

Bait Collection and Hand Gathering

Respect

- For your safety, check local tide times and be aware of local hazards and conditions.
- Observe local byelaws and regulations about where and when bait can be collected, and the types and sizes of animals that can be gathered by hand.
- Areas with restrictions include Boulmer Haven and the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve.
- Details of the size and number of crustaceans such as crab and lobster that you can take are available from [Northumberland IFCA](#)¹ (for North Tyneside and Northumberland) and from [Marine Scotland](#)².
- Seek permission from landowners before deploying crab tiles, tyres, or other fisheries aggregation devices. Materials such as stones and tiles are better for the environment than artificial objects such as tyres which may degrade leach chemicals over time.
- When bait digging, backfill holes for the safety of others and to maintain intertidal habitats.
- To help protect fixed structures don't dig round slipways, moorings and seawalls.

Protect

- Do not take more animals than you need for your own use or consumption.
- To help ensure viable populations of bait into the future:
- Do not dig-out an area – leave adult organisms to repopulate the area.
- Return any live, unused bait to the habitat from which you collected it.
- Don't take green spawning ragworm or king ragworm less than 100mm.
- When hand-gathering put rocks back in the same place and the same way up as you found them.
- Tread carefully so as not to damage delicate plants and animals.
- Give space to wildlife. 40-50m is usually enough for birds, or 100m for seals. If birds or animals react to your presence by becoming watchful, moving or flying away or making repeated alarm calls, then you're too close.
- Be guided by local Codes of Conduct such as the [NIFCA Periwinkle Gathering Code of Conduct](#)³ and the [Blyth Estuary Bait Collection Code of Conduct](#)⁴.

Enjoy

Sea angling is a popular hobby along our coast and species such as lugworm are collected to bait angling lines attract fish. Hand gathering of shellfish such as periwinkles and crabs for personal consumption is also a popular pastime along the coast.

1. www.nifca.gov.uk/byelaws
2. www.gov.scot/publications/landing-controls-for-crab-and-lobster
3. www.nifca.gov.uk/codes-of-conduct/periwinkle
4. www.nifca.gov.uk/recreational-sea-angling/blyth-estuary-code-of-conduct