# A blue and white sign Description automatically generated with low confidenceQuestionnaire – Formal Consultation

Wash Cockle Fishery 2025

**This consultation closes at midday on Monday June 9 2025**

We are seeking the views of Wash fishermen about the management measures proposed for a hand-work cockle fishery this year.

We would like your views on all the management measures, but there are some key areas we would like feedback on:

* Opening date of the fishery;
* Closed areas;
* Vessel monitoring device requirements;
* Operating times for the fishery.

This questionnaire is intended for you to have your say on our proposals and to inform a decision on the matter.

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 respond to our consultation.

Please return completed questionnaires to the address below. You are welcome to provide a written response instead of filling out a questionnaire, also to the address below.

The CEO

Eastern IFCA

Unit 6 North Lynn Business Village

Bergen Way

King's Lynn

Norfolk

PE30 2JG

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# Section 1. Your Details

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

Full name:

Operating port:

Vessel name(s) and PLN:

Address:

Telephone (landline):

Mobile:

Email:

# Section 2: Opening Date

Please indicate your preferences for an opening date in the table below (note: it may also be helpful to consider the proposed operating times for more detail including tide heights).

*Please note: the opening date may depend on having received formal conservation advice from Natural England.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Open date** | **Period** | **Please tick preference** |
| 15 June 2025 | 4 days (15 June to 18 June 2025) |  |
| 23 June 2025 | 5 days (23 June to 27 June 2025) |  |
| 8 July 2025 | 4 days (8 July to 11 July 2025) |  |
| 14 July 2024 | 4 days (14 July to 17 July 2024) |  |
| 21 July 2025 or after | n/a |  |

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| Please use the space below to provide the reasons for your preference and / or any alternative starting dates |
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# Section 3: Closed Areas

The following closures are proposed for this year:

1. Closures to protect high density, juvenile cockles (Charts 1 to 5 inclusive);
2. Closures to protect seal haul-out sites between 1 June and 31 August inclusive (Chart 6);
3. Closures to protect private shellfish lays (Wash Shellfish Lays Charts).

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| Please use the space below to provide any comments on the proposed closures. Please mark the charts provided as necessary to help illustrate your comments and send these to us along with this consultation. |
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# Section 4: Operating times

The established principles for developing open times are as follows:

* 4 days per week
* Minimum tide height of 6 metres
* Weekdays and preferably Mon to Thursday

At the 2023 Wash Forum, stakeholders identified that often these principles result in the loss of fishing opportunity and we sought to provide additional fishing opportunities in 2023 by including 5 day weeks and Sunday openings on occasion to make up for days lost due to long periods of inappropriate tides. We have adopted the same approach in proposing the operating times this year.

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| To help us understand if the right balance has been achieved, please indicate (tick) your views in relation to the following: | **Too few** | **Just right** | **Too Many** |
| Sunday Openings |  |  |  |
| Friday openings |  |  |  |
| 5-day weeks |  |  |  |
| Please use the space below to provide any comments or thoughts to support your view. Please also provide any suggestions for alternative dates or principles. | | | |
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# Section 5: Vessel Monitoring Devices

It is proposed that all vessels must have on board a functioning vessel monitoring device as follows:

* Vessels under 12m in overall length must have on board a functioning I-VMS device;
* Vessels 12m and over must have on board a functioning VMS device which is reporting to the UK VMS hub at least once in every 3 minutes or a tracker provided by Eastern IFCA.

In the case of vessels with VMS+ (i.e. vessels 12m and over), this may incur a cost for additional reporting (once in every 3 minutes). Where VMS+ devices cannot achieve that reporting rate, an alternative device is available from Eastern IFCA for the purpose of the permit condition but the subscription (i.e. reporting cost) would be passed onto the fishermen. The subscription fee for the trackers which may be supplied by Eastern IFCA is currently: £39.99 for 6 months, £69.99 for 12 months, £125.99 for 24 months.

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| Please use the space below to provide any comments on the proposed vessel monitoring device conditions. |
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# Section 6: Other management measures

Please use the space below to provide feedback on any of the other management measures proposed for this year’s fishery (including the exemption conditions).

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