Eastern IFCA

The Wash Re-laying Fishery 2024

Consultation

**This consultation closes at midday on 11 March 2024.**

This questionnaire is an opportunity for you to have your say on the potential opening of a mussel re-laying fishery on certain beds within The Wash.

Details of the proposed fishery are outlined in the consultation document enclosed with this questionnaire.

We are seeking to gather fisher’s thoughts on opening a re-laying mussel fishery. This will help us to decide whether a fishery should be opened and learn more about how it would be utilised if it were opened. Overall, this information will result in better informed decisions.

Your responses to this consultation are confidential. A summary of the responses may be produced, for example, to show how your responses inform decisions. This summary will not contain any personal information, information about specific activity, or be traceable back to individual responses.

The information you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy notice found here: <https://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/consultations/>

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

**Your Details**

Please provide your details below. This will enable us to provide specific support if it is requested and to potentially contact you regarding your answers if we require further clarification.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full name:** |  |
| **Operating Port:** |  |
| **Vessel name and PLN:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |
|  |
| **Telephone (landline):** |  |
| **Mobile:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |

**Section 1 - Opening the fishery**

The stock and policies would allow for a ten-bed relaying fishery of 3,031 tonnes to be opened.

**Do you agree that a mussel re-laying fishery should be opened?** (*please tick*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Yes** |  | **No** |  |

**If it were opened, would you participate?** (*please tick*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Yes** |  | **No** |  |

**Do you agree with the proposed Total Allowable Catch (****3,031 tonnes)?** (*please tick*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Yes** |  | **No** |  |

**Do you agree with the proposed division of the TAC of 2,813 tonnes for dredge and 218 tonnes for hand-worked fisheries?** (*please tick*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Yes** |  | **No** |  |

**Please use the box below to provide any alternative suggestions or comments regarding opening the fishery.**

**Section 2 – Beds included in the relaying fishery**

**Overview of proposed relaying mussel fishery beds**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bed** | **Maximum** **Harvestable**  |
| Tofts | 615 |
| East Gat | 312 |
| Main End | 62 |
| Holbeach | 595 |
| Herring Hill | 418 |
| Trial Bank | 572 |
| Scotsman’s Sled | 467 |
| Back of the Wall | 1,078 |
| Skate Run | 195 |
| Blackshore | 679 |

**Do you agree with the proposed open beds above?** (*please tick*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Yes** |  | **No** |  |

**Please use the box below to provide any alternative suggestions or comments on the proposed open beds.**

**Section 3 – When to open the fishery**

It is recommended that the fishery closes on the exhaustion of the TAC or on 31st August 2024; whichever is soonest.

**Please tick a preferred month to start the fishery.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Preference to start fishery**  |
| April |  |
| May |  |
| June |  |
| July |  |
| August |  |

**Please use the box below to provide any alternative suggestions or comments on the start month of the fishery.**

**Section 4 – Restrictions on removing seed mussels**

**Should seed mussels be allowed to be re-laid outside of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast?** (*please tick*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Yes** |  | **No** |  |

**If so, how much seed mussel do you think should be permitted to be moved outside of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast?** (*please tick*)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **All** |  | **Some** |  | **None** |  |

***Please provide comment on your answer.***

**If allowed, would you plan to take seed mussels out of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast?** (*please tick*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Yes** |  | **No** |  |

**Please use the box below to set out any alternative comments on the movement of seed mussels.**

**Section 5 – General Management Measures**

**Please use the box below to set out any comments on the other proposed management measures for the mussel relaying fishery or Welland Wall mussel fishery**