

## KENT & ESSEX IFCA CHANGING SEAS CONFERENCE



Fishing Industry and experts came together to discuss concerns over significant reductions to key species within the Kent & Essex IFCA district at a conference that was held on 26 November.

This well attended meeting raised some important issues and provided insight into the changes that are being seen by fishermen in the District.

An overview of the presentations and discussions can be found [here](#) (page 7 onwards)



## ENGLISH WHELK PERMIT — PROPOSED MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Members will receive details of the initial management measures that Seafish have developed following the introduction of the Whelk FMP. Members will be asked to provide feedback to Seafish and Defra on these proposals. Click [here](#) for more information

## MANILA CLAM TRIAL UPDATE



At the January 2025 meeting, Members will be asked to provide feedback on the summary report developed from the work undertaken by fishermen and officers for the clam trial that took place in October 2024. Members will be asked to recommend a further trial fishery for 2025 focussing on water injection batch dredges and a study on riddle bar spacing to assist with sorting catch.

Please click [here](#) for the report.



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## WHELK PERMIT BYELAW UPDATE

At their meeting on 28 January, Members will discuss the management of the whelk fishery in Kent & Essex under the Whelk Permit Byelaw in 2024/2025 and decide on management measures for the 2025/2026 fishery

For further information click [here](#)



## REMOTE ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Members will discuss the results of the trial in 2024 of REM on boats in the cockle fleet and discuss a recommendation to introduce this across the cockle fleet in 2025. Click [here](#) for the full report



## FISH LOCAL



Fish local has been developed to support the Kent and Essex fishing industry, working together to deliver its world-class seafood to the public and trade.

Buying locally caught seafood from a fishmonger, fish stall, restaurant or even direct from the fisher is more sustainable and supports an industry we can be proud to have on our doorstep.

For more information on how and where to source local fish go to <https://fishlocal.org/#/>



We are on Twitter.  
Follow us [@KentEssexIFCA](#)



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The Wildlife Trusts have published their 2024 marine review. The use of innovation, research and a mammoth volunteering effort by people has helped conservationists learn more about wildlife in UK seas.

For more information and access to the report go to <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/news/sea-slugs-seaweeds-and-snorkel-trails-make->

The [Cefas-led Seascapes project](#) aims to help policymakers understand the different uses and values of marine natural capital for people and society, as well as the competing uses and pressures facing marine resources.

Six of the reports Cefas produced during Year 1 of the Seascapes project have been published. These can be found at <https://marinescience.blog.gov.uk/2024/12/16/seascapes-project-reports-mncea/>

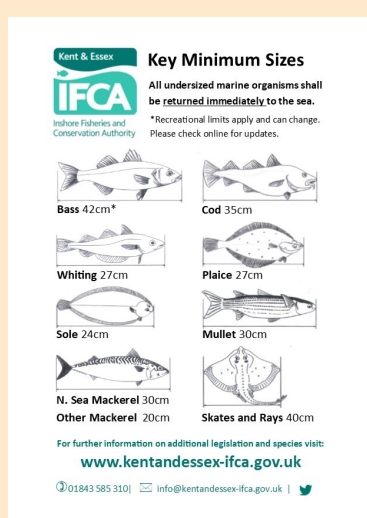


## COMPLIANCE WITH KENT & ESSEX BYELAWS

We have developed a number of stickers and business card sized information sheets that can be used by both commercial and recreational fishers to check they are landing sizeable fish.

If you would like one of these free vinyl stickers and/or business card sized information sheets, please email [info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk) and we will be pleased to send them to you.

If you see anything that concerns you regarding a fishing activity in our district then ring us on 01843 585310.



The next meeting of the Authority will take place on:

**Tuesday 28 January 2025**

This meeting will be held at Chelmsford Council offices, Chelmsford CM1 1JE at 10am. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Among the items up for discussion are:

- [Draft Annual Plan 2025/2026](#)
- [Draft budget 2025/2026](#)
- [Update on build of the new Cabin RIB](#)

Please click [here](#) to see our website for the full agenda and reports.

Should a member of the public wish to speak to the Authority Members on any item that is being discussed at a meeting then you should email [info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk) or phone the office on 01843 585310 to let us know you would like to do so.

We will need at least 48 hours' notice and will ask you to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak about and what your concern/interest is. We will then ask the Chairman to confirm his approval and contact you to let you know where to go and an approximate time you will be heard.

**If you have any concerns about fishing activities in your area we want to hear from you.**

**Call us today on 01843 585310**

If you experience any problems with the links you will find all the material on our website