

NWIFCA Byelaw Strategy 2024-2029

November, 2024

1. Introduction

This Byelaw Strategy sets out how the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) intends to develop its suite of byelaws over the coming years, with particular focus on streamlining the number and content of byelaws and applying appropriate management to key fisheries across the district through the implementation of new byelaws that are clear, targeted and justifiable.

In developing this Strategy, NWIFCA remains cognisant of, and committed to, the UK Government's Hampton Principles for better regulation, which in their broadest terms, require regulators to be proportionate, accountable, consistent, transparent and targeted in their creation of new regulations.

When NWIFCA was established in 2010, it inherited a suite of fisheries byelaws for the district from several predecessor organisations:

- North West Sea Fisheries Committee (NWSFC)
- Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee (CSFC)
- National Rivers Authority (NRA)
- Environment Agency (EA)

There are currently 35 of these extant legacy byelaws, and whilst this has reduced over the intervening years with the advent of eight new NWIFCA byelaws, many of which revoked legacy ones, the number of legacy byelaws is still too high. This surfeit creates a complex, confusing and piecemeal regulatory system for both NWIFCA's stakeholders and its officers. Whilst some of these legacy byelaws continue to be relevant, enforced by officers and complied with by stakeholders, many are no longer relevant, or are out-of-date and do not reflect the current state of the district's fisheries and associated practices. Furthermore, some are contradictory of one another, owing to them having been created by four separate predecessor organisations, often creating inconsistency across the district, particularly in respect of the old NWSFC and CSFC districts¹.

The result of the creation of NWIFCA and its inheriting these legacy byelaws is that it now has a suite of 43 individual byelaws (eight of its own and 35 inherited) originating from five different regulatory organisations, which form a patchwork of local regulations overlaid with some district-wide ones. Many of these byelaws address similar or even identical

¹ The historic jurisdictional boundary between NWSFC and CSFC was Haverigg Point in Cumbria.

issues across different parts of the district, but often do so in different ways. This Strategy provides a means by which NWIFCA can work towards a unified, single suite of NWIFCA-only byelaws, where new byelaws it creates are relevant to the current state of the district's fisheries and at the same time ultimately revoke *all* legacy byelaws, whilst, where appropriate, taking the relevant and effective provisions from these and transposing them into its new byelaws.

A previous Byelaw Strategy was initiated back in 2021. However, review of the documentation produced as part of this initiative suggests the process was never formally completed. Whilst some of the strategic direction provided therein has been referred to by officers and members in the intervening period in the development of new NWIFCA byelaws, no such Strategy appears to have ever been formally adopted nor used by the Authority to direct its long-term byelaw development work.

2. The Current Byelaw Suite

The current suite of 43 byelaws is set out on [NWIFCA's website](#). These are separated into five categories based on the five organisations that created them, the numbers of which are as follows:

- 8 from NWIFCA
- 12 from NWSFC
- 11 from CSFC
- 11 from NRA
- 1 from EA

Across the suite, individual byelaws approach regulation of the district's fisheries in different ways and to different ends. Usually they focus on a specific fisheries management issue, whether that relates to a particular species, area of the district, fishing gear or type of fishing vessel.

It should be noted that, at the time of writing this Strategy, a new NWIFCA Fixed Nets Byelaw has recently been made by the Authority², with subsequent stakeholder consultation planned. It will then be handed over to the MMO for quality assurance (QA) and ultimately to Defra to be confirmed. This draft Byelaw does seek to revoke 22 legacy byelaws (seven NWSFC, five CSFC, the sole EA one and nine NRA), all of which pertain to netting or are entirely obsolete. If this Byelaw is confirmed, this will reduce NWIFCA's suite of byelaws from 43 to 22, with nine NWIFCA byelaws and 13 legacy ones.

² On 26th September 2024.

3. Byelaw Making Process

The process of making IFCA byelaws is, to a large extent, defined in guidance produced by Defra back in 2011 upon IFCA's inception. The guidance can be found online [here](#), but in summary the process defined is that, once an IFCA has decided a byelaw is required as the most appropriate fisheries management measure, it should take the following steps:

1. Gather evidence from stakeholders and all interested parties
2. Prepare an Impact Assessment
3. Seek legal advice where necessary
4. Notify the Authority (*i.e.* members) and Secretary of State (SoS) of intention to make byelaw (14 days' notice)
5. Make byelaw (*i.e.* agree internally with members)
6. Consult stakeholders
7. Send to MMO for QA
8. SoS confirms byelaw and it becomes law

Experience within NWIFCA demonstrates that it is common for this entire process to take over two years (in some cases more than three years). Whilst much of this time is outside of NWIFCA's control, in the past, the vast majority of it has been taken up by the internal Authority processes covered within steps 1-5 above (*i.e.* in getting to the point where the byelaw is made). Historically, the Authority has at times taken over two years in just agreeing the content of a draft byelaw, with drafting beginning with a Byelaw Working Group (BWG) in some guise, initial drafts then being taken to the Technical, Science and Byelaw Sub-Committee (TSB) and then being taken to the full Authority. At all three stages, there is potential for members to raise objections or queries regarding the byelaw's draft content, which occasionally can then not be addressed there and then by officers, who must then go away and resolve / answer these matters in the intervening periods, before bringing back answers and / or updated drafts to future meetings (whether of BWG, TSB or full Authority). This has resulted in the slow progress of byelaws' development, where there are long periods of inaction between Authority meetings, and then when officers and members do meet in one of these forums, objections or queries are raised for the first time, and thus need to be addressed in the next intervening period.

Clearly, NWIFCA's internal byelaw making process needs to be streamlined, whilst continuing to adhere to Defra's guidance, to ensure that future byelaws can be developed in a more timely manner and this Strategy can be delivered within the timeframes proposed. Progress, or lack thereof, on previous new byelaws is one of the primary

reasons why, over 14 years after its inception, NWIFCA still has a suite of 35 legacy byelaws and has only developed eight of its own.

The internal process going forward to enable NWIFCA to deliver this Byelaw Strategy by 2028/29 will be as follows:

1. Officers will undertake all necessary evidence gathering and informal consultation with stakeholders. **Maximum two months.**
2. Officers will develop a new byelaw's draft text in accordance with the priority order set out in Section 4 below, and will also develop the accompanying Impact Assessment and gain any legal advice as necessary. **Maximum two months.**
3. Officers will bring a completed draft of the byelaw to a meeting of the Authority's BWG for a discussion and feedback, with the aim of amending and ultimately agreeing the draft content. To facilitate effective resolution of the draft, officers will share the text with BWG members well in advance of the meeting, and will endeavour to discuss issues with those members on a one-to-one basis ahead of the meeting so that they can understand any issues or queries and try to address them ahead of time. At the BWG meeting, members will be deemed to have supported the byelaw if a majority vote in the affirmative is made. If a majority vote supporting the draft text cannot be achieved at this meeting, officers will endeavour to make the necessary amendments in the intervening period thereafter, and a further meeting of the BWG will be held within two months of the initial one. **Maximum two months.**
4. If and when BWG members have agreed on the byelaw's draft content, it will then be brought before TSB for consideration and resolution. This should be within two months of the BWG agreeing the byelaw. If no TSB meeting is scheduled within this two-month period, officers may ask the Chair of the Authority to call an extraordinary meeting of the TSB (online if necessary) to seek a resolution on the draft. Again, as with BWG, to facilitate effective resolution of the draft, officers will endeavour to discuss issues with TSB members on a one-to-one basis ahead of the meeting. As per the Authority's Constitution, the TSB will be deemed to have recommended the byelaw be made, if a majority vote in the affirmative is achieved. **Maximum two months.**
5. If and when TSB members have voted to recommend that the byelaw is made by the full Authority, the byelaw must be brought to all members at the next quarterly meeting of the full Authority. At least two weeks ahead of this meeting, officers will notify the SoS of the Authority's intention to make the byelaw at the forthcoming meeting. **Maximum three months.**

In this way, the entire internal process, from officers starting to gather evidence and engage with stakeholders, through to the Authority making the byelaw at one of its quarterly meetings, should take no longer than 11 months and certainly be concluded within a year.

