

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE CHICHESTER HARBOUR OYSTER FISHERY

Closure of the Chichester Harbour Oyster Fishery for the season beginning 1st November 2018

The Sussex IFCA Oyster Permit Byelaw establishes a permit based system for the commercial exploitation of native oyster stocks by dredging. The Byelaw provides a responsive adaptive management for oyster fisheries and supports the development of sustainable fisheries through permit conditions.

Under the conditions of the byelaw, and the flexible conditions within it, the oyster fishery will not be open for the season starting the 1st November 2018. The density of the oyster stock within Emsworth and thorny Channels are below the threshold density at which we would normally close the fishery. Therefore Sussex IFCA cannot consider opening the fishery.

Thorney channel is closed on environmental health grounds because of failure in its shellfish quality test results.

The Fishbourne and Bosham channels are a closed area for brood stock and habitat protection.

Sussex IFCA continues to work with all stakeholders through the Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative. CHOPI is a forum for the promotion of the long-term sustainability of the *Ostrea edulis* population in Chichester Harbour. The group aims to support fishing activity that will promote the conservation objectives of the nature conservation designations within Chichester Harbour, consider the wider environment and promote fisheries management arrangements which are more responsive to the needs of the Chichester Harbour oyster fishing industry.

Sussex IFCA has noted the rise in numbers of pacific oyster in the Fishbourne and Bosham channels and will be working in partnership with the relevant authorities to explore options for developing a potential fishery on the species.

If you would like more information then please contact us at;

Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
12A Riverside Business Centre,
Brighton Rd, Shoreham-by-Sea
West Sussex
BN43 6RE
Email: admin@sussex-ifca.gov.uk
Telephone: 01273 454407

www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk