

## **Slapton Committee**

### **Policy on Fishing**

#### **Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve**

Slapton Ley is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and it is recognised as a very important National Nature Reserve. The Ley is the largest natural freshwater lake in the South West and the freshwater ecology is a key feature of this designation.

The Ley has been fished since medieval times. However a halt on fishing was introduced in 2005 because fishing from boats is known to cause disturbance to wildfowl nests and breeding. There is particular concern for Great Crested Grebes that nest in the reeds around the Ley.

Since 2000 Great Crested Grebes have been monitored. Early results show that the maximum number of Grebes nesting in the areas previously fished near Slapton Bridge has doubled since the moratorium was introduced.

This evidence was considered by the Slapton Committee in 2010 as part of the review of the 2005-10 Management Plan. It was agreed that a moratorium and associated monitoring should continue until 2020 to increase our understanding of the impact of this halt.

Slapton Committee

8<sup>th</sup> May 2011

