

Whelk Permit Conditions: Review



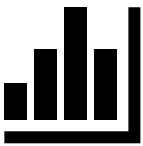
Eastern IFCA is reviewing its management measures for whelk fisheries. This is a summary of the assessment. Read the full report on our website: www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/research-environment-plans-strategies-reports/

Research



Size of maturity

We have been studying the **size of maturity** of whelks across the district. This informs us what length a whelk needs to be before it can reproduce. The current Minimum Landing Size is 55mm.



Monitoring effort and landings

We have been monitoring the level of whelk fishing effort and the amount of whelk landed. This is used to determine **landings per unit effort** – a measure of a stock's health.

What we found

Size of maturity:

Whelks found around **Lowestoft** are mature at **57mm**

Whelks found around **Sea Palling** are mature at **63mm**

More evidence is needed to understand size of maturity in **Suffolk**



Monitoring effort and landings:

The level of fishing effort in **The Wash** has increased and is now **too high**.

The level of fishing effort on the **North Norfolk Coast** is **at the maximum** it can sustain.



What we need to do



Review permit conditions

We are reviewing the permit conditions following the outputs of this research. Changes to the **minimum landing size** and the permitted **level of effort** are being considered. It is our priority to balance the needs of the fishery with any potential impact on fishery livelihoods.



Consult with Whelk fishermen

Your input and expertise are important. Please complete our 'whelk permit review' **questionnaire** to have your say. We will use your feedback to review the permit conditions and consider what measures can be changed.