



Contacts:

Southern IFCA:

01202 721373

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE SOLENT OYSTER
FISHERY issued 12/10/2018**

To Members of the Shellfish Industry

Solent Oyster Season 2018/19

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 2018/19.

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, Southampton Water and Langstone Harbour. The byelaw shall not be applied to Portsmouth Harbour and Ryde Middle Bank. 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.

Further to the Temporary Closure, the Solent Dredge Fishing byelaw, Bottom Towed Fishing Gear byelaw 2016, the Oysters byelaw, the Oyster Dredges byelaw and oyster closed season byelaw also apply. Copies of these can be found on the Southern IFCA website. Those who plan to harvest oysters (and other shellfish) in Portsmouth and Ryde Middle should be familiar with the relevant legislation.

Fishers should also be familiar with the shellfish health classifications when harvesting bivalves. For up to date classification information please contact the relevant Local Authorities or the Food Standards Agency, who are responsible for the classification of shellfish harvesting areas.

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 number.

Southern IFCA is also working in partnership with other organizations on an oyster recovery plan for the Solent. If fishermen would like to participate please contact the IFCA. A copy of the management plan can be found on the Southern IFCA website at:

<https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/25364/sitedata/files/Solent-Oyster-Restoration-Plan.pdf>

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

64 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole.
Dorset. BH14 9BN
Tel. 01202 721373
Email enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk
www.southern-ifca.gov.uk



TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SHELLFISH BEDS BYELAW

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the above Regulation.

Temporary Closure of the Solent, Southampton Water and Langstone Harbour oyster fishery, prohibiting the removal of oysters for the 2018/19 season, 1st November 2018 to the 28th February 2019. This closure notice does not include Portsmouth Harbour and the area included over Ryde Middle Bank enclosed by a series of straight lines between:

50°45.696'N 001° 11.52W;
To 50° 46.188'N 001° 16.146W;
To 50° 46.998'N 001° 16.146W;
To 50° 46.506'N 001° 11.52W.

Back to 50°45.696'N 001° 11.52W;

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).

