

Sussex IFCA Hand Gathering Quick Reference Guide –



Species and Bag Limits

For quick reference only, hand gatherers must read the Hand Gathering Permit Byelaw and guidance at <https://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/regulations>

If you are NOT gathering in a Marine Protected Area*, the following bag limits apply (Minimum Sizes apply District wide):

Species that can be gathered:	Does a Bag Limit apply?	Per day, not more than:	Minimum Size (mm)
Lobster (<i>Homarus gammarus</i>)	Yes	2 Lobsters	87mm (carapace length)
Edible Crab (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>)	Yes	5 Crabs	140mm (carapace width)
Other species of Crab Velvet swimming crab (<i>Necora puber</i>) Spider crab (<i>Maja squinado</i>) Spider crab (<i>Maja squinado</i>) Unnamed other crab	Yes	30 Crabs (other species in total)	65mm (carapace width) Male - 130mm (carapace length) Female - 120 mm (carapace length) No minimum size
Mollusc Shellfish Scallop (<i>Pecten maximus</i>) Whelk (<i>Buccinum spp.</i>) Razor Clam (<i>Ensis spp.</i>) Clam – American hard-shelled (<i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i>) Clam - Carpetshell (<i>Venerupis pullastra</i>) Clam - Grooved carpetshell (<i>Ruditapes decussatus</i>) Clam - Short-necked or Manila (<i>Ruditapes philippinarum</i>) Clam - Surf (<i>Spisula solida</i>) Clam – Warty Venus (<i>Venus verrucosa</i>) Queen scallop (<i>Aequipecten opercularis</i>) Unnamed molluscs (not including Native Oyster, Piddock)	Yes	5kg (mollusc shellfish in total)	110 mm 45 mm 100 mm 63 mm 38 mm 40 mm 35 mm 25 mm 40 mm 40 mm N/A
Prawns/Shrimps	Yes	1kg	N/A
Marine worms	Yes	1.5kg, or 1.5 litres or 150 worms	
Intertidal Seaweed	Yes	5kg	N/A
Glasswort (includes Marsh Samphire)	Yes	0.5kg	N/A
Sea-blite	Yes	0.5kg	N/A
Sand eels	No	N/A	N/A
Stranded dead fish	No	N/A	N/A

You may only exceed the bag limits listed above (with the exception of Lobster and Edible Crab limits that apply to all persons) if you hold a current hand gathering permit, issued by Sussex IFCA.

Minimum size regulations apply to a number of crustacean and mollusc species; you must not take them below specified size limits. All crustaceans and mollusc species must be measured correctly in accordance with the Minimum Size (Fish, Crustacea and Mollusc) Byelaw 2021 (available on the Sussex IFCA regulations page - <https://www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/regulations>).

You must not gather piddock, native oyster or kelp. You must not damage sea grass beds.

You are responsible for obtaining permission from a landowner, or other rights holder, to hand gather where such rights apply.

You must not use chemicals or electrical devices to hand gather species.

*** Additional restrictions apply within six Marine Protected Areas within the Sussex IFCA District. These six MPAs and additional restrictions are described within the Hand Gathering Byelaw's six schedules. You must check the Byelaw or specific Byelaw guidance for Chichester Harbour, Pagham Harbour, Medmerry & Bracklesham Bay, Beachy Head East and West MCZ's, Adur Estuary SSSI and Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA.**

Please abide by the Hand Gathering Code of Conduct:

- **Tell someone where you intend to dig**
- **Be aware of local hazards, tides and conditions**
- **Do not dig around moorings, slipways or sea walls**
- **Back fill all holes and trenches, for safety and to maintain habitats**
- **Replace all rocks and stones**
- **Avoid disturbing wildlife and marine heritage**
- **Take your litter home**
- **Treat the foreshore with respect**