New byelaw regulations confirmed by DEFRA

Two new fisheries byelaw regulations have recently been confirmed by DEFRA relating to the exploitation of scallops and shellfish within the Authority’s district.

Read more on pages 3 & 4
Contents

New byelaw regulations confirmed by DEFRA:
Scallop dredging 3
Shellfish management 4

Consultation dates announced 5

Escape gaps 6

European marine sites 7

Bass 7

Retirement 8

Surveys 8

Fishing for litter 9

North Eastern Guardian III 10

Enforcement 11

New staff 11

Prosecutions 12
Scallop Dredging

New byelaw regulation confirmed by DEFRA

During 2014 the Authority was subject to a significant and unprecedented increase in scallop dredging activity which led to the introduction of an emergency byelaw regulation, closing the Authority’s district to all dredging activity. Since the emergency closure, Officers have been working on a new district wide regulation which was subject to formal consultation during October 2015. Following careful consideration of a wide and diverse range of comments received, during both the formal and informal consultation processes, a new management regulation was formally confirmed by Defra on the 17th December 2015.

Please note:
Owners of vessels which fall into the 12 to 18.3 m overall length criteria and 221 to 400 KW engine power and possess a valid track record of catching and landing scallops within the Authority’s district should contact NEIFCA by post or email before the 28th March 2016 if they wish their vessels to be considered for any future permit tranches. Any such enquiries received after that date will not be considered.

Currently officers are re-evaluating the fishery and until that process is complete no permits will be issued and the fishery will remain closed until further notice.

The new byelaw sets out a range of provisions governing scallop dredging within the Authority’s district including:

- A requirement that all vessels hold a valid scallop dredging permit
- The Authority will decide on the number of permits it makes available (if any)
- Vessels with a maximum overall length of 12 m and 221 KW will be eligible to apply for permits. Or vessels with a maximum overall length of 18.3 m and 400 KW and able to demonstrate a track record of catching and landing scallops within the Authority’s district in any three month period prior to December 2013
- All scallop vessels must operate a full functioning Automatic Identification System (AIS)
- Maximum number of ten dredges per vessel and a maximum beam length of 5 m.
- Annual closed season – 1st May to 31st October INCLUSIVE
- Daily closed period 7pm to 7am
- All permit holders must submit monthly catch and effort returns to the Authority
- All gear must comply with relevant UK and EC fisheries legislation
Following three years work and extensive consultation a new shellfish management byelaw regulation was formally confirmed by Defra on 17 November 2015.

The timelines for the implementation and enforcement of the main components are as follows:

- **1st January 2016:**
  Active enforcement of the new edible crab minimum landing size of 140 mm and restrictions in vessel size within 3nm

- **1st June 2016:**
  Active enforcement of mandatory escape gaps within all pots

- All other components of the byelaw will be enforced from 01/01/16

The byelaw sets out a range of provisions governing the exploitation of shellfish within the Authority’s district including the following:

- A new minimum edible crab size of 140 mm carapace width throughout the Authority’s district.

- Mandatory escape gaps (80 mm x 46 mm) in all pots.

- Maximum vessel size inside 3 nautical miles – 14 m OAL North of Tees, 12.5 m OAL South of Tees.

- Prohibition on the removal of parts of crab and lobster.

- Prohibition on the removal of ‘claw-less lobsters’.

For further information please consult the Authority’s website: www.ne-ifca.gov.uk

or contact the Authority’s office:
Town Hall, Quay Road
Bridlington, YO16 4LP

Tel: 01482 393 515
Email: ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk
Consultation Dates Announced

NEIFCA Officers will be visiting the following ports and harbours during 2016 to discuss the future management of potting effort following the confirmation of the new shellfish management byelaw regulation.

- Withernsea: Friday 5th February
- Grimsby: Monday 8th February
- Hornsea: Tuesday 9th February
- Bridlington: Wednesday 10th February
- Scarborough: Thursday 11th February
- Whitby: Friday 12th February
- Redcar: Wednesday 2nd March
- Hartlepool / Seaham: Thursday 3rd March
- Sunderland: Friday 4th March
- Hartlepool / Seaham: Thursday 3rd March
- Sunderland: Friday 4th March

If you plan to attend a meeting please contact the Authority’s main Bridlington office on 01482 393 515 or Email: ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk to book an allocated time slot.
Escape Gaps

From the 1st June 2016 Officers will be actively enforcing the mandatory inclusion of escape gaps within all pots, please remember; that every chamber of a pot must include a gap and escape gaps must be fitted as close as possible to the pot base. To enforce the measure officers will use a metal block 80 x 46 x 100 mm, ensuring it can pass through the gap unobstructed.

Legal
The gap is clear, unobstructed and placed the correct way round within 50mm of the pot base.

Illegal
Cable ties have been placed within the gap, and would obstruct a 80 x 46 mm gauge from passing through.

Illegal
The overlapping gaps would stop a 80 x 46 mm gauge from passing through.

Illegal
The gap is not within 50mm of the pot base, the gap is not the correct way round and the gauge is obstructed from passing through 100mm by the yellow spout.

