

Guidance on Hand Gathering for Shellfish

Any person hand gathering for shellfish in the Southern IFCA district must comply with the following regulations:

Fishing for Oysters, Mussels and Clams byelaw

When hand gathering for oysters, mussels and clams, 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 year, no person shall dig for, fish for or take any sea fisheries resource in or from the prohibited areas.

No person shall have with them in the prohibited areas any rake, spade, fork or any similar tool.

Minimum sizes

The minimum sizes for commonly hand gathered species are:

- **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

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 or can be obtained from the Southern IFCA Office.



Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds:
PROHIBITED AREAS - For illustration only, exact coordinates can be found
at Southern IFCA. Hatched = Prohibited area

The Solent

Meon Shore



**Portsmouth
Harbour**

***Vicinity of
Portchester***



**Langstone
Harbour**

