

## Devon and Severn IFCA Potting Permit Byelaw

### The Permit Conditions:

#### Interpretations

In the following Flexible Permit Conditions:

“the Authority” means the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as defined in articles 2 and 4 of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 2212);

“berried edible crab” means any edible crab carrying any spawn attached to the body or some other exterior part of the crab, or which is in such a condition as to show that at the time when it was taken it was carrying spawn so attached;

“berried lobster” means any lobster or spiny lobster which is carrying any spawn attached to the tail or some other exterior part of the lobster, or which is in such a condition as to show that at the time it was taken it was carrying spawn so attached;

“co-ordinate” means a co-ordinate on the World Geodetic System 1984 Datum (WGS84);

“the District” means the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as defined in articles 2 and 3 of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 2212);

“fishing” includes searching for sea fisheries resources, shooting, setting, towing, hauling of a fishing gear, and taking sea fisheries resources on board;

“mutilated lobster” means a lobster or spiny lobster where any of the five flaps of the tail fan is missing or mutilated in such a manner that could hide or obliterate a V-notch;

“pot” means any folding or rigid cage device or structure with one or more openings or entrances capable of capturing any sea fisheries resources;

“V notched lobster” means a lobster or European spiny lobster with an indentation in the shape of the letter “V” or resembling the shape of a “V” made in any one or more of the five flaps on the tail fan;

**Species:**

“bass” means a fish of the species *Dicentrarchus labrax*;

“ballan wrasse” means a wrasse of the species *Labrus bergylta*;

“corkwing wrasse” means a wrasse of the species *Symphodus melops*

“cuckoo wrasse” means a wrasse of the species *Labrus mixtus*;

“edible crab” means a crab of the species *Cancer pagurus*;

“goldsinny wrasse” means a wrasse of the species *Ctenolabrus rupestris*;

“green crab” means a crab of the species *Carcinus maenas*;

“lobster” means a lobster of the species *Homarus gammarus*;

“rock cook wrasse” means a wrasse of the species *Centrolabrus exoletus*

“scallop” means a scallop of the species *Pecten maximus*;

“spider crab” means a crab of the species *Maja spp.*;

“spiny lobster” means a lobster of the species *Palinurus elephas*;

“velvet swimming crab” means a crab of the species *Necora puber*;

“whelk” means a whelk of the species *Buccinum undatum*;

## The Permit Conditions

### 1 Catch Restrictions

As provided by paragraph 24(a) of the Devon and Severn IFCA Potting Permit Byelaw, the following permit conditions apply:

- 1.1 A permit holder or named representative is not authorised to fish under this Permit if the Permit Holder or Named Representative has retained on board or has in their possession any catch that does not comply with any of the catch restrictions set out in paragraphs 1.2 to 1.5.4 inclusive.
- 1.2 A permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to remove from a fishery within the District:
- a) any 'V'-notched or mutilated lobster;
  - b) any berried lobster or berried edible crab;
  - c) any part of an edible crab or lobster or spiny lobster which is detached from the carapace of the crab or lobster;
  - d) any edible crab or lobster or spiny lobster that has recently cast its shell;
  - e) any rock cook wrasse.
- 1.3 A permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to remove from a fishery within the District:
- a) a female edible crab less than 150mm measured across the broadest part of the carapace;
  - b) a male edible crab less than 160mm measured across the broadest part of the carapace;
  - c) a scallop less than 100mm measured across the broadest part of the flat shell;
  - d) a whelk less than 45mm measured along the length of the shell, except when Table 1 in paragraph 4.3 applies;
  - e) a lobster less than 90mm measured as the length of the carapace, parallel to the midline, from the back of either eye socket to the distal edge of the carapace;
  - f) a spider crab less than 130mm measured as the length of the carapace, along the midline, from the edge of the carapace between the rostrums to the posterior edge of the carapace;
  - g) a spiny lobster less than 110mm measured as the length of the carapace from the tip of the rostrum to the midpoint of the distal edge of the carapace;
  - h) a velvet swimming crab less than 65mm measured across the broadest part of the carapace;
  - i) a bass less than 42cm measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin.
- 1.3.1 All such species falling within the above prohibitions in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 must be returned immediately to the sea without further injury.
- 1.3.2 The measurement of the size of a marine organism will take place in accordance with the provisions set out in the Schedule that accompanies the Category One and Category Two Permit Conditions.

1.4 Additional Category One Catch Restrictions

- 1.4.1 A Category One permit holder using a named vessel without a shellfish fishing entitlement set out in Section 3 of the vessel's General Fishing Licence is not authorised to remove from a fishery within the District in any calendar day more than:
- a) a total of five lobsters, however comprised, from the species of lobster or spiny lobster, and
  - b) a total of twenty-five crabs, however comprised, from the species of edible crab, spider crab, velvet swimming crab and green crab.

1.5 Additional Category Two Catch Restrictions

- 1.5.1 A Category Two permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to remove from a fishery within the District in any calendar day more than:
- a) a total of two lobsters, however comprised, from the species of lobster and spiny lobster, and
  - b) a total of three crabs, however comprised, from the species of edible crab and spider crab.
- 1.5.2 Subject to the restrictions imposed under paragraph 1.5.1 (a) & (b), a Category Two permit holder or named representative is only authorised under this Permit to remove sea fisheries resources for personal consumption.
- 1.5.3 A Category Two permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to retain on board live wrasse that have been removed from a fishery within the District.
- 1.5.4 Where a Category Two permit holder fishes under multiple permits issued by the Authority the total number of crabs, lobster and bass that can be removed from a fishery within the District in any calendar day must not exceed the limits set out in 1.5.1 (a) & (b).

## 2 Gear Restrictions

As provided by paragraph 24 (b) of the Devon and Severn IFCA Potting Permit Byelaw, the following permit conditions apply

- 2.1 During the period specified in section 4.1, a permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit, to use for the purpose of fishing for crab, lobster or spiny lobster, within the District any pot where the entrance or entrances to the pot or internal chamber of the pot are constructed from netting and are designed to prevent shellfish exiting unless;
- a) the pot is fitted with an escape gap or;
  - b) where a chamber is present, the chamber is fitted with an escape gap.
- 2.1.2 Any escape gap must;
- a) be located in the exterior wall of the pot or in the case of a multiple chambered pot each individual chamber must have an unobstructed escape gap located in its exterior wall;
  - b) be of sufficient size that there may be passed through the gap a rigid, box shaped gauge, 84 millimetres wide by 46 millimetres high and 100 millimetres long; and
  - c) be fitted in such a way that the longest side of the gap is parallel to the base of the pot and is located in the lowest part of the chamber as is practically possible, other than in the bottom.
- 2.2 Within the estuaries to the landward of the coordinates set out in the attached Annex 3 of this Permit, a permit holder or named representative, is not authorised under the Permit, to use any pot for the purposes of fishing, with an entrance at its narrowest point of 85mm or less in width unless;
- a) the entrance to the pot at its narrowest point is fitted with a ring constructed of a rigid material and;
  - b) the ring is fitted across the narrowest part of the entrance to the pot and is the same width as the narrowest part of the entrance to the pot.
- 2.3 A permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to use any pots, for the purpose of fishing, within the District unless all individual pots or each string or shank of pots is clearly marked by at least one floating marker (buoy or dahn). Each of these buoys or dahns shall be clearly marked with either the relevant fishing vessels registration (port, letters and numbers) of the vessel named on the Permit or the Permit number.
- 2.4 Where a tag issued by the Authority has been lost, a permit holder or named representative must;
- a) must report as soon as practicable the loss of a tag and;
  - b) if a lost tag is subsequently recovered it must be returned to the Authority and must not be used on any pot and;
  - c) any request for a replacement tag must be in writing to the Authority

## 2.5 Bait

- 2.5.1 A permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to use any edible crab for bait within the District whilst fishing for crab, lobster and spiny lobster.
- 2.5.2 A permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to use any shellfish as bait within the District unless it meets the minimum sizes for shellfish set out in section 1.3 of the Flexible Permit Conditions above.

## 2.6 Additional Category One Gear Restrictions

- 2.6.1 A Category One permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit, to use a pot for the purpose of fishing for live wrasse, within the District, unless;
- a) in addition to paragraph 2.3 above, each floating buoy or dahn is clearly marked with the letters 'WRA';
  - b) the maximum number of pots used does not exceed 120;
  - c) each pot is tagged with a tag issued by the Authority; and
  - d) the retained live wrasse complies with the sizes as set out in paragraph 2.6.2;
- 2.6.2 A permit holder or named representative is not authorised to remove live wrasse within the District other than within the size ranges as set out in (a-d) below;
- a) ballan wrasse less than 180mm or greater than 260mm, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin;
  - b) corkwing wrasse less than 140mm or greater than 180mm, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin;
  - c) cuckoo wrasse less than 150mm or greater than 230mm, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin;
  - d) goldsinny wrasse less than 120mm or greater than 230mm, measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin.

