

# Eastern IFCA

## Emergency Whelk Byelaw



### Categories of permit and what they allow you to catch

Two categories of permit are available:

- **Category One Permit** – allows fishers to target whelk on a commercial scale. These will be granted at a cost of **50p per pot (up to 500)**
- **Category Two Permit** (recreational) – allows recreational fishers to target whelk on a small scale for personal consumption. These will be granted at a cost of **£5 per pot (up to 5 pots)**.

### Conditions of the permits

Conditions are attached to each permit, which must be adhered to. The key emergency measures are as follows:

- **Pot limitations:** The maximum number of pots a fisher may deploy are 500 for a Category One permit and 5 for a Category Two Permit (recreational)
- **Internal pot volume:** The internal volume of a whelk pot is limited to 30 litres
- **Pot tags:** All whelk pots must be tagged with a tag provided by the Authority
- **Escape holes:** All whelk pots must have two escape holes of **24mm in diameter**
- **Minimum landing size:** This is increased to **55mm in length**
- **Riddle/sorting gear:** All whelk must be sorted for size using a riddle with a minimum **bar spacing of 24mm** and all whelk rejected in this way must be returned to the sea immediately
- **Catch returns:** permit holders must submit completed catch returns forms (which will be supplied by Eastern IFCA) on the 5th day of each month
- **Gear marking:** Each string or shank of pots must be marked by a floating dhan at the North or Western end of the fleet to indicate its general direction and a high visibility buoy at the other end. No lights or radar reflector will be required.