

LYME BAY RESERVE JOURNEY

1988

- Lyme Bay inshore reefs identified as an area of marine nature conservation interest in 'A Coastal Directory for Marine Conservation' compiled for the Marine Conservation Society by S. Gubbay

1993-1997

- A series of studies and reports highlight the nature conservation value of Lyme Bay Reefs, including a list of 27 important areas for marine wildlife

1998

- Devon Wildlife Trust initiates Lyme Bay Reefs Project, involving local fishermen in project steering group
- 86 dive sites surveyed showing that Lyme Bay hosts a large number of important and fragile habitats

2000-2001

- Southern Sea Fisheries Committee (SSFC) investigates feasibility of byelaw to protect reef features
- Faced with opposition, SSFC conclude voluntary approach more likely to succeed

2001

- Devon Wildlife Trust, South Western Fish Producers' Organisation and local fishermen develop a voluntary agreement to protect the reefs, closing two small areas, Lanes Ground and Saw Tooth Ledges to bottom trawling and scallop dredging

2014

- Code of Conduct agreed for recreational sea anglers
- Integrated Fisheries Management Plan published
- Chiller unit and ice machine installed in Beer
- Fishermen's exchange visit to California

2015

- Chiller unit and ice machine installed in Axmouth
- Reserve Seafood launched
- Fully Documented Fisheries project report published
- Socio-economic study completed
- Schools Outreach programme launched

2016

- Lyme Bay Reserve exhibit opens in Seaton Jurassic Centre

2017

- Lyme Bay and Torbay Special Area of Conservation formally designated
- Chiller units in Lyme Regis and West Bay installed

2005

- Number of scallop boats increased from 9 to 20, with boats travelling from other UK ports to take advantage of scallop stocks and high prices, leading to a breakdown of voluntary agreements

2006

- Natural England applies for a Ministerial Stop Order to close 206 km² of Lyme Bay to dredging

2008

- The Lyme Bay Designated Area (Fishing Restrictions) Order 2008 closes 206 km² to scallop dredgers and bottom trawls

2011

- Designation of Lyme Bay and Torbay as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) covering 312 km² (trawling ban applies to 236 km²)
- Lyme Bay Reserve Working Group set up by Blue Marine

2012

- Lyme Bay Reserve Working Group Memorandum of Understanding signed
- Code of Conduct agreed for commercial fishermen

2013

- Southern IFCA and Devon & Severn IFCA introduce spatial closure restrictions for all methods of bottom towed fishing gear, increasing the area protected to 236 km²

2018

- 4Ports Transport van scheme set up

2019

- Lyme Bay hosts visit from Mediterranean fishing communities
- Lobster store installed in Axmouth

2020

- Lyme Bay - Road to Recovery film released

2021

- University of Plymouth publish paper on storm resilience of Reserve biodiversity following storm impacts
- University of Plymouth publish study of optimum potting thresholds

2022

- Lyme Bay Fisherman's CIC established

2023

- Lyme Bay Reserve special session at International MPA Congress, Vancouver