- Cable ties must not be placed within the mouth of the gap
- Gaps must be fitted within 50 mm of the base
- Every chamber of the pot requires a gap
- The gap must be fitted with the widest side parallel to the base
- This regulation applies to all pots and traps that can be used to capture shellfish.
Throughout 2015 officers have been engaged with a process to review all commercial fishing activities within the four European Marine Sites located in our jurisdiction. Officers have completed the initial review of fisheries, introducing regulations to protect eelgrass in the Humber and extending the no trawl zone at Flamborough Head.

In 2016 Officers will be working to strengthen the Authority’s understanding of fishing interactions within European Marine Sites through improved data capture on fishing activities and landings.

A separate range of bass management measures have also been implemented for commercial fishermen dependant on the fishing method:

**Trawling:**
- 1st January to 30th June 2016 (inclusive) 1% permitted by-catch
- 1st July to 31st December 2016 (inclusive) maximum take of 1 tonne per month.

**Static fishing:**
- 1st February to 31st March 2016 (inclusive) fishery closed.
- January, April, May, June to December 2016 maximum take of 1.3 tonnes per month.

A new suite of European regulations came into force during 2015 / 2016 following concerns over the sustainability of bass stocks. These included:

- A new minimum size of 42 cm overall length for all commercial and recreational fishermen.
- 1st January to 30th June 2016 (inclusive) mandatory catch and release of all sea bass taken by recreational fishermen.
- 1st July to 31st December 2016 (inclusive) a one fish bag limit for all recreational fishermen.
Malcolm Sims, the Director of Corporate Resources for the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Deputy Clerk of the NEIFCA authority retired in September 2015.

Malcolm served as the Deputy Clerk for 11 years, overseeing the delivery of the Authority’s North East Guardian III Patrol Vessel and our transition from a Sea Fisheries Committee to an Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority.

We wish Malcolm all the best in his retirement.

Surveys

Officers have been training and undertaking surveys on a new STR SeaSpyder camera system which was collectively purchased between all 10 IFCAs.

This system operates high resolution stills and video cameras, which will assist in projects to identify habitats and assess gear impacts. We will be using this equipment to support our research into habitat identification, classification and the assessment of gear impacts.
Fishing for Litter

Supporting the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

NEIFCA are supporting the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in their “Fishing for litter Holderness” project which aims to reduce the amount of marine litter in the Holderness region.

Fisheries and Wildlife Officer Kat Sanders explains;

“This is a project designed to take direct action towards reducing litter in our seas by working with the people who depend on it for their livelihood. We all have a responsibility when it comes to litter to ensure our seas are clean, safe and rich in wildlife and we’re working closely with local marine users, including the local fishing industry to remove litter from our waters.”

The initiative not only involves the direct removal of litter from the sea, but also raises awareness of the significance of the problem amongst our community. This pioneering project has expanded from an original pilot scheme in the Netherlands to now be a highly recognisable initiative in the United Kingdom and beyond.

For more information search for “Fishing 4 Litter Holderness” on Facebook or visit their page directly:

tiny.cc/fishingforlitter
During the 2014 / 2015 year the Authority’s main vessel, North Eastern Guardian III (NEG III), covered over 7,300 nautical miles undertaking routine offshore enforcement and marine research work. During the course of the enforcement work 85 vessels were boarded and 765 close quarter inspections completed. During the vessel boarding’s, 2,991 kilos of lobsters, 7,357 kilos of crabs, 6619 Kilo’s of scallops and 447 Kilo of other species were inspected and measured. Research work included taking monthly seawater measurements, deploying ‘drop down’ cameras to assess benthic habitat within the Flamborough Head European Marine Site and utilising the onboard WASSP acoustic ground discrimination systems. The vessel also undertook trawl sampling and scallop dredging.
Enforcement

North Eastern IFCA Officers undertake regular patrols on quaysides, beaches, rocky shores and piers, with a responsibility for ensuring everyone is complying with EU, National and Local legislation and Byelaws.

If you’re approached by one of our officers, they may ask to see and inspect any catch or fishing equipment you have with you. As part of the inspection our Officers need to collect some routine information, which includes: Name, Address and Date of Birth, you will also be supplied with a copy of the inspection record.

New staff

Welcome

The Authority has recently undertaken a period of recruitment, with several new staff members joining the organisation.

Dean Hyde
Senior IFC Officer

Steven Mallinson
IFC Officer

Mike Bowman
IFC Officer / Crewman

Jonathan Butterfield
Scientific & Environmental Officer

Emma White
Scientific & Environmental Officer
Mr Casale  
Retention of undersize lobsters  
£500 Fixed Penalty  

Mr McGhin  
Breach of shellfish permit byelaw  
Formal Caution  

Mr Butterfield  
Breach of fixed engine byelaw  
£500 Fixed Penalty  

Mr Marshall  
Retention of undersize lobsters  
£500 Fixed Penalty  

Mr Williams  
Storage and transport of undersize lobsters  
£500 Fixed Penalty  

Mr Weeks  
Breach of Shellfish permit byelaw  
£250 Fixed Penalty  

Mr I Hughes  
Landing undersize king scallops  
£3000 fine & £507 costs awarded  

Mr R Cox  
Landing 4 undersize lobsters and 3 mutilated lobsters  
£1200 fine & £430 costs  

Pending prosecutions:  
3 Undersize scallop cases  
2 Breaches of the emergency dredging byelaw  
1 Serious obstruction  
4 Miscellaneous offences