

Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

Closed Areas Byelaw 2021 – Info Overview



What is this byelaw?

It is a mechanism to ban certain types of fishing in certain areas

Why do we need it?

We need to protect certain designated habitats from damage caused by fishing activities

Don't we already have a Closed Areas Byelaw?

We have made several similar byelaws since 2013. This 2021 byelaw will consolidate previous ones, bring in new closed areas, and provide exemptions.

What types of fishing will be banned, and where?

Bottom-towed gear (trawls and dredges) will be banned in 60 areas off the Lincolnshire and Norfolk coasts. Handworking and crab tiling will be banned in two locations.

Charts and co-ordinates are shown in the byelaw.

What are the main exemptions in the byelaw?

Push-netting will be exempted (i.e. allowed to continue) across the district.

Small-scale shrimp fishing between Mundesley and Happisburgh will be allowed to continue, under strict conditions set out in a bespoke policy.

What impact will the byelaw have on fisheries?

Feedback from fishermen and analysis of fishing activity shows the byelaw will marginally reduce shrimp fishing and mussel prospecting opportunities, but the overall costs will be low.

What habitats will be protected?

Sabellaria reef, eelgrass beds, subtidal mud, subtidal mixed sediments, subtidal stony reef, subtidal chalk and intertidal mussel beds.

Will there be a consultation?

Although we have consulted on some of the measures before, we will have a formal consultation, and address feedback before we send the byelaw for MMO checks and Defra sign-off.