

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> February to 30<sup>th</sup> April (both days inclusive)**.

Between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 **1<sup>st</sup> November and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 that 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](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk) or can be obtained from the Southern IFCA Office.**