



Additional Voluntary Code of Conduct Covering Intertidal Fixed Net Fishing within Area C ‘Flamborough Head Light to Withernsea Light’ 2022/2023

Introduction

Currently a general prohibition on the commercial targeting of sea bass remains applicable across the United Kingdom and the wider European Union although the incidental by-catch of sea bass is permitted at specified levels within a number of commercial fisheries including those operating from the shore under provisions contained within ‘The Sea Fisheries (Amendment etc) Regulations 2021 as amended.

Specifically, in terms of the setting and use of shore based fixed nets, ‘The Sea Fisheries (Amendment etc) Regulations 2021’ provide a general unrestricted, permission to take a by-catch of sea bass and set a maximum of 5 nets within the North Eastern IFCA district.

In order to strengthen compliance with the provisions contained within the UK regulations and continue to support the wider conservation of sea bass stocks, NEIFCA is applying the following additional provisions as part of a voluntary code of conduct across the permitted intertidal fixed net fishery between 1 October 2022 and 30 April 2023 inclusive:

- Minimise sea bass bycatch levels as far as is practicably possible
- Only one length of net up to 250m to be set, marked by a uniquely numbered tag specified and issued by NEIFCA.

With the exception of the above additional voluntary measures all other provisions contained within the supporting byelaw regulation ‘XVIII Method and Area of Fishing (Fixed Netting) Byelaw 2016’ will continue to apply.