



**AUTHORISATION TO FISH UNDERSIZED MUSSELS FROM
HEYSHAM FLAT SKEAR 2017**

All Current NWIFCA Byelaw 3 Permit Holders

With effect from 07/08/2017

Issue Date: 07/08/2017

Expiry Date: 22/12/2017

All current Byelaw 3 permit holders are hereby authorised, under Byelaw 3, paragraph 6 (Minimum Sizes) to fish undersized mussels from Heysham Flat, ***excluding the area as defined in paragraph 2***, and are responsible for complying with the conditions given below at paragraph 1.

1. Conditions of Authorisation

This authorisation is issued subject to the following conditions.

- (a) It is only valid for the period from the issue date **07/08/17** to the expiry date **22/12/17**, ***excluding Bank Holiday Monday 28th August 2017***
- (b) That the mussels shall only be gathered by hand or with a rake.
- (c) That fishing shall take place only from Monday to Friday inclusive, during daylight hours, defined as one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset.
- (d) The NWIFCA will close the fishery during periods of prolonged cold weather.
- (e) The authorisation is only valid for current Byelaw 3 permit holders. It does not allow any other person to take or remove undersized mussels.
- (f) This authorisation does not exonerate the holder from other sea fisheries legislation, nor does it prejudice any other consents the holder may need to obtain nor does it override or provide permission to go over private land.
- (g) Any fishing taking place under this authorisation shall be carried out in accordance with the Authority's Code of Conduct for Intertidal Shellfisheries.
- (h) Fishing and transit by ATVs (quad bikes) or tractors in the excluded area as defined in paragraph 2 is prohibited.

2. Definition of Excluded Area

Part of that area within Morecambe Bay known as Heysham Flat Skear as illustrated on the map attached at Annex A, west of lines A-B-C-D, and south of lines D-E-F, defined by the following co-ordinates: [*NOTE-Point A edited 08/08/17 to reflect a change in the extent of live colonies of the Honeycomb Worm*]

Name	Latitude	Longitude
A	N 54 03.602	W 2 54.502
B	N 54 03.432	W 2 54.872
C	N 54 03.384	W 2 55.027
D	N 54 03.312	W 2 55.010
E	N 54 03.379	W 2 54.803
F	N 54 03.452	W 2 53.965

3. Advisory Notes

- (a) When fishing, or when operating vehicles in the vicinity of Heysham Flat Skear, take care to avoid live colonies of the Honeycomb Worm. These are a protected species, and damaging them could lead to a fine of up to £20,000, revoking of authorisations and **closure of the fishery**.
- (b) NWIFCA officers have the power to withdraw authorisations at any point should the need arise, and will consult with Natural England throughout the duration of the fishery. Should there be concerns that losses of mussel around Morecambe Bay is occurring which will impact on the available bird feeding resource, the NWIFCA will withdraw authorisations and close the fishery.
- (c) Avoid driving vehicles over the seed mussels as far as possible. Using a single access route will avoid unnecessary damage to the mussel stock.

This authorisation may be revoked by the NWIFCA at any time and any breach of the terms or conditions of this authorisation shall make it null and void.

By Order of the Authority

STEPHEN ATKINS
Chief Executive

Annex A

Heysham Flat Seed Mussel Exclusion Area 2017

In order to protect *Sabellaria alveolata* on the fringes of the skewar, all fishing activity including access is prohibited west of lines A-B-C-D, and south of lines D-E-F. [NOTE-Point A edited 08/08/17 to reflect a change in the extent of live colonies of the Honeycomb Worm]

