

I Spy!

Brixham Fishing Vessels



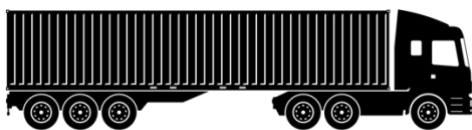
Beam Trawler Recognisable with its twin 'beams' that lower the apparatus to drag the seabed, industrial Beam Trawling is increasingly being banned across the world. But not, so far, in Brixham. When given the chance to experience life as a fisher, MP Anthony Mangnall chose to go out on a beam trawler, rather than the many other locally owned, operated and lower impact inshore fishing boats. Perhaps the thousands of pounds donated to his campaign fund from a beam trawler operator helped him choose the vessel.



Scallop Dredger Often scallop fishers claim that scallops have 'always been dredged' - so why change? Scallop dredgers have unfortunately ruined scallop beds all across our seas. An enterprising Devon company has developed a low impact way of making scallops 'hop' into a collecting basket using coloured lights to attract them. But (perhaps with so much money invested in damaging scallop dredgers already) the industry is slow to accept these low impact methods and dredging continues to devastate seabeds.



Smaller Inshore Fisher Although 77% of the UK fishing fleet is made up of smaller inshore fishing vessels, they are surprisingly hard to spot. They only have access to 4% of the UK's fishing quota (the access rights to fish) and are being squeezed out by just 25 large businesses that control fishing across the UK through industrial means. Hopefully you can spot a local inshore fisher- trying to fish with a lower impact, supporting not only the local economy but also doing their bit to conserve fish stocks and the marine environment too.



Truck Some 'Brixham Fish' from the Fish Market is in fact caught by truck! Fish is trucked into Brixham from other fishing communities around the UK (Lowestoft, Newlyn, Hastings...) and sold in the Fish Market before being trucked out again and sent abroad or across the UK. This practice not only raises questions around the provenance of 'Brixham Fish', but the road miles for the fish- and resulting carbon footprint- is huge. The local fishing economies further afield risk having to close down their own local fish markets because of Brixham Fish Market's use of trucks to 'catch' fish from other ports.