

## **Wash Fishery Order 1992 (WFO): Mussel Relaying Fishery 2022**



### **Mussel Dredge Licence conditions**

Persons 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 persons operating in the Wash Fishery Order 1992 mussel relaying fishery 2022.

These Licence conditions must be read in conjunction with the Wash Fishery Order 1992 Regulations which also apply to this fishery.

#### **Licence condition 1: Re-laying Mussel Fishery**

It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery mussels unless such are deposited on private shellfish beds within the area of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation.

For the purpose of this licence condition, the 'Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation' is the area set out in Schedule 1 of these licence conditions.

#### **Licence Condition 2: Open/Closed areas**

It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery mussels from any area except those areas marked out in charts produced by Eastern IFCA and designated as open to the 'mussel relaying fishery 2022'. Areas designated as open may be subject to closure and Eastern IFCA will provide a minimum of 12 hours' notice of such via text or e-mail to Licence Holders, Nominated Representatives and Nominated Deputies.

#### **Licence Conditions 3: Operating times**

It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery any mussels except:

- a) between the published opening date and the published closed date for the mussel relaying fishery; and
- b) between 00:01 on a Monday and 23:59 on the following Friday.

Licence holders, Nominated representatives and Nominated Deputies will be notified of the closure of the fishery with no less than 12 hours notice via text or e-mail using the contact details provided under Licence Condition 4.

#### Licence Condition 4: Contact Details

It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery mussels unless a valid e-mail address or mobile telephone number which is capable of receiving text messages has been provided to Eastern IFCA.

#### Licence condition 5: Fishing methods (dredge Licence)

- a) It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery any mussels using bottom-towed-gear except a 'mussel dredge'.
- b) For the purpose of this Licence condition, a 'mussel dredge' is a dredge consisting of a mesh or net held open by a frame the bottom edge of which consists of a bar, blade or teeth which dislodges mussels from the surface of the mussel bed.
- c) Mussel dredges must not have any mechanism or device which enable the continuous lift of mussels from the dredge to the vessel.
- d) Certification of the mussel dredge under Regulation 4 (bottom-towed-gear Approval) is invalid if the mussel dredge is modified in any way after the 'certificate of approval' has been issued.

#### Licence condition 6: Requirement to have vessel holds inspected

It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery any mussels using a vessel unless:

- a) the dimensions of the hold have been recorded by an Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer; and
- b) a 'certificate of hold inspection' has been issued which will record the dimensions as per 6(a) above which will be invalid if the hold is modified in any way which would alter its volume or capacity after the certificate has been issued.

#### Licence Condition 7: Requirement to notify

It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery any mussels unless the Licence Holder, Nominated Representative or Nominated Deputy has notified Eastern IFCA of the estimated time of commencement of mussel harvesting at least 12 hours prior to such commencement.

For the purpose of this Licence Condition, such notification must include the vessel name and port letter numbers, the intended fishing method and the name of the mussel bed intended to be fished and such notification must be in the form of a text message to the designated mobile phone number or email to the designated email address.

The designated mobile phone number is: 07748182025

The designated email address is: [enforcement@eastern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:enforcement@eastern-ifca.gov.uk)

#### Licence Condition 8: Catch Returns Data

Fishers must submit the 'required catch data' to Eastern IFCA via 'text message' to a designated mobile telephone number or via email to a designated email address no later than 2 hours after high-water of any given day of fishing.

The required catch data is as follows: the name and port letter numbers of the vessel used to fish for mussels, the fishing method, the estimated weight of mussels removed from the Regulated Fishery, the name of the bed from which the mussels were removed and the destination of the mussels.

The designated mobile phone number is: 07748182025

The designated email address is: [enforcement@eastern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:enforcement@eastern-ifca.gov.uk)

*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.

### **Schedule 1 - Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation**

The following table sets out the co-ordinates of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation as referred to in licence condition 1 above.

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation is defined by a boundary drawn by the series of straight lines connecting points A to D and a line connecting point D to E which follows the land boundary which is to be taken as mean high water springs.

<b>Point</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
A	53° 07'.69 N	00° 20'.55 E
B	53° 03'.66 N	00° 28'.16 E
C	53° 02'.73 N	01° 07'.55 E
D	52° 57'.16 N	01° 07'.10 E
E	53° 07'.69 N	00° 20'.55 E