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NWIFCA Byelaw 3 Cockle and Mussel Hand Fishing Permit 2019 - Flexible Permit Conditions 2025.

Pilling Sands Cockle Fishery 2025

1. Fishing is permitted from **Saturday 4th January 2025 until Wednesday 30th April 2025.**
2. **Fishing is permitted one tide per day, between Saturday and Wednesday.** As specified in **Annex A**. Further tide times will be published at the end of each month.
3. **From the 1st April fishing is permitted on any tide.**
4. Access and egress to the Fishery is **only** permitted from Pilling Embankment slipway. (**Annex B**). No other routes are to be used to access the fishery.
5. Access to the fishery will be by ATV quad bike, 4x4 vehicle and shrimp tractor only.
6. Permit holders must not access the fishery if there are Pink Footed Geese present and must wait until the geese have naturally dispersed. If possible IFCOs will direct fishers away from and around the geese.
7. Parking of vehicles, or any ancillary activities of the fishery can only take place within the designated car parks adjacent to the slipway. (**Annex B**).
8. The **permitted fishing area** is the enclosed area west of Pilling Embankment slipway due north as indicated by way of a closure boundary line as indicated by line A, as illustrated below in **Annex C**.

Point	Latitude (decimal degrees)	Longitude (decimal degrees)	Latitude (degrees, decimal minutes)	Longitude (degrees, decimal minutes)
A	53.94270	-2.93206	53° 56.562" N	02° 55.923" N

9. **Cockles must be riddled on the cockle bed** with undersize cockles distributed evenly back in the area they were gathered as soon as reasonably practical.
10. The fishery is within a Marine Protected Area, as such required a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). Should the fishery no longer be within the scope of information used to assess the fishery and there is potential for damage to protected features. The fishery will be suspended until further assessment has been carried out to ensure any fisheries remains HRA compliant.

Advisory Notes

1. This permit does not exonerate the holder from any other sea fisheries legislation.
2. Operate vehicles in a safe manner on the access road and when transiting to the fishery.
3. Byelaw 3 permit holders should adhere to the Code of Conduct for Intertidal Shellfisheries.
4. NWIFCA has the power to withdraw flexible permit conditions at any point should the need arise, subject to the review procedure.
5. Permit holders should be aware that, as part of the conditions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the fishery, there needs to be measures in place to minimise disturbance to pink-footed geese which roost at the site. Therefore, there may be occasions when permitted fishers may only be able to access the cockle bed once pink-footed geese have dispersed from their roosts, or if they are still roosting, fishers may be requested to access the bed via a route that avoids their disturbance. We politely request that fishers work with NWIFCA officers to ensure disturbance is kept to a minimum so that the fishery can remain HRA compliant and stay open for the remainder of the season
6. Any breach of the conditions constitutes a breach of the byelaw.
7. Permit holders should be aware that as part of the HRA dated February 2025, a maximum number of permit holders was included in the assessment. If numbers attending exceeds this threshold, then the fishery and compliance with the associated HRA will be reviewed.
8. Please note under NWIFCA's cold weather the fishery could be subject to closure during periods of cold weather <https://www.nw-ifca.gov.uk/app/uploads/NORTH-WEST-IFCA-INTERTIDAL-FISHERY-COLD-WEATHER-PROTOCOL-WEBSITE-VERSION-1.pdf>

By Order of the Authority

Mark Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
NWIFCA

Annex B – NWIFCA Byelaw 3 Pilling Sands Cockle Fishery Permitted Access Route 2025



Annex C – NWIFCA Byelaw 3 Pilling Sands Cockle Fishery Permitted Fishing Area 2025

