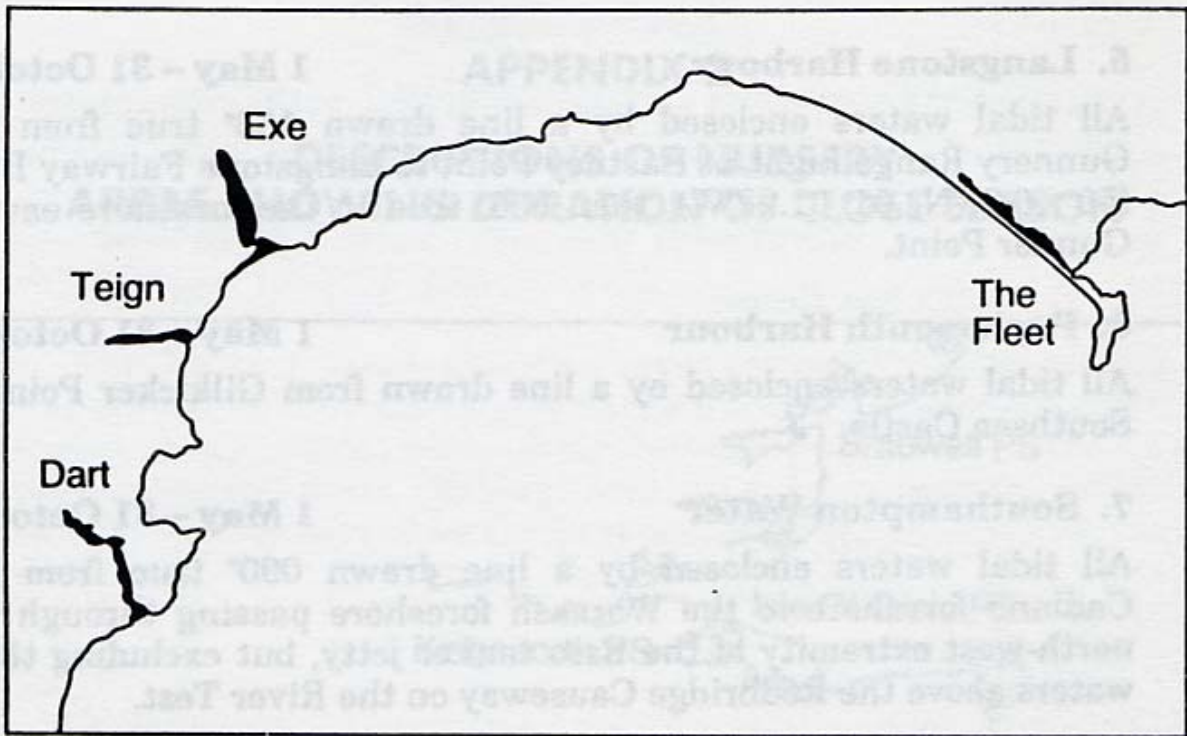
The area enclosed by a circle drawn with a radius of 3 cables around the outfall from Fawley Power Station.

9. Poole Harbour

1 May – 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 011° true from Jerry's Point, through Branksea Castle to Salterns Pier.





10. The Fleet

All year

All tidal waters of the Fleet inside Ferry Bridge.

11. River Exe

1 May - 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 068° true from Langstone Point to Orcombe Point.

12. River Teign

1 May - 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 000° true from the Ness to the southernmost leading light.

13. River Dart

1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 064° true from Combe Point to Inner Froward Point.

14. Salcombe Harbour

1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 090° true from Splat Point to Limebury Point.

15. River Avon

1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 206° true from Warren Point at Bigbury-on-Sea to Burgh Island, and a line drawn 090° true from the southern tip of Burgh Island to the coast.

16. River Yealm **1 May - 31 December**

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 205° true from Season Point to Mouthstone Point.

17. Plymouth Rivers - Plym, Tamar, Tavy and Lynher

All year

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn from the western end of Mountbatten Pier 268° true to the landing beacon at Wilderness Point in the River Tamar.

18. River Fowey

1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 270° true from Penleath Point to the opposite shore.

19. Fal Estuary

1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 045° true from Weir Point to Turnaware Point.

