**Eastern IFCA – Wash Restricted Area Byelaw 2019: Informal consultation**

**March 2019**

Eastern IFCA is undertaking an informal consultation regarding the **replacement of the Wash Emergency Byelaw 2018**. This questionnaire is designed to capture information to inform the development of the proposed replacement byelaw.

By providing a response, your information is captured and helps to improve the evidence base Eastern IFCA is using to shape management proposals.

We recognise the sensitivity of your data and individual responses will be treated as confidential. However, we will create a summary of the responses which may be published.

The data collected on this questionnaire will be processed in accordance with an associated privacy notice which can be found on the Eastern IFCA website [here](http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/privacy-notice-eastern-ifca-consultations/).

**Completed questionnaires should be sent by 12 noon on 24th April 2019** to:

CEO, Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority, Unit 6 North Lynn Business Village, Bergen Way, King’s Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 2JG.

Email: mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk

If you have any queries about this consultation or the form, please contact the office. If you would like some assistance completing the form, please contact the office to arrange some time with an Officer who will go through the questionnaire with you.

**Section 1. About you.**

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| 1. **Personal details**
 |
| Full Name |  |
| Contact Address |  |
| Email |  |
| Tel / mob |  |
| Vessel Name |  |
| Vessel PLN |  |
| Port / beach of vessel launch  |  |
| Do you have a Wash Fishery Order Licence? (*please select*) | Yes/No |

**Section 2. Flexible permit conditions**

Eastern IFCA intends to manage the Wash restricted Area Fishery in line with the management of the Wash Fishery Order (WFO) 1992 Fisheries. Management measures (generally in the form of Licence conditions) are often introduced, varied or revoked with limited consultation and with limited notification depending on the circumstances. For example, in the case of significant cockle die-off, Eastern IFCA may open a previously closed bed at short notice. Equally, where a bed may require such, it could be closed at short notice for the protection of the cockle stocks or the environment.

We would like to gauge the view of the industry on this level of flexibility. Our intention would be to ensure that Eastern IFCA can react quickly to the needs of the fishery, environment and industry through the application of flexible measures at short notice as is the case in the WFO fisheries.

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| **2.1 Reasons to introduce, vary and revoke management measures:** please tick any reasons which you think are appropriate as reasons for Eastern IFCA to introduce, vary or revoke flexible management measures: * To protect the shellfish stocks from potential damage (e.g. high levels of spat fall on an open bed);
* To protect the features of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast marine protected area from potential damage (e.g. damage to a shellfish bed through poor fishing practices);
* To enable effective enforcement (e.g. Dual fishing prohibition);
* To enable a viable industry (e.g. increase the daily quota, open a closed bed due to cockle die-off);
* Other (please specify):
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| **Comments on reasons to introduce, vary and revoke management measures:**  |
| **2.2 Types of flexible management measures**: please tick any types of management measures which you think are appropriate for a flexible approach:  |
| * Open / closed periods;
* Open / closed areas;
* Catch restrictions;
* Vessel design restrictions;
* Fishing gear restrictions
 | * Fishing effort restrictions;
* Spatial restrictions;
* Time restrictions
* Vessel monitoring device requirements;
* Other (please specify):
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| **Comments on types of flexible management measures:**  |
| **2.3 Level of consultation**: Noting that changes to management measures may be for the benefit of a viable industry (e.g. opening areas) or the fishery / environment (e.g. closing areas), what do you consider to be an appropriate level of consultation? * No consultation
* Seven (7) days (i.e. as per the ‘cockle charter’)
* Twenty-eight (28) days (standard ‘formal consultation’ period)
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| Are there any circumstances where you think ‘no consultation’ can be justified? (*please circle answer*)  Yes / No | Please explain:  |
| Which scenario would you prefer? * No / limited consultation – quick turnaround time to introduce, vary or revoke flexible management measures;
* Full consultation (e.g. up to 28 days) – slower (i.e. more than 28 days) turnaround time to introduce, vary or revoke flexible management measures.
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| **Comments on level of consultation for flexible management measures:** *Please continue on separate sheet as required.*  |
| **3. Eligibility Criteria**Eastern IFCA intends to manage the Wash restricted Area in accordance with the Wash Fishery Order. This includes limiting the number of permits to that of the Order and under the same provisions (e.g. at least 3 years’ experience of fishing in The Wash). In order to achieve this, Eastern IFCA intends to l**imit eligibility for a permit to those who hold a Wash Fishery Order Licence**. Similarly, to be named as a skipper (nominated representative) on a licence, you must be named on a Wash Fishery Order Licence on the same vessel. Please use the space below to comment on this element of the proposal.  |

**Thank you for taking time to provide your feedback.**

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