

Introduction

The Sussex IFCA Shellfish Permit Byelaw 2016 (para. 40) requires that permit holders provide relevant fisheries information required by the Authority.

Shellfish catch and fishing effort information from Sussex IFCA Shellfish Permit holders is required to support inshore shellfish fisheries for the future. The data submitted in catch returns will enable the Sussex IFCA and others to better understand:

- The seasonality of the shellfish fisheries and changes over longer time periods.
- Changes in catches and the status of stocks in response to the levels of fishing effort within the fisheries.
- The scale and economic value of fisheries within the IFCA District.

Permit holder catch returns will be used with conjunction with: existing MMO Shellfish Licence catch returns (MSAR forms), biological information on species maturity and growth, at sea surveys that provide data on catch composition and population structure, as well as information on fishing gears and selectivity.

Our shellfish management aims

- To contribute toward healthy productive shellfish populations which support strong long term sustainable fisheries.
- To maintain shellfish populations at levels that can support high levels of production and recruitment.
- To monitor trends in catch per unit effort and manage the fisheries to improve and maximise yields.

Adaptive management and permit holder involvement

To ensure management reflects the needs of the fishery, the Authority intends to review the Shellfish Permit Byelaw's flexible conditions (e.g. maximum number of pots) within 4 years. All Permit Holders will have the opportunity to contribute and influence this process. The catch returns data will be used in the review process.

Existing information from MMO Shellfish Licence returns

The Sussex IFCA recognises that catch information is already submitted to the Marine Management Organisation in the MSAR form. The Sussex IFCA will use this information where possible to avoid duplication and reduce your administration. Additional return information that the Authority cannot obtain from the MSAR form is required and therefore a separate Sussex IFCA Shellfish Permit catch return is necessary.

What information does Sussex IFCA need?

Information required for catch per unit effort (kg per pot):

1. Quantity (kg) of shellfish caught and retained from within the Sussex IFCA District, total for each month. The species included are those specified within the Shellfish Permit Byelaw: lobster, edible crab, whelk, cuttlefish, spider crab, velvet swimming crab and prawns.
2. Average number of pots hauled on each fishing trip.
3. Number of trips during which you worked a particular gear type.

Fishing Areas

To enable the Authority to better understand and manage the fisheries over specific inshore areas within the IFCA District, we require information on where you caught shellfish. We understand it may be difficult to say exactly what the proportions were and we will accept the best estimate in respect to both the proportion of pots and catch as part of your known totals.

There are four areas in the District which are half ICES sub-rectangles out to 6 nautical miles:

- 30E9 west (Chichester Harbour to Littlehampton)
- 30E9 east (Rustington to Peacehaven)
- 30F0 west (Newhaven to Bexhill)
- 30F0 east (Hastings to Rye)



More detailed chartlets of these areas are available so you can check where the boundaries are in relation to where you fish.

How often will I need to send Sussex IFCA my catch data?

Every three months. The deadline to send the data to Sussex IFCA is one month after end of the three month period.

October/November/December – deadline end of January

January/February/March – deadline end of April

April/May/June – deadline end of July

July/August/September – deadline end of October

If you have not sent us your correct data by the deadline, you will be sent a reminder. Please be aware it is a Byelaw requirement that permit holders submit the information the Authority has requested. Failing to comply would result in further action including the possibility of a fine.

How can I send Sussex IFCA my data?

A pad of duplicate type forms will be sent to you. Fill in a separate form for each month and send us three forms at the end of each quarter. Retain the carbon copy for your own records. Send the forms to:

Sussex IFCA
12A Riverside Business Centre
Brighton Road
Shoreham-by-Sea
BN43 6RE

Alternatively, you can download the form from our website (www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk), fill it in on your computer and email it to research@sussex-ifca.gov.uk

Please contact Sussex IFCA if you require any assistance in filling in the form.

Will Sussex IFCA be conducting other shellfish research?

Sussex IFCA will be conducting a range of shellfish research projects including measuring samples of your catch at sea and in port and going out on fishing vessels. This will help us monitor catch rates and stock levels to ensure that the shellfish fisheries are being managed in a sustainable way. If you have any relevant information, would like to find out more about the research or would like to be involved, contact research@sussex-ifca.gov.uk

Will I find out how my data has helped?

Once we have received all of the permit holders' catch data, it will be analysed for trends in catch rates and other relevant analysis. The results will be available on our website and shared with the permit holders. All data will be anonymous. Your data is important for monitoring of the shellfish permit byelaw which aims to ensure healthy, sustainable fisheries.

How do I fill in the Sussex IFCA shellfish permit byelaw catch returns form?

- Data is for fishing activity within the Sussex IFCA district only.
 - Fill in a separate form for each month.
 - Leave blank/empty any box that is not applicable.
 - Write the month, landing port, your Sussex IFCA shellfish permit number and the year in the boxes at the top of the form.
 - There are four sections, one for each of the four areas of the Sussex IFCA district: 30E9 West, 30E9 East, 30F0 West and 30F0 East. Check the relevant areas and boundaries on the chartlets. The area boundaries and the limit of the IFCA District are shown as a red line.
 - Fill in only the sections of the form that are applicable to your fishing activity.
1. Determine in which area(s) you fish. If you fish in more than one area, estimate how many pots and how much catch came from each area.
 2. Work through each gear type in turn.
 3. Firstly, lobster/crab pots: what is the average number of lobster/crab pots that you have hauled per trip this month? How many trips have you been on this month to work lobster/crab pots? What is the total weight of each species landed this month that you caught in the lobster/crab pots?
 4. Next whelk pots, then cuttlefish pots and prawn pots. What is the average number of these different types of pots that you have hauled per trip during each month? How many trips have you been on this month to work each type of pot? What is the total weight of each species landed this month that you caught in each type of pot?
 5. Have you caught any of the listed shellfish species in a net or trawl? Note down the total weight landed for each species caught with these methods.

Please turn over, an example is overleaf.

Sussex IFCA Shellfish Permit Byelaw Catch Return
Important: Please refer to catch return guidance when completing

Month <i>April</i>	Landing port <i>Shoreham</i>	Permit number <i>001</i>	Year <i>2017</i>
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Number of trips = trips to work each gear type within the Sussex IFCA district
 Kg of shellfish = monthly total caught in Sussex IFCA district only (refer to guidance for areas)

Area: 30E9west	Lobster/crab pots	Whelk pots	Cuttlefish pots	Prawn pots	Net	Trawl
Average pots hauled per trip						
Number of trips						
Kg of lobster						
Kg of edible crab						
Kg of whelk						<i>20</i>
Kg of cuttlefish						
Kg of spider crab						
Kg of velvet swimming crab						
Kg of prawns						

Area: 30E9east	Lobster/crab pots	Whelk pots	Cuttlefish pots	Prawn pots	Net	Trawl
Average pots hauled/trip	<i>200</i>	<i>100</i>				
Number of trips	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>				
Kg of lobster	<i>1050</i>					
Kg of edible crab	<i>400</i>					
Kg of whelk		<i>625</i>				
Kg of cuttlefish						
Kg of spider crab						
Kg of velvet swimming crab						
Kg of prawns						

Area: 30F0west	Lobster/crab pots	Whelk pots	Cuttlefish pots	Prawn pots	Net	Trawl
Average pots hauled/trip			<i>50</i>			
Number of trips			<i>6</i>			
Kg of lobster						
Kg of edible crab						
Kg of whelk						
Kg of cuttlefish			<i>100</i>			
Kg of spider crab						
Kg of velvet swimming crab						
Kg of prawns						

Area: 30F0east	Lobster/crab pots	Whelk pots	Cuttlefish pots	Prawn pots	Net	Trawl
Average pots hauled/trip						
Number of trips						
Kg of lobster						
Kg of edible crab						
Kg of whelk						
Kg of cuttlefish						
Kg of spider crab						
Kg of velvet swimming crab						
Kg of prawns						

Form completed by and signed: Name: *A. EXAMPLE* Signed: *A. Example*

Return to: Sussex IFCA 12A Riverside Business Centre, Brighton Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 6RE
 research@sussex-ifca.gov.uk 01273 454407

In 30E9 west, 20kg of cuttlefish caught whilst trawling

In 30E9east, 200 lobster/crab pots hauled per day, 8 trips to work them, landed total of 1050kg lobster and 400kg edible crab

Also hauled 100 whelk pots per day, 10 trips to work them, landed a total of 625kg of whelks

In 30F0west, hauled 50 cuttlefish pots per day, 6 trips to work them, landed a total of 100kg of cuttlefish