

Introduction

The Sussex IFCA Shellfish Permit Byelaw requires that permit holders provide relevant fisheries information required by the Authority. The data submitted in catch returns will enable the Sussex IFCA and others to better understand:

- The seasonality of the shellfish fisheries and changes over longer time periods.
- Changes in catches and the status of stocks in response to the levels of fishing effort within the fisheries.
- The scale and economic value of fisheries within the IFCA District.

Permit holder catch returns will be used with conjunction with: existing MMO Shellfish Licence catch returns (MSAR forms), biological information on species maturity and growth, at sea surveys that provide data on catch composition and population structure, as well as information on fishing gears and selectivity.

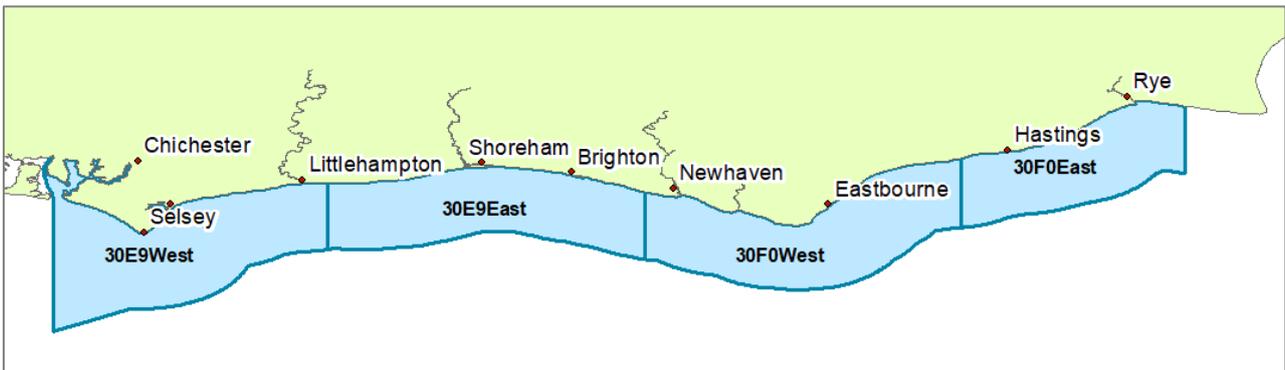
A report anonymously summarising the data will be published annually.

Fishing Areas

To enable the Authority to better understand and manage the fisheries over specific inshore areas within the IFCA District, we require information on where you caught shellfish. We understand it may be difficult to say exactly what the proportions were and we will accept the best estimate in respect to both the proportion of pots and catch as part of your known totals.

There are four areas in the District which are half ICES sub-rectangles out to 6 nautical miles:

- 30E9 west (Chichester Harbour to Littlehampton)
- 30E9 east (Rustington to Peacehaven)
- 30F0 west (Newhaven to Bexhill)
- 30F0 east (Hastings to Rye)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What information does Sussex IFCA need?

1. Quantity (kg) of shellfish caught
2. Average number of pots hauled per fishing trip
3. Total number of trips to haul each pot type in the month

How often will I need to send Sussex IFCA my catch data?

Commercial permit holders: Required to send catch return forms every month.

Recreational permit holders: Required to send 12 monthly catch return forms together at the end of the permit year.

Retain the carbon copy for your own records.

What if I haven't caught any shellfish this month?

If it is just one month, please fill in a form so we have that in our records.

If you only catch shellfish at certain times of the year (for example, only during June to August) and there are several consecutive months when you know you will not be catching shellfish, please let us know in writing in advance.

How can I send Sussex IFCA my data?

By post:

Send the forms to:

Sussex IFCA
12A Riverside Business Centre
Brighton Road
Shoreham-by-Sea
BN43 6RE

By email: research@sussex-ifca.gov.uk

Electronic copies of the form can be downloaded from our website (www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk).

Please contact Sussex IFCA on 01273 454407 if you require any assistance in filling in the form.

How do I fill in the Sussex IFCA shellfish permit byelaw catch returns form?

- Data is for catch caught and retained within the Sussex IFCA district only.
- One form for each month.
- Write the month, year, landing port, your Sussex IFCA shellfish permit number, vessel name, vessel PLN (port letters and numbers) and the skipper's name in the boxes at the top of the form.
- Tick the box corresponding to the area where you have been fishing.
- For each gear type record:
 - the average number of pots hauled per trip
 - the total number of trips to haul that pot type in that month
 - the total weight (kg) of each species that you have caught in that gear type

- If you have caught shellfish in nets or trawls, record the amount of net or type of trawl, the number of trips and the total weight of each species.
- Fill in only the sections of the form that are applicable to your fishing activity. Leave empty any box that is not applicable.
- Sign the form at the bottom.
- An example is below.

1. Fill in these boxes at the top of the page

2. Select the area where you have been fishing

Sussex IFCA Shellfish Permit Byelaw Area Catch Return

Month (1 form for each month only) <i>October</i>	Year <i>2018</i>	Landing Port <i>Shoreham</i>	Sussex IFCA Permit Number <i>001</i>	Vessel Name <i>Fishing Boat</i>	Vessel IAN <i>SM99</i>	Skipper <i>Joe Bloggs</i>
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IMPORTANT
SELECT AREA FISHED – tick box
1 per form only.
If more than one area fished,
complete additional forms.

Fishing Method	Average number of pots hauled per trip	Total number of trips to haul pot type in the month	Shellfish Species - Total weight (kg) landed in the month from each fishing method						
			Lobster	Edible Crab	Whelk	Cuttlefish	Spider crab	Velvet Swimming Crab	Prawn
Lobster/crab pots	<i>100</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>200</i>					
Whelk pots	<i>50</i>	<i>15</i>			<i>300</i>				
Cuttlefish pots	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>				<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>		
Prawn pots									
Net	Approx. net length (metres) <i>2000</i>	<i>5</i>					<i>5</i>		
Trawl	Trawl type (delete as applicable) <i>Beam / Otter</i>								

Comments:

Submitted by (PRINT NAME): *JOE BLOGGS*

Signed: *J. Bloggs*

Date: *5/11/18*

Please return to: Sussex IFCA 12A Riverside Business Centre, Brighton Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 6RE research@sussex-ifca.gov.uk 01273 454407

Each row has a different fishing method

3. For each fishing method you've used, record the average number of pots you've hauled per trip

4. For each fishing method you've used, record the total number of trips you've been out to haul that gear type

5. For each fishing method you've used, record the total weight (kg) of each species you've landed