

North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

BYELAW 7 – NETTING BYELAW

The North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, in exercise of its powers under sections 155 and 156 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009¹ (c.23), makes the following byelaw for its district.

Interpretation

1) In this byelaw:

- (a) “the Authority” means the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as defined in articles 2 and 4 of the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010²;
- (b) “fishing” includes searching for sea fisheries resources, shooting, setting, towing, hauling of fishing gear, and taking sea fisheries resources onboard;
- (c) “net” means any type of net other than:
 - (i) any net that forms part of a dredge, trawl or similar device that is designed to be towed or pushed by hand, vessel or a mechanical device to take any sea fisheries resources;
 - (ii) any net which forms part of any folding or rigid cage device or structure with one or more entrances capable of capturing any sea fisheries resources;
 - (iii) a landing net when used in conjunction with fishing by rod and line or by trolling a line;
- (d) “permit” means:
 - (i) a Category 1 Permit issued under paragraph 8 of this byelaw; or
 - (ii) a Category 2 Permit issued under paragraph 16 of this byelaw;
 - (iii) a Category 3 Permit issued under paragraph 23 of this byelaw;
- (e) “relevant fishing vessel” means a fishing vessel:
 - (i) registered in accordance with Part II of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995³ and the regulations made under that Act, or registered in the Channel Islands or Isle of Man; and
 - (ii) in respect of which a fishing licence issued under the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967⁴ is held at the time of the application for a permit under this byelaw;
- (f) “tag” means a tag issued by the Authority for attachment to a net and which contains details of the applicable permit;
- (g) “vessel” means a ship, boat, raft or watercraft of any description and includes non-displacement craft, personal watercraft, seaplanes, hovercraft, amphibious vehicles and any other thing constructed or adapted for floating on, or being submerged in, water (whether permanently or temporarily), which can be used as a means of transportation on water.

¹ c.23

² SI 2010/2200

³ c.21

⁴ c.84

Prohibitions and Restrictions

- 2) A person must not use a net for fishing unless in accordance with a permit issued under this byelaw.
- 3) A person must not carry a net onboard a vessel unless the net is inboard, lashed and stowed.
- 4) A person must not fish with a net upstream of the boundary line of a spatial closure area specified in the flexible permit conditions of this byelaw unless by hook and line using a lure or baited hook. Where more than one spatial closure area exists within an estuary, this refers to the area furthest upstream in the river.
- 5) A person must not fish with a net upstream of the mean high water spring line as described on an Ordnance Survey map on any other rivers or streams not specified in spatial closure areas of this byelaw.

Exemptions

- 6) This byelaw does not apply to a person performing an act which would otherwise constitute an offence against this byelaw, if that act was carried out in accordance with a written permission issued by the Authority permitting that act for scientific, stocking or breeding purposes.
- 7) Paragraph 3 does not apply to a person acting in accordance with a valid Category 1 or a Category 3 Permit.

Category 1 Permit

- 8) The Authority may issue a permit authorising a person to use nets to fish commercially from a relevant fishing vessel (a "Category 1 Permit").
- 9) An application for a Category 1 Permit may only be made by the owner of a relevant fishing vessel using the printed forms available from the Authority's offices or website.
- 10) Category 1 Permits may be subject to restrictions as described in the flexible permit conditions.
- 11) Where the Authority issues a Category 1 Permit, it will, at the same time, issue a permit sticker. Gear tags will also be issued if tagging of nets is required under the flexible permit conditions.
- 12) A Category 1 Permit, permit sticker and gear tags:
 - (a) are issued to the owner of the named relevant fishing vessel, or in the case of shared ownership, to all owners of that vessel ("the permit holder");
 - (b) are valid for the period 1st April to 31st March of the following year; upon confirmation of the byelaw, the first permit shall be valid for the remainder of the first 12 months to 31st March, and to 31st March in the subsequent year;
 - (c) cannot be sold;
 - (d) are not transferrable between:
 - (i) the permit holder and another person; or,
 - (ii) the named vessel and another named vessel; and

- (e) shall remain the property of the Authority and must be surrendered to it immediately if no longer required.
- 13) Paragraph 12(d)(ii) shall not apply if the ownership of the recipient vessel is the same as that of the donor vessel, subject to any flexible permit conditions in force at the time of transfer. In such cases, the permit must be returned to the Authority for administrative changes to be made.
- 14) A Category 1 Permit holder may nominate a named representative at any time in writing to the Authority to use the permit from the permitted vessel.
- 15) A Category 1 Permit holder, when nominating a named representative at any time other than at the time of the permit application, must:
 - (a) make the nomination in writing; and
 - (b) receive approval from the Authority prior to the named representative fishing under the authority of the permit issued to the permit holder.

Category 2 Permits

- 16) The Authority may issue a permit authorising the use of intertidal nets for commercial fishing (a "Category 2 Permit").
- 17) The Authority may issue up to 26 Category 2 Permit holders an entitlement to retain European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) as bycatch, subject to flexible permit conditions.
- 18) Entitlements issued in accordance with paragraph 17 will be subject to the Category 2 Permit holder providing suitable evidence to the Authority.
- 19) An application for a Category 2 Permit may only be made by a person using printed forms available from the Authority's offices or website.
- 20) Only one Category 2 Permit will be issued per person.
- 21) Where the Authority issues a Category 2 Permit, it will, at the same time, issue gear tags.
- 22) A Category 2 Permit, gear tags:
 - (a) are issued to the applicant ("the permit holder");
 - (b) are valid for the period 1st April to 31st March of the following year. Upon confirmation of the byelaw, the first permit shall be valid for the remainder of the first 12 months to 30th September, and to 30th September in the subsequent year;
 - (c) cannot be sold;
 - (d) are not transferrable between the permit holder and another person; and,
 - (e) remain the property of the Authority and must be surrendered to it immediately if no longer required.

Category 3 Permits

- 23) The Authority may issue a permit authorising the use of nets to fish (a "Category 3 Permit") to:
 - (a) the owner of a named vessel that is not a relevant fishing vessel;
 - (b) a named person without a vessel.

- 24) An application for a Category 3 Permit may be made by any person using the printed forms available from the Authority's offices or website.
- 25) Only one Category 3 Permit will be issued per person.
- 26) Where the Authority issues a Category 3 Permit, it will, at the same time, issue a permit sticker, gear tags.
- 27) A Category 3 Permit, permit sticker and gear tags:
- (a) are issued to the applicant ("the permit holder");
 - (b) are valid for the period 1st April to 31st March of the following year. Upon confirmation of the byelaw the first permit shall be valid for the remainder of the first 12 months to 31st March, and to 31st March in the subsequent year;
 - (c) cannot be sold;
 - (d) are not transferrable between the permit holder and another person; and,
 - (e) remain the property of the Authority and must be surrendered to it immediately if no longer required.

General Permit Conditions

- 28) The fee for a permit, permit sticker and gear tags, if in force, is payable prior to issue as specified below, unless varied pursuant to paragraph 25:

Type of Permit	Annual fee per permit	Includes (if required) under permit or flexible permit conditions
Category 1	£150	One set of gear tags, replacement of one lost or damaged set and a permit sticker.
Category 2	£50	One set of gear tags.
Category 3	£10	One set of gear tags, replacement of one lost or damaged set and a permit sticker

- 29) The Authority may vary permit fees in accordance with the following conditions and procedures:
- (a) the Authority will consult in writing with permit holders;
 - (b) the fee will not be changed for any permit already issued;
 - (c) the Authority will make a decision whether to vary the permit fee based upon:
 - (i) the responses from the consultation under paragraph 29(a);
 - (ii) expenditure arising from the fishery regulatory costs required by the Authority;
 - (iii) any regulatory impact assessments associated with this byelaw;
 - (iv) Authority expenditure to conduct any research, monitoring, survey and enforcement activities that support the implementation of potting permits under this byelaw;
 - (v) Authority costs associated with arranging and attending meetings with permit holders;
 - (vi) any relevant Authority expenditure incurred by implementation of this byelaw.
- 30) A permit holder must not use a net to fish unless the net is of a design defined in the flexible permit condition.

- 31) Any vessel used in accordance with this byelaw shall clearly display the permit sticker with the number issued with the permit and shall not be used to haul nets not marked with that number, nor shall any vessel used in accordance with the byelaw display more than one permit sticker.
- 32) The site of a net shall be marked at each end by either a dahn or a buoy. Nets set individually shall each be marked by either a dahn or a buoy.
- 33) All dahns and buoys used under a Category 1 permit shall be legibly marked with the Port Letter and Number (PLN) of the permitted vessel. All dahns and buoys used under a Category 2 and 3 permits shall be legibly marked with the permit number.
- 34) When using a dahn, each flag must be at least one metre above the surface of the sea and visible at all states of tide.
- 35) When gear is marked with buoys only, all buoys must be red, yellow or orange with a minimum circumference of 84 centimetres and visible at all states of tide.
- 36) Correct marking of gear must be maintained during any period the nets are in the water.
- 37) A net set under a permit of this byelaw shall be set in a manner that it does not interfere with migratory fish species.
- 38) A permit holder must comply with a reasonable request of an Authority Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officer and must not obstruct such an officer in the carrying out their relevant functions as laid out in section 292 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (as amended).
- 39) A permit holder must notify the Authority of any change in the information provided to obtain a permit during the period when the permit is valid.

