

Appendix 4 2023 small-scale fishery questionnaire

2023 KEIFCA Cackle Permit Fishery Questionnaire

This questionnaire is based on feedback from the Listening Phase and Consultation 1 of the KEIFCA Cackle Fishery Review and Development of Management Measures. That review has led to the Authority exploring different ways of managing the permit cockle fishery, outside the area of the Thames Estuary Cackle Fishery Order 1994. In the first instance this is being considered using the existing permit byelaw, with a focus on enabling a small-scale fishery in 2023 which provides an additional fishing opportunity for the inshore fishing fleet. As a result, this questionnaire is purposely stripped back and as simple as possible to try and enable engagement with an as-wide-as-possible cross-section of the fishing industry.

This questionnaire is regarding the 2023 cockle permit fishery. However, it is linked to the overall cockle fishery review which is currently taking place. We would strongly advise that you look at the review website (<https://cocklereview.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk>) and consider the overarching process prior to completing this questionnaire.

How to respond to this questionnaire

Please email your completed questionnaire to info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk. The closing date for receipt of questionnaires is 16th September 2022.

*Name	[REDACTED]
*Address	[REDACTED]
*Email	[REDACTED]
*Phone	[REDACTED]
*Are you responding on behalf of a company/organisation? If so, please specify.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Company/Organisation:	
*Do you have access to licenced fishing boat as an owner and/or skipper?	Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skipper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
*If owner or skipper, please specify the boat name and PLN	[REDACTED]

Q1. Do you intend to apply for a permit to fish for cockles outside of the TECFO in 2023? If so, which category of permit are you likely to apply for?

Category 1 Category 2 Likely to not apply

Q2. Do you think TECFO-licensed vessels should fish for cockles outside of the TECFO in 2023?

Yes No

Q3. Yields are generally better in the late summer period. We will aim to try and open the fishery when yields are at their best. As a result, the suggested start date for the fishery is in early September. Do you agree with this?

Yes No

If 'No' please say why and provide your alternative suggested time for opening the fishery.

Q4. Given the aim is for a 'small-scale' fishery, should all vessels be restricted to the same tonnage of cockles per trip?

Yes No

If yes, what amount should all vessels be limited to?

6 tonnes 3 tonnes 1.5 tonnes Other

If 'No', what should the maximum tonnage be for each category of permit?

Category 1 6 tonnes 3 tonnes

Category 2 3 tonnes 1.5 tonnes

Q5. Should Category 1 and Category 2 vessels be given different times/periods to fish?

Yes No

Please give the reason for your answer

Apart from weather I see no reason, for my 25 years of cockle fishing I have always worked to tight time frames, I have not always had the luxury of a 14m vessel either to fish any weather conditions

Q6. If you answered 'Yes' to Q4, do you think that Category 2 vessels should be allowed to

- (a) Start the day before category 1 vessels
- (b) Start the week before the category 1 vessels
- (c) Have a longer period to fish in than the category 1 vessels (i.e. start before and finish after the Category 1 vessels).
- (d) Fish at a completely different time to the category 1 vessels

Q7. Would you be interested in catching clams as bycatch on cockle fishery trips or do you just want to catch cockles?

Cockles only Cockles and Clams

Q8. Do you have any other comments regarding the 2023 cockle permit fishery or extra details to add on any of the above?

I'd just like to see a viable sustainable fishery. For many years I have paid over a thousand for a permit for then only have one days fishing. Which clearly has financially been a disaster for many small businesses ie skipper/owners. Many of us believed if we kept taken out a permit and fishing at a loss that somehow a track record would be worth it. Sadly I think we was all a bit naive