

HAND GATHERING PERMIT

How to complete a permit application

Hand Gathering (Restrictions and Permitting) Byelaw 2021



Introduction

The Hand Gathering (Restrictions and Permitting) Byelaw 2021 contains provisions enabling the issuing of Hand Gathering Permits to applicants by the Authority. Provisions concerning the issuing, fees and conditions of permits are contained in paragraphs 4 to 11 of the Hand Gathering (Restrictions and Permitting) Byelaw 2021.

Application for a Hand Gathering Permit should be made online through the Sussex IFCA's website. If it not possible for you to make the application in this way, you must make an appointment to visit the Sussex IFCA Office to complete an application.

Application Completion

General Introductory Points

- Please use the online support guidance to complete the application online
- A valid permit is required to hand gather quantities of intertidal marine animals or plants above specified limits during a single day. These limits are specified in the Byelaw and are as follows:
 - 2 lobsters (*Homarus gammarus*)
 - 5 edible crabs (*Cancer pagurus*)
 - 30 crabs in total of any species other than *Cancer pagurus*
 - 5 kg of mollusc shellfish
 - 1 kg of prawns or shrimps
 - a quantity of marine worms (*Annelida*) exceeding all of the following alternative limits, specified as 1.5 kg, 1.5 litres and 150 individual animals
 - 5 kg of intertidal seaweed (*algae*)
 - 0.5kg of Glasswort (*Salicornia species*) this includes marsh samphire
 - 0.5kg of Sea-blite (*Suaeda species*)
- A permit is issued to an individual (the holder)
- Permit holders must provide to the Authority information on what they have gathered and submit required information online
- Permits have conditions specifying where it can be used and what can be gathered
- Permit holders must be in possession of a legible copy of the permit and photographic identification documentation whilst hand gathering within the fishery
- A permit can be renewed online
- Failure to comply with prohibitions, restrictions and permit conditions is an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine

Details required

1. Name

An application must only be made by the individual that will use the permit and undertake hand gathering

2. Address

Only one contact address should be provided for the permit holder, this is the address to which the Authority will send the permit and future correspondence

3. Declaration

The declaration must be completed by the applicant

Permit Fee

The Hand Gathering Permit fee is £75 for one year from the date of commencement

What you receive from the Authority

Permit holders will be issued with the following documents digitally:

- A Hand Gathering Permit Certificate – this is a non-transferable authorisation it cannot be sold
- Permit guidance, including flexible permit conditions
- Information on catch data to be provided by the permit holder

General Permit Conditions

- Permits are valid for the period of one year
- Permits are not transferable between the permit holder and another person
- Permits must be surrendered to the Authority immediately if no longer required
- The Authority may vary fees in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Byelaw
- In accordance with the Hand Gathering (Restrictions and Permitting) Byelaw 2021 a Hand Gathering Permit is subject to:
 - Prohibitions and restrictions in paragraph 3;
 - General Permit Conditions and in paragraphs 4 and 6;
 - Flexible permit conditions attached to the permit in accordance with paragraphs 7;
 - Byelaw Schedules 1 to 6 describing the Management Areas
- A permit holder is permitted to hand gather the species specified in the permit in the quantities specified in the permit
- Unless otherwise specified in the permit, the holder is permitted to hand gather from the shore in accordance with the schedules to this byelaw
- Permit holders must be in possession of a legible copy of the permit and photographic identification documentation whilst hand gathering within the fishery
- A permit that permits the gathering of bivalve molluscs may only be used to hand gather species within designated shellfish beds which have been classified as A or B and suitable for human consumption
- A Hand Gathering Permit holder must provide the Authority with any relevant fishery information (as set out at paragraph 9 of this byelaw) requested by the Authority

Flexible Permit Conditions

The Authority may introduce, remove or vary a flexible permit condition which falls within one or more of the following categories:

- catch restrictions;
- gear restrictions;
- spatial restrictions;
- time restrictions;

The restrictions, Byelaw and additional guidance documents are provided at:
<https://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/regulations>