20. Percuil River

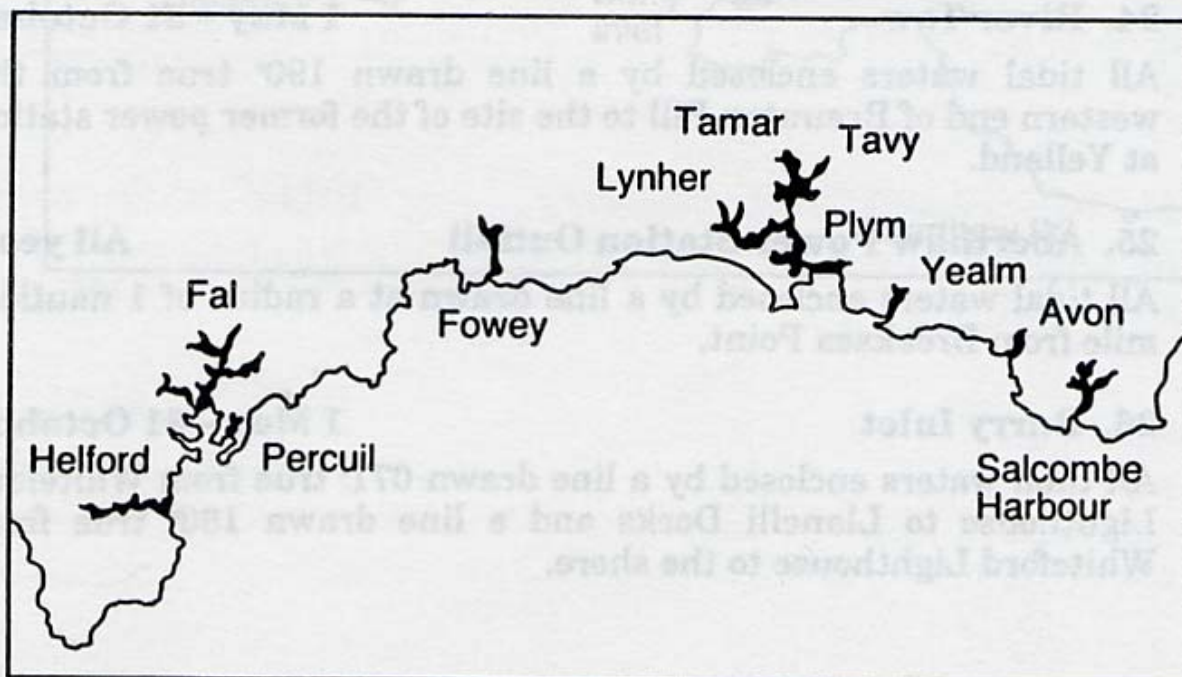
1 May - 31 December

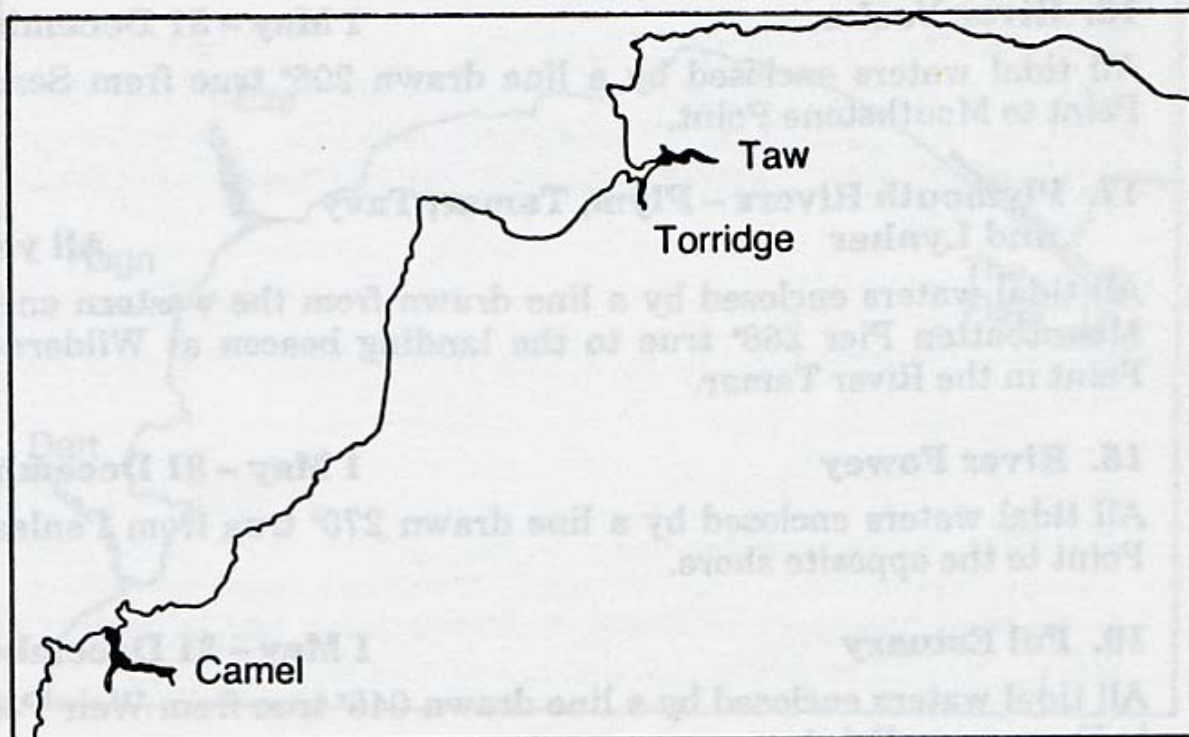
All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 151° true from St. Mawes Castle to Carricknath Point.

21. Helford River

1 May - 31 December

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 199° true from Rosemullion Head to Dennis Head.





22. River Camel **1 May – 30 November**

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 116° true from Stepper Point to Trebetherick Point.

23. River Torridge **1 May – 31 October**

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 290° true from Zeta Berth to the opposite shore.

24. River Taw **1 May – 31 October**

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 190° true from the western end of Braunton Pill to the site of the former power station at Yelland.

25. Aberthaw Power Station Outfall **All year**

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn at a radius of 1 nautical mile from Breaksea Point.

26. Burry Inlet **1 May – 31 October**

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 071° true from Whiteford Lighthouse to Llanelli Docks and a line drawn 180° true from Whiteford Lighthouse to the shore.

