

## **Bait and Hand Gathering Voluntary Code of Conduct**

Observe local bylaws and regulations which affect the use of the coast, or access to permanently and seasonally closed areas. See the Marine Protected Area (MPA) byelaw and Schedules for more information [www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/byelaws](http://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/byelaws). You may also need the land owner's permission.

Tell someone where you intend to dig.

Do not dig around moorings, slipways, and sea walls.

Collect bait sustainably.

Back-fill all holes for safety, and to maintain the intertidal habitat.

Avoid disturbing wildlife and marine heritage wherever possible.

Be aware of local hazards and conditions.

Treat the foreshore with respect.

Replace all rocks and stones, and preserve the food chain by not digging in eel grass beds.

Take all your litter home.

Encourage other fishers to understand and support this voluntary code.

### **Note These Legal Requirements**

Fishery Officers have the legal powers to board and inspect any vessel and persons on board that are fishing, inspect anyone involved in angling from the shore or marine installation and any persons involved in harvesting marine organisms such as bait digging. Please cooperate and support fisheries officers if you are inspected. Failure to comply with a fisheries officer's reasonable request during an inspection is an offence.