

NWIFCA Byelaw 4 Potting Permit 2020 Guidance

Recreational Potting

Supplementary information to the Byelaw and Flexible Permit Conditions 2020

Introduction:

NWIFCA Potting Permit Byelaw 2020 contains a range of measures to manage any species that is fished with a pot or trap within the NWIFCA District, either now or may be in the future. The Byelaw provisions enable and specify the charging of permit fees for commercial and recreational permits. There are a range of conditions detailed within the byelaw itself (BC) and within the current Flexible Permit Conditions 2020 (FC).

The following information is a summary of specific byelaw provisions for **Recreational Potting** including permit fees, tag charges, gear, and gear marking provisions and flexible conditions.

The document should not be regarded as a full explanation of all byelaw provisions. The Authority recommends that the information be read with reference to the full byelaw and the current Flexible Permit Conditions document. Please contact office@nw-ifca.gov.uk or speak to your local IFCO for any queries.

Summary of Byelaw Measures:

A. Permits:

1. You must have a valid permit to use a pot for fishing within the NWIFCA District (BC2).
2. You must apply for a Category Two permit using the NWIFCA application form (BC23).
3. There is a permit fee set within the byelaw at £20 per permit per year (BC27).
4. The permit fee includes one set of gear tags and permit sticker (BC25), and the replacement of one lost or damaged permit sticker and up to one set of replacement tags (BC27).
5. The permit will be valid from 1st October to 30th September and will need renewing each year (BC26).
6. As it is not possible to know the exact date when the Secretary of State will sign off the byelaw, in the first year the permit will be valid for the remainder of the first 12 months to 30th September, and to the 30th September in the subsequent year (BC26).
7. You cannot sell or transfer your permit (BC26).
8. You must carry the permit at all times when fishing with pots (BC2).
9. If you use a vessel to pot you must clearly display the permit sticker with the number issued with the permit (BC30), and you must not display more than one permit sticker (BC 30).
10. You must not use that vessel to haul pots not marked with that permit number (BC30).
11. You must not take or land from a fishery under any method of fishing more than the stated amount of the species listed in the table below in any one calendar day (BC3).
12. You must not remove from the fishery any part of an edible crab, lobster, prawn or Norwegian lobster which is detached from its carapace (BC47).

B. Pots:

1. You are limited to 5 pots (BC42).
2. You must not use any keep pot, container or other device to store specified species in the sea or in an estuary and any specified species removed from the fishery must be landed within 24 hours of capture (BC5).
3. You must not use a pot to fish for a specified species unless the pot is of a design defined in the flexible permit conditions (BC29).

C. Gear Tags:

1. You must not set a pot that does not have a NWIFCA issued tag fitted (BC 43) otherwise it may be confiscated.
2. Gear tags will be issued with your permit and permit sticker (BC25).
3. Tags will be numbered sequentially.
4. You should report any tags that are lost to NWIFCA.
5. To obtain a set of replacement tags in the event that a tag is lost, you must submit a written request to the Authority (BC44).
6. If you find a lost tag you must return it to NWIFCA within 48 hours (BC45). Do not use it on any pots (BC43).

Table 1: maximum daily quantities of animals to be taken or landed in any one calendar day

Specified Species	Maximum Daily Quantity	
Lobster	1 individual	and
Edible crab Spider crab Velvet swimming crab	Combined total of 5 individuals	and
Whelk	50 individuals	and
Norwegian lobster	50 individuals	

D. Marking Gear:

1. You must use a dahn or a buoy to mark the site of your pots set in strings, with a dahn or buoy at each end of the string (BC31).
2. If pots are set individually you must use a dahn or buoy to mark each individual pot (BC31).
3. Each dahn or buoy must be legibly marked with your permit number (BC32).

4. Each dahn flag must stand at least one metre above the surface of the sea (BC33).
5. When using buoys only, each buoy must be red, yellow or orange with a minimum circumference of 84cm (BC34).
6. Your gear must be correctly marked during any period it is in the water (BC35).

E. Returns:

1. The NWIFCA may require you to submit monthly returns. If so you will be notified in advance. You must then send NWIFCA correct landings returns using the NWIFCA forms by 15th of each month (BC37).
2. You must complete and return a Nil Return if you do not fish in that month (BC37).

F. More than one person on a boat:

1. During a fishing trip in which a vessel is used by more than one person to fish, the combined total that may be removed from the fishery or retained on board by all the persons on-board, remains as in the table above (BC46).

G. Individual Species Regulations:

Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes (MCRS), pot limitations, catch restrictions, bait restrictions, technical measures and gear restrictions, spatial and time restrictions, and number of permits issued are covered under the Flexible Permit Conditions in order to have the increased flexibility to change them should there be evidence in the future to do so and that it was necessary for sustainable management of the fisheries.

The following measures are in place in 2020.

If you pot for crab and lobster:

1. You must not remove or retain from a fishery:
 - (a) a V-notched lobster;
 - (b) a mutilated lobster;
 - (c) a berried hen;and any such crab or lobster must be returned immediately to the fishery without further injury (BC4).
2. The MCRS for crab and lobster have not changed from previous: 87mm for lobster and 130mm for brown crab (FC2h).
3. You must have an escape gap in each pot you use (FC2i). The size and position of the escape gap is described in the Flexible Permit Conditions (FC2i and FC2j):
 - i. unobstructed rigid escape gap located in the lowest part of the exterior wall of the pot or in the case of a parlour pot in the lowest part of the parlour area;
 - ii. of sufficient size so that a rigid box shaped gauge 80 mm wide by 45 mm high and 100 mm long may be passed through the gap.

If you pot for Norwegian lobster (nephrops):

1. The MCRS for nephrops has not changed from previous: carapace length, measured from the base of the eye notch to the posterior mid-dorsal edge, less than 20 mm or an overall length measured from the tip of the rostrum to the rear end of the telson less than 70 mm (FC3a).
2. You must not use a pot to fish for Norwegian lobster unless the pot is fitted with at least one hard eye entrance hole of maximum 80 mm diameter (FC3b).

If you pot for whelks:

1. MCRS for whelks will increase annually over a 3 year period (FC1d):
 - i. Year One of the byelaw 55mm;
 - ii. Year Two of the byelaw 65mm;
 - iii. Year Three of the byelaw 75mm.
2. All whelk pots must consist of a rigid container with an open top through which whelks can enter (FC1e).