

NORTH WESTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF THE RIBBLE ESTUARY AND WIRRAL COCKLE FISHERIES

1. The NWIFCA in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under section 157 of The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 hereby makes the following byelaw for the management of cockle stocks within the Ribble Estuary and along the Wirral coast.
2. No person shall without written permission of the Authority take, remove or disturb any cockle from the areas defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 during the period from 00.01 on Monday, 7th November 2011 until 23.59 hours on 30th April 2012 unless this byelaw is revoked by the NWIFCA or the Secretary of State.
3. The Ribble area closed by this byelaw is defined as any part of the Ribble Estuary enclosed by a line drawn due west from Position A Starr Gate (53° 46' 362N, 003° 185W) to the seaward limit of the District and a line drawn due west from Point B Weld Road (53° 38.222N, 003° 01.440W) to the seaward limit of the District.
4. The Wirral area closed by this byelaw is defined as the area enclosed by a line drawn North-South from Position A the Fort at Perch Rock, New Brighton (053⁰ 26.330N, 003⁰ 02.277W) and a line drawn from Position B Hilbre Point (53⁰ 23,22N, 003⁰ 11.98W) to a line drawn from Position C the North Western extremity of Hilbre Island (053⁰ 22.12N, 003⁰ 13.72W) then towards the disused lighthouse at Point of Ayr in the County of Flintshire (53⁰ 21.4N, 03⁰ 11.3W) until that line joins the median line adjoining the Territorial Waters of the Principality of Wales..
5. These positions are referred to the WGS(84) datum.
6. The byelaw takes precedence over permits issued under Byelaw 5.

Explanatory Note

This note is not part of the byelaw

The purpose of this byelaw is to close the Ribble area to all methods of cockle gathering in order to protect public safety and reduce the impact of the fishery on other statutory regulatory authorities.

The Wirral coast is closed to prevent displacement of fishers from the Ribble and protect the remaining stock which is close to the minimum threshold permitted by the NWIFCA.

While the byelaw is in force, the NWIFCA will urgently review NWSFC Byelaw 5 to address weaknesses.

This emergency byelaw will be reviewed by the NWIFCA at its meeting on 6th December 2011 and subsequently as required.

The byelaw will be posted on the NWIFCA website. The fishing industry will be informed through a letter to all byelaw 5 permit holders.

Public notices will be posted at prominent positions throughout the District.