

Seagrass Protection Byelaw within the English section of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

The Authority for the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District in exercise of its powers under sections 155 and 156 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 makes the following Byelaw for that District.

Interpretation

1. In this Byelaw-
 - (a) 'Authority' means the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority as defined in articles 2 and 4 of the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (SI 2010 No. 2197);
 - (b) 'District' means the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation District as defined in articles 2 and 3 of the Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Order 2010 (SI 2010 No. 2197)
 - (c) 'Specified Area' means the area defined in the Schedule to this byelaw.
 - (d) 'Seagrass' means, Genus (*Zostera* spp) a flowering plant with long and narrow leaves which grows in marine and fully saline environments.

'Co-ordinates'

2. In this Byelaw co-ordinates are based on WGS 84 datum. The WGS 84 means the World Geodetic System, revised in 1984 and further revised in 2004.

Prohibition

3. No person shall dig for, fish for or take any sea fisheries resources in or from the Specified Area where Seagrass is situated.

Exceptions

4. The prohibition in paragraph 3 shall not apply to the fishing for or taking of sea fisheries resources
 - (a) by means of a net;
 - (b) by means of a rod and line;
 - (c) by means of a hook and line and

- (d) in respect of fishing for or taking of sea fisheries resources from a vessel the prohibition shall not apply provided that no part of the vessel or its fishing gear is in contact with the seabed where Seagrass is situated.

Scientific Exemption

5. This byelaw shall not apply to any person performing an act which would otherwise constitute an offence against this byelaw, if that act was carried out in accordance with a written permission issued by the Authority permitting that act for scientific, stocking or breeding purposes.

Schedule

'Specified Area' means the area:-

Point 1	55°23.399'N 001°36.277'W
Point 2	55°23.374'N 001°27.996'W
Point 3	55°39.819'N 001°26.900'W
Point 4	55°45.861'N 001°54.079'W
Point 5	55°50.264'N 001°59.074'W
Point 6	55°49.780'N 002°00.060'W
Point 7	55°48.700'N 002°02.0'W

Explanatory note: (this is not part of the byelaw)

This byelaw prohibits the exploitation of sea fisheries resources where Seagrass is situated within the Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation/European Marine Site (EMS), therefore preventing damage or deterioration to the designated conservation feature, namely Seagrass.

Pictures of Seagrass to aid recognition can be seen on the Authority website or are available from the Authority Office.