



## Reporting of suspected fishing offences in Cornwall

The following information has been prepared to assist sea anglers (and others) with the reporting of suspected fishing offences in Cornwall.

### Area

That which falls within Cornwall Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority's (IFCA) district. This comprises the whole of Cornwall county, extending out to sea 6 nautical miles from the baselines and including rivers and estuaries up to their tidal limits.

Note: The baselines may include low tide elevations, with the Eddystone being the furthest offshore. The Tamar is split between Cornwall IFCA and Devon & Severn IFCA.

The Environment Agency is responsible for fisheries management above the tidal limit of any river and in freshwater courses.

### What to look out for and report

Remember that offences can be committed by recreational, as well as commercial fishers. These will be mostly covered under:

- Fixed Engines Byelaw. In nine coastal areas it is illegal to set a fixed net with its headline being less than 3m below the surface of the water. This netting restriction applies all year round, apart from in an area of Padstow Bay. For further details click [here](#).
- River and Estuarine Fishing Nets Byelaw. It is an offence to use most static and drift nets for taking sea fish in any of the rivers or estuaries within the Cornwall IFCA district. For further details click [here](#).

For a full list of Cornwall IFCA byelaws which may be relevant please click [here](#)

- Bass fishing regulations for [commercial](#) and [recreational](#) fishing in 2024.

If in doubt report anyway. Cornwall IFCA will acknowledge receipt of your report if you provide your contact details (email preferred). If the report is relevant to another authority, it may be forwarded on by Cornwall IFCA, or you may be advised how to inform that authority yourself.

## How to report

Reports can be made by telephone (leave a message if out of hours) on 01872 324284, by email [enquiries@cornwall-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cornwall-ifca.gov.uk), or via Cornwall IFCA's contact page - click [here](#).

## What information to report/give

- Whether the information is first-hand knowledge or relayed after hearing it from another person
- Name of any person involved with committing or assisting with the matter of concern, if known
- Name/registration number (PLN), colour, design of any vessel used in connection with the matter of concern
- Place where any relevant vessel is normally based or was launched from a trailer
- Description of any relevant vehicle (make, model, colour, registration no.)
- Description of any relevant fishing gear or gear marking
- Date, time and location regarding the matter of concern
- The matter of concern – describe what happened, what was observed etc
- Provide any photographs or video which may support your information
- Leave your contact details if you would be willing to discuss your report with Cornwall IFCA and potentially provide a witness statement


## How your information will be used

Suspected fisheries offences will be recorded and disseminated to relevant fisheries enforcement officers and any other relevant organisation, such as the MMO and MCA, as appropriate.

The information and any evidence provided will be assessed and prioritised in accordance with Cornwall IFCA's risk-based enforcement policy.

Cornwall IFCA reports the most serious investigations and enforcement actions on its website and also in reports which are publicly available.

## Warnings & disclaimers

**Please always proceed with care when encountering any suspicious activity; under no circumstances should you put yourself or anyone around you in danger. Always contact the relevant authority to take the appropriate action.** 

The author takes no responsibility for any injury or damage incurred by the reporter.

This information has been drawn from the [Cornwall IFCA website](#), and prepared with the assistance of Simon Cadman, Cornwall IFCA Principal Enforcement Officer.

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