

Eastern IFCA

The Wash Re-laying Fishery 2022

Informal Consultation: Questionnaire



This consultation closes on Friday 25th February 2022.

This questionnaire is an opportunity for you to have your say on the potential opening of a mussel re-laying fishery on certain beds within The Wash.

Details of the proposed fishery are outlined in the consultation document enclosed with this questionnaire.

We are seeking to gather fisher's thoughts on opening a re-laying fishery. This will help us to decide whether a fishery should be opened and learn more about how it would be utilised if it were opened. Overall, this information will result in better informed decisions.

Your responses to this consultation are confidential. A summary of the responses may be produced, for example, to show how your responses inform decisions. This summary will not contain any personal information, information about specific activity, or be traceable back to individual responses.

The information you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy notice found here: <https://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/consultations/>

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Section 1 – Your Details

Please provide your details below. This will enable us to provide specific support if it is requested and to potentially contact you regarding your answers if we require further clarification.

Full name:	
Operating Port:	
Vessel name and PLN:	
Address:	
Telephone (landline):	
Mobile:	
Email:	

Section 2 - Opening the fishery

Although the stock and policies would allow for a six-bed relaying fishery of 1,376 tonnes to be opened, this level of fishery could cause a decline in stock levels that could take several years to recover from, potentially negatively impacting future cockle fisheries also. A lower TAC of 980 tonnes has therefore been recommended.

Do you agree that a mussel re-laying fishery should be opened? *(please tick)*

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If it were opened, would you participate? *(please tick)*

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use the box below to provide any alternative suggestions or comments on the proposed opening of the fishery.

Do you agree with the proposed Total Allowable Catch (of 980 tonnes)? *(please tick)*

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use the box below to provide any alternative suggestions or comments on the proposed Total Allowable Catch.

Section 3 – Beds included in the relaying fishery

As outlined in the proposed management measures document, only certain beds could support a mussel relaying fishery (Table 1).

Table 1. Overview of potential relaying mussel fishery beds

Bed	Maximum harvest	Recommended maximum harvest
Shellridge	39	39
Holbeach	274	150
Herring Hill	247	100
Trial Bank	214	100
Blackshore	511	500
Skate Run	91	91
TOTAL	1,376	980

Do you agree with the proposed open beds?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use the box below to provide any alternative suggestions or comments on the proposed open beds.

Section 4 – When to open the fishery

Mussels tend to partially bury themselves and form a firmer attachment to the substrate in winter and therefore re-laying activities usually take place between March-May, once the sea temperatures have begun to increase. The last two mussel relaying fisheries opened in May.

Typically, the dredge fishery operates on one tide per day, on tides of 6.8 meters or more. Table 2 includes the total number of days per month that meet these criteria. It is recommended that the fishery closes on the exhaustion of the TAC or on 31st August 2022; whichever is soonest. **Please tick your preferred start month.**

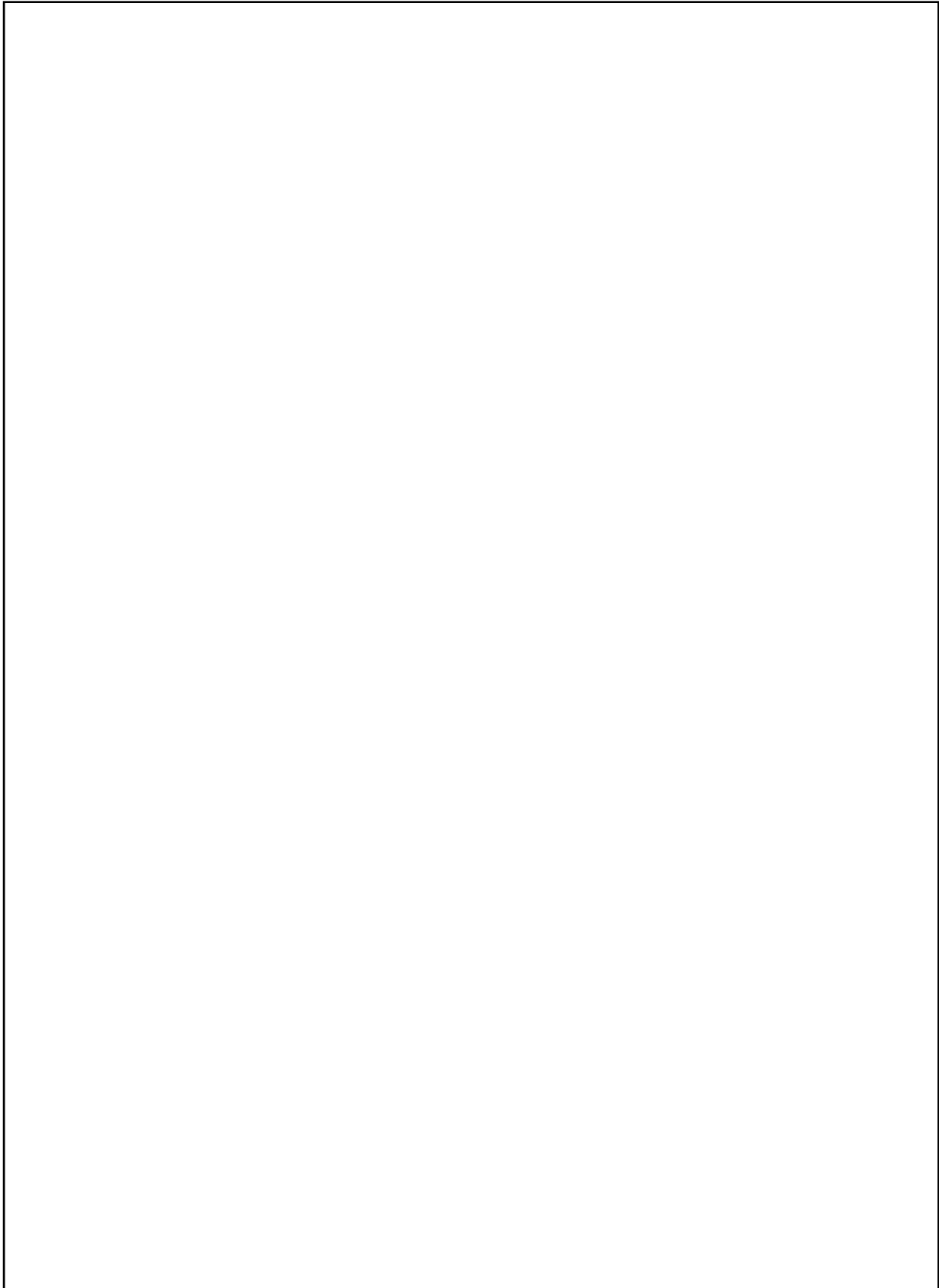
Table 2. Table outlining the number of days per month with tides greater than 6.8m. Please tick a preferred month to start the fishery

Month	No. days with high water (am) above 6.8m	No. days with high water (pm) above 6.8m	Preference to start fishery
March	14	16	
April	14	15	
May	12	14	
June	12	07	
July	14	09	
August	18	12	

If Please use the box below to provide any alternative suggestions or comments on the start month of the fishery.

Section 5 – General Management Measures

Please use the box below to set out any comments on the other proposed management measures for the mussel relaying fishery or Welland Wall mussel fishery?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide comments on the proposed management measures.