

Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021: Hand-Work cockle Fishery Permit Conditions

2026 Wash Cockle Fishery



Persons operating under the Authority of a **Hand-work Cockle Permit** for the purpose of fishing within the **cockle** fishery, issued under paragraph 8 of the Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw 2021 must fish in accordance with the following conditions.

These Permit Conditions apply should be read in conjunction with the Wash cockle and mussel byelaw including the restrictions set out in Schedule 2 of the byelaw which also apply. These restrictions are appended to the permit conditions for ease of reference.

Interpretation

1. In these permit conditions:
 - a. "UK VMS Hub" means the UK's secure interface platform which is maintained by the Marine Management Organisation and the fisheries policy authorities to collect, store and manage fishing boat monitoring data for use by the MMO and fisheries policy authorities.

Opening of the fishery

2. The fishery will open from 0500hrs on 15 June 2026.
3. It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery any cockles prior to the open date and time in paragraph 2.

Open / closed areas

4. It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery and cockles from any area specified as closed to the fishery in Schedule 1 of these permit conditions.
5. Areas designated as open or closed may be subject to change and Eastern IFCA will provide a minimum of 12 hours' notice of such via text or e-mail to Permit Holders and Nominated Deputies.

Operating times

6. It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery any cockles outside of the Operating times specified in Schedule 2 of these permit conditions.

Fishing methods

7. It is prohibited to fish for, take or remove from the fishery any cockles using bottom-towed-gear.

Vessel Monitoring Devices


8. Vessels with an overall length of less than 12m must at all times whilst at sea:
 - a. Have either a Nemo or SC2 I-VMS MMO type-approved I-VMS device installed onboard and operations;
 - b. Have the I-VMS unit switched on and transmitting data to the device supplier hub for onward transmission to the UK VMS Hub at least once in every 3 minutes; and
 - c. Ensure that the device has not been manually overridden, has not been tampered with or damaged and is not obstructed or interfered with so as to compromise or prevent the effective transmission of data to the UK VMS Hub.
9. Subject to condition 10, vessels with an overall length of 12m or more must at all times whilst at sea:
 - a. Have onboard a VMS or VMS+ unit;
 - b. Have the VMS or VMS+ unit switched on and transmitting data to the device supplier hub for onward transmission to the UK VMS Hub at least once in every 3 minutes; and
 - c. Ensure that the device has not been manually overridden, has not been tampered with or damaged and is not obstructed or interfered with so as to compromise or prevent the effective transmission of data to the UK VMS Hub.
10. Where a vessel to which condition 9 applies is not able to meet condition 9(b), condition 9 shall not apply if;
 - a. the vessel has onboard a tracker provided by the Authority; and
 - b. the permit holder or nominated deputy remunerate the Authority for the associated subscription cost.

Measures for the protection of small cockles

11. A person must not remove from the fishery or retain cockles unless cockle catch has been sorted for size in such a manner so as to comply with permit condition 12 and any catch rejected through such sorting must be returned immediately to the sea as close to the area it was taken from and spread evenly and thinly over the cockle bed.
12. It is prohibited to remove from the fishery or land cockle catch which contains more than 30%, by weight, cockles which would pass through a riddle with bar spacing of 10mm.

Confirmation

The Permit Conditions come into effect at 0500hrs on 15 June 2026.

Signed: 

J. Gregory, CEO

Failure to comply with an exemption condition is an offence under section 163(2) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. 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 a fine on summary conviction.

Permit conditions are subject to change and fishers will be notified of any amendments to the conditions.

Wash Cockle and Mussel Byelaw: Schedule 2 restrictions

[charts and operating times have been removed and are available separately for the purpose of the consultation]