

FISHING FOR COCKLES BYELAW

The Authority for the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 155 and 156 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 hereby make the following byelaw for that District.

DEFINITIONS

(1) In this byelaw:

- a. “the Authority” means the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as defined in Articles 2 and 4 of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (SI 2010 No 2198);
- b. “the District” means the area defined in Articles 2 and 3 of the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (SI 2010 No 2198);
- c. “dredge” means a dredge, scoop or similar device that is designed for, or capable of taking any shellfish;
- d. “Poole Harbour” means that part of the District in Poole Harbour as lies below Mean High Water Springs and to the west of and within an imaginary line between Point 1 (50° 40.809’N 001° 57.000’W) and Point 2 (50° 40.980’N 001° 56.926’W).

PROHIBITION

- (2) A person must not fish for or take from a fishery a cockle between the 1st February and the 30th April inclusive.
- (3) A person must not fish for or take from a fishery a cockle except:
 - a. by hand picking, or;
 - b. using a rake or other similar instrument, the head of which does not exceed 305mm in width and has spaces of at least 22.5mm between the teeth; or
 - c. with a dredge provided that:
 - i. the cockle bed is covered by water, and

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- ii. the dredge has a basket not exceeding 460mm in width by 460mm in depth by 300mm high and having spaces of not less than 22.5 mm between the wires or netting forming the basket, and
 - iii. in the case of a dredge being used from a vessel, cockles may only be removed from the dredge when the dredge has been hauled and lifted into the vessel.
- (4) A person must not take from a fishery a cockle which will pass through a gauge having a square opening measuring 23.8mm along each side.

EXCEPTIONS

- (5) Paragraphs 2, and 3 do not apply to a person fishing for or taking cockles using a dredge from a vessel within Poole Harbour.
- (6) This byelaw shall not apply to a person performing an act which would otherwise constitute an offence against this byelaw, if that act was carried out in accordance with a written dispensation issued by the Authority authorising that act for scientific, stocking or breeding purposes.