Thereafter, Defra guidance will continue to be followed, and a formal consultation will be carried out. This should last no longer than one month, and, with effective engagement and informal consultation already carried out as per Step 1 above, few major issues should be raised. As soon as the consultation ends, officers should assess responses and, if no major issues are raised which require consideration, the byelaw should be submitted to the MMO for QA within one week. If however specific issues are raised which need consideration, officers will bring these to the attention of members, and an appropriate way forward will be agreed between the CEO, Authority Chair and TSB Chair. At the point the byelaw is submitted to the MMO, NWIFCA's internal byelaw-making process is complete and the timeframes towards the byelaw's confirmation thereafter are largely out of its control. However, the MMO have their own internal KPI to complete the QA process within 45 days, and officers will endeavour to engage regularly as necessary with MMO colleagues to ensure any issues they raise are addressed promptly and that the process is expedited accordingly.

Similarly, once the byelaw is sent to Defra to be confirmed by the SoS or a representative of theirs, officers will liaise closely with the relevant Defra contact to ensure any issues are addressed and confirmation is expedited.

In summary, the entire process to create a NWIFCA byelaw should not take more than 18 months from decision to proceed to confirmation, with the internal element of getting the byelaw made and consulted upon taking no more than a year before the byelaw is handed over to the MMO and Defra.

4. Towards a Streamlined Byelaw Suite

In order to reduce the number and complexity of NWIFCA's current suite of 43 byelaws, the Authority needs to develop new byelaws which create relevant fisheries legislation for the district whilst at the same time revoke pre-existing legacy byelaws created by the predecessor organisations. In seeking to revoke these 35 legacy byelaws over the duration of this Strategy, NWIFCA would ensure that relevant provisions within any of those byelaws are retained through the applicable new NWIFCA byelaw. However, many of these legacy byelaws are now entirely obsolete and therefore can be revoked in their

entirety at the earliest possible opportunity via what would ostensibly be a ‘housekeeping’ exercise³.

Over the three years of this Strategy, there are five key new NWIFCA byelaws which need to be created. These are:

1. A **Fixed Nets Byelaw** which regulates the use of fixed nets across the district, whether set from the shore or a vessel. It will create a permit regime for all fixed nets in use, whether for commercial or recreational use, with the provision for flexible permit conditions. It will also allow the Authority to implement the exemption from the prohibition for any fixed gillnets to retain European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) which was brought in under The Sea Fisheries (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2021. As this is the next new NWIFCA byelaw, it will also be used as the means by which all current obsolete legacy byelaws are revoked. It will also revoke several relevant legacy byelaws which contain still applicable regulations relating to nets, with these applicable regulations being incorporated within the new Fixed Nets Byelaw. This byelaw was made by the Authority at its September 2024 meeting, and, following stakeholder consultation, will then be handed over to the MMO for QA, with an aspiration that it is confirmed by Defra in early 2025/26.
2. A **Mobile Nets Byelaw** which regulates the use of towed / mobile nets across the district, whether used from the shore or a vessel. It will create a permit regime for relevant mobile nets, with the provision for flexible permit conditions. It will also revoke several relevant legacy byelaws pertaining to the use of mobile nets, with these applicable regulations being incorporated into this new byelaw.
3. A **Vessel Size Byelaw** which regulates the size (both length and engine) and type of vessels that can fish inside the district and under what circumstances. Its primary purposes will be to rationalise the three pre-existing legacy byelaws which regulate vessels’ size in some form or another and allow the Authority to be able to review these restrictions and ensure that they are fit-for-purpose for the long-term.
4. A **Lines Byelaw** which regulates the use of long lines / hooks and lines across the district, whether used from the shore or a vessel. It will create a permit regime for relevant lining gear, with the provision for flexible permit conditions.

³ This is already being implemented via the recently-made Fixed Nets Byelaw.

5. A **Gear Marking Byelaw** which tidies up the current piecemeal approach to gear marking requirements across the district. It will likely revoke gear-specific marking requirements create within the abovementioned gear-based byelaws, bringing all requirements under one standalone regulation.

As described above, the first of these five proposed new NWIFCA byelaws is already in development and indeed, is nearing completion in terms of the internal part of the byelaw making process. This means that the Authority can anticipate that this new Fixed Nets Byelaw may be confirmed by Defra and become enforceable at some point in early 2025/26 (perhaps summer 2025). However, once the internal process is completed with the byelaw handed over to MMO for QA, it will be possible for officers to begin development of the next new byelaw, the Mobile Nets Byelaw, whilst the Fixed Nets Byelaw is with the MMO and Defra awaiting confirmation. This means the Mobile Nets Byelaw could be slated for confirmation by early 2026/27, and again, once it is made internally and handed over to the MMO, NWIFCA officers could commence drafting of the third new byelaw, the Vessel Size Byelaw, and so on.

In this way, the Authority should aim for the five separate byelaws being confirmed and entering its statute book as follows:

- Fixed Nets Byelaw – Q2 2025/26
- Mobile Nets Byelaw – Q2 2026/27
- Vessel Size Byelaw – Q2 2027/28
- Lines Byelaw – Q2 2028/29
- Gear Marking Byelaw – Q2 2029/30

It should be noted that the above sequencing of new byelaws would not preclude the Authority from deciding to add an additional new byelaw into this Strategy in light of an emerging issue within a specific fishery or part of the district. Similarly, the Authority could decide to reorder the above sequencing in light of emerging issues or indeed remove any of those proposed. This Strategy also does not preclude the Authority from implementing Emergency Byelaws as necessary for the immediate protection of a fishery or the marine environment, as per the powers conferred upon it under Section 157 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Appendix I – Current Byelaw Assessment

| Byelaw Name | Title | Year | Assessment Category ⁴ | Comments |
|----------------------------|---|------|----------------------------------|---|
| NWIFCA Byelaw 1 | Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes | 2024 | 1 | |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 2 | North Wirral Foreshore Bivalve Molluscs | 2022 | 1 | |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 3 | Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit | 2022 | 1 | |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 4 | Potting Permit | 2022 | 1 | |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 5 | Heysham Bass Nursery Area | 2013 | 1 | |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 6 | Protection of EMS Features | 2014 | 1 | |
| NWIFCA Dredge Byelaw | Restrictions of the Use of a Dredge | 2017 | 1 | To be renamed NWIFCA Byelaw 8 via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NWIFCA Foul Hooking Byelaw | Prohibition of Foul Hooking | 2018 | 1 | To be renamed NWIFCA Byelaw 9 via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 1 | The District | 1986 | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 2 | Attachments to Nets | 1951 | 2 | Incorporate into Fixed Nets Byelaw and then into Mobile Nets Byelaw and revoke. |

⁴ Assessment Category definitions:

- Category 1 – retain the byelaw in its current form, subject to future statutory reviews or changes in fisheries or emerging issues that may require its amendment or revocation.
- Category 2 – revoke byelaw in its current form but retain specific regulations or overall intent therein in the appropriate new NWIFCA byelaw.
- Category 3 – revoke byelaw in its entirety with no requirement to retain any regulations or overall intent from it, as it is entirely irrelevant in the current circumstances.

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|------|---|--|
| NWSFC Byelaw 3 | Prohibition of Seine Fixed Nets | 1989 | 2 | Incorporate into Mobile Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 6 | Shrimp and Prawns – Restrictions on Fishing | 2001 | 2 | Incorporate into Mobile Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 7 | Mesh Sizes – Nets Other Than Trawl Nets | 1989 | 2 | Incorporate into Fixed Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 8 | Small Mesh Nets – Other Than Trawls Nets | 1989 | 2 | Incorporate into Fixed Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 9 | Mechanically Propelled Vessels | 2005 | 2 | Incorporate into Vessel Size Byelaw and revoke. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 10 | Set and Drift Nets | 1985 | 2 | Incorporate into Fixed Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 11 | Marking of Nets and Lines | 2003 | 2 | Incorporate into Fixed Nets Byelaw and then into Long Lines Byelaw and revoke. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 26 | Fixed Engines | 2011 | 2 | Incorporate into Fixed Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 27 | Mobile Nets | 1996 | 2 | Incorporate into Fixed Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NWSFC Byelaw 28 | Application of Byelaws | 1992 | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| CSFC Byelaw 1 | Revocation of Byelaws Heretofore In Force | 1993 | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| CSFC Byelaw 2 | Authority to Make Byelaws | 1993 | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| CSFC Byelaw 3 | Size Limit of Boats Allowed Inside the District | 1993 | 2 | Incorporate into Vessel Size Byelaw and revoke. |
| CSFC Byelaw 4 | Marking and Siting of Fixed Nets and Lines | 1993 | 2 | Incorporate into Fixed Nets Byelaw and then into Long Lines Byelaw and revoke. |
| CSFC Byelaw 7 | Winkles – Method of Fishing and Minimum Size | 2004 | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| CSFC Byelaw 10 | Fixed Engine Fishery | 2011 | 2 | Incorporate into Fixed Nets Byelaw and revoke. |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------|---|---|
| CSFC Byelaw 13 | Multi-Rigged Trawling Gear | 1996 | 2 | Incorporate into Mobile Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| CSFC Byelaw 14 | Shrimps or Prawns | 2004 | 2 | Incorporate into Mobile Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| CSFC Byelaw 15 | Vessels with a Registered Engine Power >221kW | 1993 | 2 | Incorporate into Vessel Size Byelaw and revoke. |
| CSFC Byelaw 19 | Application of Byelaws | 1993 | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| CSFC Byelaw 20 | For the Protection of Immature Plaice | 1998 | 2 | Incorporate into Mobile Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NRA Byelaw 1 | Application of Byelaws | Unknown | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NRA Byelaw 2 | Interpretation | Unknown | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NRA Byelaw 5 | Use of Instruments | Unknown | 2 | Incorporate into Mobile Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NRA Byelaw 7 | Protection of Certain Acts | Unknown | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NRA Dee Byelaw 1 | Application of Byelaws | Unknown | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NRA Dee Byelaw 2 | Interpretation | Unknown | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NRA Dee Byelaw 6 | Shellfishery – Temporary Closure | Unknown | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NRA Dee Byelaw 8 | Introduction of Shellfish | Unknown | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NRA Dee Byelaw 11 | Protection of Shellfish Beds | Unknown | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| NRA Dee Byelaw 12 | Use of Nets – Beam Trawl or Otter Trawl | Unknown | 2 | Incorporate into Mobile Nets Byelaw and revoke. |
| NRA Dee Byelaw 13 | Mechanically Propelled Vehicles | Unknown | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |
| EA Sea Fisheries Byelaw | Sea Fisheries Byelaw | 1966 | 3 | To be revoked via Fixed Nets Byelaw. |

Appendix II – Future Byelaw Suite

By 2025/26:

| Byelaw Name | Title |
|------------------------------|---|
| NWIFCA Byelaw 1 | Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 2 | North Wirral Foreshore Bivalve Molluscs |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 3 | Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 4 | Potting Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 5 | Heysham Bass Nursery Area |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 6 | Protection of EMS Features |
| <i>NWIFCA Byelaw 7 (new)</i> | <i>Fixed Nets</i> |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 8 (renamed) | Restrictions of the Use of a Dredge |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 9 (renamed) | Prohibition of Foul Hooking |
| NWSFC Byelaw 2 | Attachments to Nets |
| NWSFC Byelaw 3 | Prohibition of Seine Fixed Nets |
| NWSFC Byelaw 6 | Shrimp and Prawns – Restrictions on Fishing |
| NWSFC Byelaw 9 | Mechanically Propelled Vessels |
| NWSFC Byelaw 11 | Marking of Nets and Lines |
| CSFC Byelaw 3 | Size Limit of Boats Allowed Inside the District |
| CSFC Byelaw 4 | Marking and Siting of Fixed Nets and Lines |
| CSFC Byelaw 13 | Multi-Rigged Trawling Gear |
| CSFC Byelaw 14 | Shrimps or Prawns |
| CSFC Byelaw 15 | Vessels with a Registered Engine Power >221kW |
| CSFC Byelaw 20 | For the Protection of Immature Plaice |
| NRA Byelaw 5 | Use of Instruments |
| NRA Dee Byelaw 12 | Use of Nets – Beam Trawl or Otter Trawl |

