**Shrimp returns forms**

At a workshop held on the 10th July 2015, Eastern IFCA presented a shrimp catch return form for fishers to complete detailing their fishing activity. Feedback from the fishers who attended the workshop was used to design a new shrimp fishing catch return’s form. Forms have now been printed and are ready to collect from Eastern IFCA’s office.

The need for more shrimp data

The shrimp fishery in the Wash and North Norfolk coast is well established and has been active for more than a hundred years, however little is known about the dynamics of the fishery. The new catch returns forms will help Eastern IFCA identify where the hotspots for fishing activity occur, if fishing activity occurs over sensitive habitats and will indicate the ‘health’ of the shrimp stock by analysing catch per tow. Through additional information provided, we will also learn about by-catch.

Management measures for the shrimp fishery are required to protect certain habitats in The Wash and North Norfolk Coast, which is a designated European Marine Site. Information provided from the catch returns forms will help inform these management measures. In addition, data gained can be used as evidence to support Marine Stewardship Council Accreditation – this will likely be required soon due to market demand for shrimps caught from fisheries with the accreditation.

Who is required to complete the forms?

If you fish for shrimp within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast (click [here](http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/documents/2015_11_10_Shrimp_Returns_Chart.pdf) to see chart of full area) you will be required to complete and return the shrimp catch return forms to Eastern IFCA offices on a monthly basis. Forms must be returned by the 10th day of each month for data from the preceding month. This is required under byelaw 11 of Eastern IFCA’s byelaws and as such, non-completion of or failure to return forms will be an offence.

How to get your catch return forms booklet

A catch return booklet and supply of pre-paid envelopes will be supplied on completion and return of this questionnaire ([click to open](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Czoetinker%5CDownloads%5C2015_11_05_Shrimp_returns_forms_Questionnaire.docx)). This form is designed to capture generic data regarding your vessel and fishing gear which will be used in association with your catch returns data.

Completed questionnaires should be sent to Eastern IFCA either by post or by email to the following addresses:

Email: mail@eastern-ifca.gcsx.gov.uk

Postal address:

Eastern IFCA

6 North Lynn Business Village

Bergen Way

King’s Lynn

Norfolk

PE30 2JG

If you wish to have the shrimp catch returns booklet sent to you via post, please indicate so on the form. Alternatively, you can collect your booklet from Eastern IFCA offices or arrange to meet with an Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer who will pass on the catch returns book and provide guidance on its completion.