

Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Special Protection Area Hand Gathering Guidance

Hand Gathering (Restrictions and Permitting) Byelaw 2021



Prohibitions:

No marine organism aggregation devices, such as crab tiles, may be used within the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA Management Area. An indicative map is provided in Figure 1 below. Full coordinates of the Management Area are available at the Sussex IFCA website: www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/regulations

Hand gathering may only be by non-mechanical methods.

Polluting chemicals, materials and substances must not be deposited when hand gathering.

A person must not knowingly remove, harm, kill or destroy eel grass (*Zostera species*) or intertidal kelp species (*Laminaria digitata* and *Sacchorina latissimi*).

A person must not remove marine organisms from the intertidal shore within the Sussex IFCA District, other than the specified species and stranded dead fish of any species.

Species and limits:

Unless they hold a valid permit issued by Sussex IFCA, in one calendar day a person must not remove more than:

- 2 lobsters (*Homarus gammarus*)
- 5 edible crabs (*Cancer pagurus*)
- 30 crabs in total of any species other than *Cancer pagurus*
- 5 kilogrammes of mollusc shellfish, (total prohibition on piddock (*Pholadidae*) and native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*))
- 1 kilogramme of prawns or shrimps
- a quantity of marine worms (Annelida) exceeding all of the following alternative limits, specified as 1.5 kilogrammes, 1.5 litres and 150 individual animals
- 5 kilogrammes of intertidal seaweed (macro algae)
- 0.5 kilogrammes of glasswort (*Salicornia* sp.)
- 0.5 kilogrammes of sea-blite (*Suaeda* sp.)

Important Notices:

Hand gatherers should familiarise themselves with the Sussex IFCA Hand Gathering Byelaw and associated guidance documents, available on the [Sussex IFCA website](http://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk).

Persons that wish to hand gather sea fisheries resources are responsible for gaining the permission of the landowner, or any party who has rights over that land.

Persons that wish to gather sea fisheries resources are responsible for identifying whether there are any pre-existing prohibitions or restrictions on such activities.

Bivalve shellfish, if gathered under a permit issued under the Hand Gathering Byelaw 2021, may only be gathered from designated shellfish beds classified A or B by the Food Standards Agency. Further information is available from the [FSA website](#).

Figure 1. Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA Management Area (Management Area 6)

