

SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 (2009 c23)**

**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
    - 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.

## SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

- (4) When a dredge is being used from a vessel, cockles may only be removed from the dredge when the dredge has been hauled and lifted into the vessel.
- (5) 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

- (6) Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 do not apply to a person fishing for or taking cockles using a dredge from a vessel within Poole Harbour.
- (7) 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.

### REVOCATION

- (8) The byelaw with the title 'Cockles' made by the Southern Sea Fisheries District Committee on 27th July 1995 and in force immediately before the making of this byelaw is revoked.

I hereby certify that the above byelaw was made by Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority at their meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

### **Robert Clark**

Chief Officer

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

64 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole Dorset BH14 9BN

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in exercise of the powers conferred by section 155 (3) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, confirms the Fishing for Cockles Byelaw made by the Southern IFCA on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The byelaw comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015

A Senior Civil Servant for, and on behalf of, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Date:

# SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## **Explanatory Note (not part of byelaw)**

*The purpose of this byelaw is to manage fishing for cockles within the Southern IFCA District. The byelaw imposes a closed season for fishing for or taking cockles and restricts the equipment used to fish for cockles, except within Poole Harbour if a vessel is being used, when fishing for cockles is regulated by other byelaws. The byelaw also sets a minimum size for cockles that can be taken from a fishery. The minimum size is applicable throughout the entire District.*