

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Email: info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk

3rd April 2017

Response to email received 24th March 2017

Dear Mr Craig

I am aware that there has been correspondence circulated that the changes to the technical requirements of the Whelk Permit Byelaw that were made at the meeting of the KEIFCA on 23 January 2017 should not go ahead because of an appeal to DEFRA. I can confirm that the measures agreed are going ahead from the 3 April.

The current set of management measures for the 2017/18 Whelk permit were agreed at the KEIFCA meeting held on 23 January 2017. Members considered two options to amend the technical requirements of the Whelk Permit Byelaw

Option 1:

In 2017/18 increase the size of the riddle to 25mm, the number of escape holes to 10 and the size of the escape holes to 25mm.

Option 2:

In 2017/18 increase the size of the riddle to 24mm, the number of escape holes to 10 and the size of the escape holes to 24mm

In 2018/19 increase the size of the riddle to 25mm, the number of escape holes to 10 and the size of the escape holes to 25mm

Members voted unanimously to increase the the riddle gap size to 25mm, to increase the number of escape holes to 10 and the size of escape holes to 25mm.

These technical requirements were notified to all permit holders following the meeting and **are** applicable from 3 April 2017. Any person not adhering to these technical requirements will be in breach of the Byelaw and may be liable to prosecution for failing to comply with them.

Since the meeting we have received additional correspondence from some fishermen regarding the consultation process with the industry prior to making decisions regarding whelk management measures as well as additional views in the impacts of management measures. These comments will be presented to the Authority at the next Quarterly meeting in May, and we are committed to working closely with the industry to develop a sustainable fishery and learn lessons from the feedback we have received. We have talked to DEFRA regarding letters that have been sent by the industry concerning the changes in KEIFCA whelk management and they have confirmed that this is a KEIFCA issue and there is no need for any input from DEFRA.

Management decisions regarding whelks are reviewed annually and once a decision is made the next opportunity for review will start in late November 2017 with an industry survey and we would encourage fishermen to engage in this process. The current whelk management measures will next be reviewed at the January 2018 KEIFCA quarterly meeting.

I hope that this now clarifies the situation for you and would ask that if you have any questions regarding your permit that you contact the officers at KEIFCA direct.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lamb".

Cllr John Lamb
Chairman, Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority