

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Authorisation	Written authorisation issued by the Authority to allow certain fishing activities to take place in specified areas at particular times.
Beach Seine	A seine net that has one end attached to the shore. The boat, or fishermen, then takes the net offshore before coming back to shore. The net, now in the shape of a large “U” is pulled in trapping any fish.
Beamer	A vessel which employs two beam trawls, particularly targeting sole and other high value demersal fish.
Beam Trawl	A trawl net towed by a vessel or vehicle where the mouth of the net is held open by a horizontal beam across the top of the mouth of the net. The beam is supported at each end by frames with sledge-like shoes called trawl heads.
Benthos	Bottom-living organisms.
Berried Hens	Female lobsters or crabs that are carrying their eggs beneath their tails.
Blow/Plough Out	An illegal method in our district whereby an anchored boat uses the wash from its propeller to blow cockles out of the sand.
Carapace	The shell of a crustacean. It is the main body covering and is separate from the tail. Lobsters are measured from the rear of the eye socket to the back of the carapace.
Craam	A rake for gathering mussels and cockles.
Crustacean	Such as crabs and lobsters, prawns, and shrimps.
Demersal	Bottom-living fish such as cod and flatfish.
Dhan Buoy	Buoys with a flag on a pole to mark the position of nets, pots etc.
Danish Seining/ Fly Dragging	A net shot in the open sea using very long ropes to lay out the net and ropes on the seabed prior to hauling from a boat at anchor.
Dispensation	Special permission to do something that is not usually allowed.
Drift Net	Any net that drifts freely in the prevailing current. It is used extensively in the mullet, bass, and herring fisheries.

Drop, Stream, Bag, Stake, Set and Baulk Nets	Various local variations of fixed nets.
<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i> is a bacteria found in the faeces of animals. It is easily cultured and therefore used as an indicator of sewage pollution.
Fixed Engine	Any net or trap that is held stationary by anchor, stake posts or suitable instrument.
Fleet of Pots	A number of lobster pots strung together with a buoy or dhan buoy at each end. The number of pots can vary from 5 to 50 depending on the fisherman.
Gastropods	A mollusc with an undivided shell (e.g. whelks and winkles).
Gill Nets	A single wall of netting weighted at the bottom and supported on top by floats attached to a headline, so it floats vertically in the water. The target species are bass, mullet, mackerel. The mesh size determines the size of fish caught by their gills. Byelaws 7 and 8 control maximum and minimum mesh sizes to control inadvertent capture of undersize fish.
Ghost Net	Any netting that has been lost by fishermen. It continues netting fish until recovered or buried by sediments.
GPS	Global Positioning System. An electronic aid to navigation based on satellite radio beacons. A system of high accuracy particularly when equipped with a decode system known as DGPS – Differential Global Positioning System.
Intertidal Zone	Area of the shore that is between MLWS and MHWS.
Larvae	Transitional stage between the egg and adult fish. Usually, they are free swimming and are extremely vulnerable to predation from plankton feeders.
Long Lining	Usually very long lengths of rope with short branches (snoods) carrying baited hooks at regular intervals. They have been used extensively in the district for the skate and spurdog fishery.
Migratory Fish	Salmon, sea trout, eels. Fish requiring specific authorisation under licence to take. Responsibility of EA for authorisation and enforcement.
Mollusc	A bivalve shellfish (e.g. cockles and mussels).
Mobile Nets	All forms of net that move over the seabed by whatever means during fishing operations, as opposed to drift nets that move with the current.
Moulting/Shelling	Growing process of crustaceans. Since the skeleton is on the outside the animal must shed its shell and make a large newer shell. During this time it is extremely vulnerable to predators.
<i>Mytilicola</i>	Parasite found in the mussel. Presently restricted to areas around Morecambe Bay.

<i>Nephrops</i>	Dublin Bay prawns, langoustines. Smaller than a lobster and with long claws. Not usually found in the district.
Pelagic	Surface-living fish such as mackerel and herring.
Otter Trawl	A trawl net towed by a vessel where the mouth of the net is held open by otter board or trawl doors. These boards come in various designs but are basically a board set at an angle to the flow of water. When towed they move outwards holding the mouth of the trawl open.
Quad Bike/ATV	A small All-Terrain Vehicle resembling a motor bike but with four low pressure tyres.
Queenies	Queen scallops.
Rays	Cartilaginous fish in which the head, body and enlarged pectoral fins are fused to form a disc (e.g. skate, starry, cuckoo and blondes).
Riddling	Sieving process after shrimping to allow the escape of immature shrimps and fish. Also used in cockling and musseling.
Seed Mussels	Mussels that have recently settled out of the planktonic stage onto the mussel beds. They can be collected by diverse means and transported to other sites where they are grown on for a commercial crop.
Seine Net	A form of mobile net that encircles a shoal of fish.
Soft Crab	Small crabs which have just moulted. These are collected by anglers as bait for bass. Size limits apply for edible and velvet swimming crabs.
Spat	The small adult form of the cockles and mussels. It follows the planktonic stage. The arrival of spat is sometimes referred to as the spatfall.
Square Mesh	Netting set to form a square mesh with its axis running parallel to the flow of a trawl. Square mesh panels are required by law in some types of trawls.
Sublittoral Zone	Area of the seabed that is beneath the low water mark.
Tangle (Entangling) Nets	Closely resembles a gill net but the stretched mesh usually exceeds 150mm. Tangle nets entangle their prey rather than catching it by the gills. The nets are set loosely near the seabed. The target species are turbot, plaice, skate, rays, crawfish, and lobsters.
Tractor Harvester	A mechanical cockle gatherer which is towed behind a vehicle to gather and sort cockles. Two types are common. The wet type is towed behind a vehicle in the water which uses water jets in front of the dredge to release the cockles from the sands. The dry or Fishery type is a converted vegetable picker in which the cockles are picked up by a blade and transferred by conveyor belt to a rotary drum riddle.

Trammel Net	Comprises of one net with two nets, or walls, either side of it, all attached to the same headline and bottom line. The walls are of larger mesh than the inner net. The fish are thereby trapped in individual pockets.
Trolling	Towing artificial or baited hooks behind a slow-moving boat. Often used in the bass fishery.
Vessel Borne Dredge/Suction Dredge	More correctly called a hydraulic suction dredge consisting of a dredge head which is towed along the seabed by a boat to collect cockles. The shellfish are sucked up a pipe from the dredge head to the boat where they are sorted. Various arrangements of pumps and pipes are used.