



Inshore Fisheries and
Conservation Authority

Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes: Shellfish

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Please email or phone for further advice
and information.

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Shellfish	Minimum Legal Size	Measurement
Edible Crab (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>)	Inside 6m 115mm Outside 6m 130mm	Width of Carapace (Figure 1)
Lobster (<i>Homarus gammarus</i>)	87mm	Length of Carapace (Figure 4)
Razor Clams (<i>Ensis spp.</i>)	100mm	Longest Part of the Shell (Figure 2)
Velvet Crab (<i>Liocarcinus puber</i>)	65mm	Width of Carapace (excluding spines) (Figure 1)
Whelk (<i>Buccinum undatum</i>)	Inside 6m 55mm Outside 6m 45mm	Length of the Shell (Figure 3)
Surf Clam (<i>Spisula solida</i>)	25mm	Longest Part of the Shell (Figure 2)
Mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)	50mm Inside the Wash 45mm	Longest Part of the Shell (Figure 2)

Figure 1

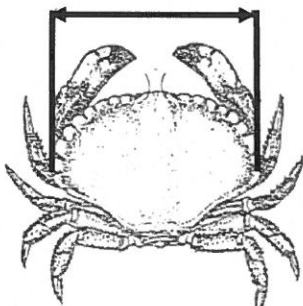


Figure 2



Figure 3

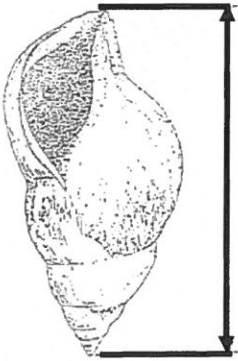
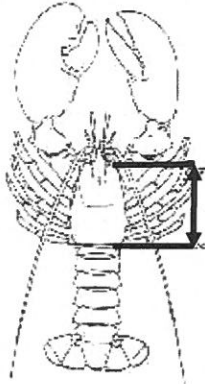


Figure 4



The size of a lobster shall be measured as the length of the carapace, parallel to the midline, from the back of either eye socket to the distal edge of the carapace.

The size of an edible crab shall be measured as the maximum width of the carapace measured perpendicular to the antero-posterior midline of the carapace.

The size of any bivalve mollusc shall be measured across the longest part of the shell.

The size of a whelk shall be measured as the length of the shell.

A marine organism is undersize if its dimensions are smaller than the minimum dimensions specified.

Undersized marine organisms shall not be retained onboard or be transhipped, landed, stored, sold, displayed or offered for sale, but shall be returned immediately to the sea.

Further restrictions, on the fishing for and use of crab and lobster, are **contained in the EIFCA Byelaws** (please visit the website for more details). The minimum size for the velvet crabs is laid down in SI No.919: "The Undersized Velvet Crabs Order 1989".

Regarding Mussels 50mm applies within the EIFCA District, except within the boundaries of the Wash Fishery Order where 45mm applies. Mussel must be **51mm** when landing in the area to the north of the district between Haile Sand Fort and a line drawn true east from the control tower at the Royal Air Force Gunnery and Bombing Range at Donna Nook in Lincolnshire.

Further restrictions apply on the fishing for whelk as per the whelk Permit Byelaw 2016. Please contact the office for details.

Contact Addresses

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Every effort has been taken to provide accurate information to the reader. It should be noted that the only authoritative source is contained in the Official Journal of the European Communities for EC legislation and by HM Stationary Office for UK Legislation. Copies of Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority's Byelaws and the Wash Fishery Order are available from the King's Lynn office.

In the event of uncertainty, fishers are asked to contact either the EIFCA office or their local MMO Office. Please note that any guidance given cannot be taken as legal advice.