



Contacts:

Southern IFCA:

01202 721373

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE SOLENT OYSTER
FISHERY issued 09/10/2017**

To Members of the Shellfish Industry

Solent Oyster Season 2017/18

This letter has been developed by Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority to provide information regarding the regulations around the oyster fishery in the Solent for 2017/18.

So as to aid the recovery of oyster beds the Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds byelaw has the effect to close the oyster beds in the Solent. Having regard to the wider duties of the Authority the byelaw shall not however be applied to Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours. The decision to apply this byelaw, temporarily, to the Solent is because there is evidence of severe depletion of the shellfish beds in that area. The byelaw is temporary, it is the intention of the Authority to continue to work with industry and other partners to rebuild oyster stocks and develop the fishery for the future.

During the Southern IFCA oyster season in both Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours, we would like to remind members of the industry of the Prohibition on Night Fishing Byelaw, no one shall fish for oysters, clams and mussels outside the hours of 08:00 to 16:00.

The Southern IFCA 'Solent Dredge Fishing' byelaw and the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear 2016 as of the date of this notice are yet to be confirmed: if the measures are confirmed details will be circulated to the industry as soon as possible. Details of the up to date measures can be found on the Southern IFCA website.

Those who plan to harvest oysters (and other shellfish) in Portsmouth and Langstone Harbour should be familiar with current regulations and shellfish health classifications.

Also a reminder that the Sussex IFCA Oyster Permit Byelaw for Chichester Harbour also includes that part of the District that lies within Southern IFCA boundary, please contact Sussex IFCA for more details on this byelaw.

If you would like any further information on any of the above please contact the Southern IFCA Office on the above contact numbers.

Southern IFCA is also working in partnership with other organisations on an oyster recovery plan for the Solent. If fishermen would like to participate please contact the IFCA.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SHELLFISH BEDS BYELAW

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the above Regulation.

Temporary Closure of the Solent and Southampton Water oyster fishery, prohibiting the removal of oysters for the 2017/18 season, 1st November 2017 to the 28th February 2018. This closure notice does not include Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester Harbours. This Notice should be read in conjunction with the current classification of shellfish harvesting areas.

All other byelaws and spatial closures will still apply.

The Western boundary of the closure will be from Hurst Point to Fort Albert on the Isle of Wight. The Eastern Boundary of the closure will be from 001° 05.880'W 50° 42.380'N at Seaview, to St Helen's fort at 001° 05.02'W 50° 42.31'N, to 001° 03.900'W 50° 43.07'N, to 000° 58.969'W 50° 46.975'N on Hayling Island.

A full text of the closure notice can be obtained from Southern IFCA 64 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole Dorset BH14 9BN on request or viewed on the Authority's website at www.southern-ifca.gov.uk (or email enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk).

