

Sussex Inshore Fishing Vessel Effort Analysis 2021 – 2025

May 2025

Em Denton-Smith – Fisheries Conservation and Research Officer



Contents

Introduction	3
Methods	3
Statistics	4
All Gear Types	5
Angling	7
Angling - Commercial	8
Angling - Recreational	9
Netting	10
Netting - Drift	11
Netting - Gill	12
Potting	13
Potting – Lobster and Crab	14
Potting - Cuttlefish	15
Potting - Whelk	16
Trawling	17
Trawling - Beam	18
Trawling - Pair	19
Trawling - Stern	20
Dredging – All (Scallop)	21
Conclusion	23
Technical Annex	24
Map Display	24
Admiralty Map	24

Introduction

Since 2001, Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) and its predecessor, the Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee, have recorded fishing activity observed during sea patrols. Over 17,000 vessel observations have been recorded in this period, with just over 2,500 confirmed sightings of fishing activity recorded between 2021 and 2025. This report provides a spatial overview of observed fishing activity within the Sussex IFCA District during this timeframe, to support fisheries management, byelaw development, evidence gathering, and stakeholder engagement.

Methods

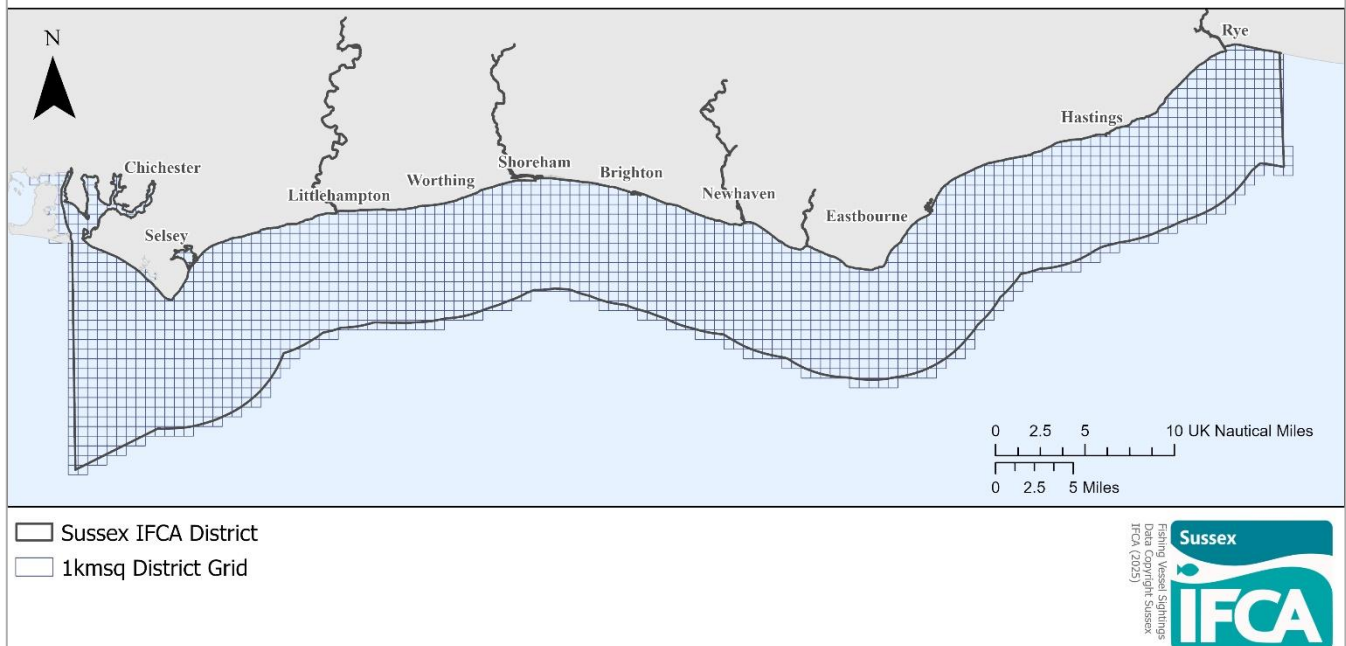
During routine patrols aboard the Fisheries Patrol Vessel (FPV) Watchful, Officers record details of fishing activity, including the date, time, vessel name, port letters and numbers (PLN), location co-ordinates, gear type, and whether the boat is actively fishing. Only vessels confirmed as actively fishing were included in the effort analysis. As the FPV is based in Shoreham and operates using a risk-based surveillance approach, patrol frequency varies by location, introducing potential spatial biases.

To account for this, vessel sightings are normalised against patrol effort when calculating fishing effort. Patrol effort is determined by applying a 2km buffer to the FPV's track, representing the maximum distance within which a fishing vessel can be reliably observed, identified, and assessed, in typical conditions. The annual average patrol coverage per 1km² grid cell is then calculated. Fishing effort (sightings per km² patrolled) is then calculated by dividing the number of sightings (per 1km² grid cell) by the corresponding patrolled area (within the same 1km² grid cell).

Data were aggregated across a five-year period to reduce the influence of short-term temporal variability, uneven patrol coverage, weather constraints, and anomalous fishing activity, allowing broader spatial patterns in observed fishing activity to be identified.

Whilst normalisation for patrol effort reduces spatial bias, it does not fully remove it. Activity in less frequently patrolled areas of the district is likely to be underrepresented relative to areas that receive regular patrol coverage, and observed fishing activity is likely to be more variable due to the smaller sample size. Recreational fishing activity may also be underrepresented, as risk-based sea patrol prioritisation focuses enforcement effort on commercial fishing grounds. Recreational angling is also covered by regular land patrols; however, those are not captured in this report. Therefore, results presented here should be interpreted as a relative index of observed fishing activity rather than a direct or absolute measure of total fishing effort.

Sussex IFCA District: 1kmsq grid overlay



Statistics

To compare how different fishing methods are distributed across the district, this report uses a consistent statistical framework to quantify the spatial differences between gear types. Each gear type was assessed using the same set of 1 km² grid cells, which cover the entire District ensuring that differences in fishing effort reflect actual variation in activity rather than differences in the area occupied by each gear type.

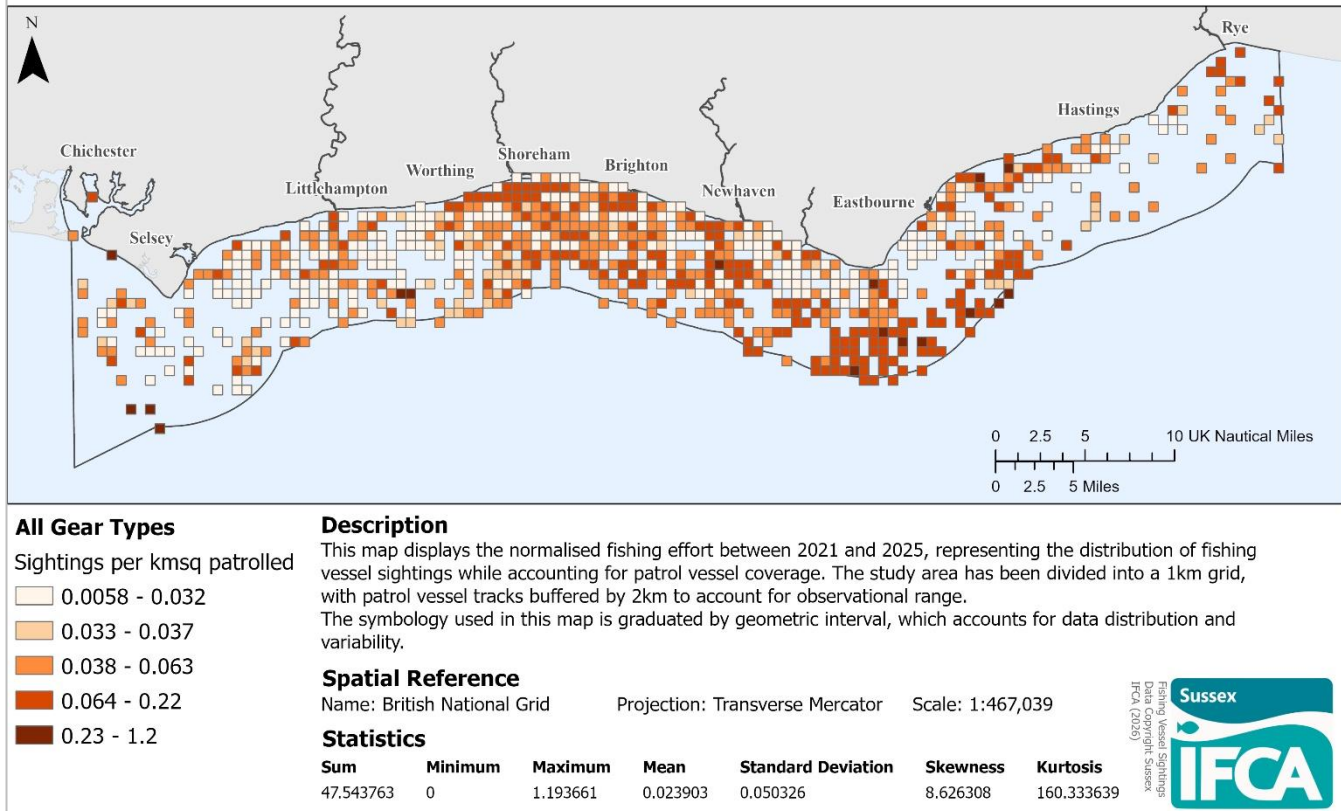
Three key metrics are used to describe fishing effort:

- Total effort represents the sum of fishing effort occurring across the district and allows comparison between different gear types
- Maximum effort highlights areas of highest activity, identifying potential hotspots
- Mean effort, when considered alongside Maximum effort, reflects how evenly fishing pressure is distributed across the district. When the mean and maximum are similar, it indicates that fishing pressure is evenly distributed, and vice versa

Additional map-based metrics, although not discussed in detail, include skewness and kurtosis. Skewness shows whether effort is heavily concentrated in a few areas, while kurtosis measures how uniform the spatial distribution of effort is across the district.

