

KENT AND ESSEX SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE  
Paragon House, Albert Street, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 9HD

**2010**

**FISHERY BYELAWS**

These byelaws apply to any part of the district within a line drawn on the seaward side of baselines 6 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom is measured. For the purpose of this paragraph "the baselines" means the baselines as they existed at 25 January 1983 in accordance with the Territorial Waters Order in Council 1964 (1965 III p.6452A) as amended by the Territorial Waters (Amendment) Order in Council 1979 (1979 II p.2866)".

The district extends from the boundary of the administrative County of Essex in the River Stour to the old lighthouse at Dungeness in the County of Kent, the precise limits of which are defined in the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries District (Variation) Order 1980 made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on 25 November 1980, the Sea Fisheries Districts (Variation) Order 1993 made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on 19th October 1993, and the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries District (Variation) Order 1995 made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on 23rd May 1995.

Under the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966, as amended by the Fishery Limits Act 1976, any person who contravenes these byelaws or where any vessel is used for fishing in any manner constituting a contravention of these byelaws, that person, or the skipper and the owner of the vessel concerned shall, subject as therein mentioned, each be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine. In addition, the court by which a person is convicted of an offence, as above-mentioned, may also order the forfeiture of any net or other fishing gear used in committing the offence any fish in respect of which the offence was committed.

The provisions of these byelaws are without prejudice to any historic right of Several Fishery, Act of Parliament Royal Charter or other rights that exist within the District as referred to in Section 6 of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966.

For copies of the full text of byelaws please contact the address shown above.

PETER SASS

Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee

### **VESSEL SIZE AND ENGINE POWER**

No person shall use within the District in fishing for sea fish or shellfish any net or any other instrument except:-

- (i) from the beach or from a boat the overall length of which does not exceed 17 metres and when using trawl nets, dredges or other towed fishing instruments whose total engine does not exceed 221 kilowatts or, in the case of derated engines, did not exceed 243 kilowatts before derating; or
- (ii) for scientific purposes or for stocking or breeding purposes with the consent of the Committee.

For the purpose of this byelaw, engine power shall be defined as the combined total of the maximum continuous power which can be obtained at the flywheel of all engines which can, by mechanical, electrical, hydraulic or other means, be applied to vessel propulsion, as advised by the engine manufacturers under normal running conditions when supplied new.

No deduction shall be made in respect of any auxiliary machinery driven by the engine.

For the purposes of this byelaw, the length of a vessel shall be the length overall, defined as the distance in a straight line between the foremost point of the bow and the aftermost point of the stern.

The bow is to be taken to include the watertight hull structure, forecastle, stem and forward bulwark, if fitted to exclude bowsprits and safety rails.

The stern is to be taken to include the watertight hull structure, transom, poop, trawl ramp and bulwark, but to exclude safety rails, bumkins, propulsion machinery, rudders and steering gear, and divers' ladders and platforms.

The length overall shall be measured in metres with an accuracy of two decimal places.

This byelaw shall not apply in that part of the district which lies between a line drawn 3 nautical miles to seaward from baselines and a line drawn 6 nautical miles to seaward from baselines, to any vessel exceeding 17 metres overall length or 221 Kw engine power, or both, provided that the owner has prior to the confirmation of this byelaw fished in the said part of the district, and who has applied in writing for registration with the Committee within six months from the date of advertisement of this byelaw and subsequently been entered onto the register and as long as the vessel remains in the same ownership.

For the purpose of this byelaw "owner" means the owner as recorded in the register held by the registrar of shipping for the country of the vessel.

### **PLACING AND USE OF FIXED ENGINES**

The placing and use of fixed engines for taking or facilitating the taking of fish of any description, but excluding salmon and sea trout, in any part of the District is hereby authorised provided that the following conditions are complied with:-

No fixed engine shall be set in that part of the District enclosed within a radius of 1.5 nautical miles of a position on shore situated at 51°18.56'N, 01° 20.85'E, during the months of April to September inclusive, in any year.

No fixed engine shall be set in any part of the District West of a line drawn from London Stone near the entrance to Yantlet Creek, in the County of Kent, to Crow Stone, otherwise the City Stone, opposite Canvey Island, in the County of Essex, and continued on either side to the mean high water mark

**MUSSEL DREDGE**

(a) No person or vessel shall tow or operate any dredge or dredges with an aggregate width of blade, front edge or opening that exceeds 2 metres when fishing for or retaining any mussels. This shall not apply when a person is operating under consent granted for the collection of seed mussels under the Committee's Mussel Minimum Size byelaw.

(b) Dredges not being towed or operated, that exceed the requirement above shall be disconnected from their towing or hauling wires or ropes, lashed and stowed in a manner that they cannot easily be deployed.

(c) No person shall continue to operate any dredge or fishing instrument for the purpose of taking mussels if representative samples taken from the catch on board contain 10% or more of mussels, by weight, with visible damage to their shells or the catch contains 5% or more, by weight, of gravel, stones or other surface material or substrate of the mussel bed other than dead shells.

(d) A representative sample will consist of no less than 3 samples of 10 Kilograms of mussels taken different parts of the catch.

The requirements of this byelaw shall not apply when the total catch of mussels retained onboard weighs less than 10 Kilograms or when the quantity of mussels weighs less than 5% of total catch of other species.

**LIMITATION ON QUANTITIES OF MUSSELS THAT MAY BE REMOVED**

No person shall operate a vessel that, during the course of a 24 hour period, removes more than 13.6 cubic metres of mussels from any part of the District.

No mussels shall be carried on board at the time of commencing fishing.

For the purpose of calculating the quantity of mussels, in cubic meters, no allowance shall be made in respect of the quantity of any dead shell, sand, and other species or debris mixed with the catch.

The requirement of this byelaw shall not apply to persons operating under an authorisation by the Committee for the collection of seed mussels under the Mussel Minimum Size Byelaw.

The provisions of this byelaw are without prejudice to any historic right of Several Fishery, Act of Parliament, Royal Charter or other rights that exist within the District as referred to in Section 6(a) of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 except the private fishery rights held by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

The provisions of this byelaw are without prejudice to any historic right of Several Fishery, Act of Parliament, Royal Charter or other rights that exist within the District as referred to in Section 6(a) of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 except the private fishery rights held by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

**MUSSEL MINIMUM SIZE**

(a) No person shall, without the written consent of the Committee, remove from the fishery mussels of which more than 10% by weight, of a representative sample, will pass through a space 18mm in width. A representative sample will consist of no less than 3 samples of 10 kilograms of mussels taken from different parts of the catch. Catches of mussels that do not meet this criteria, and also rejected small mussels, must be returned immediately to the seabed.

(b) collection of seed mussels – The Committee will give written consent to all applicants to allow the removal of mussels below the minimum size from a specified area and during a specified period of time provided that:

- (i) Representative samples taken from the area show that the size of seed mussels within that area are above a modal size of 15mm shell length or that the seed mussels are at a population density above 10,000 per square metre that they are likely to suffer from stunted growth or high mortality. For the purpose of this section of the byelaw a representative sample will consist of at least 10 samples of 3kg taken from different parts of the mussel bed; and
- (ii) Account has been taken of any scientific advice it has received in relation to the best conditions for the sustainability of the fishery and the results of any relevant surveys

**MUSSEL MINIMUM SIZE (CONTINUED)**

Application for consent will be processed as quickly as is possible taking into account the need for any harvesting of seed mussels to take place prior to likely high levels of predation by starfish.

Modal size will be most frequently occurring shell length measurement within a sample.

Written consent granted by the Committee shall be carried at all times when operating under this authorisation.

The provisions of this byelaw are without prejudice to any historic right of Several Fishery, Act of Parliament, Royal Charter or other rights that exist within the District as referred to in Section 6(a) of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 except the private fishery rights held by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

**OYSTERS**

- (a) No person or vessel shall tow or operate any dredge or dredges with an aggregate width of blade or front edge that exceeds 4 metres when dredging or fishing for oysters in any public fishery within the district.
- (b) No person shall remove from any public fishery within the District any oysters that will pass through a circular ring of 7.0 centimetres in internal diameter. This requirement shall not apply to the pacific rock oyster, (*Crassostrea gigas*).

The provisions of this byelaw are without prejudice to any historic right of Several Fishery, Act of Parliament, Royal Charter or other rights that exist within the District as referred to in Section 6(a) of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 except the private fishery rights held by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

**OYSTER CULTCH**

No person shall remove any oyster cultch from any oyster ground.

For the purpose of this byelaw "cultch" shall be taken to mean the shells of dead molluscs and any other material suitable for the reception of oyster spat.

**CLOSURE OF BEDS – BIVALVE MOLLUSCS**

This byelaw shall apply to all bivalve molluscs with the exception of native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*).

(a) The Committee shall, for the purpose of fishery management and control of exploitation, implement a closure of bivalve mollusc beds provided that it has taken into account:

- Consultations with relevant persons or bodies which represent those fishermen exploiting the fishery within the district; and
- The advice for such action from fishery scientists who appear to them to be suitably qualified; or
- The advice of Natural England

(b) A closure of beds under this byelaw will make it an offence for any person to remove, take or disturb any specified species of bivalve molluscs from within any area and during any period of time specified by the Committee.

(c) Where any bed or part of a bed is closed under this byelaw, the Committee will cause notices to be displayed in the vicinity of the specified area clearly defining the area and period of time to which the measures will apply. Copies will also be provided to persons or bodies appearing to represent those fishermen engaging in the fishery within the district.

The provisions of this byelaw are without prejudice to any historic right of Several Fishery, Act of Parliament, Royal Charter or other rights that exist within the District as referred to in Section 6(a) of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 except the private fishery rights held by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

**SHELLFISH BEDS BYELAW**

Where, in the opinion of the Committee, in any fishery, any bed or part of a bed of shellfish within the District is so severely depleted as to require temporary closure in order to ensure recovery, or any bed or part of a bed contains mainly immature shellfish which in the interest of the protection and development of the fishery ought not to be disturbed for the time being, or any bed of transplanted shellfish ought not to be fished until it has become established, and where the bed, or part of thereof, has been clearly defined in notices displayed in the vicinity prohibiting the removal or disturbance of the shellfish, no person shall, without the written authority of the Committee, while the bed or part thereof is so defined, take away or otherwise disturb any shellfish therein.

Application for authority from the Committee to take away or otherwise disturb any shellfish in a bed which is temporarily closed, in pursuance of the byelaw specified above, should be made in writing to the undersigned.

**DREDGING FOR BIVALVE MOLLUSCS OTHER THAN COCKLES, OYSTERS, MUSSELS AND SCALLOPS**

(a) No person shall continue to operate any dredge or fishing instrument for the purpose of taking any species of bivalve molluscs other than cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*), oysters (*Ostrea edulis*), mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) and scallops (*Pecten maximus*) if representative samples taken from the catch, including any undersized bivalve molluscs, contain 10% or more of bivalve molluscs, by weight, with visible damage to their shells.

A representative sample will consist of the full contents of the dredge or if greater than 30 kilograms no less than 3 samples of 10 kilograms of shellfish taken from different parts of the catch.

Catches of shellfish that do not meet this criteria must be returned immediately to the seabed.

The provisions of this byelaw are without prejudice to any historic right of Several Fishery, Act of Parliament, Royal Charter or other rights that exist within the District as referred to in Section 6(a) of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 except the private fishery rights held by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

**RE-DEPOSIT OF SHELLFISH**

Any person who takes any shellfish, the removal of which is prohibited by any byelaw in force in the District, or the possession of which is prohibited by any regulation of the European Communities, Act of Parliament or Statutory Instrument, shall forthwith re-deposit the same, without injury, as near as possible to the place from which it was taken.

**COCKLE FISHERY – LIMITATION ON QUANTITIES OF COCKLES THAT MAY BE REMOVED**

No person shall operate a vessel that, during the course of that operation, removes more than 13.6 cubic metres of cockles from any part of the District during any 24-hour period.

No cockles shall be carried on board at the time of commencing fishing.

For the purpose of calculating the quantity, in cubic meters, of cockles no allowances shall be made in respect of the quantity of dead shell, sand, other species or debris mixed with the catch.

For the purpose of this byelaw 13.6 cubic metres is deemed equivalent to 500 x 6 gallon baskets.

Cockles must be loaded into bags or containers of a uniform capacity of 1.13 cubic metres. (This will mean that the total catch will be contained within 12 bags/containers).

All such bags or containers shall be clearly marked with a load line if capacity is not level with the top of the side surfaces.

### **COCKLE FISHERY – LIMITATION ON QUANTITIES OF COCKLES THAT MAY BE REMOVED (CONTINUED)**

It shall be permitted for a person to carry cockles loose in the hold of their vessel provided that a hold line has been calculated by a vessel surveyor appointed by a Maritime and Coastguard Agency authorised organisation, to show the level to which the hold may be filled to contain, 13.6 cubic metres of cockles. Documentation of these calculations and the position of the loadline shall be submitted to the Committee and a clear mark shall be placed on all four sides of the hold showing this calculated load line.

To enable checks for compliance with these regulations cockles carried loose in a vessel hold shall be stowed level.

The Byelaw shall not apply within the area of The Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Order 1994.

### **COCKLE FISHERY - CLOSURE OF BEDS**

Under this byelaw, the Committee may, for the purpose of fishery management and control of exploitation and after consultation with persons or bodies appearing to them to represent those cockle fishermen that traditionally fish the area, close for a specific period any bed or part of a bed, provided that the Committee has been advised by fishery scientists who appear to them to be suitably qualified as to the need for such action.

No person shall, without the authority of the Committee, remove, take or disturb any cockle from a bed or part of a bed which has been closed under this byelaw.

Where any bed or part of a bed is closed under this byelaw, the Committee will, where it is practicable to do so, cause notices to be displayed in the vicinity of the bed or part thereof clearly defining the area in which cockles shall not be removed or disturbed without the consent of the Committee. In addition, notice will be given by publishing the same in a newspaper circulating in the district in which the cockle bed is situated.

### **COCKLE FISHERY – CONTRUCTION OF FISHING GEAR AND REMOVAL OF SMALL COCKLES**

No person shall, without the written consent of the Committee, operate any instrument of fishing gear for the purpose of taking, riddling, sorting or grading cockles unless all surfaces acting to retain the catch be constructed of parallel bars with an average space between bars of no less than 16 millimetres. This requirement shall not apply to pipes used to convey water or catch between the seabed and any fishing vessel.

All instruments and fishing gear shall be constructed so as to incorporate a riddle for the purpose of sorting and grading cockles that will return undersized cockles to the sea with the minimum of damage. Such riddle shall be of a minimum length of 1.75 metres and shall be designed and operated such that the retained cockles shall be in contact with the riddle for its full length.

### **COCKLE PERMIT BYELAW**

No person shall take, remove or disturb any cockle unless a permit to do so has been issued by the Committee. A permit shall be available to all applicants.

Permits issued by the Committee shall be valid until the following 31st December and are issued on the condition that the holder of the permit shall complete and return to the Committee, by no later than the 5th day of each month, a record of daily catch, actual fishing time and fishing area. Such information shall be submitted on a form provided by the Committee.

Applications for a permit under this byelaw are to be made in such form as the Committee shall determine.

Permits shall not be transferable.

## **COCKLE FISHERY – APPROVAL OF FISHING INSTRUMENT**

No person shall operate any instrument, other than a rake operated by hand, for the taking of cockles unless a Certificate of Approval for the instrument has been issued by the Committee pursuant to this byelaw.

A Provisional Certificate of Approval in respect of an instrument which has not previously been the subject of a full approval under this byelaw may be issued by a Fishery Officer and be valid for one calendar month. No more than two provisional certificates of approval may be issued in respect of any instrument.

A full certificate of Approval in respect of an instrument will be issued where a Fishery Officer is satisfied on inspection of a representative sample of cockles that less than one tenth of the cockles collected have been damaged during the operation. A representative sample of the cockles will include cockles being retained and also rejected by the riddle during the course of a dredging operation in which the instrument has been operated at its normal speed.

A full Certificate of Approval issued pursuant to this byelaw will be valid from the date of issue until the 31<sup>st</sup> December following that date.

A full Certificate of Approval shall cease to have any effect for the purpose of this byelaw if the instrument that is the subject of the approval has been altered since the grant of the approval.

The provisions of this byelaw are without prejudice to any historic right of Several Fishery, Act of Parliament, Royal Charter or other rights that exist within the District as referred to in Section 6(a) of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 except the private fishery rights held by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

## **BYELAWS RELATING TO COCKLES – SIZE OF VESSEL AND DREDGE.**

No person shall use within the District for the purpose of taking cockles a vessel, the overall length of which exceeds 14 metres. Provided that this shall not apply to vessels exceeding 14 metres in overall length which were engaged in the fishery on a regular basis prior to the confirmation of the byelaw.

No person shall use for the purpose of taking cockles, a vessel, the overall width or beam of which exceeds 5 metres.

For the purposes of this byelaw, the length of a vessel shall be the length overall, defined as the distance in a straight line between the foremost point of the bow and the aftermost point of the stern.

The bow is to be taken to include the watertight hull structure, forecastle, stem and forward bulwark, if fitted, but to exclude bowsprits and safety rails.

The stern is to include the watertight hull structure, transom, poop, trawl ramp and bulwark, but to exclude safety rails, bumkins, propulsion machinery, rudders and steering gear, and divers ladders and platforms.

For the purpose of this byelaw, the width or beam of a vessel shall be measured at right angles to the measurement of length of the vessel and shall be taken at the widest point.

Measurement shall be taken from the outer edge of the watertight hull structure and will exclude safety rails, fenders and structures to support fishing equipment.

The length overall shall be measured in metres with an accuracy of two decimal points.

No person shall use within the District for the purpose of taking cockles:-

- (a) a vessel equipped with more than one dredge; or
- (b) a dredge with a dredge head aperture of more than 76 centimetres in width; or
- (c) a dredge with a blade measuring more than 76 centimetres between its extremities.

For the purpose of this byelaw "dredge" means 5 suction dredge or any type of towed dredge.

The Committee will give written consent for a specified area and specified period of time to all applicants to permit the use of instruments or fishing gear and removal of cockles otherwise prohibited by this byelaw where the Committee is satisfied that the quality of a bed would be enhanced by the removal of cockles. This would allow the thinning of over-populated stock, removal and thinning of cockles that have not shown good growth or removal for the purposes of relaying.

## **BYELAWS RELATING TO COCKLES – SIZE OF VESSEL AND DREDGE (CONTINUED)**

No person shall, without the written consent of the Committee, remove from the fishery cockles of which more than 10% by weight, of a representative sample, will pass through a space 16mm in width. A representative sample will consist of no less than 200 kilogrammes of cockles. Small cockles rejected as a result of the requirements of this byelaw shall be returned immediately to the sea.

## **PARLOUR POTS – CRABS AND LOBSTERS**

No person shall use or cause to be used for the purpose of fishing for sea fish any parlour pot of whatever material constructed, unless it has at least one unobstructed escape gap per parlour. Any escape gap must:

- (d) be located in the exterior wall of the parlour(s)
- (e) be so designed and constructed and of sufficient size that there may be easily passed through it a rigid box shaped gauge which measures 84 millimetres wide by 46 millimetres high and 100 millimetres long, and
- (c) be fitted in such a way that the longitudinal axis is parallel to the base of the pot and is located in the lowest part of the parlour(s) as is practically possible and in all cases must be within 100 millimetres of the base

No persons shall use or cause to be used for the purposes of fishing for sea fish any parlour pot unless the door, hinge or clasp is fitted to the door of each bait parlour is fitted to the pot by rubber, metal or similar natural material that will, under normal working conditions require replacement annually.

## **MARKING POTS AND TRAPS**

Marker buoys and similar objects floating on the surface and intended to indicate the location of fishing pots and traps shall be clearly marked at all times with the letters and numbers of the vessel to which they belong or the owners name and address.

It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under this byelaw founded on a contravention of, or failure to comply with, any provision of article 1 or 2 of Commission Regulation No. 1381/87 to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.

## **BERRIED LOBSTERS**

No person shall remove from a fishery any berried lobster.

## **WINKLES**

No person shall fish for or take periwinkles or winkles otherwise than by hand picking

## **HERRING FISHING**

No person shall use when fishing for herring within that part of the Local Fisheries District which is situated in the Thames Estuary West of a line 1°20'E, a drift net with a mesh of less than 54 millimetres or a trawl net with a mesh of less than 50 millimetres as measured in accordance with Commission Regulation (EEC) 2108/84.

No person shall remove herring from within that part of the Local Fisheries District which is situated within the Thames Estuary west of a line longitude 1°10'E after the date determined annually as the closure date of the Thames Estuary Herring Fishery (when the total allowable catch for that fishery has been taken up).

No person shall operate a trawl, dredge or anchored net over or on the Eagle Bank off the coast of the County of Essex and/or Studhill (known also as the Herring Bank) off the coast of the County of Kent during the period 1st February to 1st June in any year.



### **HERRING FISHING (CONTINUED)**

No person or persons shall use when fishing for herring from a vessel any drift net or group of drift nets exceeding 250 metres in length in the areas defined as the Eagle Bank and Studhill (also known as the Herring Bank) between 1 March and 30 June.

For the purpose of this byelaw, the Eagle Bank is defined as the area enclosed by a straight line drawn from a point 51° 44.683'N, 01° 04.417'E to a point 51° 43.85'N, 01° 05.17'E, thence to a point 51° 44.1'N, 01° 03.917'E, thence to a point 51° 44.58'N, 01° 02.67'E, and finally to a point 51° 44.683'N, 01° 04.417'E. Studhill (known also as the Herring Bank) is defined as the area enclosed within a radius of one nautical mile from the end of the landing stage at Herne Bay pier, situated at latitude 51° 23'N and longitude 1° 07'E.

### **MINIMUM FISH SIZES FOR CERTAIN SPECIES, GREY MULLET, SKATES AND RAYS**

No person shall take from the fishery any of the undermentioned species that measure less than the sizes prescribed below:-

- (i) Grey mullet, 30cm in length.
- (ii) Skates and rays, 40cm being the measurement taken from the extreme tips of the wings; when winged no wing shall measure less than 19cm in a straight line from the tip of the wing to the centre of the cut edge when detached from the body.

### **BASS NURSERY AREA AT BRADWELL**

No person shall remove any seafood from that part of the District around Bradwell Power Station which is covered by the Bass (Specified Areas) (Prohibition of Fishing) Order 1990, SI 1990 No. 1156, during the period 1st May and 31st October inclusive in any year, except for scientific purposes with the written permission of the Committee.

For the purpose of this byelaw, the Bass Nursery Area is the area between the baffle wall and the Bradwell foreshore enclosed by lines drawn perpendicular (145° true) from the North East and South West corners of the baffle wall to the shore.

### **SMALL MESH TRAWL NETS**

The use by a vessel or vessels in the case of boats engaged in pair trawling of any demersal trawl net of a mesh size of less than 75mm may be prohibited if, in the opinion of the Committee:-

- (i) the use of such nets in any part of the District is damaging to immature fish stocks which, in the interests of the protection and development of any fishery, ought not to be disturbed by such gear for the time being; or
- (ii) the discard of fish in compliance with Bycatch Regulations has a damaging effect on any other fishery within the District,

and prohibitions shall be notified in notices displayed at ports throughout the District, or, if the display of such notices is not practicable, the notice shall be published in a weekly newspaper circulating in the District.

For the purposes of this byelaw a demersal trawl shall mean any trawl designed to fish on the sea bed any part of which (including weights, wires, rope and net) is intended to be in contact with the sea bed during fishing operations.

## **FIXED NETS**

No fixed net shall be left uncleared for a period of more than 30 hours, although an exemption will be granted in the case of bad weather, illness of the crew or engine failure. In the event of anticipated non-compliance, the Clerk of the Committee, the Head Fishery Officers for Essex and Kent or the Skipper of the Committee's patrol vessel must be informed accordingly.

Each fleet of nets or, if set alone, each individual net shall be marked by a dahn buoy at each end, such dahn buoy extending at least 1.5 metres above the surface of the water when the pole is in vertical position and carrying a flag measuring at least 30 centimetres by 30 centimetres; all dahn buoys to be clearly marked with the name and address of the owner of the net, or the fishing vessel registration number of the vessel responsible for setting the net;

No net or fleet of nets shall exceed 1,000 metres in length.

For the purpose of this byelaw a fleet of nets is defined as a continuous line or group of nets, whether fixed together or not, set by one person or vessel. The length of a net or fleet of nets shall be taken to be the distance between the dahn buoys marking each end of the net or fleet of nets as required under this byelaw.

Fishermen's attention is drawn to the fact that various District Councils have their own byelaws relating to bathing beaches.

The provisions of this byelaw are without prejudice to any historic right of Several Fishery, Act of Parliament, Royal Charter or other rights that exist within the District as referred to in Section 6(a) of the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 except the private fishery rights held by the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.