



New Emergency Byelaw Confirmed Prohibiting Scallop Dredging

A new emergency byelaw regulation was confirmed by the Authority on 12 April 2012 prohibiting all forms of scallop dredging between Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire and Spurn Point, East Yorkshire. This emergency measure was necessitated by a major increase in nomadic scallop dredging activity in the ‘Silver Pit’ area to the South of the Authority’s district. As the fishing effort associated with this fishery, escalated, ‘over spill’ activities increased within the Authority’s district, placing sensitive marine habitat at risk and causing significant gear conflict issues with local vessels working pots for lobsters and crabs. In addition, a long-standing voluntary agreement between the scalloping sector and the local fishing fleet was also being placed at risk.

Authority officers are now working on an amendment to the existing scallop dredging byelaw regulation which would make the emergency closure a permanent feature. At this stage officers would welcome any views on this. For further information please contact the Authority’s Bridlington based offices.

Teesmouth and Cleveland Emergency Cockle Byelaw Extended

Following an application by the Authority, the Teesmouth and Cleveland emergency cockle byelaw regulation has been extended by Defra for a further four months. Since the emergency regulation was signed on 28 June 2011 officers have continued to encounter sporadic gangs of migrant cockle gatherers in the Hartlepool area.

It is expected that the emergency cockle regulation will be replaced by a new permanent fisheries byelaw covering the entire jurisdiction of the Authority. Preliminary consultation on this new draft byelaw has already taken place in the main cockle fishing areas including the Humber and Teesside and formal consultation is expected to commence within the next two months.

At present all cockle gathering within the NEIFCA area, including leisure collection, is subject to closure. If you would like any further information please contact the Authority’s Bridlington based offices on:

Tel: 01482 393 515 or Email: ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk

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Mandatory Escape Gaps - Tyneside to Hartlepool NOW IN FORCE!

On 10 March 2011 a new Byelaw XVIII 'Crustacea Conservation Byelaw' was confirmed by the Fisheries Minister following extensive consultation.

This new regulation requires all pots worked inside the 3 nautical mile limit between the South Pier of the River Tyne and Steetly Pier at Hartlepool to carry mandatory escape gaps. This includes both hobby and commercial operators.

The gaps must be of a fixed dimension of 80 mm x 46 mm and located within 50 mm of the base of the pot as shown in the picture. Parlour pots must carry a gap in each separate chamber.

Since January, over 38,000 gaps have been provided, 'free of charge' to commercial and leisure fishermen throughout the affected area following an application process which commenced during August 2011.

The offer of 'free gaps' was strictly time limited and all available gaps have now been distributed.

Officers commenced active enforcement of this regulation on 1st June. During routine fisheries patrol work officers will be boarding and inspecting vessels in the area and also randomly hauling and inspecting pots to ensure that escape gaps have been installed correctly. Any fishing gear which does not comply with the regulation will be subject to seizure.

Anyone found to be in breach of the new regulation could be subject, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding £50,000.

If you work in this area make sure your fishing gear complies otherwise you risk losing it and potentially facing a substantial fine. For further information contact the Authority's Bridlington offices.

Anyone wishing to purchase gaps which comply with the Authority's regulation should now contact the authorised supplier GT Products:

GT Products Marine

Unit 14

Ford Lane Business Park

Ford

West Sussex

BN18 0UZ

Tel: 01243 555303

www.gtproductsmarine.com



Lobster escape gap installed in a pot



Inspecting an escape gap

Update on new Proposed Shellfish Regulations

Throughout the last two years officers have been consulting extensively on a suite of new shellfish management measures developed through its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process. This consultation has included capturing views from open workshops, public meetings and industry led advisory groups. Through the consultation work the Authority has endorsed a wide range of new pragmatic management measures which are designed to improve the management of current pressures exerted on a wide range of stocks.

Officers are now progressing the measures in two phases. Phase one proposals will be developed within a shorter time period than phase two which will require further consideration and consultation.

The measures and associated timelines are summarised as follows:

Phase 1 - New regulations to be made by December 2012

- Seasonal prohibition on carriage, storage and landing of 'berried' lobsters between June and September.
- New maximum vessel size of 12m when working pots inside 3 nautical miles.
- Prohibition on the carriage, storage and landing of all edible crab below 140 mm carapace width.
- Prohibition on the carriage, storage and landing of clawless lobsters.
- Extension of mandatory requirement for lobster pot escape gaps.
- Mandatory bag limits of 5 Kg for the collection of mussels and winkles throughout the Authority's district.

Phase 2 - New regulations to be made in 2013/2014

- Introduction of a pot limitation scheme.
- Introduction of a capped shellfish permit scheme.

North Eastern Guardian III Update

Throughout 2011 the Authority's main vessel, North Eastern Guardian III (NEG III) covered nearly 10,500 nautical miles undertaking routine offshore enforcement and marine research work. During the course of the enforcement work over 170 vessels were boarded and 1,500 close quarter inspections completed. The research work included taking monthly seawater measurements, deploying 'drop down' cameras and utilising the onboard acoustic ground discrimination systems. The vessel also supported external research and monitoring work including sedimentation studies and sea bird and marine mammal surveys.

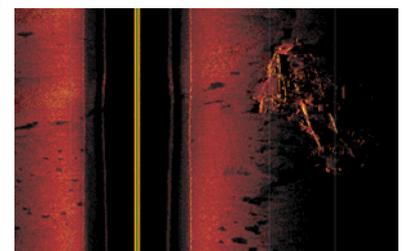
For further information contact:

The Authority's office on 01482 393515 or

Email: ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk



On patrol



Side scan sonar image



Drop down camera image

NEIFCA Administrative Team News

New Website Launched!

The Authority launched a new website on 1 April this year. The lay out is designed to be more user friendly and provide a greater variety of information for interested parties.

The Authority's administrative team manage the website and would appreciate any feedback and suggestions for improvements.

The website can be accessed at:

www.ne-ifca.gov.uk

Feedback can be provided through the website itself or via email at

ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk

Keep Your Details Up To Date!

The Authority's administrative team comprising of Tracey, Zoe and Sarah work extremely hard to provide you with an efficient, friendly and professional service, particularly in relation to fishing permits. Often problems arise when they are not notified promptly of changes in vessel ownership and vessel details. Currently many vessels are undergoing re-registration from Scotland back to England. It is very important that any changes are notified as soon as possible so that the administrative team can renew their records and re-issue up to date permits. If you fail to notify the team of changes in vessel ownership or details this immediately invalidates your fishing permit and places you at risk of prosecution.

The administrative team can be contacted as follows:

Tel: 01482 393515

Email: ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk

Marking of Fishing Gear

Within the NEIFCA district all static fishing gear should be clearly marked with visible buoys or surface markers. This is a requirement of paragraphs 3.6 and 4.5 of the Authority's shellfish permit byelaw regulation XXII and the fixed netting byelaw XVIII.

Commercial fishing vessels should ensure that their fishing numbers are clearly visible on their surface markers.

Hobby or leisure fishermen should ensure that their permit number is clearly displayed on their surface markers.

Any gear not displaying clearly marked surface buoys may be subject to seizure and the operator liable to a fine of up to £50,000 upon conviction.

Officers will be actively enforcing these provisions this summer so it is imperative that you keep your fishing gear maintained with clearly

identifiable markings. This is your responsibility otherwise you risk losing your gear and potentially facing a substantial fine.



A clearly marked dhan buoy

If you require any further information on this please contact the Authority's Bridlington based offices.

Important News In Brief

Marine Conservation Zones - The four regional projects, established to identify potential MCZ sites in UK waters, released their recommendations for further consideration during 2011. Nationally 127 MCZ sites and 65 reference areas have been identified for final confirmation by the Minister.

Within the Authority's jurisdiction the 'Net Gain' team have identified the following potential sites:-

NG 8 - Holderness Inshore - Hornsea to Spurn to 3nm. Follows boundaries of existing no trawl zone.

NG 9 - Holderness Offshore - Offshore from the 6nm limit East Yorkshire Holderness coast.

NG 10 - Intertidal zone stretching between Filey Brigg and Scarborough North.

NG 11 - Runswick Bay, North of Whitby to 3nm. Follows boundaries of existing no trawl zone.

Reference Area (RA 9) - Flamborough Head No Take Zone.

Work is now focused on developing relevant impact assessments for each site. Final decisions are expected during 2013. Most of the proposed sites in the Authority's area are well managed and officers are working closely with the principle organisations including Defra and Natural England as the process continues.

Environment Agency Net Limitation Order - A new NLO governing the licensed coastal salmon fishery within the Authority's area has now been made following a period of informal consultation completed during 2011. The NLO is now subject to a 12 week consultation which will expire on 27 July 2012. **Copies of the NLO can be obtained from the Environment Agency's website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk.**

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