**27. The Three Rivers – Taf, Tywi
and Gwendraeth**

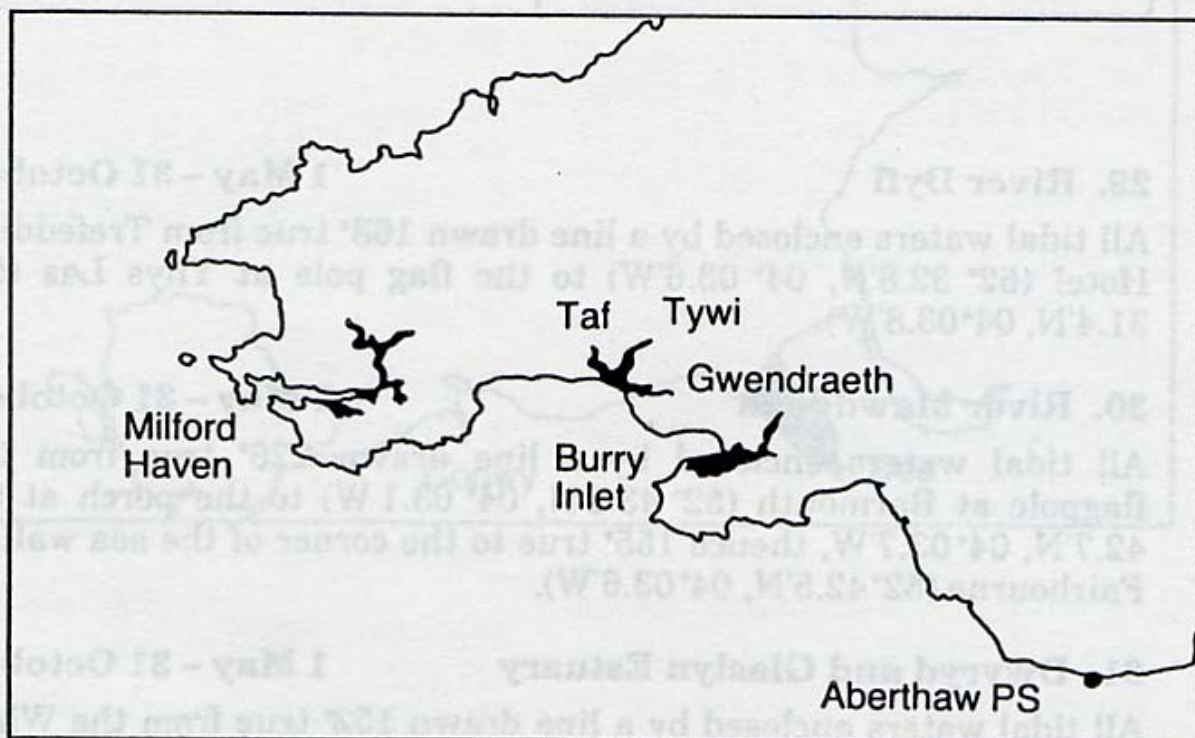
1 May – 31 October

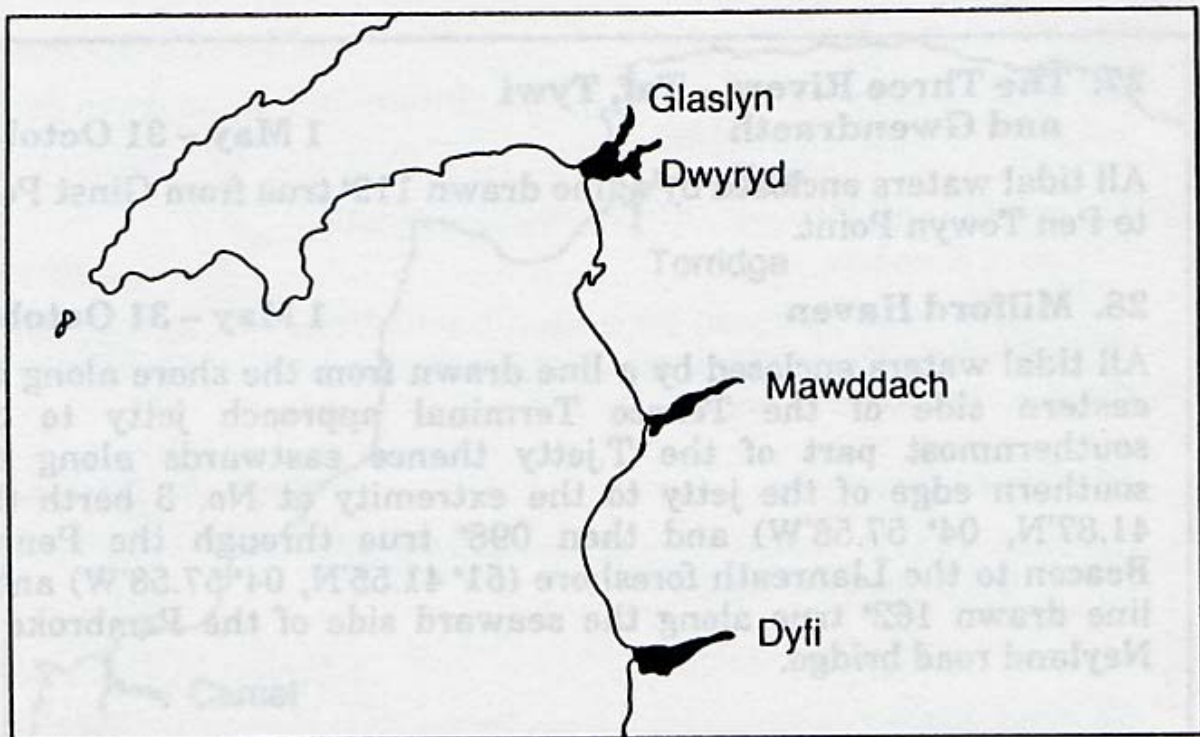
All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 119° true from Ginst Point to Pen Towyn Point.

