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**MARINE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR SHELLFISH HARVESTING  
IN THE RIBBLE ESTUARY**

1. The North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) recommends that all persons operating registered fishing vessels engaged in harvesting and / or transportation of shellfish or fishing vessels engaged the transport of persons engaged in shellfish harvesting in the Ribble Estuary adopt the procedures and guidance contained in 'The Fishing Vessels Code of Practice for Safety of Small Fishing Vessels'. [MSN 1813 (F)]. Also persons in charge of such vessels should take heed of the information contained in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) publication "Fishermen and Safety Booklet"

Both documents can be obtained through the local MCA office or via the following web link. <http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga07-home/workingatsea/mcga-fishing.htm>

2. The MCA recommends that any vessels used in the harvesting and transportation of shellfish should comply with standards listed in the applicable workboat code of practice. As a minimum any such vessels operating in the Ribble Estuary should be provided with the following items of safety equipment:-
  - (a) One lifejacket per person (or buoyant clothing if worn at all times).
  - (b) One commercial anchor of appropriate type and weight, with 2 metres of 6mm chain plus appropriate warp of 15 metres length with one end secured to a strongpoint in the vessel.
  - (c) Two red parachute flares and two smoke signals.
  - (d) One gas canister foghorn or other means of making appropriate sound signals.
  - (e) Baler or container that could be used for that purpose, (this may contain the flares, smoke signals and foghorn).
  - (f) Waterproof torch and batteries.
3. It is highly recommended that any vessels used in shellfish harvesting operations carry a VHF radio capable of operation on channel 16 and 14 and where practical a portable VHF radio should be carried by persons working the shellfish beds.

The NWIFCA considers the measures set out in *Marine Safety Requirements for Shellfish Harvesting in The Ribble Estuary* to be the minimum necessary for the safety of all persons on board vessels involved in the harvesting and / or transportation of shellfish in the Ribble Estuary. Licence holders are required to read the

document and return a signed declaration indicating that that they understand the requirements and agree to operate any vessel involved in shellfish harvesting operations to the safety standards listed.

Any doubts or queries about the contents of this notice or any aspect of marine safety in the Ribble Estuary should be raised promptly with the NWIFCA.

North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority  
May 2012

DECLARATION

I .....**(Full Name)**

FULLY UNDERSTAND THE MARINE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR SHELLFISH HARVESTING LICENCE HOLDERS OPERATING IN THE RIBBLE ESTUARY AND AGREE TO MAINTAIN ANY VESSEL I OPERATE WHICH IS INVOLVED IN SHELLFISH HARVESTING TO THE APPROPRIATE SAFETY STANDARDS.

SIGNED:

DATE:

Please return this declaration to the address shown below.

<http://www.nw-ifca.gov.uk>

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