Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw: What you need to know
Under the proposed Byelaw it will be prohibited to use a dredge by means of a vessel within the Solent unless authorised by a permit.

- To fish for bivalves (with the exception of oysters) you will be required to have a **Category A Permit**. This will cost £215.
- To fish for oysters you will be required to have a **Category B Permit**. This will cost £215.
- A daily curfew between **18:00 and 06:00** will apply across the Solent (to include the Harbours and Southampton Water).
- There is a requirement for all permit holders to submit **catch returns**.
- Flexible permit conditions can be attached to the permits, further details can be found in the Management Intentions Document.

Flexible Permit Conditions: What you need to know
At the time of Byelaw implementation, the following permit conditions will be introduced:

- **Seasonal**: Prohibition on the use of a dredge in Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour and Langstone Harbour between 1st March and 31st October each year (**Category A permit only**);
- **Retention of bivalves**: A restriction on the retention of bivalves other than those permitted under the permit;
- The introduction of a **minimum bar spacing** for box dredges: 18mm and cross piece strengthening bar: 40mm (**Category A permit only**)
- **Harvesting measures**: detailing the harvesting of Bivalve Management Areas (**Category B permit only**). (See the Management Intentions Document for further details)

Supporting Documents: What you need to know
Clarification of **eligibility** to apply for permits is provided in the Access Policy, in particular the introductory criteria (at the point of Byelaw Implementation), the **annual access** requirements and **New Entrant’s Criteria**.

Clarity of the Authority’s future management intentions, with regard to the potential **scope of the flexible permit conditions** and the **management toolbox** which could be used in the delivery of management, as well as threshold **guidelines** for the implementation of management strategies can be found here in the Management Intention Document. This document also discusses the **cost** of permits and the considerations for restricting the **number** of permits.

Upon implementation of this Permit Byelaw the Solent Dredge Byelaw will be revoked. The Scallop Dredge Byelaw will be amended to align the daily curfew. Please note that all other applicable legislation will still apply.

What happens now?
Any person wishing to object to the confirmation of the Solent Dredge Permit Byelaw must send a statement of objection in writing to: Marine Conservation and Enforcement Team, Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 7YH (or IFCAbyelaws@marinemanagement.org.uk) by **28th February 2019** as well as a copy of to the CEO at Southern IFCA, 64 Ashley Road, Poole, Dorset BH14 9BN (or enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk).