

Summary of proposed management measures for Wash Fishery Order 1992 and Wash Restricted Area cockle fishery 2019



Date Issued: 11th June 2019

The following is a summary of management measures for cockle fisheries in The Wash operating under the Wash Fishery Order 1992 and the Wash Emergency Byelaw 2018. This should be read in conjunction with the above legislation and associated Regulations and Licence / Permit conditions which are available on the Eastern IFCA website (www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk) or from the Eastern IFCA office on request.

Management measures

Fishery type – The fishery will be a hand-work fishery only.

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) –

- The TAC for the Wash Fishery Order (WFO) fishery is **4,004 tonnes**;
- The TAC for the Wash Restricted Area (the Ferrier Sand) fishery is **323 tonnes**.

Opening date – The provisional opening date for the fishery is 17th June 2019. *Please note that this is dependant on concluding the Habitats Regulation Assessment and receiving favourable advice from Natural England.*

Opening times – The fishery will only be open during specific times. Provisional times are set out in Enclosure 3 ‘proposed open times / tides’.

Closed areas – certain areas will be closed to the fishery for the protection of important oystercatcher feeding areas, seal haul-out sites and high-density juvenile cockle areas. The proposed closures are set out in Enclosure 4. These may be subject to change as a result of dialogue with Natural England.

Fishing within RAF Holbeach range – fishers must not be within the area of RAF Holbeach Range during the times set out below or at any time the range is in operation.

RAF Holbeach range: standard operating times:

Monday & Wednesday 0900hrs to 1715hrs (possible extension to 1800hrs)

Tuesday & Thursday 0900hrs to 2200hrs

Friday 0900hrs to 1230hrs

Please note: the range may open at different times at short notice which will be communicated via VHF broadcasts.

Daily quota – The daily catch restriction for the hand-work cockle fishery is 2 tonnes per vessel, per day.

Catch returns – To avoid premature closure of the fishery **accurate** catch returns **must** be provided to Eastern IFCA at the conclusion of each week's fishing. They should be recorded in the books provided and copies either sent in the pre-paid envelopes or handed in directly to the Eastern IFCA office. They **will not** be accepted by officers on the quay. Catch return books and pre-paid envelopes are available from the Eastern IFCA office.

Standard bags – These must be used for all landings during the 2019/20 cockle fishery (including from the Wash restricted Area Fishery).

- External dimensions 100cm x 100cm x (120cm or 60cm) (NB the named supplier refers to them as 97cm x 97cm x (120cm or 60cm) bags, which takes account of the width of stitched seams)
- Indelibly marked on two sides with the words 'Wash Fishery Order' in 4" high letters

Transhipping - It is prohibited to tranship cockles from one vessel to another.

Requirement to land - All cockles fished for, taken or removed from the regulated fishery **must be taken straight to port** and landed and must not be left on the sand or deposited in the water in bags or other containers for later collection. **Only one landing per calendar day is permitted.**

Dual Fishing Prohibition - It is prohibited for any person/vessel to fish for, take or remove from the regulated fishery any cockles on the same calendar day as fishing for, taking or removing cockles from outside the regulated fishery or from a lay granted under the Wash Fishery Order 1992.

This includes the Wash Restricted Area Fishery (i.e. you cannot fish with the WFO and the Wash Restricted Area Fishery on the same calendar day).

Use of Anchors for prop-washing – It is prohibited for any person to use any anchor which affixes a vessel to the bottom of the seabed during the practice of ‘prop-washing’ A sea anchor may be used for ‘prop-washing’ if it consists solely of an empty bag suspended in the water column in order to provide greater control of the vessel whilst turning.

Use of Tenders-

- It is prohibited to use tenders which are more than 6m in overall length;
- **Use of powered tenders which are not licenced is prohibited under the Sea Fish Licensing (England) Order 2015;**
- All catch placed onto the tender is moved onto the licensed vessel at the earliest opportunity and before the vessel leaves the sand being fished.

Damage to sands – You should work to the guidance provided in the Cockle Handwork Code of Best Practice. Excessive damage may lead to the closure of the fishery.

Please note that the code of best practice includes an additional point relating to seal disturbance (point 9). It is important that this new measure is observed to minimise the impact on seals particularly during the sensitive pupping season.