



WINKLE FISHING **CODE OF PRACTICE**

To avoid the taking of juvenile winkles and reduce significant disturbance to intertidal zone flora, fauna and habitats, the points listed below should be followed by any person removing winkles from a fishery in the district of the Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA):

- Use a sieve or riddle constructed of rigid mesh or bars spaced at least 16mm apart to separate out the smaller winkles;
- Sort out and return small winkles as close as practicable to the location from which they were taken;
- If the fishery is private, seek permission to conduct fishing;
- If the land accessed for winkle fishing is private, seek permission from the land owner;
- Do not create unnecessary disturbance to the inter-tidal zone. Rocks and weed clumps etc moved to search for or access winkles are to be replaced as close as practicable to their original position, taking care not to crush or displace any living organism;
- Have regard to legislation which manages human activities within the following sites:
 - (a) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Advice available from Natural England;
 - (b) National Nature Reserve (NNR) – Advice available from Natural England;
 - (c) Ramsar site – Advice available from Natural England;
 - (d) European Marine Site (EMS) – Advice available from Natural England, Cornwall IFCA and MMO; and
 - (e) Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) – Advice available from Natural England, Cornwall IFCA and MMO.

In all cases it is recommended that any relevant harbour authority is contacted for their legislation and advice.

Contacts

Cornwall IFCA: 01736 336842

Marine Management Organisation (MMO): 01736 362805

Natural England: 0300 060 2544

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Code of Practice (CoP) was developed as an alternative to a byelaw because commercial marketing of winkles is self-regulating in respect of a minimum size required by major local shellfish merchants.

An historic byelaw made by Devon Sea Fisheries Committee prescribed a 16mm square gauge to measure winkles and was applied to a small part of the new Cornwall IFCA district and the whole of the Devon coast in the Devon and Severn IFCA district. This CoP mirrors that byelaw requirement which had not proven to be a compliance or enforcement issue.

In addition, this CoP requests that persons fishing for winkles create only minimal environmental disturbance to the intertidal zone along the coastline of Cornwall.