

FACT SHEET

SUSSEX IFCA HAND GATHERING BYELAW 2021

If you are digging, pumping or otherwise collecting bait / collecting shellfish / foraging in the intertidal zone in Sussex, you must be aware that these activities are governed by the Sussex IFCA Hand Gathering Byelaw 2021.

If you collect small amounts of organisms for personal use, you do not require a Permit. However, you must understand:

- What types of animals / plants can be collected
- What types of animals / plants cannot be collected
- How much of each type of organism you are allowed to collect (bag limits)
- How you can collect them
- That there are additional rules for six Marine Conservation Zones in the District

Permit

Any person intending to gather any of the specified species including shellfish, bait species, marine algae and seaweeds, above the bag limits, will require a Hand Gathering Permit.

There are six Marine Protected Areas in Sussex where additional regulations governing hand gathering activities within the site are applied. These provisions apply to everyone, whether you hold a Hand Gathering Permit or not. If you intend to gather in any of the following Marine Protected Areas, you must check the appropriate guidance document.



Scan for
regulations and
byelaw guidance



01273 454407



www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/regulations

SPECIES & BAG LIMIT INFORMATION

The Byelaw lists the animals and plants that can and cannot be gathered by hand, or handheld instrument, within the Sussex District.

Some are named by species and some in broader taxonomic groups.

Animals that can be hand gathered

Daily Bag Limits (per person, per day)

● Lobster (<i>Homarus gammarus</i>)	2 lobsters
● Edible Crabs (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>)	5 crabs
● Crab Species other than <i>Cancer pagurus</i>	30 crabs
● Mollusc shellfish Except for piddock (<i>Pholadidae</i>) and native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	5 kg
● Prawns or shrimps	1 kg
● Marine worms (<i>Annelida</i>)	1.5kg / 1.5 litres / 150 individual animals
● Sand eels (<i>Ammodytidae</i>)	N/A
● Stranded dead fish of any species	N/A

Plants that can be hand gathered

● Seaweeds (macro algae) Except kelp species (<i>Laminaria digitata</i> & <i>Sacchorina latissimi</i>)	5 kg
● Glasswort (<i>Salicornia</i> species) Including Marsh Samphire	0.5kg
● Sea-blite (<i>Suaeda</i> species)	0.5kg

A number of shellfish species that may be hand gathered also have a minimum conservation reference size restriction applied (MCRS). If they are below these minimum sizes they cannot be collected.

When harvesting animals or plants from the shoreline, always follow the Sussex IFCA's Hand Gathering Code of Conduct.



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