



**Figure 3.1:** Map of spatial and net use restrictions for the Poole Harbour Net Permit Area under the Net Fishing Byelaw.

### 3.1 Net Fishing in Poole Harbour

Within Poole Harbour, fishers currently use different types of gill net for fishing, including ring nets, fixed nets and drift nets.

Ring nets consist of a single panel of fishing net with mesh size varying depending on the target species. Mesh size generally ranges from 3 5/8 to 4 inches and net length from 250 to 360m (Southern IFCA observation). The net is set from a vessel in a circular pattern to enclose target species (Potter and Pawson, 1991) or set from the shore in a 'D' shape with the shore providing the closing boundary. Ring nets are constantly attended and are hauled only a short time after deployment. The net is recovered into the vessel with catch removed during hauling. Only in exceptional circumstances, i.e. where the net is so full of catch as to make it unsafe to remove fish whilst hauling, is the net fully retrieved and then the catch removed afterwards. Ring nets are used primarily for shoals of fish such as grey mullet and are noted to be very selective (Southern IFCA observation). There is a proposal for the Southern IFCA to increase the minimum legal size for grey mullet species, the current minimum legal size is 30cm for all three species. The proposed change would increase the minimum legal size for Thick-Lipped grey mullet (*Chelon labrosus*) and Thin-Lipped grey mullet (*Liza ramada*) to 42cm and increase the minimum legal size for Golden Grey mullet (*Liza aurata*) to 36cm. The proposed size increase is not expected to affect the mesh size range used by ring net fishers targeting grey mullet species. Observations by Southern IFCA over a 7 month period have shown that grey mullet species are already caught at or above the new proposed minimum legal size

## SCHEDULE

### DEFINITION OF "NET PROHIBITION AREAS"

#### **AREA 1 – SOUTHSEA PIER**

The area of water below Mean High Water Springs within 100 metres of any part of the pier structure that extends seaward from a position of 50° 46.737'N 001° 04.565'W to 50° 46.660'N 001° 04.534'W.

#### **AREA 2 – SANDOWN PIER**

The area of water below Mean High Water Springs within 100 metres of any part of the pier structure that extends seaward from a position of 50° 39.160'N 001° 09.332'W to 50° 39.053'N 001° 09.162'W.

#### **AREA 3 – RYDE PIER**

The area of water below Mean High Water Springs within 100 metres of any part of the pier structure that extends seaward from a position of 50° 43.989'N 001° 09.602'W to 50° 44.379'N 001° 09.595'W.

#### **AREA 4 – YARMOUTH PIER**

The area of water below Mean High Water Springs within 100 metres of any part of the pier structure that extends seaward from a position of 50° 42.410'N 001° 29.963'W to 50° 42.513'N 001° 29.974'W.

#### **AREA 5 – BOSCOMBE PIER**

The area of water below Mean High Water Springs within 100 metres of any part of the pier structure that extends seaward from a position of 50° 43.189'N 001° 50.579'W to 50° 43.080'N 001° 50.569'W.

#### **AREA 6 – BOURNEMOUTH PIER**

The area of water below Mean High Water Springs within 100 metres of any part of the pier structure that extends seaward from a position of 50° 42.949'N 001° 52.534'W to 50° 42.817'N 001° 52.468'W.

#### **AREA 7 – SWANAGE PIER**

The area of water below Mean High Water Springs within 100 metres of any part of the pier structure that extends seaward from a position of 50° 36.477'N 001° 57.059'W to 50° 36.560'N 001° 56.950'W.

#### **AREA 8 – WEYMOUTH PENINSULA PIER**

The area of water below Mean High Water Springs within 100 metres of any part of the pier structure that extends seaward from a position of 50° 36.561'N 002° 26.683'W to 50° 36.591'N 002° 26.634'W.

#### **AREA 9 – WEYMOUTH NOTHE PIER**

The area of water below Mean High Water Springs within 100 metres of any part of the pier structure that extends seaward from a position of 50° 36.485'N 002° 26.614'W to 50° 36.579'N 002° 26.486'W.