- 9 x NWIFCA Byelaws (+1; new Fixed Nets Byelaw)
- 5 x NWSFC Byelaws (-7)
- 6 x CSFC Byelaws (-5)
- 2 x NRA Byelaws (-9)
- No EA Byelaws (-1)

Total = 22 Byelaws (-21)

By 2026/27:

| Byelaw Name | Title |
|-------------------------------|---|
| NWIFCA Byelaw 1 | Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 2 | North Wirral Foreshore Bivalve Molluscs |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 3 | Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 4 | Potting Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 5 | Heysham Bass Nursery Area |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 6 | Protection of EMS Features |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 7 | Fixed Nets |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 8 | Restrictions of the Use of a Dredge |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 9 | Prohibition of Foul Hooking |
| <i>NWIFCA Byelaw 10 (new)</i> | <i>Mobile Nets</i> |
| NWSFC Byelaw 9 | Mechanically Propelled Vessels |
| NWSFC Byelaw 11 | Marking of Nets and Lines |
| CSFC Byelaw 3 | Size Limit of Boats Allowed Inside the District |
| CSFC Byelaw 4 | Marking and Siting of Fixed Nets and Lines |
| CSFC Byelaw 15 | Vessels with a Registered Engine Power >221kW |

- 10 x NWIFCA Byelaws (+1; new Mobile Nets Byelaw)
- 2 x NWSFC Byelaws (-3)
- 3 x CSFC Byelaws (-3)
- No NRA Byelaws (-2)

Total = 15 Byelaws (-7)

By 2027/28:

| Byelaw Name | Title |
|-------------------------------|--|
| NWIFCA Byelaw 1 | Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 2 | North Wirral Foreshore Bivalve Molluscs |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 3 | Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 4 | Potting Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 5 | Heysham Bass Nursery Area |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 6 | Protection of EMS Features |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 7 | Fixed Nets |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 8 | Restrictions of the Use of a Dredge |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 9 | Prohibition of Foul Hooking |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 10 | Mobile Nets |
| <i>NWIFCA Byelaw 11 (new)</i> | <i>Vessel Sizes</i> |
| NWSFC Byelaw 11 | Marking of Nets and Lines |
| CSFC Byelaw 4 | Marking and Siting of Fixed Nets and Lines |

- 11 x NWIFCA Byelaws (+1; new Vessel Size Byelaw)
- 1 x NWSFC Byelaw (-1)
- 1 x CSFC Byelaw (-2)

Total = 13 Byelaws (-2)

By 2028/29:

| Byelaw Name | Title |
|-------------------------------|---|
| NWIFCA Byelaw 1 | Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 2 | North Wirral Foreshore Bivalve Molluscs |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 3 | Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 4 | Potting Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 5 | Heysham Bass Nursery Area |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 6 | Protection of EMS Features |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 7 | Fixed Nets |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 8 | Restrictions of the Use of a Dredge |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 9 | Prohibition of Foul Hooking |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 10 | Mobile Nets |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 11 | Vessel Sizes |
| <i>NWIFCA Byelaw 12 (new)</i> | <i>Lines</i> |

- 12 x NWIFCA Byelaws (+1; new Lines Byelaw)
- No NWSFC Byelaws (-1)
- No CSFC Byelaws (-1)

Total = 12 Byelaws (-1)

By 2029/30:

| Byelaw Name | Title |
|-------------------------------|---|
| NWIFCA Byelaw 1 | Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 2 | North Wirral Foreshore Bivalve Molluscs |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 3 | Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 4 | Potting Permit |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 5 | Heysham Bass Nursery Area |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 6 | Protection of EMS Features |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 7 | Fixed Nets |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 8 | Restrictions of the Use of a Dredge |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 9 | Prohibition of Foul Hooking |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 10 | Mobile Nets |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 11 | Vessel Sizes |
| NWIFCA Byelaw 12 | Lines |
| <i>NWIFCA Byelaw 13 (new)</i> | <i>Gear Marking</i> |

- 13 x NWIFCA Byelaws (+1; new Gear Marking Byelaw)

Total = 13 Byelaws (+1)