

WFO Cockle Fishery 2019 – Licence conditions



Fishers operating under a licence issued under Article 8(1) of the Wash Fishery Order 1992 are required to undertake their fishing activities in accordance with the conditions set by the Authority as per Article 8(5) of the same Order.

The following Licence Conditions are applicable to fishers operating in the Wash Fishery Order 1992 cockle fishery 2019/20 from the date specified in Licence Condition 2 (Open date of fishery).

Licence Condition 1: Fishing Method

It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery cockles using any method other than hand-working which can be augmented by prop-washing so far as it is permitted by Licence Condition 10: use of anchors for prop-washing (below).

Licence Condition 2: Opening Date

The fishery will open at 06:30 on the 17th June 2019.

Licence Condition 3: Open/Closed areas

It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery cockles from any area marked out as closed in the charts publicised by Eastern IFCA.

Licence Condition 4: Days of Operation

It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery cockles other than during publicised opening times.

Licence Condition 5: Catch Returns Data

An accurately completed weekly catch return form, as supplied by Eastern IFCA, must be returned for each week of fishing, to Eastern IFCA's offices by no later than the Wednesday of the week following any such fishing activity.

Licence condition 6: Transhipping Prohibition

It is prohibited for any person fishing for, taking or removing cockles from the regulated fishery to tranship or otherwise relocate any cockles or containers of any description containing cockles, from one vessel to another.

Licence condition 7: 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.

Licence condition 8: Dual Fishing Prohibition

It is prohibited for any person/vessel to fish for, take or remove from the regulated fishery any cockles:

- a. 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; or
- b. on the same calendar day from taking any other of the prescribed species from any Wash Fishery Order 1992 fishery.

Licence condition 9: Standard Bags

No person shall land cockles or mussels fished for, taken or removed from the regulated fishery in any container other than a bag which must;

- (1) be of the following dimensions:
 - a. 120 centimetre meters or 60 centimetre meters in height
 - b. 97 centimetre meters in depth
 - c. 97 centimetre meters in width
- (2) have the words 'Wash Fishery Order' written on at least two sides with lettering which is at least 4 inches tall.

Licence condition 10: use of anchors for prop-washing

It is prohibited for any person to use any anchor which affixes a vessel to the seabed during the practice of 'prop-washing' in order to fish for, take or remove from the regulated fishery any cockles. 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.

For the purposes of this licence condition, 'prop-washing' refers to the practice of turning a vessel in tight circles to aid the fishing of cockles. This must be conducted in such a way as to avoid causing excessive damage to the seabed.

Licence condition 11: use of tenders

A person must not use a tender to a vessel unless:

- fishing for, taking or removing from the fishery mussels or cockles;
- all catch placed on the tender is placed on the licenced vessel to which it is associated at the earliest opportunity and before the vessel leaves the sand being fished; and
- the tender is six metres in overall length or less.

Failure to comply with a licence condition is an offence under section 3(3) of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967. The master, owner and charterer (if any) of a vessel used in the commission of an offence shall each be guilty of any such offence and liable to an unlimited fine on summary conviction.

Licence conditions are subject to change and fishers will be notified of any amendments to the licence conditions.