## Additional Category Two Gear Restrictions

- 2.6.3 A Category Two permit holder or named representative is only authorised to haul pots within the District that are identified by tags issued to the Permit Holder by the Authority.
- 2.6.4 A person being a Category Two permit holder, or a named representative nominated by a Category Two permit holder is not authorised under this Permit to use for the purpose of fishing within the District more than five pots in any day within the District.
- 2.6.5 A Category Two permit holder is not authorised to use for the purpose of fishing within the District a pot unless the pot is fitted with a tag issued by the Authority.

- 2.6.6 A Category Two permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to use any container or any other device to store any crab, lobster or scallop in the sea or in an estuary within the District.
- 2.6.7 A Category Two permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to land any sea fisheries resources removed from a fishery within the District other than on the day of their capture.

### **3 Spatial Restrictions**

As provided by paragraph 24 (c) of the Devon and Severn IFCA Potting Permit Byelaw, the following permit conditions apply:

- 3.1 In the areas as defined by the coordinates set out in the attached Annex 1 of this Permit (Knoll Pins area at Lundy Island), a permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to remove any sea fish resources or use any container or any other device for the purpose of storing sea fish resources.
- 3.2 In the areas as defined by the coordinates set out in the attached Annex 2 of this Permit (Lundy, Skerries Bank and Surrounds, and Bideford to Foreland Point Marine Conservation Zones), a permit holder or named representative is not authorised to remove any spiny lobster.
- 3.3 In the estuaries to the landward of the coordinates set out in the attached Annex 3 of this Permit, a permit holder or named representative is not authorised to use any pot for the purpose of fishing, with an entrance at its narrowest point of 85mm or less in width except where paragraph 2.2 (a) and (b) applies.
- 3.4 In the areas as defined by the coordinates set out in the attached Annex 4 of this Permit (Lundy Island No Take Zone), a permit holder or named representative is not authorised to remove any sea fisheries resources.

### **4 Time Restrictions**

As provided by paragraph 24 (d) of the Devon and Severn IFCA Potting Permit Byelaw, the following permit conditions apply:

- 4.1 A permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to use a pot within the District, for the purpose of fishing for crab, lobster and spiny lobster between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> December (inclusive) unless it is used in accordance with paragraph 2.1 above.
- 4.2 A Category One permit holder or named representative is not authorised under this Permit to use a pot, for the purpose of fishing for live wrasse within the District, between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> July (inclusive).
- 4.3 A permit holder or named representative is only authorised to remove from a fishery within the District, whelk of a size specified in Table 1 as measured along the length of the shell.

**Table 1**

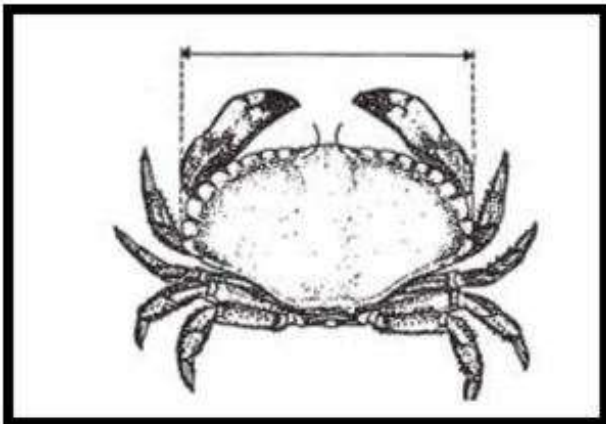
<i>Date</i>	<i>Size</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> November 2018</b>	<b>55mm</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> November 2020</b>	<b>65mm</b>

**Schedule 1: Guidance on the Measurement of a Marine Organism**

The following explains how shellfish and fish are measured and the size they must be in order to be removed from a fishery within the District. The schedule should be read in conjunction with the catch restrictions set out in the Potting Permit Conditions.

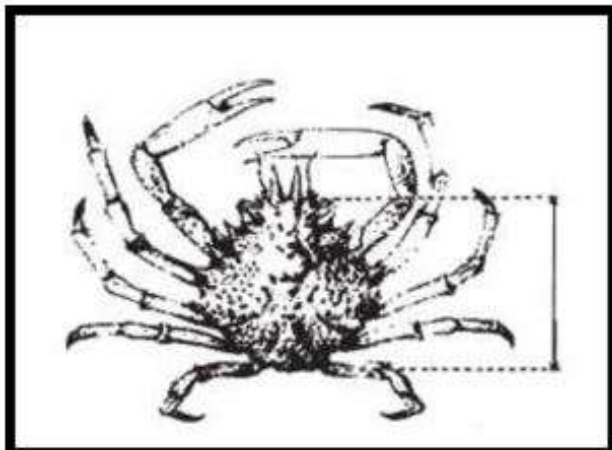
Edible Crab and Velvet Swimming Crab

1. A female edible crab is measured across the broadest part of the carapace and must be 150mm or more.
2. A male edible crab is measured across the broadest part of the carapace and must be 160mm or more.
3. A velvet swimming crab is measured across the broadest part of the carapace and must be 65mm or more.



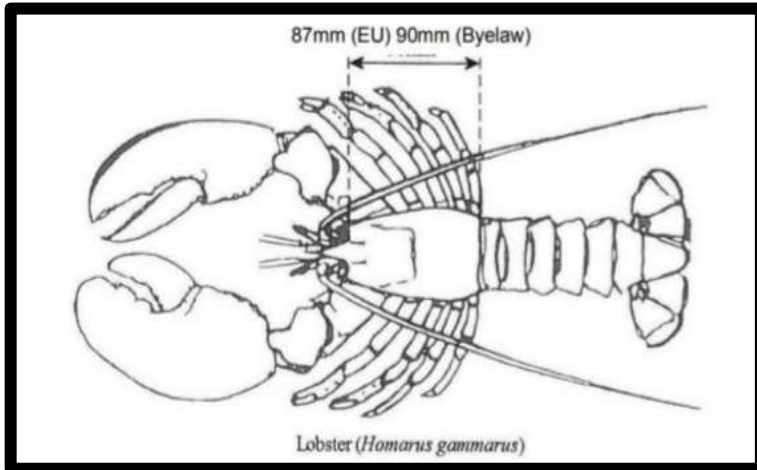
Spider Crab

4. Male and female spider crabs are measured as the length of the carapace, along the midline, from the edge of the carapace between the rostrums to the posterior edge of the carapace and must be 130mm or more.



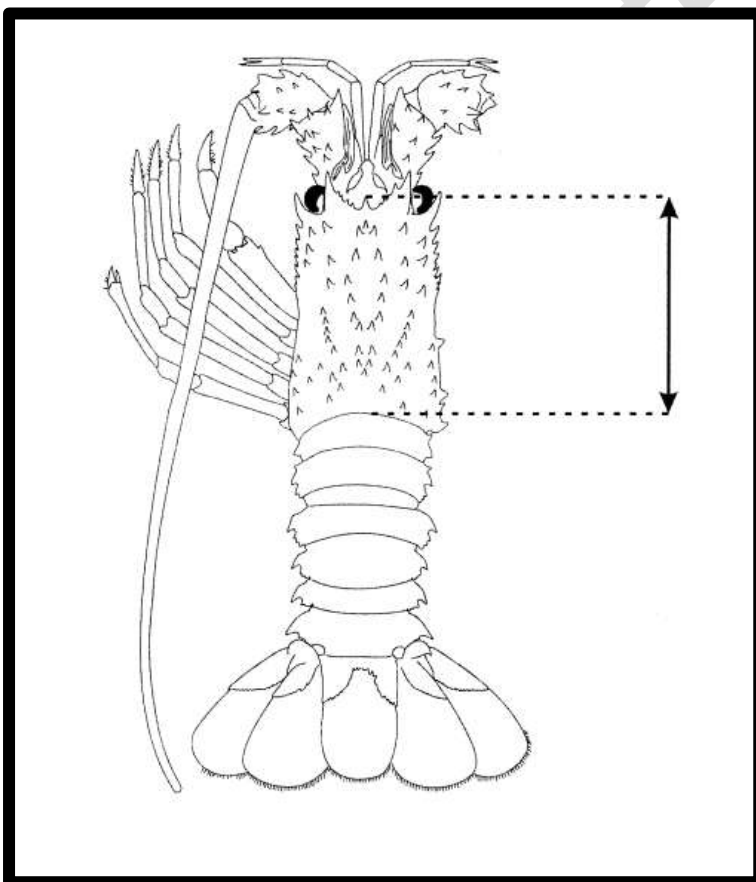
## Lobster

5. A lobster is measured as the length of the carapace, parallel to the midline, from the back of either eye socket to the distal edge of the carapace and must be 90mm or more.



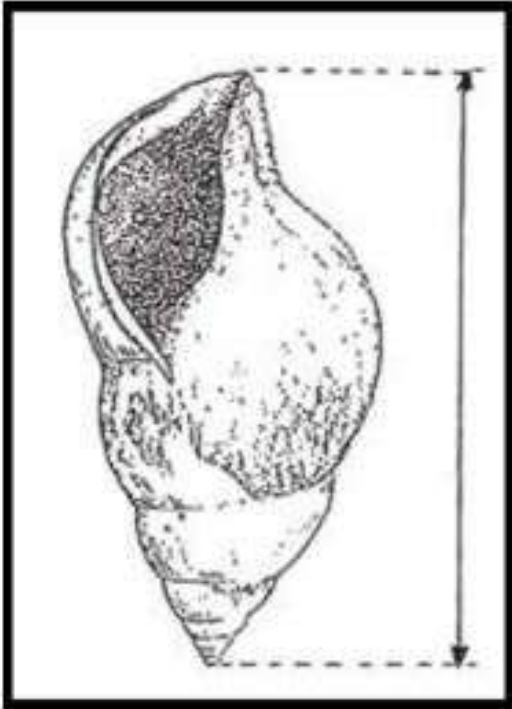
## Spiny Lobster

6. A spiny lobster is measured as the length of the carapace from the tip of the rostrum to the midpoint of the distal edge of the carapace and must be 110mm or more.



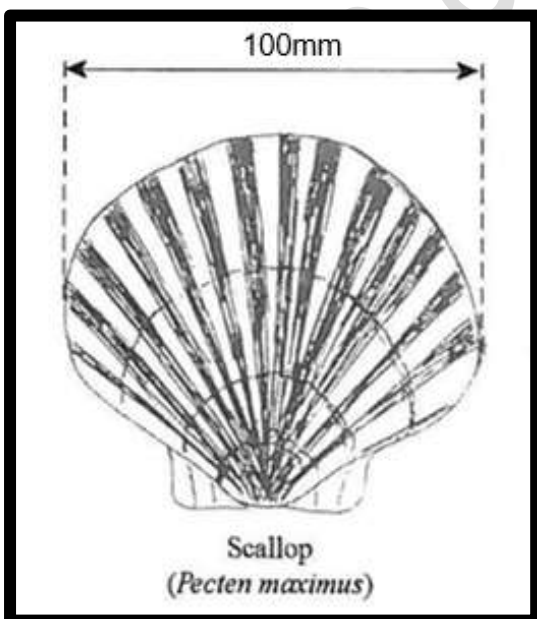
Whelk

7. A whelk is measured along the length of the shell. The size has increased from 45 mm in accordance with paragraph 4.3 (Table 1) of the Potting Permit Conditions. As from November 2020, whelk must be 65mm or more.



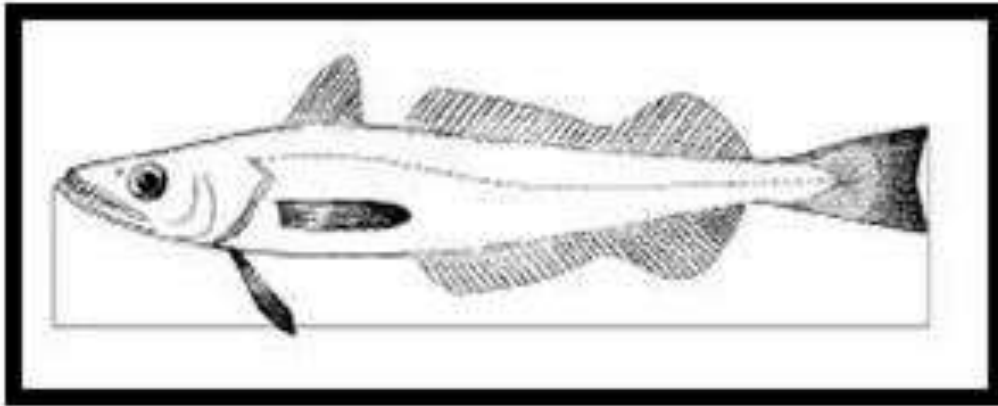
Scallop

8. A scallop is measured across the broadest part of the flat shell and must be 100mm or more.



## Finfish

9. Finfish are measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin.



- Bass must be 42cm or more in length.

Please note that fishers engaged in the Live Wrasse Pot Fishery are subjected to specific permit conditions that relate to a slot size for live wrasse species.

- ballan wrasse must be between 180mm and 260mm in length.
- corkwing wrasse must be between 140mm and 180mm in length.
- cuckoo wrasse must be between 150mm and 230mm in length.
- goldsinny wrasse must be between 120mm and 230mm in length.