Category 1 Permit Conditions

- 40) The vessel named on a Category 1 Permit must remain a relevant fishing vessel for the duration of the permit.
- 41) The Category 1 Permit holder or the named representative(s) of the permit holder must be present onboard the vessel during the permitted activity.
- 42) A Category 1 permit holder must not set a net that:
 - (a) is not fitted with a tag issued by the Authority; or
 - (b) is fitted with a tag that has previously been notified to the Authority as lost.
- 43) To obtain a set of replacement tags if a tag is lost, a Category 1 permit holder must submit a written request to the Authority.
- 44) If a lost tag is subsequently found by the Category 1 permit holder it must be returned within 48 hours to the Authority.

Category 2 Permit Conditions

- 45) A net fished under a Category 2 Permit may only be fished by the person it was issued to.

- 46) A Category 2 permit holder must not set a net that:
 - (a) is not fitted with a tag issued by the Authority; or
 - (b) is fitted with a tag that has previously been notified to the Authority as lost.
- 47) To obtain a set of replacement tags if a tag is lost, the permit holder must submit a written request to the Authority.
- 48) If a lost tag is subsequently found by the permit holder it must be returned within 48 hours to the Authority.

Category 3 Permit Conditions

- 49) A permit holder must not set a net that:
 - (a) is not fitted with a tag issued by the Authority; or
 - (b) is fitted with a tag that has previously been notified to the Authority as lost.
- 50) To obtain a set of replacement tags if a tag is lost, the permit holder must submit a written request to the Authority.
- 51) If a lost tag is subsequently found by the permit holder it must be returned within 48 hours to the Authority.

Flexible Permit Conditions

- 52) The Authority may introduce, remove or vary a flexible permit condition which falls within one or more of the following categories:
 - (a) catch restrictions;
 - (b) technical measures and gear restrictions;
 - (c) spatial restrictions;
 - (d) time restrictions;
 - (e) number of permits issued.
- 53) The Authority may introduce, remove or vary a flexible permit condition in accordance with the review procedure set out in paragraphs 55 and 56.
- 54) The flexible permit conditions that apply to a permit until the first review pursuant to paragraphs 53 and 54 are those set by the Authority considering the impact assessment that accompanies this byelaw and all other material considerations.

Review Procedure

- 55) The Authority will review flexible permit conditions no less than once every three years as follows:
 - (a) the Authority will consult in writing with permit holders and such other stakeholders, organisations and persons as appear to the Authority to be representative of the interests likely to be substantially affected by changes in permit conditions;
 - (b) the Authority will decide whether to add, vary or remove any flexible permit condition taking account of the consultation responses and information received in accordance with paragraph 55(a);

- (c) following a decision by the Authority, permit holders will be notified in writing and permits will be amended as necessary with no charge.
- 56) The information used in flexible permit condition reviews will include one or more of the following:
- (a) information and returns data received from permit holders;
 - (b) scientific and survey information gathered by the Authority or provided to the Authority by any other organisations or persons as the Authority sees fit;
 - (c) advice provided by Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Natural England or any other organisations or persons as the Authority sees fit;
 - (d) an impact assessment of any proposed changes;
 - (e) information from any other relevant source.

Breach of Permit Condition

- 57) A failure to comply with a:
- (a) general permit condition (within paragraphs 28-39);
 - (b) Category 1 Permit condition (within paragraphs 40-44);
 - (c) Category 2 Permit condition (within paragraphs 45-48);
 - (d) Category 3 Permit Condition (within paragraphs 49-51); or
 - (e) flexible permit condition attached to a permit in accordance with paragraphs 52-54;
- constitutes a contravention of this byelaw.

Revocations

- 58) The byelaw with the title "NWSFC BYELAW 7 – MESH SIZES – NETS OTHER THAN TRAWL NETS" made by North Western Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed on 6 September 1989 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 59) The byelaw with the title "NWSFC BYELAW 8 – SMALL MESH NETS – OTHER THAN TRAWL NETS- RESTRICTIONS" made by North Western Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed on 6 September 1989 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 60) The byelaw with the title "NWSFC BYELAW 10 – SET AND DRIFT NETS" made by North Western Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed on 9 July 1985 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 61) The byelaw with the title "NWSFC BYELAW 26 – FIXED ENGINES – PROHIBITIONS AND AUTHORISATIONS (ENGLAND)" made by North Western Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed on 10 March 2011 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 62) The byelaw with the title "NWSFC BYELAW 27 – MOBILE NETS – PROHIBITIONS AND AUTHORISATIONS (ENGLAND)" made by North Western Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966

and confirmed on 12 November 1996 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.

