

Sussex IFCA Beachy Head West MCZ Voluntary Code of Conduct



These voluntary measures have been put in place to support the management of the MCZ and help achieve the best conservation outcomes for the site.

Avoid anchoring over rocky reef or within the ECAs (see map below). If essential, use a lower impact anchor.

Purpose: To minimise damage to reef.

Return seahorses directly if caught and report catch information (location, species and photograph) to Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre. Avoid fishing in areas of high seahorse bycatch.

Purpose: To help increase understanding and reduce impacts on this protected animal.

Return female finfish and shellfish with eggs.

Purpose: To allow eggs to hatch and contribute to the next generation.

Follow Angling Trust minimum landing sizes for fish.

Purpose: To protect immature fish, enabling them to breed at least once.

Maximum landing sizes for certain finfish and shellfish species.

Purpose: To protect larger, more fecund individuals.

Lift fish out of the water using a landing net, unhook the fish whilst in landing net and return to sea quickly if practicing catch and release.

Purpose: To minimise damage and promote survival of returned fish.

Take a photo rather than retain trophy fish.

Purpose: To protect larger, more fecund individuals.

If retaining fish, dispatch cleanly and quickly.

Purpose: For fish welfare.

Supply catch and fishing activity data to Sussex IFCA.

Purpose: To help us better understand our fisheries and inform management.

Return crippled lobsters (those that have lost one or both claws).

Purpose: They are capable of re-growing their lost limbs and contributing to the population.

Follow Angling Trusts Bait Collection Code. See inside for baq limit and exclusion area information.



BEACHY HEAD WEST MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE

Fisheries Management Measures Summary
A protected area from Brighton to Beachy Head

Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is one of a network of UK Marine Protected Areas. The site extends from the high water mark to 0.5nm (0.9km) out to sea. It runs from Brighton Marina to Beachy Head lighthouse, with a gap at Newhaven. This MCZ protects one of the best examples of chalk reef in Europe, as well the marine life that lives there. Protected animals include seahorses, blue mussels and native oysters.



MCZ Landward Marks		
1	West side of Brighton Marina	50°48.81'N 000° 06.61'W
2	150m west of Newhaven west arm	50°46.81'N 000° 03.05'E
3	Tide Mills, Seaford Bay	50°46.92'N 000° 04.12'E
4	Beachy Head lighthouse	50°44.11'N 000° 14.49'E

Education Conservation Areas

The Education Conservation Areas (ECAs) are intertidal gathering no-take zones. Research within these areas will help improve understanding of the populations that exist when there is no intertidal gathering. These areas will provide an excellent education resource. The ECAs tie in with the marine sections of the South Downs National Park and the Living Coast Biosphere Reserve.

ECA Landward Marks		
Friars Bay ECA	Eastern end of Peacehaven undercliff	50° 47.11'N 000° 01.25'E
	Newhaven west arm car park	50° 46.81'N 000° 03.02'E
Birling Gap ECA	Birling Gap staircase	50° 44.56'N 000° 12.04'E
	Beachy Head lighthouse	50° 44.10'N 000° 14.49'E

To view or obtain a copy of the Marine Protected Area Byelaw and Beachy Head West MCZ management, please go to our website www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk or contact our office on 01273 454407.

Beachy Head West MCZ Legal Requirements

Under the Sussex IFCA Marine Protected Area Byelaw and associated Beachy Head West MCZ Schedule, it is prohibited for a person to:

- Harm, destroy or remove from the shore blue mussels, seahorses, piddocks or native oysters by any method.
- Remove or harm any marine organism by intertidal gathering within the ECAs.
- Outside of ECAs, remove from the shore more than 2 European lobsters, 5 edible crabs, 20 crabs of other species, 1kg mollusc shellfish, 1kg shrimps/prawns, 1kg marine worms or 2kg seaweed.
- None of the above species may be removed from the shore for commercial purposes.
- Fish with a net from the shore.
- Anchor a line from the shore (rod and line angling is permitted).
- Use towed gear (e.g. a trawl) from a vessel. Towed gear operators inside Beachy Head West buffer zone must use an active vessel information and monitoring system. The buffer zone extends 0.5nm around Beachy Head West MCZ.

Please contact Sussex IFCA on 01273 454407 if you have information on any boat or person not complying with the statutory management for Beachy Head West MCZ.

Inspections & powers

Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers have the legal powers to board and inspect any vessel and inspect persons who may have been fishing. 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.