

# **CORNWALL INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

## **MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009**

### **Octopus Potting (Vessel Specification) Emergency Byelaw 2026**

The Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority in exercise of the powers under sections 155(1) and 157 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009<sup>1</sup> makes the following emergency byelaw for its District.

#### **Commencement**

1. This byelaw comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 and remains in force until 23:59 hours on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027, unless it is revoked or extended.

#### **Interpretation**

2. In this byelaw:

“Authority” means the Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as defined by Articles 2 and 4 of The Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010<sup>2</sup>;

“bow” includes the stem, forward bulwark and any permanent fixtures of a vessel, but excludes bowsprits and safety rails;

“District” means the Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District as defined in Article 3 of The Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010;

“mono-hull vessel” means a vessel with only one hull;

“multi-hull vessel” means a vessel with two or more hulls that are connected together;

“octopus” means the species belonging to the class Cephalopoda and order Octopoda;

“overall length” means the distance in a straight line between the foremost part of the bow of a vessel and the aftermost part of the stern of a vessel;

“pot” means any trap, creel or similar fishing gear set or used to catch octopus on or above the seabed;

“stern” includes the transom and any trawl ramp, bulwark and other permanent fixtures of a vessel, but excludes the rudder and rudder post; and

“vessel” has the same meaning as defined in section 186 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

<sup>1</sup> 2009 c.23

<sup>2</sup> S.I. 2010 No.2188

### **Prohibition**

3. A person must not use a vessel in the District to fish for octopus using a pot, where:
  - (a) the overall length of a mono-hull vessel exceeds 12 metres; or
  - (b) the overall length of a multi-hull vessel exceeds 10 metres.

### **Exemption**

4. This byelaw does not apply to any person performing an act which would otherwise constitute an offence against this byelaw, if that act was carried out in accordance with a written permission issued by the Authority permitting that act for scientific, stocking or breeding purposes.

### **Offence**

5. A person who contravenes this byelaw is guilty of an offence under section 163(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note does not form part of the byelaw)*

*This emergency byelaw prohibits inshore potting for all octopus species by mono-hull and multi-hull fishing vessels exceeding overall lengths of 12 metres and 10 metres, respectively.*