



**Isle of Man**  
Government

*Reilrys Ellan Vannin*

# Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

---

*Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bee as Eirinys*

**Director of Fisheries**

**Karen McHarg**

Fisheries Directorate

Thie Slieau Whallian,

Foxdale Road,

St. Johns,

Isle of Man, IM4 3AS

Tel no (01624) 685857

Fax no (01624) 685851

Email: [fisheries@gov.im](mailto:fisheries@gov.im)

January 2015

## **PROCEDURE NOTE 008a: Applications for fisheries and ecological scientific survey work in the Isle of Man territorial sea**

The Isle of Man Government welcomes requests from organisations to carry out scientific survey work in its territorial sea. The marine environment is still relatively unexplored and understood and obtaining additional data will help inform our responsible management of our waters for both ecological and economic gain.

The Isle of Man has a number of fisheries within the territorial sea, notably king and queen scallops, crab, lobster, whelk and langoustines. Survey work must therefore be managed to avoid damage and disadvantage to those involved in these fisheries. Surveys should also be designed to minimise impact on the marine environment and on other users of the territorial sea.

This Procedure explains what to do if you wish to carry out fisheries and ecological survey work in the Isle of Man territorial sea. It is designed to ensure a streamlined process for conducting surveys whilst allowing timely communication with those who might be affected by such work. It also allows time for the relevant scientific permits to be prepared and issued to authorise the work.

This Procedure applies to scientific surveys of living marine resources, excluding protected species. Research on protected marine species (basking sharks, all marine mammals, turtles and eelgrass) requires a licence under the Wildlife Act 1990, which can also be issued by DEFA Fisheries (Marine Biodiversity Officer).

For intrusive survey work to inform commercial or industrial uses of the territorial sea, (for example seismic surveys and grab sampling for aggregate prospecting), applicants should contact the Department for further information as additional licences/permission may be required.

### **Applying to DEFA to carry out scientific survey work**

You need to contact the Fisheries Directorate via the above contact details at least 30 days in advance of a proposed survey.

You should explain:

- The purpose of the work, sufficient to enable the Directorate to determine the need for a Scientific Permit and therefore approve the work or not;
- The dates and times of the work;

- The location, giving latitude and longitude, of the areas of sea which will be surveyed. These may be indicative but sufficient details must be provided at least 14 working days before commencement of the survey so that marine environment users can be notified;
- Expected outputs from the work and indicative dates for providing reports to DEFA.

If the survey work is on a large scale or over an extended period of time, additional notice to the Department and to stakeholders may be required so please contact the Fisheries Directorate well in advance to discuss your survey.

It is understood that survey work is dependent on a number of factors, including weather, but you should notify DEFA of any changes as soon as you are aware of these.

Please note that permission for survey work is unlikely to be given if it is requested at the last minute and does not allow for adequate communication with affected stakeholders.

### **Requirement for a Scientific Permit**

Under the Fisheries Act 2012, section 75, scientific permits are required to allow a number of activities to be undertaken. These are, in general, for the purposes of:

- Artificial propagation or transplantation of fish;
- Stocking, restocking or improvement of a fishery, or
- For some scientific purpose

Scientific Permits may authorise any of the following:

(a) to catch fish of any kind specified in the permit

(b) to have in his or her possession fish of that kind

In respect of catching fish, it would cover:

- (i) having, erecting and using any fishing engine of a kind specified in the permit
- (ii) having and using any substance of a kind so specified

(d) to buy or sell fish of any kind specified in the permit

(e) to dispose of fish taken in accordance with the permit in such manner and on such terms as may be so specified.

A Scientific Permit is required for all work covered by Procedure Note 008a.

### **Terms & Conditions**

A condition of the provision of a Scientific Permit is that you provide a detailed survey report, a summary of the data collected and access to the data if required. You will need to sign a Terms & Conditions Agreement with the Department as part of the application process – this will be sent to you.

### **Communication**

DEFA will post details of survey work to the website [www.gov.im/surveysinIOMwaters](http://www.gov.im/surveysinIOMwaters) and send out a fishtext to those who have provided contact details, referring them to this website. Survey details must be available to the Department at least 14 working days before the start of the survey. They should be sufficient to enable a pot fisherman to understand whether or not they need to lift pots or for others to decide whether they need to change their fishing or other activity in any way.

Please send the information as a word document, providing details under the following headings:

- Name of organisation carrying out the survey and contact details for a lead officer who can be contacted for further details, either by DEFA or a marine environment user.
- Name of vessel involved.
- Brief details of the purpose of the survey.
- Brief details of the equipment being used.
- Dates and times of the work plus location including, if possible, a map and cruise plan.

Any last minute changes **MUST** be notified to DEFA so that agreement can be given to proceed and communication with marine users is undertaken. Normal office hours of Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm applies.