28. Milford Haven

1 May – 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn from the shore along the eastern side of the Texaco Terminal approach jetty to the southernmost part of the T-jetty thence eastwards along the southern edge of the jetty to the extremity at No. 3 berth ($51^{\circ} 41.87'N$, $04^{\circ} 57.58'W$) and then 098° true through the Pennar Beacon to the Llanreath foreshore ($51^{\circ} 41.55'N$, $04^{\circ} 57.58'W$) and a line drawn 162° true along the seaward side of the Pembroke to Neyland road bridge.





29. River Dyfi

1 May – 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 168° true from Trefedddian Hotel ($52^{\circ} 32.8'N$, $04^{\circ} 03.6'W$) to the flag pole at Ynys Las ($52^{\circ} 31.4'N$, $04^{\circ} 03.8'W$).

30. River Mawddach

1 May – 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 226° true from the flagpole at Barmouth ($52^{\circ} 43.1'N$, $04^{\circ} 03.1'W$) to the perch at $52^{\circ} 42.7'N$, $04^{\circ} 03.7'W$, thence 155° true to the corner of the sea wall at Fairbourne ($52^{\circ} 42.5'N$, $04^{\circ} 03.6'W$).

31. Dwyryd and Glaslyn Estuary

1 May – 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 152° true from the White House ($52^{\circ} 54.4'N$, $04^{\circ} 09.1'W$) to Harlech Point ($52^{\circ} 53.7'N$, $04^{\circ} 08.5'W$).

32. River Conwy

1 May – 31 October

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 254° true from the two flag staffs at Deganwy Yacht Club ($53^{\circ} 17.9'N$, $03^{\circ} 50.3'W$) to Conwy Morfa ($53^{\circ} 17.3'N$, $03^{\circ} 50.9'W$).

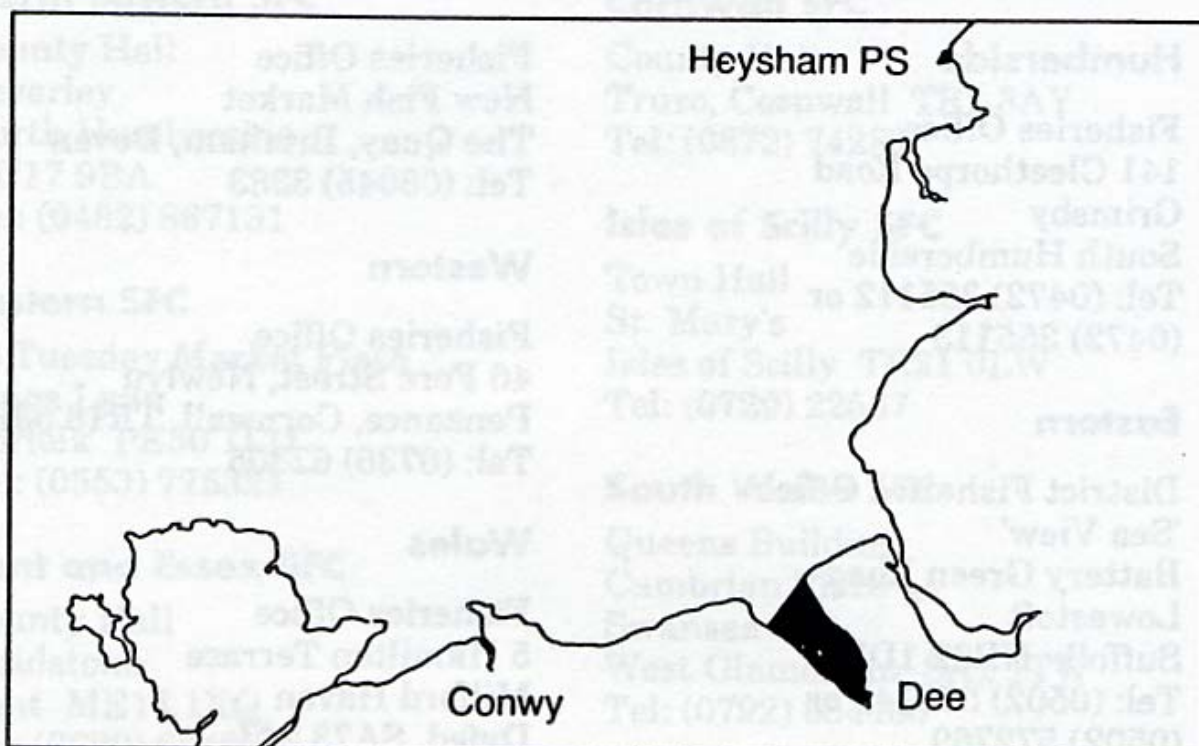
33. River Dee

1 June - 30 September

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 213° true from Hilbre Point to Mostyn Quay.

