

Code of Practice

Winkle hand-gathering

To help avoid taking juvenile winkles and reduce disturbance to flora, fauna and wildlife habitats within the intertidal zone around the coast of Cornwall, it is recommended that the following fishing practices should be followed:

- 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 any small and unwanted winkles as close as practicable to the location from which they were taken. Try to deposit them on suitable rock or seaweed, immersed in seawater within the intertidal zone.
- Avoid unnecessary disturbance to the inter-tidal zone. Any rocks and weed clumps etc. that are moved to search for winkles, should be replaced as close as practicable to their original position, taking care not to crush or displace any flora or fauna. When moving about the fishing area, try not to step on or place heavy items on any fragile flora and fauna.
- Ensure you are allowed to access the area where you require to take winkles and that is not an area subject a relevant fishing restriction. Seek permission to access private land and/or to operate in any relevant private fishery, as appropriate. If fishing for winkles is planned within any harbour limits, it is recommended that the relevant harbour authority is contacted regarding any relevant byelaws or fishing guidance.
- Have regard to the management of human activities relevant to protected site features and the conservation objectives for Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

Advice and guidance for MPAs located around the Cornwall coastline is available, as follows:

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Natural England;
- National Nature Reserve (NNR) – Natural England;
- Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) – Natural England;
- Ramsar site – Natural England;
- European Marine Site (EMS) – Cornwall IFCA and Natural England;
- Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) – Cornwall IFCA and Natural England.

Natural England contact: Tel. 0300 060 3900 email enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

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