All Gear Types

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: All Gear Types



This section presents a spatial overview of all recorded fishing activity from 2021 to 2025 within the Sussex IFCA District. During this period, fishing was observed in 823 km², equivalent to 41.38% of the 1,989 km² grid square area of the district. Fishing methods range from mobile gears (trawling, dredging) to static methods (potting, netting), each associated with specific target species and environmental impacts. Across all fisheries, a combined mean annual effort of 47.54 sightings/km² patrolled was recorded between 2021–2025, representing the total normalised fishing pressure across all gear types active within the district in an average year. The equivalent cumulative total across the full five-year period was 237.7 sightings per km² patrolled. Netting and potting emerge as the dominant fishing sectors within the district, accounting for 30.80% and 28.90% of total normalised effort, and occurring over 19.51% and 18.25% of the district, respectively. These results indicate that static gear fisheries form the principal component of fishing activity across Sussex’s inshore waters.

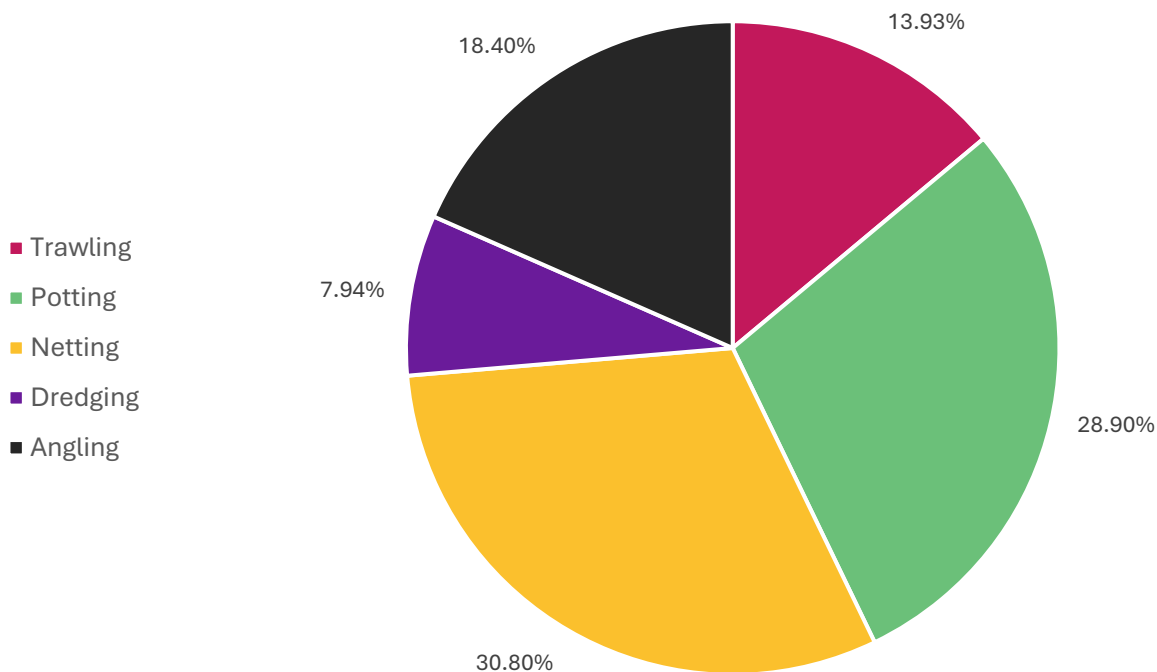
Trawling activity represented a smaller spatial footprint, covering 8.60% of the district and contributing 13.93% of total normalised effort. The data suggest that mobile fishing

activity is more spatially concentrated, occurring within established corridors of suitable habitat. Dredging activity was comparatively limited in extent, occupying only 1.91% of the district, although localised areas of relatively high intensity were identified.

Angling activity, both recreational and commercial, accounted for 18.40% of total normalised effort and covered 10.21% of the district. Several highly concentrated angling hotspots were identified within the dataset, with the highest sightings density recorded for commercial angling of all gear types analysed. This indicates that while angling activity may be less spatially extensive than static gear fisheries, it can be highly concentrated around particular locations or features.

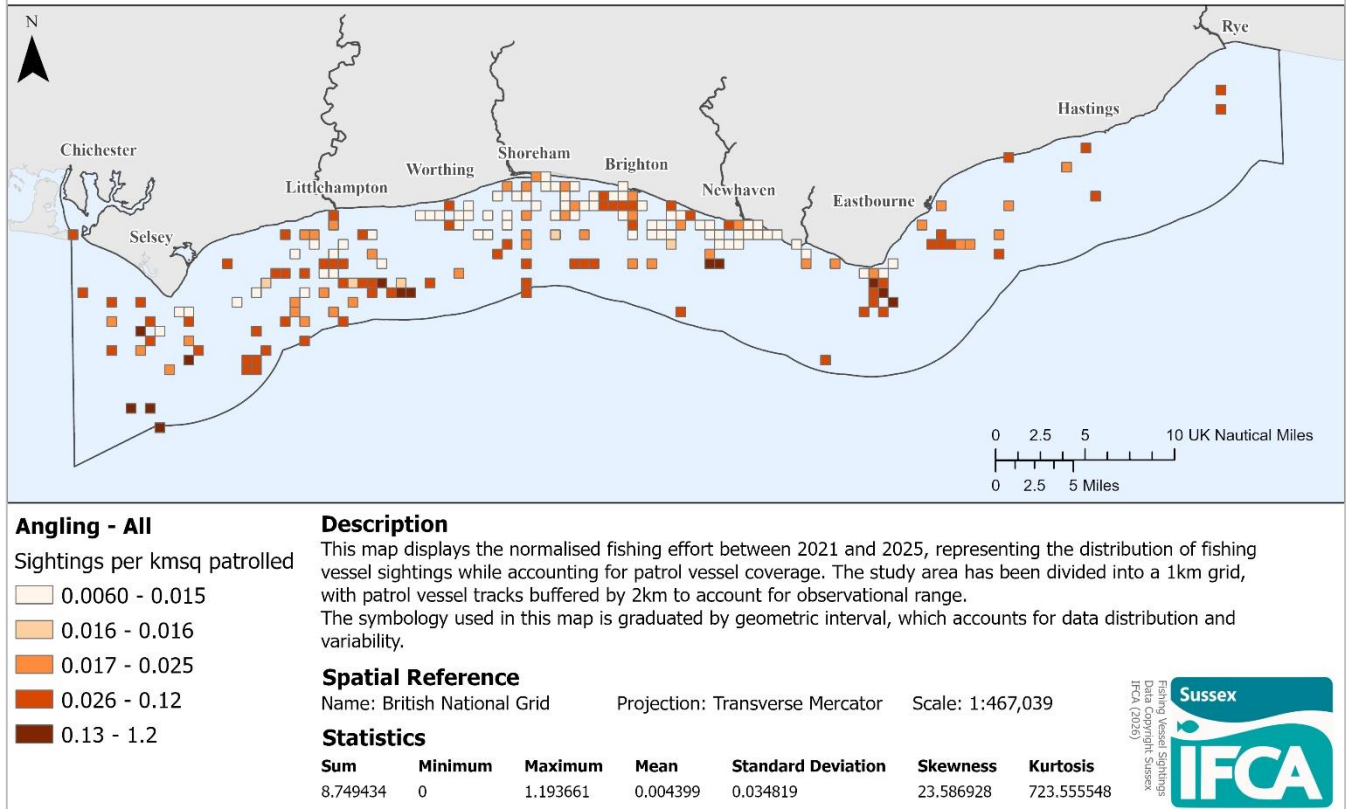
Overall, the spatial distribution of fishing effort demonstrates a clear pattern of concentrated activity associated with known fishing grounds, suitable habitat, and accessible areas. The results provide an indication of relative observed fishing activity standardised by patrol coverage and should therefore be interpreted as a relative spatial activity index rather than a direct measure of total fishing effort.

