



Department  
for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Report to Parliament on Orders Regulating the Management of Shellfisheries under the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967

1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025



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Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 6 of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish)  
Act 1967



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ISBN 978-1-5286-6124-9

E03505780 01/26

Printed on paper containing 40% recycled fibre content minimum

Printed in the UK by HH Associates Ltd. on behalf of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office

# Report to Parliament

In pursuance of Section 6 of the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act, 1967, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs makes the following report in respect of the applications to and proceedings of, the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Act during 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

## Applications Accepted / Under Consideration April 2020 - April 2025

Application	Applicant	Location
Portland Harbour Several Order	Portland Port	Portland Harbour, Dorset
<b>Notes</b>		
This new application made by the Portland Harbour Authority to encompass their area of jurisdiction after a previous (private) Order application covering part of the harbour was withdrawn, as the applicant had found a more suitable location having modified their aquaculture business plan.		

Application	Applicant	Location
The Wash Fishery Order	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	The Wash, North Norfolk / Lincolnshire
<b>Notes</b>		
The Eastern IFCA have applied for a 20 year Several Order. This Order is intended to replace the Several fishery aspects of the now expired Wash Fishery Order 1992. The proposed Wash Fishery Order will allow EIFCA to grant exclusive fishing rights to individuals (lay holders) for the purposes of shellfish aquaculture. It is designed to make wider fishing activities within the Wash more resilient by promoting aquaculture.		

Application	Applicant	Location
The Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Order	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	The Thames Estuary, Kent and Essex
<b>Notes</b>		
The Kent and Essex IFCA applied for and were granted a 28 year Regulating Order in December 2024. This Order replaces the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Order 1994 which expired in September 2024. The Order gives KEIFCA the powers to regulate the fishery and the ability to ensure that the fishery is environmentally sustainable in the long term and contribute to the local coastal community through providing skilled employment.		

## Applications Refused 2020-25

Application	Applicant	Location
Outer Thames Estuary Several Order	Cardium Shellfish	Outer Thames Estuary
<b>Notes</b>		
This application could not continue, as having received the full location details from the applicant, when plotted the site was found to fall outside the 6 nautical mile limit that these SROs can be granted within under the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967.		

## Applications Withdrawn 2020-25

Application	Applicant	Location
Portland Harbour Several Order	Giles Lawson	Portland Harbour, Dorset
<b>Notes</b>		
Private application withdrawn (see above) following a change to the applicant's business model and the need for a more suitable site, that could be managed under a Marine Licence rather than a Several Order.		

## Public Inquiries Held 2020-25

None
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## Shellfish Orders Made 2020-25

Application	Applicant	Location
The Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Order	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	The Thames Estuary, Kent and Essex

## Shellfish Orders Revoked 2020-25

Order	Grantee	Location
None	N/A	N/A

## Applications for Variations 2020-25

Order	Grantee	Location
Wash Fishery Order 1992	Eastern IFCA	The Wash, North Norfolk / Lincolnshire
<b>Variation</b>		

An application for an amendment to the Wash Fishery Regulations was received prior to its expiry. No new regulations were introduced, but previous conditions included on the licence were transferred to the existing fishery regulations, so that they would be more easily understood by the fishers and enforced by the IFCA. These consolidated regulations were approved by the Minister in May 2021.

## Shellfish Orders Expired in 2020-25

Order	Grantee	Location
The Wash Fishery Order 1992	The Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	The Wash, North Norfolk / Lincolnshire
<b>Notes</b>		
After 30 years of operation the WFO 1992 expired in January 2023. The Eastern IFCA agreed in March 2020 to replace the Regulating Order with a byelaw under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to provide more contemporary and sustainable management for the cockle and mussel fisheries into the future, this is currently under consideration. A new Several Order has also been applied for under the SFA 1967 to facilitate aquaculture activity within the Wash which is compatible with the conservation objectives of The Wash Marine Protected Areas.		

Order	Grantee	Location
Horse Island Mussel Fishery Order 1963	Wilfred Jasper Backhouse and Nancy Catherine Backhouse	Horse Island, Essex
<b>Notes</b>		
After 60 years of operation, the Horse Island Mussel Fishery Order 1963 expired in June 2023. This Order is not expected to be renewed.		

Order	Grantee	Location
The River Roach Oyster Fishery Order 2013	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	River Roach, Essex
<b>Notes</b>		
The fishery rights to native oysters in the River Roach were granted in 1923, for a period of 60 years, to the River Roach Oyster Fishery Co. Ltd. In 1965, the rights of the Order were assigned to the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee. The River Roach Oyster Fishery Order 1992 was granted for 20 years, and in 2013, a replacement order was applied for by KEIFCA to act as an interim measure whilst the future management for native oysters was considered. In August 2023, the River Roach Oyster Fishery Order 2013 expired. It is not expected to be renewed.		

## Request for Directions as to the Issue of Licences Under a Regulating Order 2020-25

Order	Grantee	Location			
Wash Fishery Order 1992	Eastern IFCA	The Wash			
Directions Given					
<p>Second part of a proposal to increase fees over a 2-year period to achieve a 50% cost recovery for the IFCA in managing the fishery were agreed in principle but deferred in April 2020 due to the potential Covid 19 impacts on the cockle fishery during 2020. In fact, the fees were actually reduced from £678 to £330 in response to the pandemic. The new fee structure applied from May 2021 when it was approved and consented by the Minister until the expiry of the Order in January 2023.</p>					
Licence Type	2018 Fee	2019 Fee	2020 Fee*	2021 Fee	2022 Fee
Hand Work	£330	£678	£330	£568.31 licence fee	£757.75 licence fee
				£254.68 cockle fee	£339.57 cockle fee
				£121.31 mussel fee	£162.48 mussel fee
*to mitigate against impacts of Covid 19 restrictions on the market.					

## Cancellation of a Licence Under a Regulating Order 2020-25

Order	Grantee	Location
None	N/A	N/A

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978-1-5286-6124-9