

BLYTH ESTUARY BAIT COLLECTION CODE OF CONDUCT

GUIDELINES

MUSSEL COLLECTION:

- Mussels should be collected for **personal use only**.
- Take a recommended maximum of **one small-medium sized bucket** per day and avoid collecting on every suitable tide.
- Only take mussels above a minimum size of 45mm shell length.
- Disposal of mussel shells on the shore is prohibited without a licence. Take them with you and dispose responsibly, along with other litter.



To size

BAIT DIGGING:

- Backfill holes.
- Avoid walking or digging on live mussel.

CRAB COLLECTION:

- Ensure you have landowner permission before depositing tiles/tyres (or any other item).
- Materials such as stones and tiles are better for the environment than artificial objects such as tyres which may degrade and leach chemicals over time.

The Blyth Estuary is part of Northumberland Shore Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is an important habitat for mussels, birds and mammals such as otters. These guidelines are in place to protect the mussel beds and the wildlife dependent on them, and to enable limited bait collection for personal use as it is damaging and unsustainable to the mussel beds to collect on a commercial scale.

Please note that these guidelines will be kept under review by NIFCA.

PURPOSE

For more information please scan the QR code or get in touch at:

