

Bottom Towed Fishing Gear within the Southern IFCA District



Overview

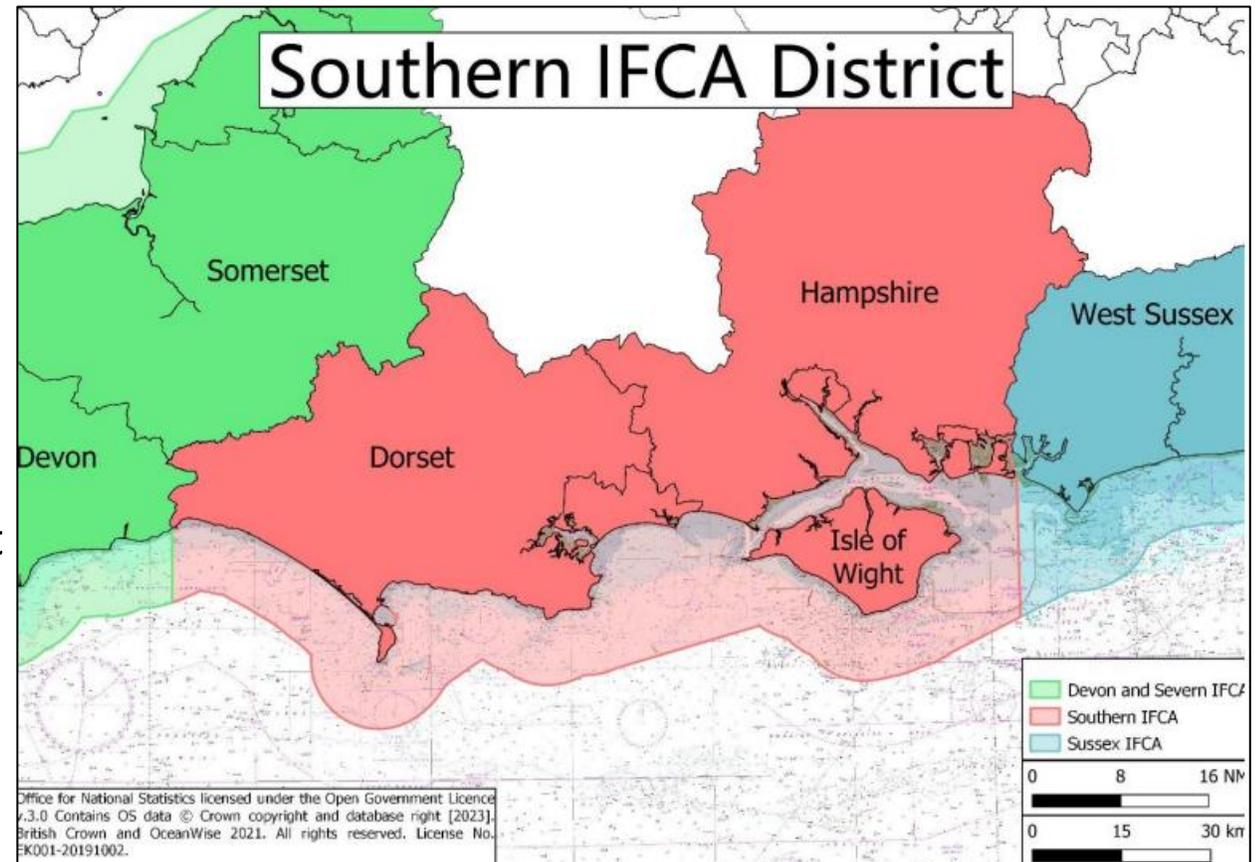
- Why do we manage bottom towed fishing gear?
- How have we developed our recent review of bottom towed fishing gear management?
- What was the outcome of the review?
- How do we enforce the management?



Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority

Why do we manage bottom towed fishing gear?

- Southern IFCA manages fishing activities in Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
- SIFCA has a duty to manage fisheries within MPAs
 - Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
 - Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
- Range of Marine Protected Areas within the district
- Bottom Towed Fishing Gears (BTFG) used for generations
- BTFG has the potential to adversely affect sensitive habitats and species designated in each MPA



Recent Review of BTFG Management – Initial Drivers



Updates to the marine protected area network

- 2019 Tranche 3 MCZs-> 6 new and 3 updated MCZs in the SIFCA district



Updated evidence base provided by Natural England



Protection of Sensitive Habitats Outside of MPAs

- Initial driver
- Removed as SIFCA decided on a phased approach for the review.



HM Government

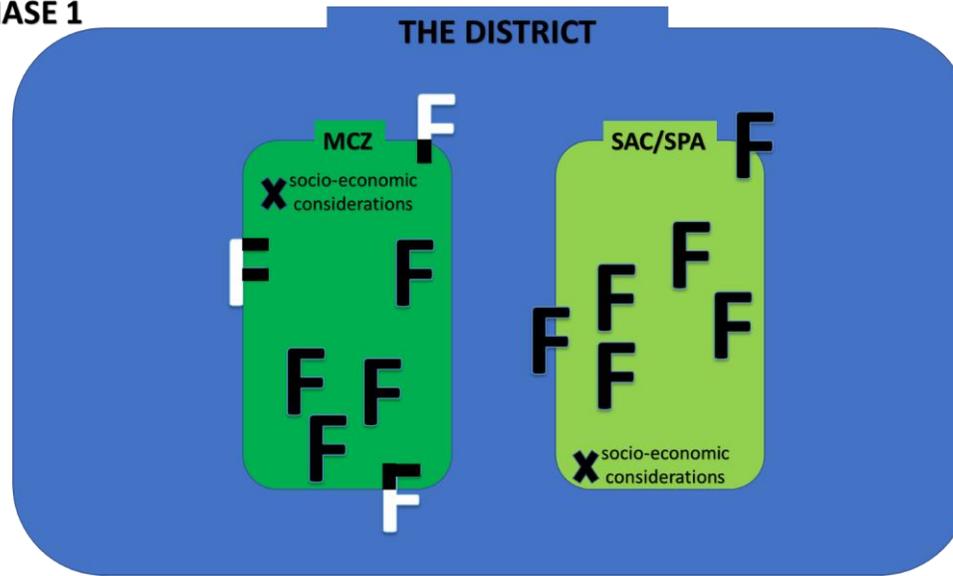
Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

Why a Phased Approach ?

- Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 includes target of 70% of designated MPA features to be in a favourable condition by 2042 with the remainder in a recovering condition.
- Interim target of 48% by 31st January 2028
- Appropriate regulators including IFCA are required to ensure management measures are in place for all MPAs by 2024 in order to achieve the interim target.
- To meet this target SIFCA identified the need to adopt a phased approach to the delivery of the BTFG review.

What is meant by the phased approach?

PHASE 1



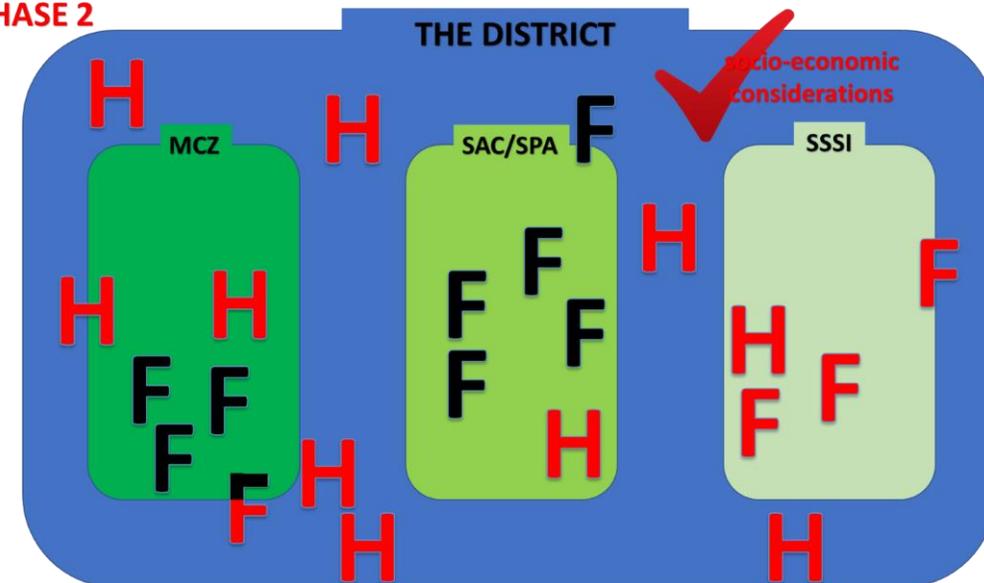
• Phase 1

- In line with core functions under MaCAA and Conservation Regulations
- P1 considers features which exists in any MCZ
- AND
- Features within or adjacent to any SAC/SPA
- No Socioeconomic considerations

• Phase 2

- P2 consider features adjacent to MCZ boundary
- AND
- Features or habitats across the district outside of the MPA network
- AND
- Socioeconomic considerations

PHASE 2



Principles for Phase 1

1. Proposed closed areas are considered for **designated features within MCZs**

2. Proposed closed areas are considered for **designated features within and adjacent to SACs and SPAs**

3. Proposed closed areas for **feature-based protections** under Principles 1 & 2 **incorporate buffers** in accordance with **national JNCC/NE buffer guidance**

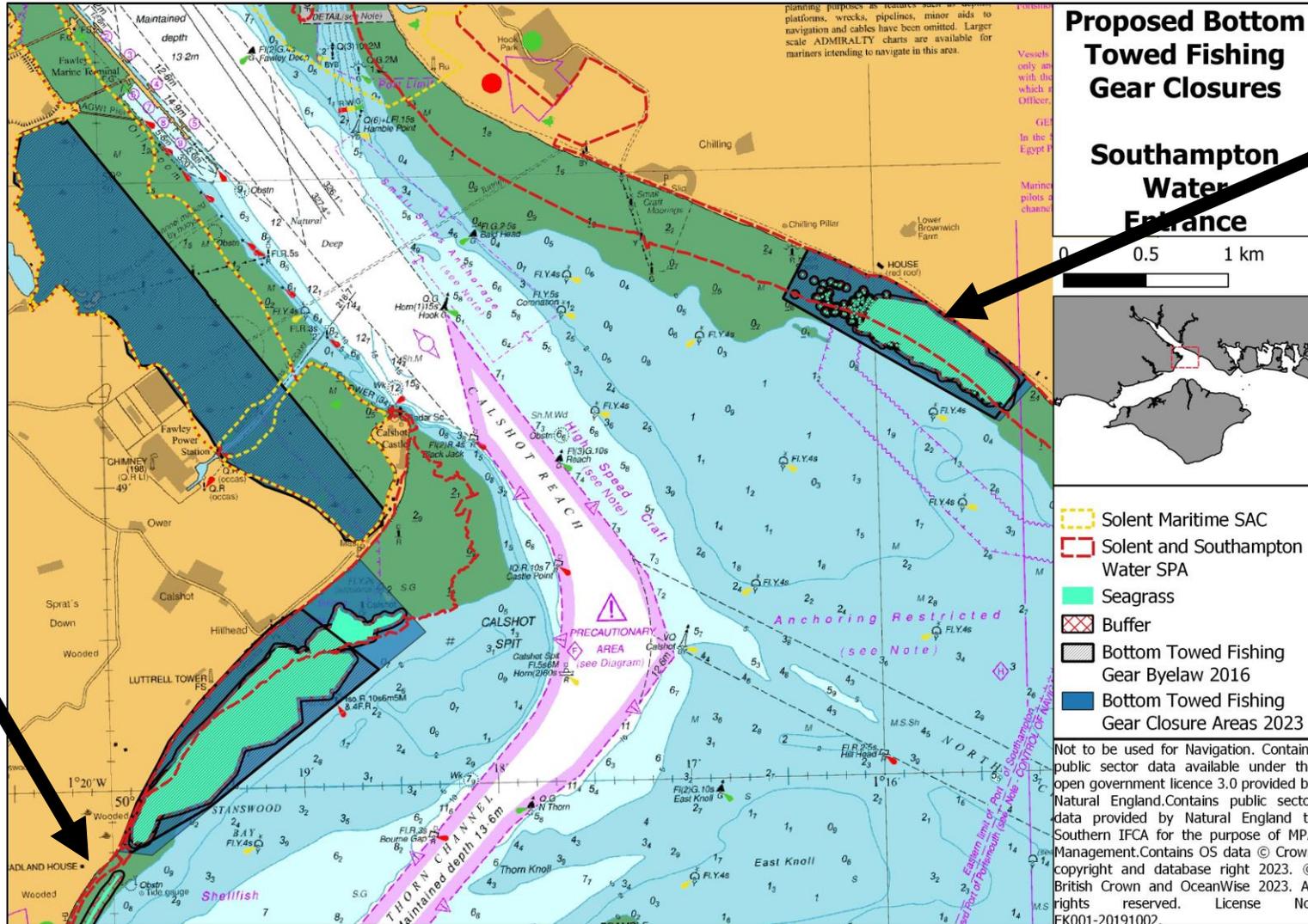
4. The **best available evidence** used to inform feature-based protection is the **Natural England database** provided to Southern IFCA in 2020

5. With the **exception of seagrass**, the extent and distribution of **feature-based management** in the **Solent Maritime SAC** and **district wide SPAs** will be informed by outcomes of the relevant **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

6. **Existing 2016 BTFG closures** which do not meet **Principles 1 & 2** will **remain in place** under Phase 1. These areas will be subject to **socio-economic and environmental assessments** in Phase 2.

Solent Examples - Southampton Water Entrance

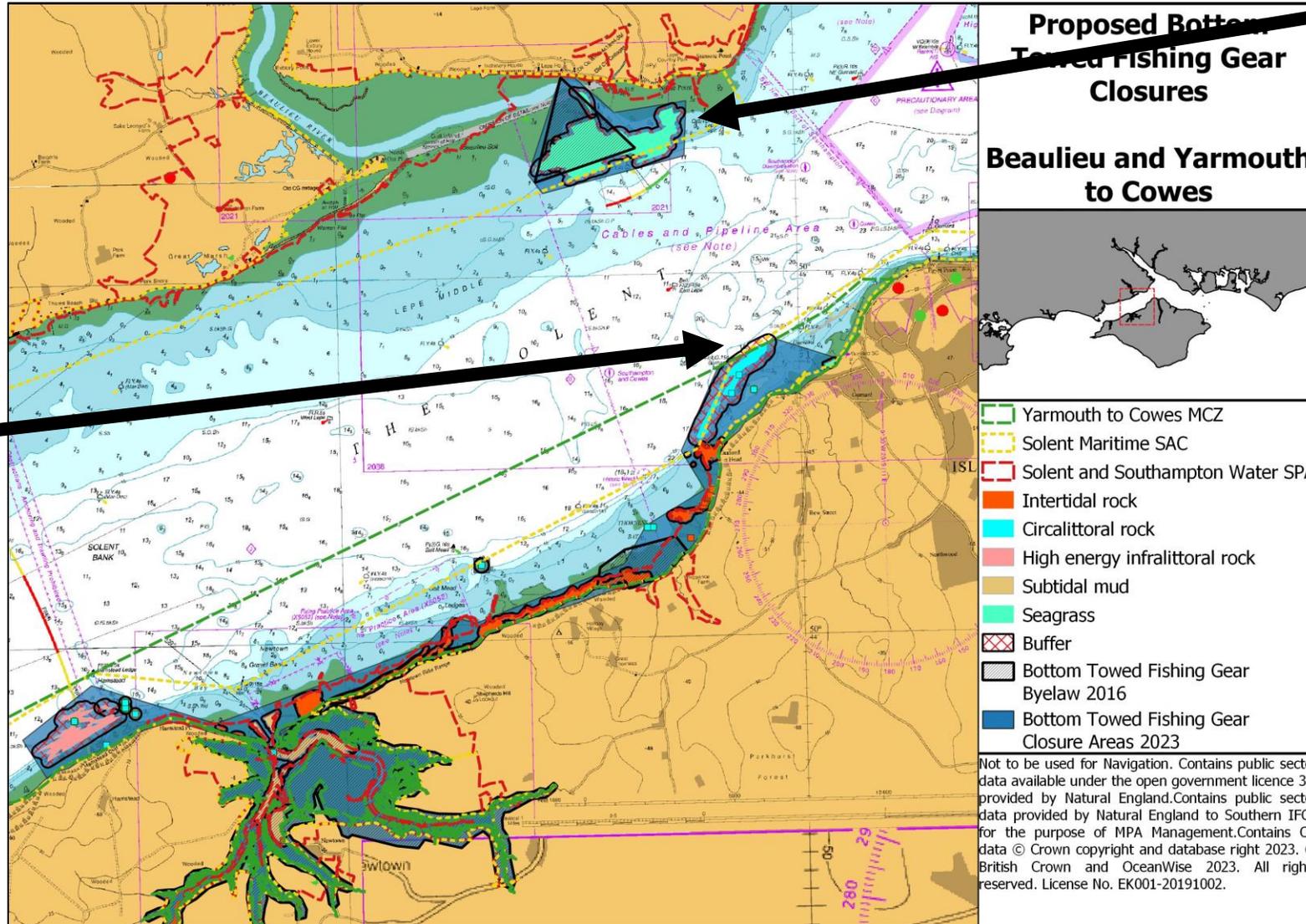
- **Seagrass**
- Adjacent to boundary of Solent and Southampton Water SPA.
- Will be considered under phase 2.



- Seagrass
- Within and overlapping the boundary of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA.
- Habitats regulations allow extension of closure area

Solent Examples - Eastern Solent

- **Circalittoral rock.**
- Buffer extends outside of the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ.
- Will be considered in Phase 2.



- **Seagrass.**
- Within and overlapping the boundary of the Solent Maritime SAC.
- Habitats regulations allow extension of closure area



Enforcement - Objectives

- Encourage voluntary compliance
 - Provide education and advice
 - Involve stakeholders in the development of management
- Ensure an effective deterrent
 - Fisheries management that penalises fishers for illegal fishing
 - Warning, fines and prosecution
 - Effective monitoring and surveillance through land and sea-based patrols and targeted operations

Enforcement – Operational Delivery

- Intelligence Led Approach
- Tactical Coordination Group (TCG)
 - Sits every 2 weeks (alternate Internal/External TCG with partner agencies)
 - Review ongoing actions and previous outcomes
 - Review and update intelligence and trends
 - Discuss and action enforcement priorities
- External TCG
 - Share Intelligence
 - Review outcomes and trends
 - Discuss Joint Working opportunities



Marine Assets

The Southern IFCA operates 3 patrol vessels across the District:

FPR Stella Barbara

- 7.8m Ribcraft RHIB
- Based in the East of District.
- Capable of being used across District for rapid response
- Fitted with crew protection, enabling longer patrols

FPV Endeavour

- 19ft Robust aluminium vessel
- Shallow draft
- A-frame & screen that can be laid flat
- Designed for use within Poole Harbour.

FPR Protector

- 7.8m Ribcraft RHIB
- Based in West of District
- Capable of being trailered across District & deployed where necessary
- Rapid response



Solent focused

Aerial Assets

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

4 Qualified Pilots (GVC), all officers act as competent observers and camera operators.

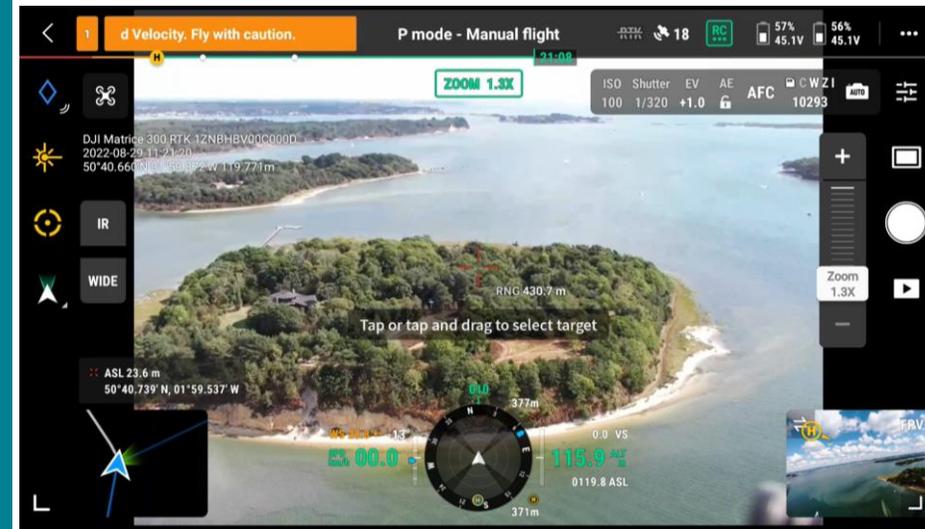
The Southern IFCA operates 2 Drones:

DJI Matrice 300 RTK

- Maximum flight time of 55 minutes
- Maximum speed of 23 m/s
- Wind resistance up to 33 mph.
- Zenmuse H20-T camera – quad sensor
 - 20 MP zoom camera
 - 12 MP wide angle camera
 - 1200m Laser Range Finder
 - Thermal Imaging Camera

DJI Mini 2

- 4k 4x zoom camera.
- Hand launching from FPVs



Summary of Enforcement Actions

The Authority will endeavour to use an adaptive co-management approach, where compliance is achieved through engagement, understanding and advice. Where compliance is not achieved by this approach, the Authority has a range of enforcement actions available to it:

- Verbal warning
- Advisory letter
- Official written warning
- Simple cautions
- Financial administrative penalties
- Prosecutions



Any Questions?

