

All enquiries should be directed to:  
David McCandless  
NEIFCA Chief Officer  
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Our ref: NEIFCA/DM/Byelaw0616  
Date: 13 June 2016

Dear Stakeholders,

### **Future Management of Trawling Within the Humber Estuary**

Since 2014 North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA) has been strengthening its management of fishing activities within the Humber Estuary European Marine Site to ensure that all the sensitive marine features occurring within the estuary are fully protected. This work has been driven by a revised national approach to the management of fishing activities within marine protected areas. On 30 January 2014 Byelaw XXIX 'Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw' was confirmed by Defra which provided additional protection for an area of seagrass occurring close to Spurn Point on the North bank of the estuary.

Alongside the work on seagrass officers have been developing provisions to strengthen the management of trawling activity throughout the estuary to protect both features and the growing status of the estuary as an important regional nursery site for finfish species such as sea bass. The Authority's Executive Committee met on 27 April 2016 to further consider options for the management of trawling within the estuary and supported the inclusion of the following provisions within a revision to the 'Humber Estuary Fishing Byelaw':

- The establishment of a new permitting scheme for trawling within the estuary.
- **Only** vessels meeting the following criteria would be eligible to apply for a permit:
  - (i) Maximum vessel length of 18.3m and 400 KW engine power
  - (ii) Vessel holds a valid 'general' permit to trawl issued by NEIFCA
  - (iii) Vessel can demonstrate a minimum track record of catching and landing 500 kg of whitefish and shrimp in any three month period between 1 January 2013 and 1 January 2016
- A £500 annual permit renewal fee to be re-invested in the administration, monitoring and assessment of the fishery.
- Vessels would permanently surrender permits following any change in major shareholding with the exception of transfers within families and or existing shareholders.
- Mandatory requirement that all nets used in the 16 to 31 mm category carry a separator device and are hauled and cleared every hour.
- Subject to process the Authority would retain the ability to suspend trawling permits at anytime or prohibit trawling within any part or parts of the Humber Estuary.

At this stage I am seeking informal views from all affected stakeholders. You should ensure that these are submitted in writing to ensure that they are fully recorded and documented:

*Comments and submissions can be emailed to the following address:*

[ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:ne-ifca@eastriding.gov.uk)

**Please title as: 'Humber Estuary Trawling Proposals'**

*Comments and submissions can also be submitted by post as follows:*

**Chief Officer  
NEIFCA  
Town Hall  
Quay Road  
Bridlington  
YO16 4LP**

**Please can you ensure that all comments are submitted by Friday 22 July 2016.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David McCandless', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David McCandless  
Chief Officer