Normalised Total Fishing Effort By Main Gear Type, 2021 to 2025



Angling

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Angling

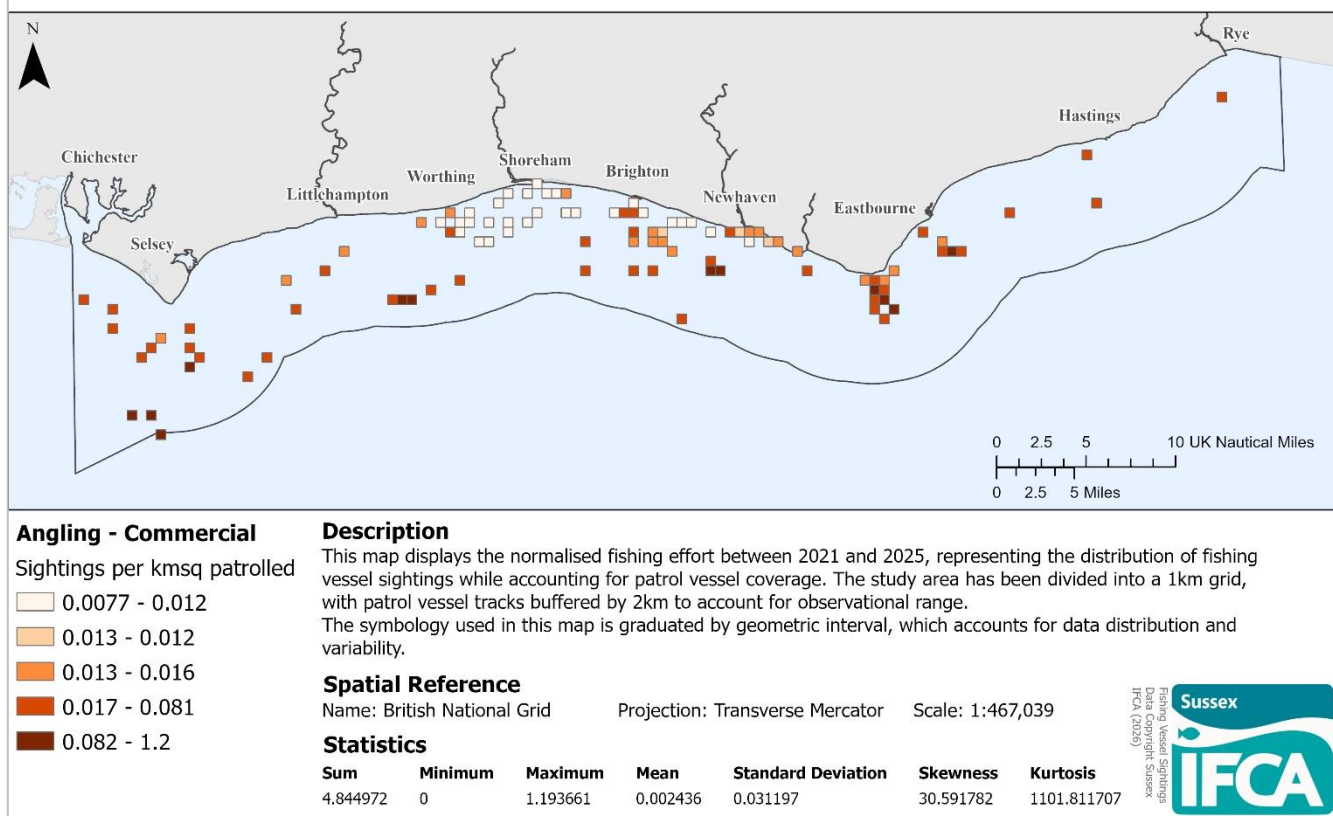


Angling activity accounted for 18.40% of total normalised effort and covered 10.21% of the district between 2021 and 2025. The data shows a relatively balanced contribution between recreational and commercial angling sectors, although clear differences were observed in the spatial intensity of activity.

Commercial angling accounted for 10.19% of total normalised effort and covered 5.08% of the district. While spatial coverage was lower than recreational angling, commercial angling recorded the highest maximum sightings density of all gear types, due to the presence of highly concentrated fishing hotspots, such as Kingmere Marine Conservation Zone.

Recreational angling contributed 6.51% of total normalised effort and covered 5.68% of the district. Activity was more spatially distributed and exhibited lower maximum intensity values compared to the commercial sector, suggesting broader but less concentrated fishing activity. The elevated hotspot intensity associated with commercial angling reflects repeated activity around productive fishing grounds, wrecks, reef features, or charter fishing locations. In contrast, recreational angling activity appears more spatially diffuse across accessible inshore areas.

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Angling - Commercial



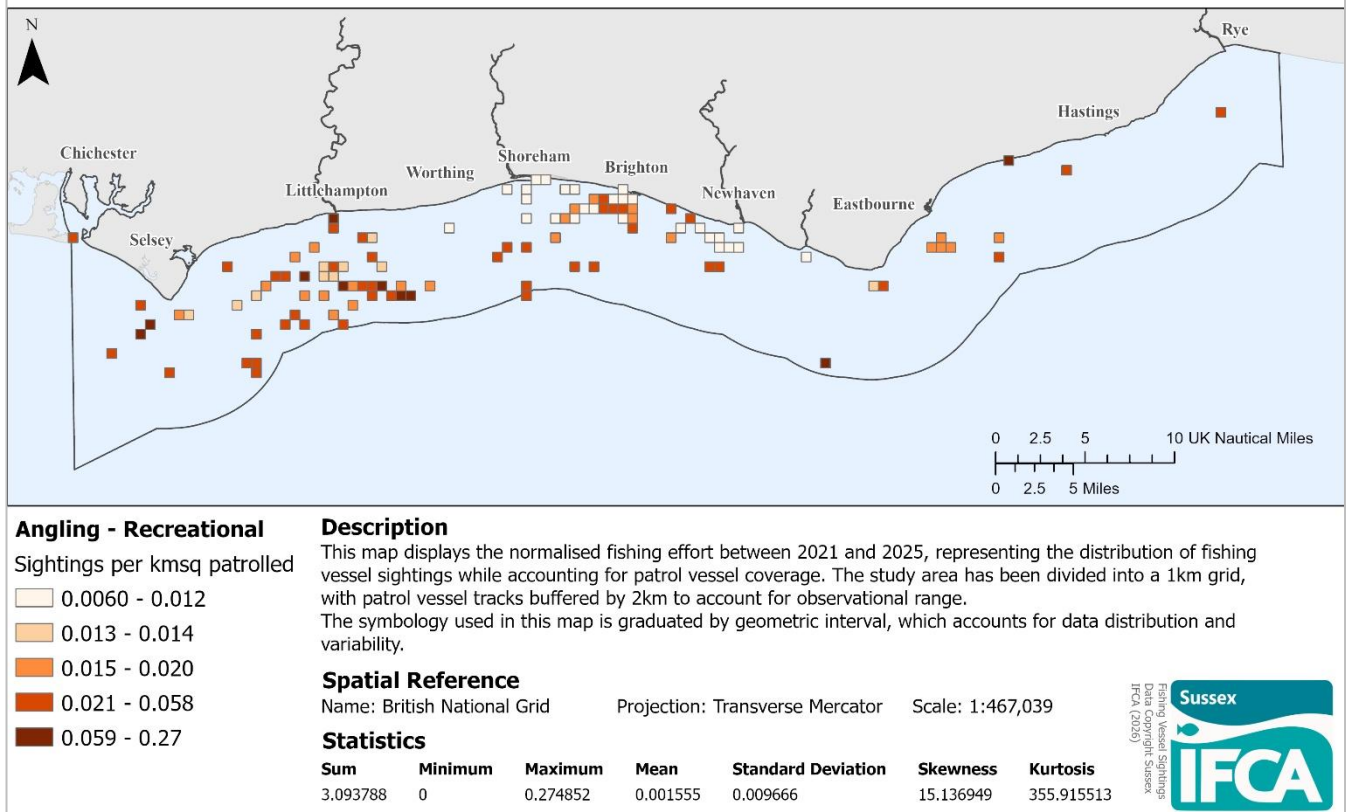
Commercial angling primarily targets high-value species such as bass, pollock, and bream. This gear type uses low-impact rod-and-line or handline techniques, which facilitate selective fishing with minimal bycatch and limited environmental impact.

The sightings data captures the highly seasonal nature of commercial angling, reflecting the availability of target species in inshore waters. Bass and pollock are more abundant inshore during the warmer months, driving the peak period of commercial angling activity. During winter, effort decreases inshore as these species move offshore, becoming less accessible to inshore fishers, however species like whiting are still targeted.

Commercial angling is concentrated around key locations such as Beachy Head, the rocky reefs outside of Kingmere MCZ, and Newhaven. Newhaven is a key port for wreck fishing, where pollock, whiting, and bass are the main species targeted. Brighton is also home to a small fleet of dedicated bass fishing boats.

Angling - Recreational

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Angling - Recreational

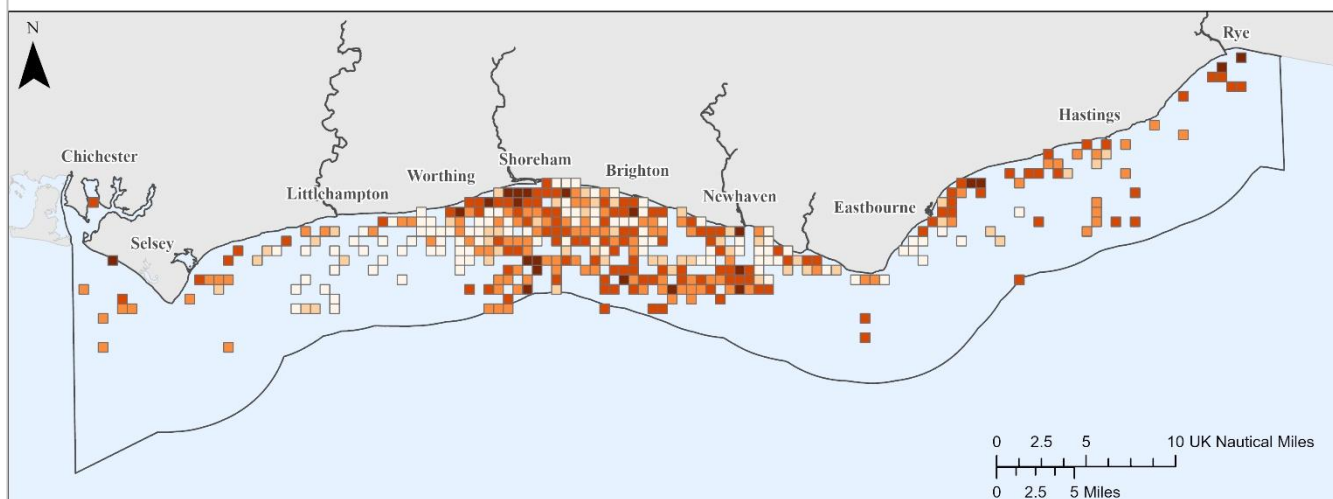


Recreational angling is concentrated in nearshore waters and popular fishing spots. The most popular fishing site for this gear type is Kingmere Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), as represented by the cluster of high fishing effort off the coast of Littlehampton. Kingmere MCZ attracts bream from April to June, and in the later summer months, mackerel and bass. Selsey Bill is also a hotspot for smooth-hounds, tope, and skates and rays, while bass continue to be a key target off the coast of Beachy Head.

Recreational angling from vessels includes both private and charter boat activity. Many recreational anglers practise catch-and-release, where this is not legally required, which involves voluntarily returning all caught fish. Separately, regulations require that undersized individuals are returned, such as the Sussex IFCA Minimum Size Byelaw. Minimum landing sizes, catch limits, and seasonal restrictions (including restrictions on bass) are in place to ensure fishing activity remains appropriate and sustainable.

Netting

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Netting



Netting - All

Sightings per kmsq patrolled

- 0.0058 - 0.020
- 0.021 - 0.024
- 0.025 - 0.038
- 0.039 - 0.084
- 0.085 - 0.23

Description

This map displays the normalised fishing effort between 2021 and 2025, representing the distribution of fishing vessel sightings while accounting for patrol vessel coverage. The study area has been divided into a 1km grid, with patrol vessel tracks buffered by 2km to account for observational range. The symbology used in this map is graduated by geometric interval, which accounts for data distribution and variability.

Spatial Reference

Name: British National Grid

Projection: Transverse Mercator

Scale: 1:467,039

Statistics

Sum	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
14.641311	0	0.230909	0.007361	0.019358	3.960433	25.591748



Netting is the most spatially extensive fishing method in the Sussex IFCA District, occurring across 19.51% of the district and accounting for 30.80% of total normalised effort. It includes both static and mobile methods, although gill netting dominates, making up 99.20% of netting activity. By contrast, drift netting is minimal, covering just 0.15% of the district and contributing only 0.25% of total normalised effort. This shows that netting pressure is driven almost entirely by static gill nets.

The distribution of netting underlines the importance of district-wide Sussex IFCA byelaws that holistically and sustainability manage the fishery, including minimum mesh sizes and seasonal closures to protect juvenile fish and spawning stocks.

Netting - Drift

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Netting - Drift



Netting - Drift

Fishing Effort

0.011 - 0.031
0.032 - 0.051
0.052 - 0.071

Description

This map displays the normalised fishing effort between 2021 and 2025, representing the distribution of fishing vessel sightings in relation to patrol vessel coverage. The study area has been divided into a 1km grid, with patrol vessel tracks buffered by 2km to account for observational range.

The symbology used in this map is graduated by geometric interval, which accounts for data distribution and variability.

Spatial Reference

Name: British National Grid

Projection: Transverse Mercator

Scale: 1:467,039

Statistics

Sum	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
0.116903	0	0.071193	0.000059	0.001794	35.17131	1316.612122

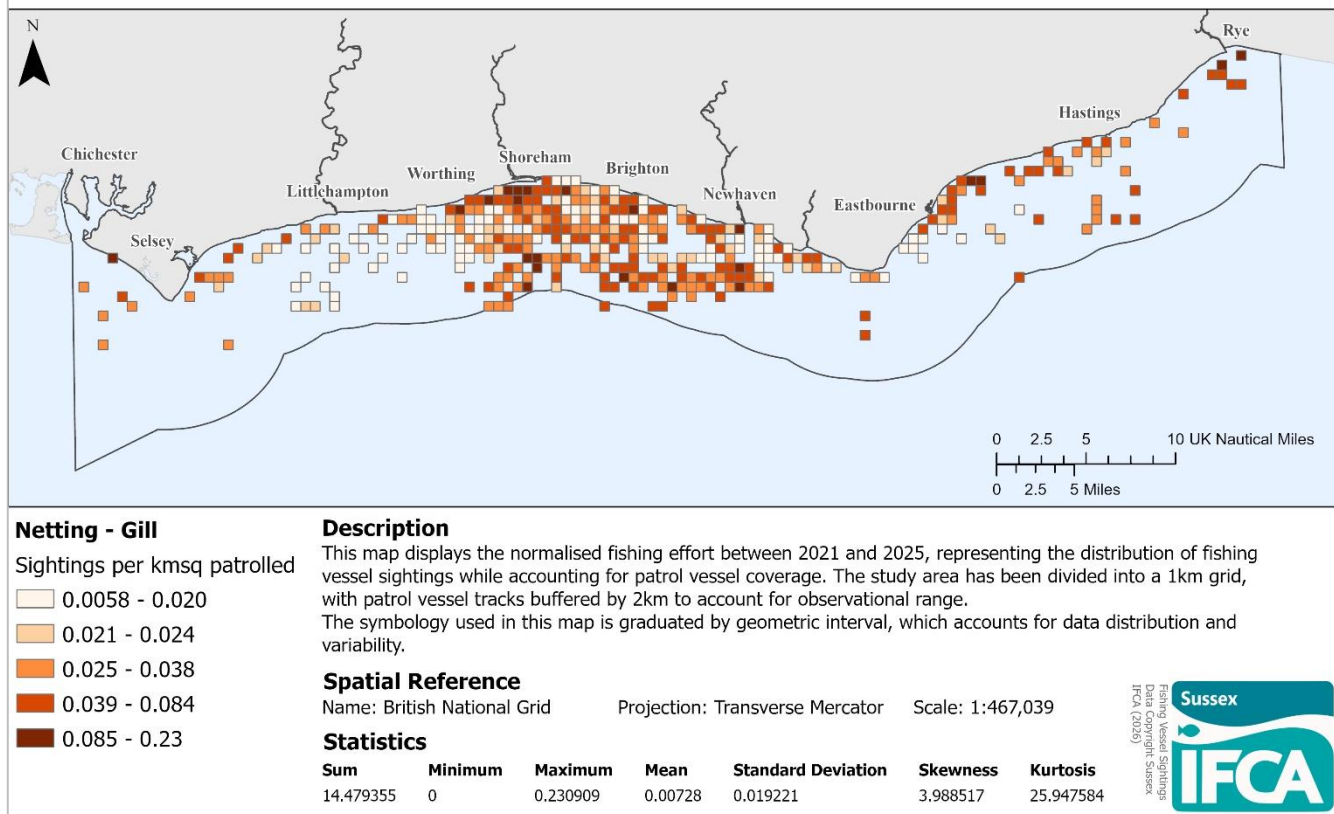


Drift netting represents the least spatially extensive gear type occurring across only 0.15% of the district. Drift nets are free-floating and move with the current, making them an effective fishing method.

Drift netting activity is limited, largely due to restrictions on targeting bass using this method. The fishery primarily focuses on mackerel and herring during the summer months, though overall participation is low. In Chichester Harbour, for example, only a select number of individuals actively use drift nets to target mullet, highlighting the limited scale of this method.

Netting - Gill

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Netting - Gill



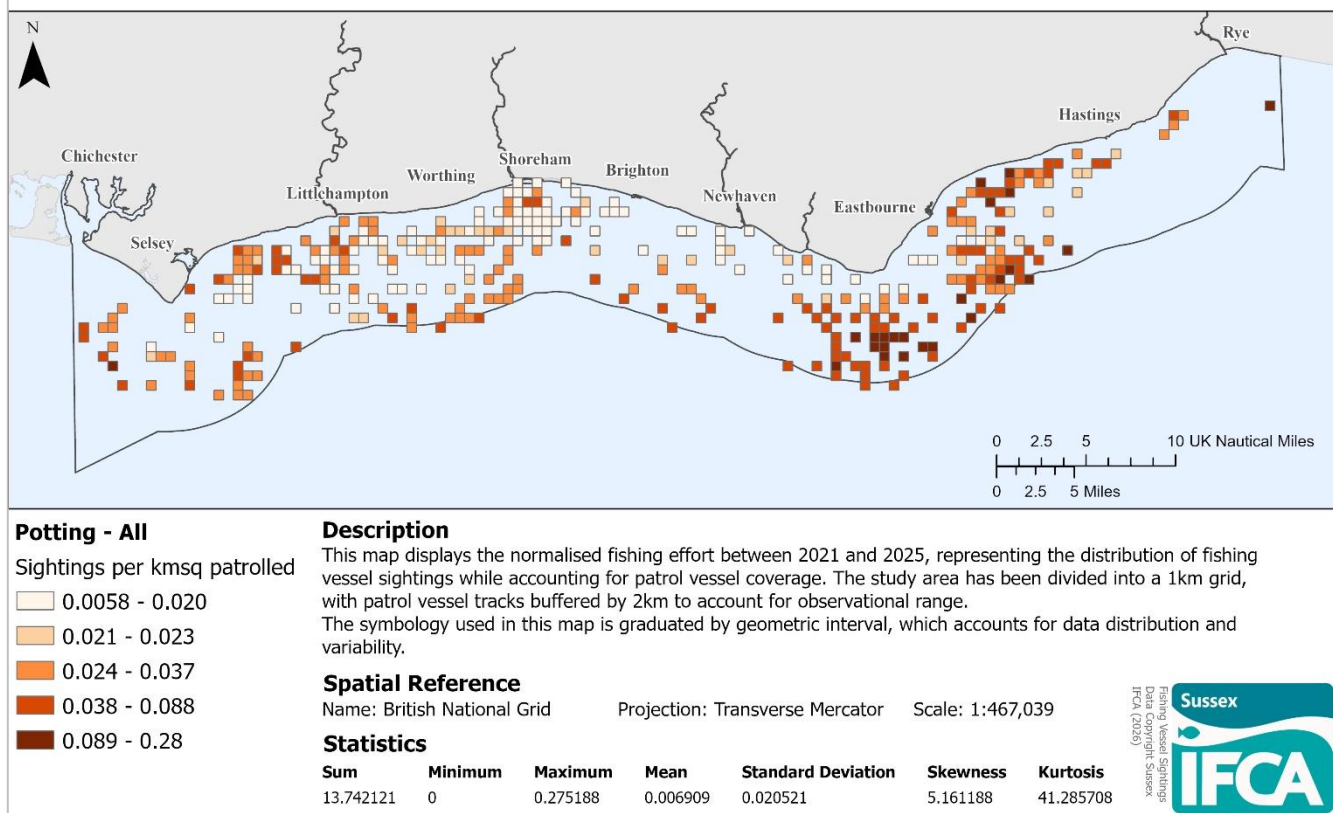
Gill nets are stationary mesh nets that entangle fish by their gills as they attempt to swim through. This gear type dominates the netting sector in Sussex, occurring across 19.41% of the district, and accounts for a large proportion of total fishing activity.

Gill netting primarily targets Dover sole, plaice, and skates and rays, especially during winter and spring, when the commercial value of these species is highest. Cuttlefish and bream are also caught seasonally, particularly between March and June.

Most gill netting occurs within the 3 NM zone, where many target species migrate to feed and breed. These inshore waters also offer shelter for smaller vessels and reduce the risk of gear conflict. Key fishing areas include wrecks between 3 and 6 NM south of Shoreham, Brighton, and Newhaven. Activity declines beyond 3 NM around Beachy Head and Selsey due to increasing depth and stronger currents.

Potting

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Potting



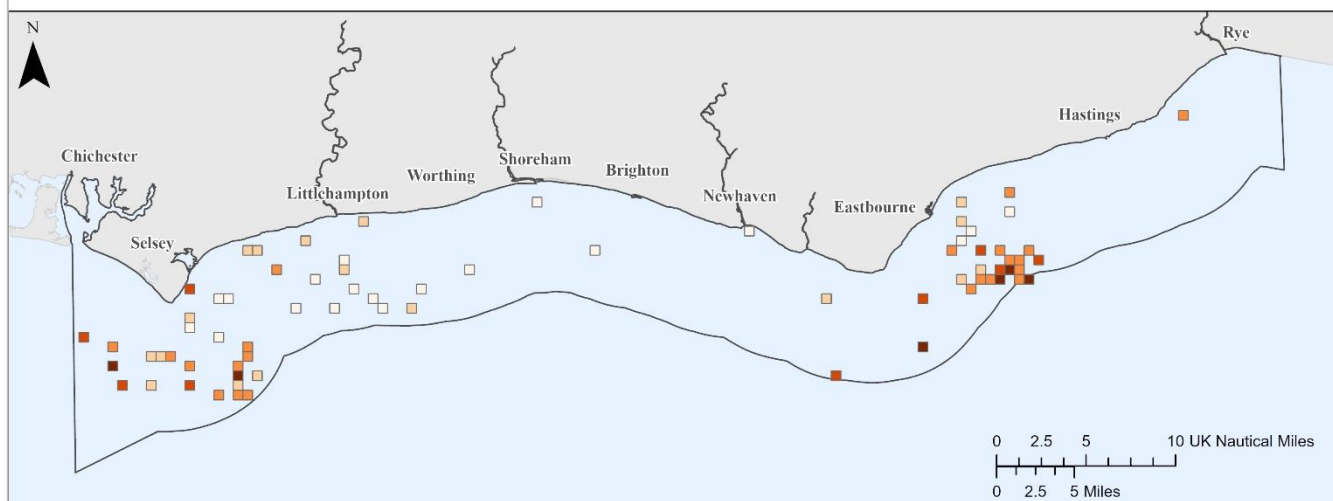
Potting is one of the most widespread fishing methods in Sussex, occurring across 18.25% of the district. It involves placing baited traps on the seabed to catch species such as whelks, crabs, lobsters, and cuttlefish.

The potting sector comprises whelk, crab and lobster, and cuttlefish fisheries. Whelk potting is the dominant component, accounting for 13.62% of the district and 20.27% of total normalised effort. Crab and lobster potting is more limited, occurring across 3.67% of the district and contributing 5.55% of total normalised effort. Cuttlefish potting is the smallest component, covering 3.09% of the district and also accounting for 3.09% of total normalised effort.

High-effort areas occur off Beachy Head, Eastbourne, and Selsey. Potting is generally considered a low-impact, selective method because it causes minimal seabed disturbance and bycatch, making it an important part of the sustainable inshore fleet operating from Shoreham, Newhaven, and Littlehampton.

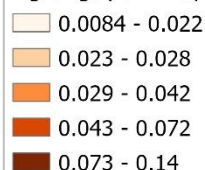
Potting – Lobster and Crab

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Potting - Lobster & Crab



Potting - Lobster & Crab

Sightings per kmsq patrolled



Description

This map displays the normalised fishing effort between 2021 and 2025, representing the distribution of fishing vessel sightings while accounting for patrol vessel coverage. The study area has been divided into a 1km grid, with patrol vessel tracks buffered by 2km to account for observational range.

The symbology used in this map is graduated by geometric interval, which accounts for data distribution and variability.

Spatial Reference

Name: British National Grid

Projection: Transverse Mercator

Scale: 1:467,039

Statistics

Sum	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
2.640473	0	0.141349	0.001328	0.008465	9.477093	117.702785



Within the Sussex IFCA District, potting primarily uses baited parlour pots, which target brown crab (*Cancer pagurus*) and European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*). These pots allow crabs and lobsters to enter but prevent their escape, with built-in escape gaps to reduce bycatch of juvenile and undersize individuals, and non-target species.

This activity occurs across 3.67% of the district, and is concentrated around Selsey and Beachy Head, particularly beyond the 3-nautical mile (NM) limit. Notable fishing grounds include Hooe Bank and Pullar Bank off Selsey, and areas of harder bedrock near the site of the now decommissioned Royal Sovereign Lighthouse.

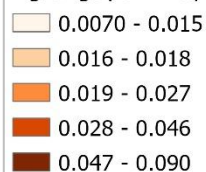
Potting - Cuttlefish

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Potting - Cuttlefish



Potting - Cuttlefish

Sightings per kmsq patrolled



Description

This map displays the normalised fishing effort between 2021 and 2025, representing the distribution of fishing vessel sightings while accounting for patrol vessel coverage. The study area has been divided into a 1km grid, with patrol vessel tracks buffered by 2km to account for observational range. The symbology used in this map is graduated by geometric interval, which accounts for data distribution and variability.

Spatial Reference

Name: British National Grid

Projection: Transverse Mercator

Scale: 1:467,039

Statistics

Sum	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
1.466855	0	0.090219	0.000737	0.005337	9.635704	117.413897

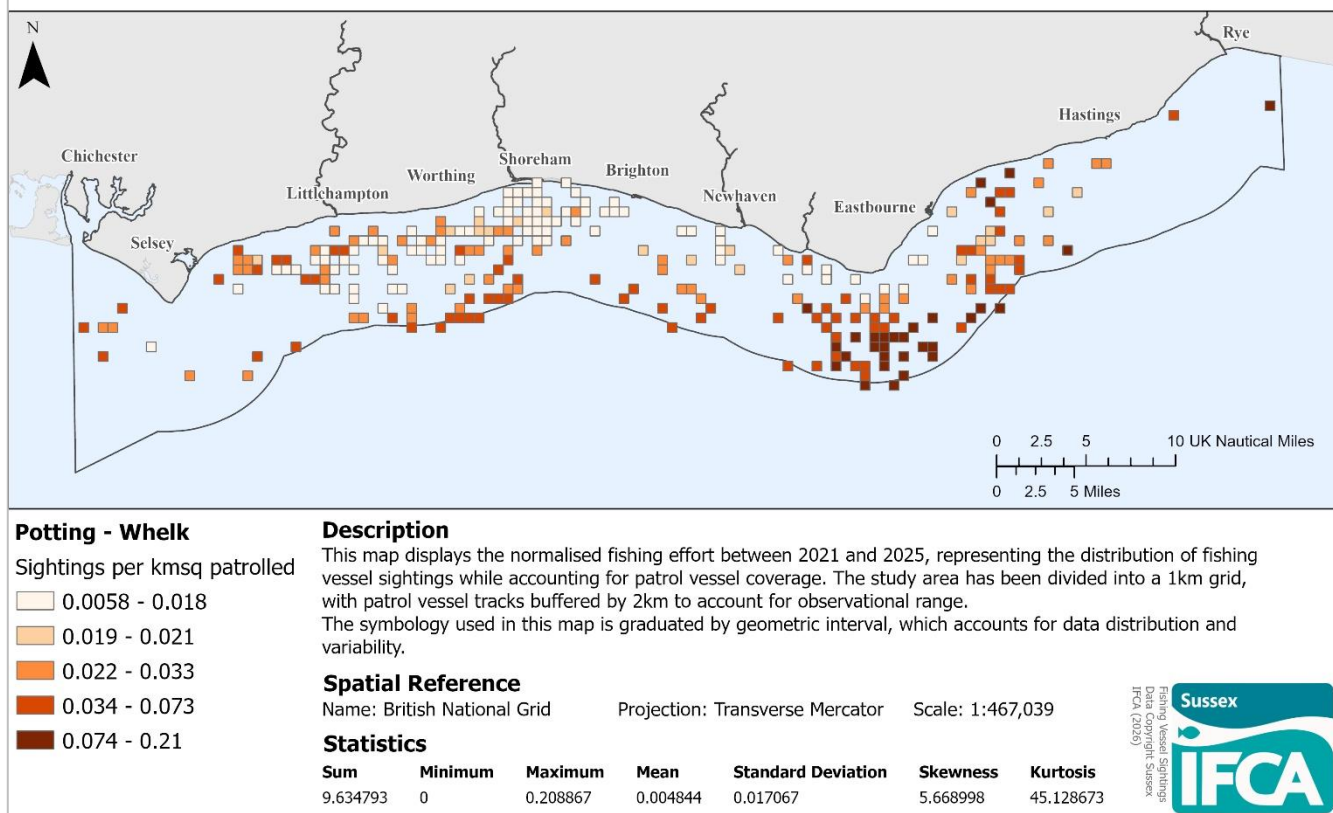


Cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*) potting (trapping) is a seasonal and small-scale fishery within Sussex, targeting spawning aggregations during the warmer months. Cuttlefish migrate inshore to breed during summer, which drives the inshore fishery.

Activity is concentrated within 3 NM of the coast and occurs across just 2.61% of the district. The main areas of operation are off Hastings and Eastbourne, with limited activity from vessels based in Littlehampton. Given its restricted spatial and temporal scope, this fishery represents a modest component of the overall potting effort.

Potting - Whelk

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Potting - Whelk

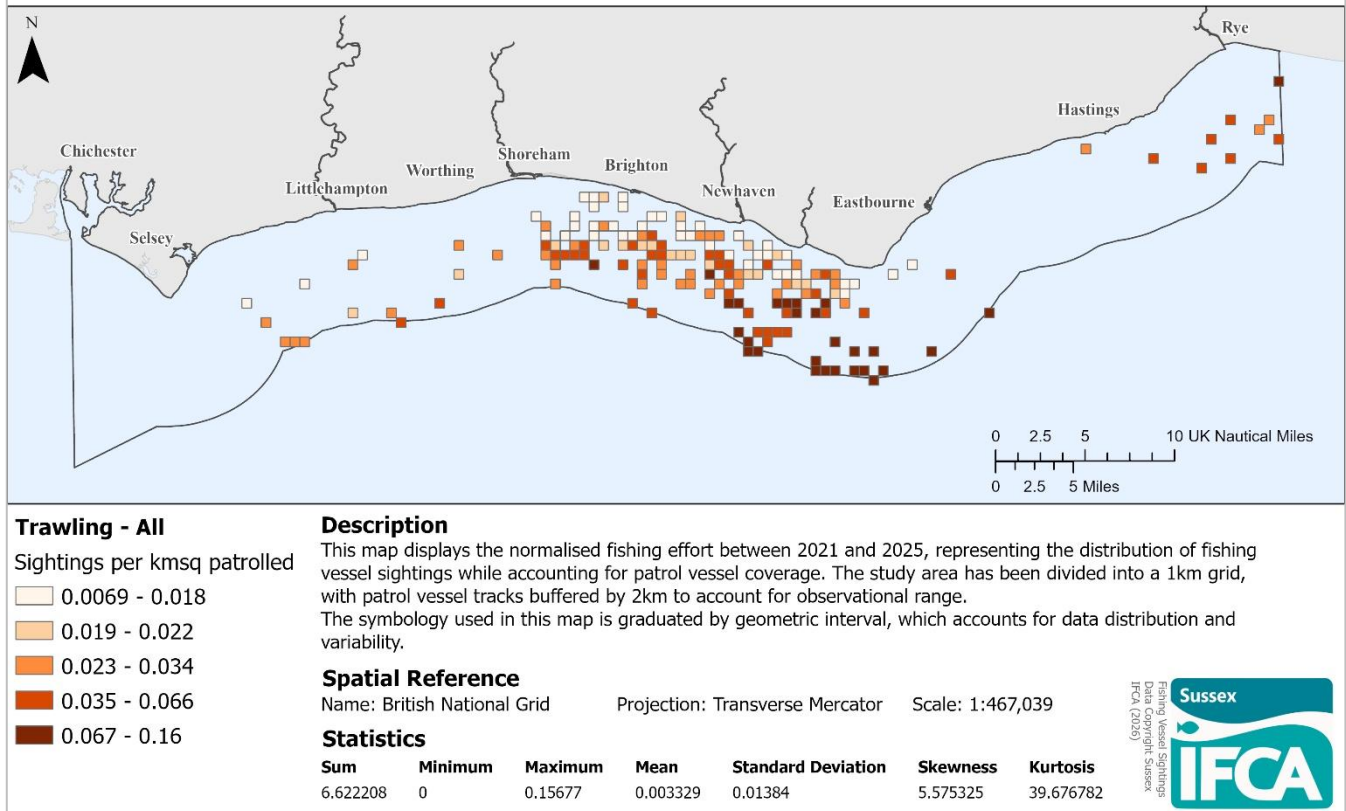


Whelk (*Buccinum undatum*) potting has grown significantly in economic importance in the recent past and now constitutes the most valuable fishery in the Sussex IFCA District. In 2025, whelks accounted for 89.74% of reported inshore commercial shellfish landings by weight, according to catch return data submitted via the Shellfish Permit Byelaw (note this does not account for the offshore (outside of 6 NM) king scallop fishery which is also very large in terms of landings and value).

This fishery covers 13.62% of the district, with effort concentrated off Beachy Head, particularly by Eastbourne-based vessels. The peak fishing season runs from January to April or May, after which some activity shifts offshore, however it remains relatively high in inshore waters throughout the year. Shoreham-based boats typically operate in the centre of the district, and also contribute significantly to overall fishing effort. The scale and spatial extent of whelk potting make it a key driver of inshore fishing pressure.

Trawling

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Trawling

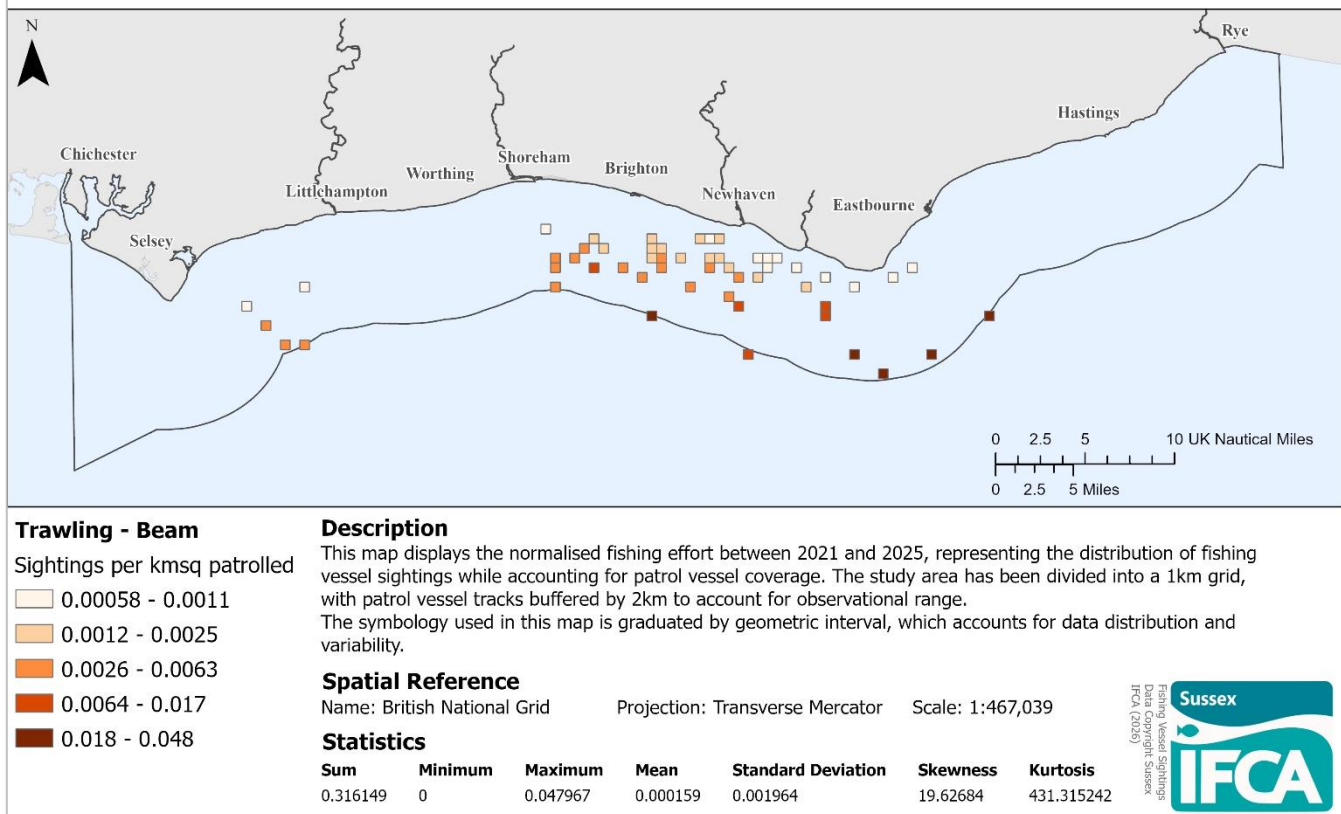


Trawling involves towing a net through the water column or along the seabed. It is an efficient fishing method, but also one with relatively high environmental impact, particularly bottom towed gears, which have direct contact with the seabed, and therefore trawling is managed and prohibited in some sensitive areas. Between 2021 and 2025, trawling accounted for 13.93% of total normalised fishing effort in the Sussex IFCA District and occurred across 8.60% of the district, with activity concentrated mainly between Shoreham and Beachy Head.

Stern trawling was the dominant trawling method, accounting for 10.43% of total normalised effort and covering 6.89% of the district, well above both beam and pair trawling on all effort measures. Beam trawling was comparatively limited, contributing 0.66% of total normalised effort while covering 2.66% of the district. Pair trawling, in which two vessels tow a single net, was the least common subtype, accounting for just 0.15% of total normalised effort and occurring across 0.15% of the district. Overall, trawling was more spatially concentrated than static gear fisheries.

Trawling - Beam

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Trawling - Beam



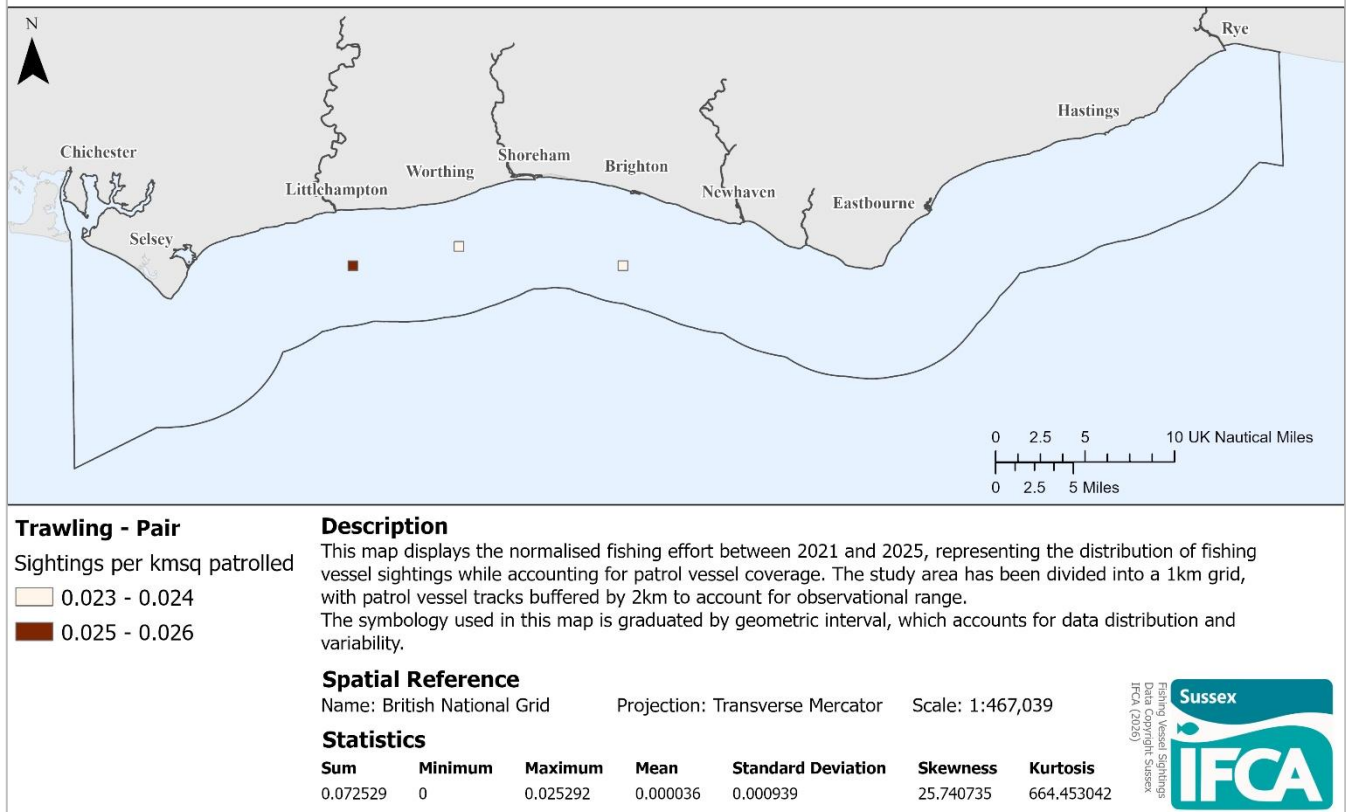
Beam trawling uses a rigid metal beam to hold the trawl net open as it is towed across the seabed, targeting primarily flatfish species such as sole and plaice.

This method is most effective over soft or chalky substrates and is generally avoided in rocky or reef-dominated areas. Within Sussex, Beam trawlers typically follow established lines, visible on the effort grid, running parallel to the coast between Brighton and Beachy Head.

Beam trawling accounts for 2.66% of the district's spatial coverage. Most vessels are based in Newhaven, although nomadic trawlers and Rye-based boats also contribute to the fishery, particularly in the easternmost areas.

Trawling - Pair

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Trawling - Pair

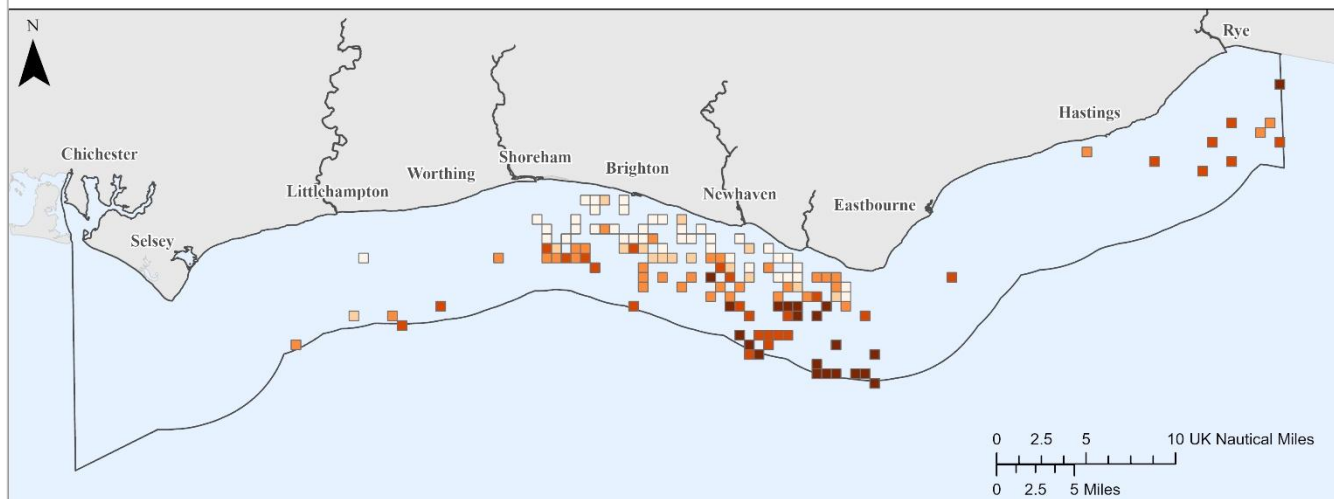


Pair trawling involves two vessels towing a single large net between them, it requires close coordination between vessels, typically to target pelagic species such as mackerel, and herring. By spreading the net over a wider area, the method can improve efficiency and reduce fuel costs. Pair trawling is subject to spatial seasonal restrictions.

Within the Sussex IFCA District, pair trawling is mainly carried out in spring to target black bream, particularly from April to June. The main ports involved in this fishery are Shoreham and Newhaven, with effort concentrated between Pagham and Brighton.

Trawling - Stern

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Trawling - Stern



Trawling - Stern

Sightings per kmsq patrolled

- 0.0069 - 0.018
- 0.019 - 0.022
- 0.023 - 0.034
- 0.035 - 0.066
- 0.067 - 0.16

Description

This map displays the normalised fishing effort between 2021 and 2025, representing the distribution of fishing vessel sightings while accounting for patrol vessel coverage. The study area has been divided into a 1km grid, with patrol vessel tracks buffered by 2km to account for observational range. The symbology used in this map is graduated by geometric interval, which accounts for data distribution and variability.

Spatial Reference

Name: British National Grid

Projection: Transverse Mercator

Scale: 1:467,039

Statistics

Sum	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
4.957084	0	0.15677	0.002492	0.011746	6.518213	54.72024

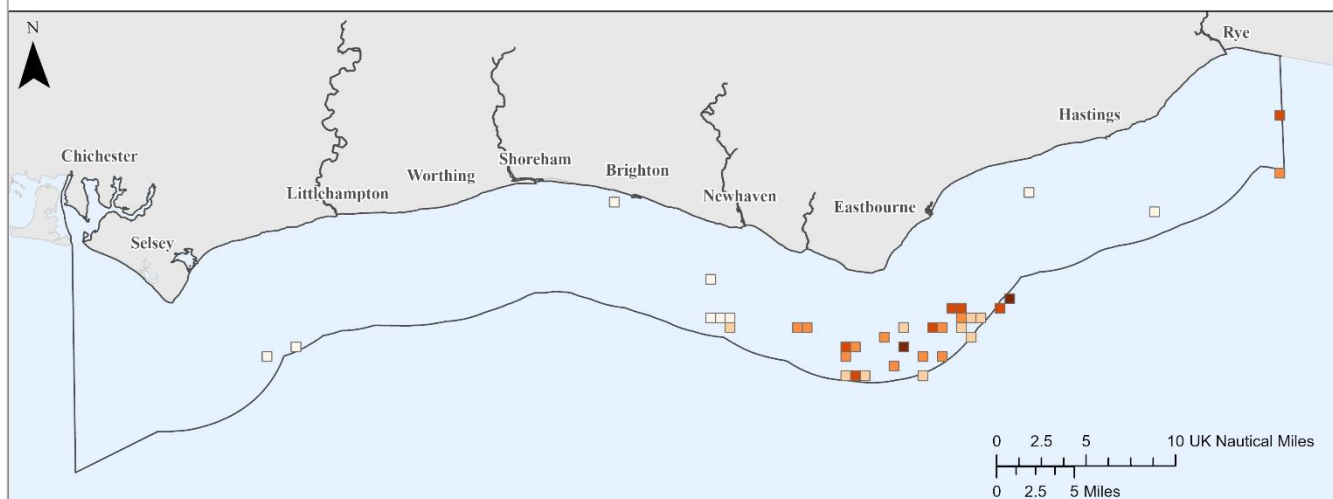


Stern trawling, the most common form of trawling in Sussex, covers 6.89% of the district. This method involves towing a net from the stern of the vessel and is suitable for targeting a variety of demersal species.

Key target species include sole, turbot, brill, skates and rays, tope, squid, and lemon sole. Stern trawling is concentrated between Shoreham and Beachy Head, with around 12 vessels operating from Shoreham, Newhaven, and Brighton. A further eight vessels, from Hastings and Rye, contribute to effort in the eastern part of the district. Activity east of Beachy Head is limited by unsuitable seabed conditions and gear conflict, creating a visible gap in trawling coverage between the central and eastern areas.

Dredging – All (Scallop)

Fishing Effort 2021 to 2025: Dredging



Dredging - All

Sightings per kmsq patrolled

- 0.0078 - 0.053
- 0.054 - 0.076
- 0.077 - 0.12
- 0.13 - 0.21
- 0.22 - 0.39

Description

This map displays the normalised fishing effort between 2021 and 2025, representing the distribution of fishing vessel sightings while accounting for patrol vessel coverage. The study area has been divided into a 1km grid, with patrol vessel tracks buffered by 2km to account for observational range. The symbology used in this map is graduated by geometric interval, which accounts for data distribution and variability.

Spatial Reference

Name: British National Grid

Projection: Transverse Mercator

Scale: 1:467,039

Statistics

Sum	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
3.776029	0	0.3863033	0.001898	0.017477	14.186361	262.391055



Scallop dredging is a commercially important fishery in Sussex, primarily targeting king scallops (*Pecten maximus*). The method uses metal-framed dredges fitted with spring-loaded teeth and chainmail bags, which are towed along the seabed to collect scallops. Although highly efficient, it can disturb the seabed, displace sediment, and damage benthic habitats.

To protect stocks and allow recovery during the spawning period, Sussex IFCA developed the Scallop Closed Season Byelaw, which prohibits dredging for scallops within 6NM between 1 June and 31 October inclusive, and within 3NM year-round. Vessels using trawl gear within the prohibited areas cannot retain more than 200 king scallops per 24-hour period, providing a limited incidental allowance whilst preventing targeted trawling effort during the closed period.

Although scallop dredging occurs across only 1.91% of the district, it accounted for 7.94% of total normalised fishing effort between 2021 and 2025. This indicates that scallop dredging occurs in relatively concentrated areas.

Most operations are based in Newhaven, Eastbourne, and Rye. Due to high levels of gear conflict near Beachy Head, vessels usually work closer to the 6-nautical-mile (NM) boundary. The fishery is most active between November and April and focuses on coarse seabed substrates favoured by scallops.

Conclusion

Netting and potting emerged as the dominant fishing métiers within the Sussex IFCA District between 2021 and 2025, together accounting for nearly 60% of total normalised effort. Whelk potting was the dominant fishery in terms of landings (as well as value) and is of critical importance for much of the district's inshore fleet. Gill netting emerged as the largest single contributor to fishing effort, accounting for the near entirety of the netting sector's 30.80% contribution to total normalised effort. Trawling and scallop dredging, while more spatially restricted, produced areas of relatively intensive effort, particularly between Shoreham and Beachy Head including along the 6 nm boundary. Commercial angling recorded the highest maximum sightings density of any gear type, reflecting concentrated activity around productive wrecks and reef structures at key locations including Newhaven, Beachy Head, and Selsey.

The spatial distribution of fishing activity across the district reflects a combination of factors, including the suitability of seabed habitats for particular gear types, the number and operational range of vessels from each home port, and the avoidance of areas with high gear conflict risk. These factors are considered the primary drivers of the broad spatial patterns observed, however patrol effort and coverage are also drivers.

It is important to note that patrol effort is not uniformly distributed across the district. As the FPV Watchful is based in Shoreham and operates using a risk-based surveillance approach, areas closer to the port, known fishing grounds, and Marine Protected Areas receive proportionally greater patrol coverage. Although vessel sightings are normalised against patrol effort to account for this, residual spatial biases in patrol behaviour may still influence the patterns observed, and results should be interpreted as a relative index of observed fishing activity rather than an absolute measure of total effort.

The current method applies a fixed 2 km buffer to the FPV's track when calculating patrol coverage, representing the assumed maximum range within which a fishing vessel can be reliably observed and assessed. This assumption does not account for variation in observational conditions between patrol trips, meaning that patrol coverage may be overstated in periods of poor visibility or adverse weather and understated in fair weather and clear conditions. The Conservation and Research team have plans to address this limitation and produce a more accurate representation of effective patrol coverage and improve the robustness of the effort calculations; this is in development.

The data presented in this report provide a quantitative evidence base to support fisheries management decisions across the district, including byelaw development and review, enforcement prioritisation, and stakeholder engagement. The establishment of a consistent, normalised annual effort index across all gear types also provides a baseline against which future changes in fishing pressure can be measured, supporting the identification of long-term trends in district-wide fishing activity.

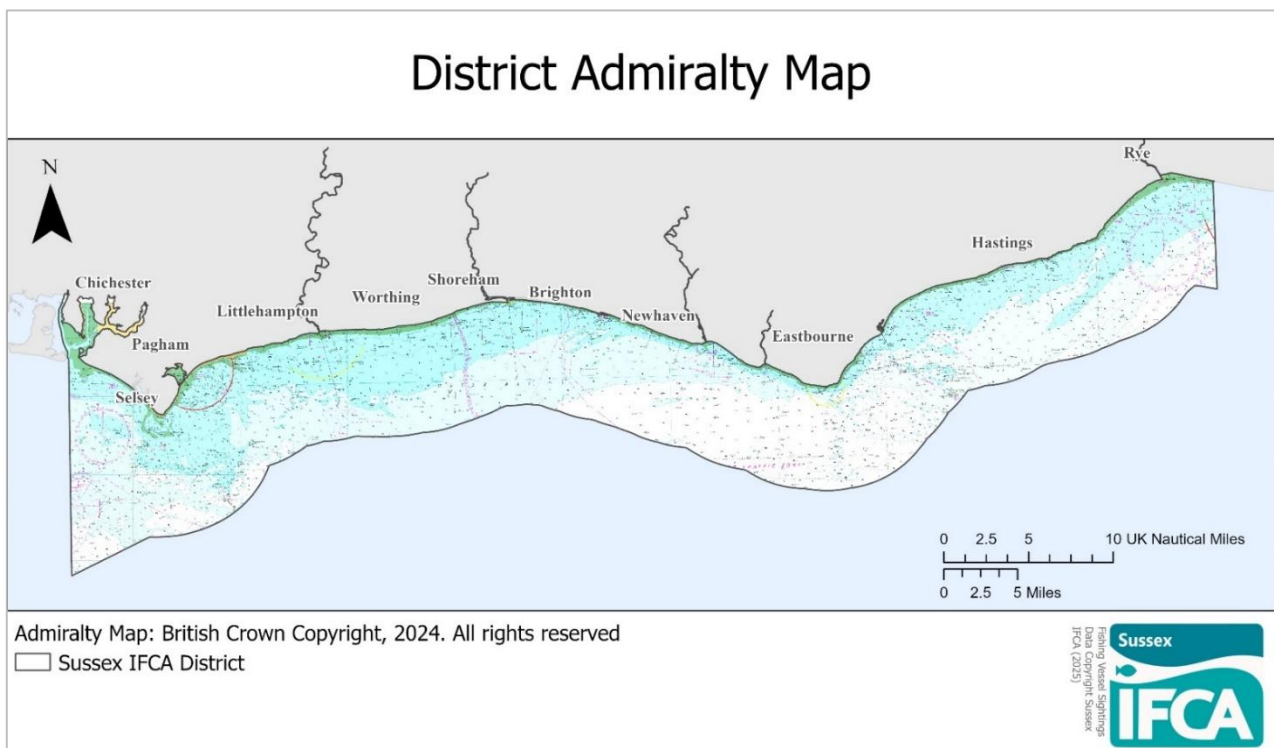
Technical Annex

Map Display

When the fishing effort data is visualised on maps, the data is displayed in a way to enhance interpretability. Unlike with the statistics, grid cells with zero recorded effort are filtered from the data to focus attention on areas where fishing activity has occurred. This exclusion helps to reduce visual clutter and highlight spatial patterns of effort more effectively for each individual gear type.

Furthermore, fishing effort is classified using a geometric interval scheme. This method groups data into classes that increase exponentially, which is particularly well-suited to datasets with a highly skewed distribution, such as with fishing effort data where a small percentage of the district experience very high effort, and most experience low effort. Geometric intervals ensure that both low and high values are meaningfully represented, providing a balanced visual impression and interpretation of fishing intensity across the district.

Admiralty Map



The accompanying Admiralty chart provides a detailed nautical representation of the Sussex IFCA District, displaying key maritime features such as depth contours, navigational hazards, shipping lanes, and designated fishing areas. Produced by the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), these charts are essential navigational tools for mariners, offering accurate hydrographic data to support safe passage and operational planning.