



FACT SHEET

SUSSEX IFCA MINIMUM SIZE

(FISH, CRUSTACEA AND MOLLUSC) BYELAW 2021

A new Minimum Size (Fish, Crustacea and Mollusc) Byelaw 2021 for Sussex IFCA has been approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The byelaw applies to commercial licensed fishers, recreational fishers, transporters, merchants and retailers in the fishing industry.



The byelaw introduces measures intended to increase the sustainability of fish and shellfish populations within the Sussex IFCA district, by prohibiting the removal from the fishery, retention on board, transhipping, landing, transport, storage, sale, display or offering for sale named fish and shellfish species below defined minimum sizes. The measures seek to enable more animals to reach sexual maturity, and therefore contribute to the spawning stock and juvenile recruitment.

The species in the byelaw are broken down into two schedules; 1a and 1b. The minimum size for those species listed in schedule 1a and 1b (except for named mollusc and crustacean species) are applied only when caught from within the Sussex IFCA district. In general, these sizes are more restrictive than for fisheries outside of the district. You can see the Sussex IFCA district limits here:

www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/about-us



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regulations and
byelaw guidance



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FURTHER INFORMATION

Sussex IFCA Minimum Size (Fish, Crustacea and Mollusc) Byelaw 2021

Schedule 1a and 1b LANDING WHOLE

Fish, crustacea and molluscs for which a size is specified in both schedule 1a and 1b must only be retained on board whole and may only be landed whole. Mutilation, decapitation, removal of the tail and filleting are not allowed.

The only exemptions:

- Thornback, blonde and spotted ray wings can be landed (minimum size applies) providing the skin has not been removed.
- Commercial fishers fishing with nets may land a maximum of 75kg of detached claw of edible crabs per fishing trip.

Pelagic Species

For commercial fishers, the byelaw includes a pelagic species exemption. For the shoaling pelagic species shown below that are caught in large quantities, there is an exemption of 10% allowable percentages (of the total catch) below the minimum size, as reflected in current UK/EU regulations.

- Anchovy
- Herring
- Horse Mackerel
- Mackerel
- Sardine
- Whiting

Schedule 1a – NO RETENTION

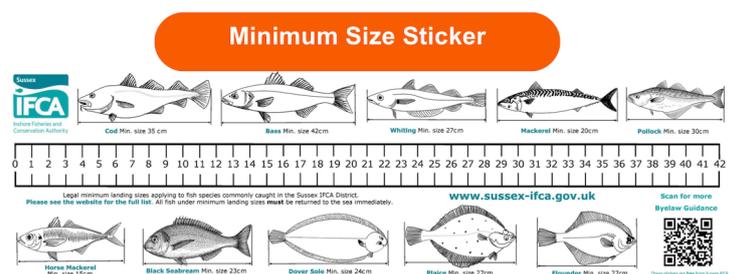
Any fish, crustacean or mollusc species listed in Schedule 1a that is caught from within the District's waters and measures less than the minimum size, must be immediately returned to sea.

None of the species specified in Schedule 1a are subject to commercial Total Allowable Catch (TAC) restrictions and any associated 'Landing Obligations' for species below National Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS).

Schedule 1b – QUOTA SPECIES SUBJECT TO THE LANDING OBLIGATION

Licensed commercial fishers are required to comply with separate equivalent national legislation in which the same MCRS are defined. The presence of species below the minimum size specified in 1b should still be compliant with UK Technical Conservation Regulations and Landing Obligation Exemptions.

Edible Crab (130mm or more) and Scallop (100mm or more) caught and retained outside ICES Sea Division VIIId can be transported, stored, sold, displayed or offered for sale within the Sussex IFCA district.



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Image of the minimum size sticker is for illustrative purposes only. Stickers are available from Sussex IFCA free of charge

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