

Shellfish gathering

Rights and responsibilities

The GLAA protects workers across the UK from exploitation.

Working with our partner organisations such as the police and other government and law enforcement agencies, we prevent labour abuse, tackle worker exploitation and regulate businesses who supply workers to the fresh produce and horticulture industries.



Gangmasters &
Labour Abuse Authority

The GLAA licensing scheme

If you are an employment agency, labour provider or gangmaster who provides workers to the following sectors, you will need a GLAA licence:

- agriculture
- horticulture
- shellfish gathering
- any associated processing and packaging

It is a criminal offence to operate without a licence or use an unlicensed labour provider.

Shellfish gathering

If you use or supply workers to gather shellfish you will need a GLAA licence.

You will also need a licence if you:

- employ workers under a contract
- use self employed workers
- use workers to collect shellfish for you
- organise or manage workers (even if they do not sell directly to you)
- provide equipment (rakes, quad bikes)
- transport workers to collect for you
- tell others to gather from a new shellfish bed you have found
- require anyone to sell their catch to you as the first link in the buying chain.

If you are not sure whether you need a licence please **contact us** for advice. You can email licensing@gla.gov.uk or check the guidance at www.gla.gov.uk.

Workers' rights

If you are a worker, your employment rights are protected by UK law.

You are entitled to:

- be paid the National Minimum Wage
- rest breaks and time off work
- paid holiday
- an itemised payslip
- fair and legal deductions from your wages
- a safe working environment
- sick pay
- a copy of your terms and conditions

Help and advice

If you are not receiving the pay and conditions you should be, please contact us so we can help.

Telephone [0115 959 7052](tel:01159597052) to speak to the Intelligence team or call our free, confidential reporting line on [0800 432 0804](tel:08004320804).

Email intelligence@gla.gov.uk

Report it

If you have any concerns or suspicions of worker exploitation you should report them immediately.

You can contact:

The GLAA - Telephone [0800 432 0804](tel:08004320804) or [0115 959 7052](tel:01159597052)

Email: intelligence@gla.gov.uk

The Police - [101](tel:101), or in an emergency [999](tel:999)

Guidance on Hand gathering for shellfish in Poole harbour

Any person hand gathering for shellfish in Poole Harbour must comply with the following regulations:

Fishing for Oysters, Mussels and Clams byelaw

When targeting clam species, hand picking only may be used. The use of a rake or any other similar instrument is not permitted.

Fishing for Cockles byelaw

A person must not fish for or take from a fishery a cockle between **1st February to 30th April** (both days inclusive).

Between **1st May and 31st January**, a person must not fish for or take from a fishery a cockle except:

- By hand picking, or
- 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.

Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds byelaw

At **any time of the year**, no person shall dig for, fish for or take any sea fisheries resource in or from the prohibited seagrass areas in the Harbour. In addition no person shall have with them in the prohibited areas any rake, spade,

fork or any similar tool. The prohibited areas are fully defined in the 'Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds' byelaw.

Poole Harbour Shellfish Hand Gathering byelaw

Between **1st November and 31st March in the following year** (both dates inclusive), within defined areas a person must not:

- Fish for or take from a fishery shellfish of any kind
 - By hand picking, or
 - Using a handrake or similar instrument
- Transport a handrake or other similar instrument for the purpose of the exploitation of shellfish of any kind

These areas and associated coordinates are fully defined in the 'Poole Harbour Shellfish Hand Gathering' byelaw.

Minimum sizes

Minimum sizes apply for all species.

Commonly hand gathered species include:

Manila Clam: 3.5cm

American Hard Shelled Clam: 6.3cm

Razor Clam: 10.0cm

Cockle: must not pass through a gauge having a square opening measuring 23.8mm along each side.

For a full list of minimum sizes please see the Southern IFCA website.

The information provided here is for guidance only, it is the responsibility of the person undertaking the activity to ensure

they are fully aware of all relevant regulations. Current Southern IFCA regulations and byelaws can be found on the Southern IFCA website at www.southern-ifca.gov.uk or can be obtained from the Southern IFCA Office.



Contact details

Telephone **01202 721373**

Email enquiries@southernifca.gov.uk

Public health information

Gathering bivalve shellfish from Poole harbour

Cockles, clams, oysters, mussels, razors

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004

It is illegal to supply bivalve shellfish from Poole Harbour to food businesses, or to otherwise supply commercially for human consumption, unless the shellfish have been heat treated or purified in an Approved Premises.

These processes are needed to make sure the shellfish are safe to eat.

Shellfish gathered for personal consumption, without the approved treatment, may therefore pose a risk to health.

Algal toxins are also higher at this time of year and can cause illness if the levels in the shellfish increase above legal limits.



Contact details

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council - www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk