

# THE SHEET FACTS



## Hand Gathering Byelaw 2021 Commercial & High Level Activity

**Do you regularly hand gather large quantities of sea fisheries resources (marine animals and plants) from the shore in Sussex?**

**If yes, then you need to know about our new fisheries management proposals**

### **What is being proposed by Sussex IFCA in the new Byelaw?**

- Enabling and managing hand gathering at commercial and high levels through the introduction of a new Sussex IFCA permit system.
- Managing and monitoring the purchase of marine animals and plants hand gathered within Sussex for the purpose of sale. This may include businesses which sell bait to anglers or bivalve mollusc shellfish gathered for food.
- Maintaining and managing sustainable hand gathering for personal needs without the need for a permit.

At present in Sussex there is no county wide management of hand gathering activity to protect the species and habitats within intertidal areas. The proposed new management measures will protect the intertidal marine environment in Sussex by helping to:

- Prevent damage to, and recover sensitive marine habitats
- Monitor the levels of hand gathering activity within the Sussex IFCA district
- Manage the methods used in hand gathering within the Sussex IFCA district
- Secure sustainable intertidal hand gathering fisheries for the Sussex community.

Many coastal fish species and birds are highly dependent on intertidal coastal habitats during their life cycles. Management of hand gathering within the intertidal areas will help protect intertidal fauna, flora and marine habitats from potentially unsustainable harvesting pressures.

### **Consultation information:**

<https://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/live-consultations>

### **Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

12a Riverside Business Centre, Brighton Road,  
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 6RE.

[www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk)  
01273 454407



### Hand Gathering Commercial Permit

Under the proposed byelaw, any person removing large quantities of sea fisheries resources from intertidal areas by hand, or with the use of hand held equipment, within the Sussex IFCA district will need a permit.

Permits will last one year from the date of issue at a cost of £100. If required, applications for permits and payment can be made online or by post.

An issued permit must be carried by the permit holder, or on the company property during hand gathering activities or handling of sea fisheries resources.

As part of your permit conditions, the holder will be asked to provide information on what activities have been undertaken and what has been gathered during the year.

### Hand Gathering Catch Restrictions

Subject to the byelaw's provisions and permit conditions, a permit holder may remove from the fishery, or receive for the purpose of sale from persons hand gathering within the fishery any quantity of the following species, above the limits listed below that apply to non-permit holders:

- 20 crabs in total of any species other than edible crab (*Cancer pagurus*)
- 5 kg of mollusc shellfish
- 1 kg of prawns or shrimps
- 1 kg or 1 litre or 100 individual marine worms(Annelida)
- 5 kg of intertidal seaweed (algae)
- 0.5kg of Glasswort (*Salicornia Species*)
- 0.5kg of Sea-blite (*Suaeda Species*)

If you do not take more than the above limits for species in any one day, then you will not require a permit. However, you will still be subject to limited management described in the guidance and proposed byelaw.

Permit holders will be restricted from collecting in some marine protected areas within the district as described in the byelaw. These include:

- Medmerry and Bracklesham Bay SSSI
- Selsey Bill & the Hounds MCZ
- Pagham Harbour
- Adur Estuary SSSI
- Beachy Head West MCZ and Beachy Head East MCZ, including Cuckmere Estuary.