- 63) The byelaw with the title “NWSFC BYELAW 28 – APPLICATION OF BYELAWS” made by North Western Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed on 22 December 1992 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 64) The byelaw with the title “CSFC Byelaw 1 – REVOCATION OF BYELAWS HERETOFRCE IN FORCE” made by Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed on 14 April 1993 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 65) The byelaw with the title “CSFC BYELAW 10 – FIXED ENGINE FISHERY” made by Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed on 10 March 2011 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 66) The byelaw with the title “CSFC BYELAW 19 – APPLICATION OF BYELAWS” made by Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed on 27 April 1993 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 67) The byelaw with the title “SEA FISHERIES BYELAW” made by Environment Agency in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 68) The byelaw with the title “BYELAW 1 – APPLICATION OF BYELAWS” made by National Rivers Authority in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 69) The byelaw with the title “BYELAW 2 – INTERPRETATION” made by National Rivers Authority in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 70) The byelaw with the title “BYELAW 7 – PROTECTION FOR CERTAIN ACTS” made by National Rivers Authority in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 71) The byelaw with the title “National River Authority Byelaws – Regulating Fishing for Shellfish in the River Dee and its Estuary BYELAW 1 - APPLICATION OF BYELAWS” made by the National Rivers Authority in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 72) The byelaw with the title “National River Authority Byelaws – Regulating Fishing for Shellfish in the River Dee and its Estuary BYELAW 2 - INTERPRETATION” made by the National Rivers Authority in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 73) The byelaw with the title “National River Authority Byelaws – Regulating Fishing for Shellfish in the River Dee and its Estuary BYELAW 6 - SHELL FISHERY – TEMPORARY CLOSURE” made by the National Rivers Authority in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 74) The byelaw with the title “National River Authority Byelaws – Regulating Fishing for Shellfish in the River Dee and its Estuary BYELAW 8 - INTRODUCTION OF SHELLFISH” made by the National Rivers Authority in force immediately before making this byelaw is

hereby revoked.

- 75) The byelaw with the title “National River Authority Byelaws – Regulating Fishing for Shellfish in the River Dee and its Estuary BYELAW 11 - PROTECTION OF SHELLFISH BEDS” made by the National Rivers Authority in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.
- 76) The byelaw with the title “National River Authority Byelaws – Regulating Fishing for Shellfish in the River Dee and its Estuary BYELAW 13 - MECHANICALLY PROPELLED VEHICLES” made by the National Rivers Authority in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby revoked.

Amendment

- 77) The byelaw with the title “National Rivers Authority Byelaw 5 – Use of Instruments made by National Rivers Authority
 - a. Omit paragraph b) Subsection 1.
- 78) The byelaw with the title “NWSFC BYELAW 11 – MARKING OF FISHING GEAR AND KEEP POTS” made by North Western Sea Fisheries Committee in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed on 22 August 2003 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby amended.
 - b. In the title omit “Marking of nets and lines” and insert “Marking of Lines”.
 - c. For the first paragraph omit the words “set or stake net or”
 - d. For subs section a) amend wording to state “the site of the lines shall be marked by substantial buoys, non-metallic poles or perches visible above the surface at any state of the tide and such buoys, poles or perches shall be maintained as long as the lines are in position.”
 - e. Revoke subsections (c), (d) and (e).
- 79) The byelaw with the title “CSFC BYELAW 4 – MARKING AND SITING OF FIXED NETS, TRAPS, POTS AND LINES” made by Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee on in exercise of their power under sections 5 and 5A of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 and confirmed 16 April 1983 and in force immediately before making this byelaw is hereby amended.
 - f. In the title omit “of fixed nets”
 - g. In the first paragraph omit “anchored or moored net or any net fixed in position by whatever means or any traps pots or”
 - h. Paragraph (a) remove “any reference to “net or”
 - i. Revoke subsection (b) and (c).
- 80) The byelaw with the title “RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF A DREDGE BYELAW 2017” confirmed on 13 December 2017
 - a. Rename as “NWIFCA Byelaw 8 - Restrictions on the use of a Dredge”.
- 81) The byelaw with the title “PROHIBITION OF FOUL HOOKING BYELAW 2017” confirmed on 30 April 2018.
 - a. Rename as “NWIFCA Byelaw 9 – Prohibition of Foul Hooking”.

I hereby certify that the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority “Byelaw 7 – Netting Byelaw” was made by the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority at their meeting on 26th September 2024.

Mark Taylor

Chief Executive Officer
North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
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LA5 9BY

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 155(3) and (4) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, confirms the “Byelaw 7 – Netting Byelaw” made by the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority on 26th September 2024.

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