

## Sussex IFCA Netting Permit Byelaw 2019

### Outcome of Sussex IFCA consultation on amendments made to the proposed Netting Permit Byelaw 2019 and associated Flexible Permit Conditions

The formal consultation closed on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Sussex IFCA received 32 written submissions in response to the consultation, including stakeholders from the commercial fishing industry, recreational fishers, non-governmental organisations and local residents. The Authority would like to thank all those that participated in the consultation, we appreciate your time and the valuable feedback you provided.

Following consideration of the consultation responses at a Technical Subcommittee meeting of the Authority on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, and at a subsequent Principal Committee Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the Authority has decided to accept the amendments to the Netting Permit Byelaw 2019, and Flexible Permit Conditions, as proposed.

The Authority recognises that management of inshore net fisheries is a complex and often emotive issue, and this was evident in the highly polarised views on management, submitted by stakeholders. The Authority has decided that the proposed amendments offer the best available compromise between balancing the needs of the environment, the angling community and inshore net fisheries.

The outcome of the consultation and resulting Authority decision will now be provided to Defra, in support of the amended Byelaw, as submitted in 2020.

Please note that the Netting Permit Byelaw (NPB) and the Flexible Permit Conditions (FPCs) will not come into effect until the confirmation process is completed. In the meantime, the existing Byelaw regulations, namely the Fixed Engine Byelaw and Fishing Instruments Byelaw (available at: <https://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/regulations>) will continue to apply within the Sussex IFCA District.

All those who responded to the consultation have now been written to, informing them of the Authority's decision and responding to specific concerns and enquiries. An updated FAQ document is provided to respond to some of the key enquiries raised through the consultation process.