

Scallop Ranching Trial Specification – Agreement between Paul Fivian, Salcombe Harbour Authority and Natural England

Aim

The aim of the Scallop Ranching Trial is to determine the viability of Scallop Ranching in the Salcombe Estuary. Factors that will contribute to the viability of Scallop Ranching will include but are not limited to:

- Environmental impact
- Sustainability of Scallop Ranching
- Commercial viability
- Compatibility with leisure activities

Trial Authority

Outline approval for the trial has been given by;

- Duchy of Cornwall
- Salcombe Harbour Board
- Devon Sea Fisheries
- South Hams District Council – Environmental Health
- Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science
- Natural England

Permission has only been given for a trial and in no way implies that permission will be given for full commercial scallop ranching on completion of the trial stages. However, should the trial be successful, Paul Fivian, hereafter referred to as the 'operator', shall be given the first option of a licence for commercial Scallop Ranching within the Estuary, for a period to be determined, other applications will then be assessed on their individual merits.

Area of trial

The proposed area for the trial shall be a one hectare rectangle of seabed at the northern end of The Bag situated between the two 5 metre submarine contours orientated north east-south west, described by the following coordinates:

50°14'.803N, 003°45'.520W
 50°14'.791N, 003°45'.465W
 50°14'.714N, 003°45'.505W
 50°14'.726N, 003°45'.561W

Trial parameters and Terms of Reference

The following parameters and terms of reference will apply throughout the Trial:

- The trial start date will be after 1 January 2008.
- The trial will last for a maximum of three years, terminating on or before 31 December 2010. The trial may be terminated at any time should there be – significant evidence that the introduction of scallop ranching is causing undesirable side effects within the estuary.
- Throughout the period of the trial, no other scallop trials or ranches will be authorised within the Estuary.
- The trial will take place in two stages;
 stage 1 - purely based on scallop growth and movement studies, and scallop diving logistics

stage 2 - will allow the commercial laying and harvesting of scallops to gauge the impact of scallop ranching on other harbour activities

- The operator shall register their intentions to SHDC Environmental Health and CEFAS and supply scallops freely for testing and/or monitoring as required by them.
- The operator will comply with all appropriate fishing regulations and instructions.
- The Operator is to keep the Marine Conservation Officer and Devon Sea Fisheries Committee apprised of progress and developments with the trial, for dissemination to interested stakeholders.
- Prior to the trial commencing the Operator is to prepare an environmental impact assessment. This is to be endorsed prior to the trial commencing by:
 - Salcombe Harbour Authority
 - Natural England
 - Devon Sea Fisheries Committee
- Prior to the trial commencing, the Marine Conservation Officer is to conduct a survey of the trial area and adjacent fundus to catalogue the density of wild scallops and health and diversity of marine life.
- Throughout the trial the Marine Conservation Officer is to monitor the area of the trial and adjacent fundus at regular intervals, not exceeding six months, to highlight any detrimental changes to the marine environment.
- There shall be an average maximum laid density of scallops of 5 scallops m⁻² on the seabed and these shall be freely ranging.
- The operator may not place any article or structure on the fundus without the prior agreement of the Salcombe Harbour Authority and Natural England.
- Only local King scallops, *Pecten maximus*, from the South Hams coast may be brought into the estuary and these must be clean of any obvious alien species such as the slipper limpet, *Crepidula fornicata*. Imported scallops must be over the legal minimum size.
- Records to be kept of all scallops introduced and removed, and be made available to the Marine Conservation Officer for scientific purposes only and to the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee for their records.
- The operator shall allow and assist where possible, in scallop growth and movement monitoring studies within the trial area in partnership with the Marine Conservation Officer and other potential partners such as University of Plymouth. This will involve a percentage (TBD) of the introduced scallops being marked (TBD) for recapture,
- No other native species may be taken from the estuary for any reason, without the prior agreement of the Marine Conservation Officer and Natural England.

Diving

NB the Harbour Authority carries a level of responsibility of liability for diving within harbour limits and all dives within the trial must be managed as within the scallop diving (or during the trial, the scientific diving) ACOP

The highest level of professional dive management is imperative to the safety of the divers within the very busy confines of the Harbour.

- Copies of the project's Health & Safety Code of Practise (following the HSE ACOP for scallop diving), Risk Assessment, Dive plan and Emergency Plans – to be inspected and approved by the Salcombe Harbourmaster.
- A Sécurité announcement on VHF channels 12, 14 & 16 must precede all dives.
- All dives must be permitted individually by the Salcombe Harbourmaster.

- Records of all dives to be kept.
- The operator is prohibited from diving outside of the trial area.
- The limits of the trial area with its associated diving activity will be advertised in Local Notice to Mariners.

No variation or departure from any of these terms of reference may be made without the express prior agreement of the Salcombe Harbourmaster. Any departure from these terms may result in the removal of permission from the Harbourmaster and suspension of the trials.