

Voluntary Code of Conduct

General

- No breathing apparatus other than a snorkel is permissible when spearfishing.
 - No cartridge-powered or expellable gas spearguns may be used.
 - Fish should only be speared where:
 - there is a clear intention to retain the catch for human consumption; and
 - catches are limited to 10 fish per person per day.
- Please note special rules apply during recognised competition events.**
- Under retained Regulation (EU) 2019/1241, the use of hand-held spears and spearguns is permitted only in recreational fishing, without the use of an aqualung, and only between dawn and dusk.

Area Restrictions

- No spearfishing within European Marine Sites (designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives). These areas contain sensitive habitats or protected features.
- Spearfishing should not take place in an area or on a feature that has been classified as a marine Site of Nature Conservation Importance (mSNCI) by a local authority.
- Spearfishing should not take place within any confined waterway, estuary, river, river mouth, marina or harbour.
- No spearfishing for bass may take place within designated bass nursery areas as defined under current fisheries legislation. Within Sussex this includes Chichester Harbour. Seasonal restrictions currently apply between 30th April and 1st November.

Species Restrictions

- No spearfishing should take place for any protected species, including any anadromous or catadromous species (includes salmon, sea trout, freshwater eel, allis shad and twaite shad), or sunfish, lump sucker or trigger fish or any other marine species on Annex II of the Habitats Directive or on schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.
- Spearfishers should avoid deliberately targeting fish that are displaying mating, spawning, nesting or territorial behaviour.
- No crustacea or mollusc should be taken while spearfishing.
- Spearfishers must comply with the Sussex IFCA Minimum Size (Fish, Crustacea and Mollusc) Byelaw.
- In addition to statutory minimum landing sizes, the British Spearfishing Association and the Sussex Spearfishing Club may recommend higher than the statutory minimum sizes for certain species.

SPEARFISHING



Voluntary Code of Conduct



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www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk

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Spearfishing Voluntary Code of Conduct

This voluntary Code of Conduct has been developed by Sussex IFCA in partnership with the British Spearfishing Association and the Sussex Spearfishing Club.

Its purpose is to promote responsible spearfishing practices that minimise unnecessary impacts on fish stocks, sensitive habitats and the marine environment.

Spearfishing differs from other forms of recreational fishing because fish that are speared generally can't be returned alive. Fish should therefore only be taken where there is clear intention to retain for human consumption.

When spearfishing is carried out responsibly, it can be a highly selective form of fishing and allow fishers to avoid undersized fish, non-target species and sensitive habitats.

This code does not replace statutory legislation or Sussex IFCA byelaws. All fishers remain responsible for complying with current fisheries legislation, including the Sussex IFCA Minimum Size (Fish, Crustacea and Mollusc) Byelaw and the Sussex IFCA Marine Protected Areas Byelaw.

Spearfishers are encouraged to consult Sussex IFCA, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and current fisheries legislation before any spearfishing activity takes place.

Sussex IFCA

The Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) is responsible for managing sustainable inshore fisheries within six nautical miles of the Sussex coast. The Sussex IFCA district extends from Chichester Harbour through to Rye Bay.

Within the district we manage fisheries through Sussex IFCA byelaws and by enforcing relevant national fisheries legislation.

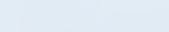
Full information on current byelaws and minimum sizes is available from Sussex IFCA website



www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk/regulations



SPEARFISHING MINIMUM SIZES

ROUND & FLAT FISH (OSTEICHTHYES)		MINIMUM SIZE
BASS (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)		45 cm
BLACK SEA BREAM (<i>S. cantharus</i>)		26 cm
BRILL (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)		34 cm
COD (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)		40 cm
CONGER EEL (<i>Conger conger</i>)		100 cm
DAB (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)		23 cm
FLOUNDER (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)		27 cm
GREY MULLET (<i>Chelon labrosus</i>)		42 cm
GILTHEAD BREAM (<i>Sparus aurata</i>)		27 cm
GARFISH (<i>Belone belone</i>)		43 cm
JOHN DORY (<i>Zeus faber</i>)		34 cm
LEMON SOLE (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>)		28 cm
LING (<i>Molva molva</i>)		71 cm
MACKEREL (<i>Scomber spp.</i>)		23 cm
PLAICE (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)		31 cm
POLLACK (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>)		34 cm
POOR COD (<i>Trisopterus minutus</i>)		21 cm
POUTING (<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>)		21 cm
RED MULLET (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>)		28 cm
SAITHE / COAL FISH (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)		40 cm
SOLE (<i>Solea spp.</i>)		27 cm
TURBOT (<i>Psetta maxima</i>)		34 cm
TUB GURNARD (<i>Trigla lucerna</i>)		32 cm
WHITING (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)		31 cm
WITCH (<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>)		32 cm
WRASSE (<i>Labrus sp.</i>)		40 cm
SHARKS & RAYS (CHONDRICHTHYES)		MINIMUM SIZE
BULL HUSS (<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>)		80 cm
L.S. DOGFISH (<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>)		55 cm M / 60 cm F
SKATE / RAY (<i>Raja spp.</i>)		50 cm
SPURDOG (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)		66 cm
STAR Y SMOOTH HOUND (<i>Mustelus asterias</i>)		75 cm M / 85 cm F
TOPE (<i>Galeorhinus</i>)		80 cm M / 90 cm F



Skates and Rays are measured from wingtip to wingtip

The minimum sizes listed here are recommended for responsible spearfishing and may exceed statutory size limits outlined by the Minimum Size (Fish, Crustacea and Mollusc) Byelaw.