

Consultation 1—Managing Access: Aim and Objectives Summary

Do you fish in The Wash? Tell us what you think about our aim and objectives for the policies that will **determine access** to the cockle and mussel fisheries in The Wash under the new permit byelaw in 2023.

What is this about?

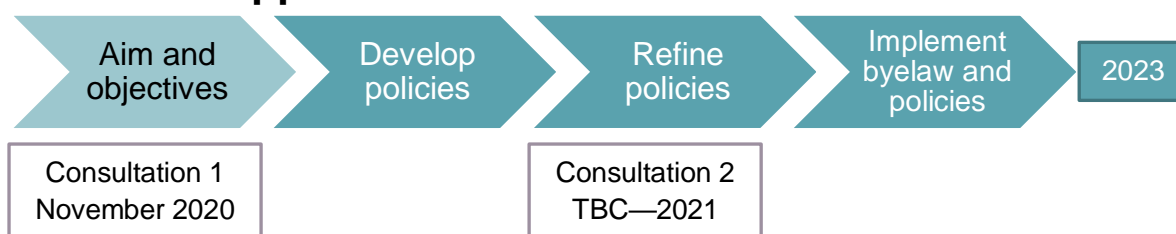
Eastern IFCA are developing a new permit byelaw for the regulated bivalve fisheries in The Wash. This byelaw will replace the [Wash Fishery Order 1992](#) when it expires in January 2023.

The purpose of this consultation with industry is to discuss the aim and objectives for the policies that will be the foundation to the permit system under the new byelaw. This is the first part of dialogue with industry that will continue as the policies are developed.



The aim and objectives for the new policies are the starting point, not the solution. They will help to provide a framework to develop new policies.


What will happen next?



This consultation runs from **5th November to 18th December 2020**.

How can I comment?

You can find out more and talk to us in lots of different ways:

- Respond online** if possible. To complete the questionnaire, scan the QR code, [click here](#), or follow the link in your email.
 
- Visit our website:** www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk
- Chat to us** on Facebook @eastern.ifca or Twitter @eastern_ifca
- Contact us** by phone (during office hours): 07385 769305, or by email: mail@eastern-ifca.gov.uk and we can provide you with a printed copy of the questionnaire for you to post back to us.
- Attend a meeting online** on 13th November 2020 at 15:00 to discuss the aim and objectives in detail and to ask us any questions about the replacement of the WFO 1992. [Email us to register your interest](#).

Overview

Below are the draft aim and objectives for the policies that will be the foundation to the permit system. The policies, via the permits, determine access to the fishery.

The aim and objectives have been developed taking in to account the concerns from Industry about the replacement of the WFO 1992, alongside our IFCA duties under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The policies used to manage access to bivalve fisheries within The Wash have the following aim and objectives:

Aim

To achieve a level of access to the fishery that is **equitable**, and which supports the **viability** of varying business models, the **conservation** objectives of The Wash and stock **sustainability**.



Objectives

- To **limit access** to the fishery to a number of persons which will meet the aim
- To provide **clarity** and **transparency** to support effective business planning and continuity
- To enable a range of **legitimate** business arrangements that are compatible with known business models operating within the fishery
- To prioritise the **continuity** of active participants and business models that can provide evidence for **best practice** and legitimate business practices
- To facilitate **new entrants** into the fishery by enabling appropriate turnover and infrastructure to log suitability to enter the fishery
- To cater for standard business practices and issues which arise in operating within the fishing industry (such as vessel breakdowns and replacements)
- To prevent the permit from having its own value or becoming a tradable commodity.