

Hand Gathering Byelaw 2021 Non-Commercial Low Level Activity

Do you hand gather for personal or non-commercial needs, small 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 existing hand gathering activities for personal and non-commercial needs.
- Maintaining sustainable hand gathering for personal needs with no requirement for a permit and any associated fee.

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 commercial and high levels of hand gathering activity within the Sussex IFCA district.
- Manage the methods used for 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.

Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

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

Consultation information:

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

www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk
01273 454407



FACT SHEET



Hand Gathering Catch Restrictions

Subject to the proposed byelaw's provisions, a person must not remove from a fishery, or receive for the purpose of sale from persons gathering within the fishery, in any one day more than:

- 2 lobsters (*Homarus gammarus*)
- 5 edible crabs (*Cancer pagurus*)
- 20 crabs in total of any species other than *Cancer pagurus*;
- 5 kg of mollusc shellfish except piddock (*Pholadidae*), blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) or native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)
- 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*)

* *In respect to marine worms; providing any person hand gathering complies with any one of the 3 measurements described, it will be acceptable and no hand gathering permit will be required.*

If you wish to take more than the above limits for species in any one day, then you will require a permit and should refer to the relevant guidance and proposed byelaw provisions.

Other Management Measures

Non-permit holders will be restricted from certain hand gathering activities in a number of marine protected areas within the district including.

- Chichester Harbour SAC, SPA and SSSI
- 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.

