

Spearfishing Minimum Sizes

Species Size	Min.
Round & Flat Fish (OSTEICHTHYES)	
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>)	66 cm
DAB (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	17 cm
FLOUNDER (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	23 cm
GREY MULLET (<i>Chelon labrosus</i>)	40 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)	
BULL HUSS (<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>)	40 cm
L.S. DOGFISH (<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>)	23 cm
SKATE / RAY (<i>Raja spp.</i>)	50 cm
SPURDOG (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	66 cm
SMOOTH HOUND (<i>Mustelus sterias</i>)	58 cm
TOPE (<i>Galeorhinus</i>)	72 cm
Skates and Rays are measured from wingtip to wingtip	

Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

The Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority is responsible for managing a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries out to 6 nautical miles from the coast. Funded by a levy on Local Councils, the Authority covers an area extending from Chichester Harbour to Rye Bay.

The Committee is composed of a number of County Councillors and an equal number of members who represent persons employed within the fishing industry, these persons are appointed by the Marine Management Organisation.

Additionally, one person is appointed from each of the Environment Agency and Natural England.

The Authority regulates the fishery by way of a number of byelaws, and its Officers can also enforce certain National legislation. A summary of the byelaws may be found at:

www.sussex-ifca.gov.uk

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Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority



VOLUNTARY SPEARFISHING CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

This code of conduct is a voluntary regulatory framework established by the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority in conjunction with the British Spearfishing Association and the Sussex Spearfishing Club.

The rules have been agreed in order that the impact of spearfishing on the marine environment is reduced.

Whilst recognising that spearfishing is a recreational form of fishing, the nature of the sport differs from other forms of fishing methods significantly in that once a fish is caught it cannot be returned alive. It is therefore important that those fish taken are used for human consumption, and that those fish killed are not done so without practical purpose. Spearfishing is potentially a very selective sport, these rules are designed to utilise this selectivity in the conservation of the marine ecosystems.

This code does not replace any statutory legislation that exists in relation to the management of sea fisheries, in particular regulations pertaining to the minimum legal sizes of sea fish. Spearfishers are advised to contact their local Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority or regional Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) office for further details on fisheries legislation.

Voluntary Code of Conduct

General

1. No breathing apparatus other than a snorkel is permissible when spearfishing.
2. No Cartridge or expellable gas guns maybe used.
3. Fish should only be speared where a) it is intended that the fish is for human consumption and b) the total number of speared fish does not exceed 10 fish per person per day. Please note special rules apply during recognised competition events.
4. Under EC Council regulation 850/98 'The sale, display or offer for sale of marine organisms caught using methods incorporating the use of any kind of projectile shall be prohibited'.
5. This is not a comprehensive statement of law and Spearfishers are required to comply with appropriate local, national and European fisheries legislation.

Restrictions on areas

1. No spearfishing within European Marine Sites (designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives).
2. No spearfishing in an area or on a feature that has been classified as a marine Site of Nature Conservation Importance (mSNCI) by a local authority.

3. No spearfishing in any confined waterway, estuary, river, river mouth, marina or harbour.
4. No spearfishing for bass in bass nursery areas (as identified in The Bass (specified areas) (prohibition of fishing) Order 1990, as amended).

Restrictions on Species

1. No spearfishing for any anadromous or catadromous species (including salmon, sea trout, freshwater eel, allis and twaite shad), or sunfish, lumpsucker 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.
2. Spearfishers should avoid deliberately targeting any species exhibiting specific territorial, mating, spawning or nesting behaviour.
3. No spearfishing for any crustacea or mollusc.
4. Spear fishers should adhere to a set of Minimum Sizes (agreed in consultation with the British Spearfishing Association and the Sussex Spearfishing Club), note these sizes maybe greater than the statutory minimums.