34. Heysham Power Station Outfall 1 June - 30 September

All tidal waters enclosed by a line drawn 085° true from No. 7 buoy ($54^{\circ}01.22'N$, $002^{\circ}56.28'W$) to the shore, a line drawn 020° true from No. 7 buoy towards the Dolphin ($54^{\circ}02.40'N$, $02^{\circ}55.52'W$), and a line drawn 102° true through the leading lights to Heysham Harbour.



APPENDIX 3 ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF MAFF DISTRICT FISHERIES OFFICES

North Eastern

District Fisheries Office
12-15A Union Quay
North Shields
Tyne and Wear NE30 1HN
Tel: (091) 2574520

South Western

District Fisheries Office
Fish Market
The Barbican
Plymouth, Devon PL1 2LU
Tel: (0752) 228001

Humberside

Fisheries Office
141 Cleethorpe Road
Grimsby
South Humberside
Tel: (0472) 355112 or
(0472) 355113

Fisheries Office
New Fish Market
The Quay, Brixham, Devon
Tel: (08045) 3383

Eastern

District Fisheries Office
'Sea View'
Battery Green Road
Lowestoft
Suffolk NR32 1DD
Tel: (0502) 573149 or
(0502) 572769

Western

Fisheries Office
46 Fore Street, Newlyn
Penzance, Cornwall TR18 5JR
Tel: (0736) 62805

Wales

Fisheries Office
5 Hamilton Terrace
Milford Haven
Dyfed SA73 2AL
Tel: (0646) 693412

South Eastern

Fisheries Office
Breeds Place
Hastings
East Sussex TN34 3AA
Tel: (0424) 424109 or
(0424) 438125

Fisheries Office
WOAD
Crown Buildings, Room 220
Penrallt
Caernarfon, Gwynedd
Tel: (0286) 4144 ext. 492

Fisheries Office
Old Harbour Office
The Quay
Poole, Dorset BH15 1HP
Tel: (0202) 677539

North Western

District Fisheries Office
26 London Street
Fleetwood
Lancashire FY7 6J6
Tel: (03917) 3515/6

APPENDIX 3 cont.
**ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF SEA
FISHERIES COMMITTEE OFFICES**

Northumberland SFC

Sun Alliance House
35 Mosley Street
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
NE1 5JY
Tel: (091) 2611841

North Eastern SFC

County Hall
Beverley
North Humberside
HU17 9BA
Tel: (0482) 867131

Eastern SFC

10 Tuesday Market Place
Kings Lynn
Norfolk PE30 1LD
Tel: (0553) 775321

Kent and Essex SFC

County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ
Tel: (0622) 69427

Sussex SFC

2 Sadler Way
Brighton
East Sussex BN2 5PL
Tel: (0273) 680210

Southern SFC

Fisheries Office
3 Park Road
Poole
Dorset BH15 2SH
Tel: (0202) 721373

Devon SFC

Fisheries Office
First Floor
Fish Market and Jetty
Brixham, Devon
Tel: (08045) 4648

Cornwall SFC

County Hall
Truro, Cornwall TR1 3AY
Tel: (0872) 74282

Isles of Scilly SFC

Town Hall
St. Mary's
Isles of Scilly TR21 0LW
Tel: (0720) 22537

South Wales SFC

Queens Building
Cambrian Place
Swansea
West Glamorgan SA1 1TW
Tel: (0792) 654466

**North Western and
North Wales SFC**

Bailrigg
University of Lancaster
Lancaster
Lancashire LA1 4XY
Tel: (0524) 68745

Cumbria SFC

The Courts
Carlisle
Cumbria CA3 8LZ
Tel: (0228) 23456