

Professional and Fair Inspections

IFCOs will always aim to conduct inspections in a courteous, fair and professional manner. During an inspection they will:

Clearly explain their role and the purpose of the inspection

State what actions they need to take

Ask for assistance if required

Members of the public and those being inspected are expected to:

Cooperate with officers

Treat officers with courtesy and respect

Avoid behaviour that could obstruct an officer carrying out their duties

- IFCOs must be able to perform their duties without harassment, abuse or intimidation.
- IFCOs may be wearing body worn video cameras during inspections. Officers will make it clear when they are beginning and ending any recordings.

For full details on the byelaws enforced in Sussex, visit: <https://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/regulations>

For full details of IFCO powers see the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 8 Enforcement.

INSPECTIONS



Code of Conduct



01273 454407



www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk

Scan for our regulations and guidance



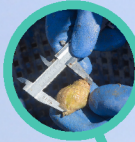
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers (IFCOs) work for Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) to help protect marine life and ensure fishing activities follow the law.

IFCOS CARRY OUT INSPECTIONS OF:

- Marine organisms
- Fishing vessels
- Fishing gear and equipment
- Vehicles connected with fishing activity
- Premises connected with fishing activity

These inspections can take place on land or at sea, up to 6 nautical miles from the coastline.

Some IFCOs may also carry out enforcement work on behalf of other organisations such as the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation.



BOARDING VESSELS

- When an inspection takes place at sea, the lead enforcement officer will first identify themselves to the skipper (Master) of the vessel and explain the reason and purpose of the inspection.
- The officer may ask the skipper to be present during some or all parts of the inspection. If requested, the skipper and crew must provide reasonable assistance to help the inspection take place.
- All warranted IFCOs carry official warrant cards, which will be shown if requested or when it is safe and practicable.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Health and safety is a priority during inspections. Anyone being inspected must inform the IFCO of any potential hazards. Officers and vessel Masters should maintain clear communication throughout the inspection to ensure everyone's safety.

COMMUNICATION AT SEA

To help facilitate inspections, vessel Masters are expected to:

• Maintain a VHF watch on Channel 16

• Respond when hailed by an IFCA vessel

• Cooperate with officers during the inspection

INSPECTION OUTCOMES

At the end of the inspection, the IFCO will explain the outcome.

This may include:

Advice or guidance if minor issues have been identified.

A formal caution if there is suspected non-compliance with legislation.

If anything needs to be seized as part of the inspection, the IFCO will provide a receipt.

