

**Welsh Government Fisheries Division**  
**The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting**  
**(Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**BURRY INLET COCKLE FISHERY**

**PERMIT TO TAKE COCKLES from the Area defined below for the 2025/2026 permitting period.**

**THIS PERMIT** entitles the Permit Holder to fish for and take cockles from the area defined in the Schedule to this permit 'Burry Inlet', subject to the conditions set out below.

**There will be a daily catch limit of 350kg until further notice.**

**CONDITIONS:**

1. Only the Permit Holder may fish for and take any cockles from the Area. The Permit Holder may not be assisted by any other person and this permit cannot be transferred to any other person.
2. The Permit Holder may only fish for and take any cockles from any fishery within the Area which is not subject to a closure pursuant to The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024.
3. This permit is valid on the Burry Inlet public cockle fishery from 00:01 on 1 June 2025 until 23:59 on 31 May 2026 unless terminated or withdrawn before that date.
4. The permit holder must have a valid permit and be prepared to be asked by a Welsh Government Officer or any Marine Enforcement Officer on demand for your personal details in order to confirm your identity and that you have a valid Welsh Government permit.
5. The Permit Holder must make a full and true report ("catch return") of cockles taken from the Area on a **DAILY** basis to the online fisheries portal <https://www.gov.wales/apply-fishing-permit>. The catch return must specify the date, location and quantities (in kilogrammes) of live weight of cockles that were taken from the Area. If appropriate, the catch return must specify that no cockles were taken.
6. No person shall fish for, take or remove cockles between half an hour after sunset on any day and half an hour before sunrise on the following day.

7. **Boat only removal of taken cockle.** This condition is included to protect habitats within the fishery and to prevent intentional or reckless damage to the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

However, permit holders who had a NRW Burry Inlet licence previously, can access the bed by vehicle if they do not own a suitable vessel. This exception will be in place for a two-year period.

Permit holders making use of this exception must provide Welsh Government staff with identifying details of up to a maximum of two vehicles they intend to use to access the cockle beds, prior to commencing cockle gathering. For registered vehicles, this must include the registration number. For unregistered vehicles, the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), make, model, and colour must be provided. Only the vehicles reported to Welsh Government staff may be used to access the cockle beds.

8. **Gathering to take place on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday ONLY.**

9. Gathering must be undertaken by hand or by rake and fixed mesh sieve of 11mm or larger only (in accordance with The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024). The use of net bags is prohibited. Undersize cockle shall be returned immediately to the bed at a position as nearby as possible from where the undersized cockle was taken.

10. **If you intend walking onto the cockle beds you must identify your catch from the boat you placed your cockle onto at the landing point.**

11. Tonne bags to transport cockle from the cockle beds to the shore must not be used.

12. **Cockle sacks up to a size of 25kg (approximately 45cm x 60cm) are to be used to remove cockle from the cockle beds. Gathered cockle must be carried in these sacks to the point of landing on the perimeter of the specified area.**

13. **Identification tags for all sacks need to be securely attached to the cockle sacks and the tags must clearly display the permit holder's permit number.**

14. Boats measuring over 10 metres in length will not be permitted within the Loughor Estuary/Burry Inlet cockle fishery to remove taken cockle.

15. Further, the area of water covering this fishery is defined as Category C. A vessel involved in any manner with regard to the transportation of personnel, equipment or cargo for cockling in the area will be operating commercially. As such any vessel operating for commercial purposes, must comply with relevant United Kingdom Merchant Shipping Legislation. Further information on this legislation can be sought from the MCA website,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency> or in the links below:

SI2016/354 - The Merchant Shipping (Small Workboats and Pilot Boats) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/354/pdfs/ukxi\\_20160354\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/354/pdfs/ukxi_20160354_en.pdf)

SI1998/1609 - The Merchant Shipping (Small Workboats and Pilot Boats) – see above amendments

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1998/1609/made>

MSN 1892 – The workboat code edition 2 (for vessel constructed after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1892-m-the-workboat-code-edition-2>

MGN 280 - Small Vessels in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure, Workboats and Pilot Boats – Alternative Construction Standards (for vessel constructed before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mgn-280-small-vessels-in-commercial-use-for-sport>

SI1997/2962 - The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/2962/made>

MIN 538 – Authorisation of certifying authority

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/min-538-amendment-6-m-codes-of-practice-authorisation-of-certifying-authorities>

The workboat Code - Industry working group technical standard - A Code of Practice (CoP) for small workboats in commercial use to sea and all pilot boats.

[Workboat Code - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The Workboat Code Edition 3 - (for vessels constructed after 13th December 2023).

[The Workboat Code Edition 3 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) This Code should be read in conjunction with SI 2023 No. 1216, The Merchant shipping (Small workboats and Pilot Boats) Regulations 2023.

[The Merchant Shipping \(Small Workboats and Pilot Boats\) Regulations 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Existing vessels that are certificated under the Brown Code, its equivalent standard published in the technical Annex to MGN 280(M), or Workboat Code Edition 2, Amendment 1 [The workboat code edition 2 - amendment 1 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) shall meet the requirements of Workboat Code Edition 3 by the vessel's next renewal examination or three years after the date of entry into force of the Code, whichever is later, except, where references to previous requirements are explicitly specified within individual sections of the Code they may comply with such requirements.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1892-m-the-workboat-code-edition-2>

MIN 698 (M) Workboat Code Edition 3 – Standards and Guidelines for Best Practice. This notice should be read with The Workboat Code Edition 3.

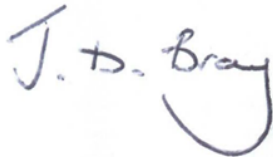
[MIN 698 \(M\) Workboat code edition 3 – standards and guidelines for best practice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

16. Evidence of compliance with MCA legislation must a) be displayed on the vessel being used or b) a certificate of authorisation from the MCA must be available at all times whilst gathering and be presented to Marine Enforcement Officers for inspection on demand.
17. Termination: The Welsh Ministers may, in their absolute discretion, withdraw this Permit at any time. Where possible prior notice of withdrawal will be given, but in any of the following circumstances, this Permit may be withdrawn immediately (i.e. without prior notice) -
  - a. in the case of emergency;

- b. if the Permit Holder breaches any of the conditions of this Permit;
  - c. if it should transpire that the activities authorised by this Permit will result or are likely to result in a significant effect to any European Marine Site (as defined by Regulation 8(4) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/490).
18. Breach of any of the conditions of this Permit is a criminal offence and will result in the immediate termination of this Permit.

Any person who fishes for, takes (or attempts to fish or take) or removes cockles in reliance upon the Permit must also comply with all other applicable legislation relevant to that activity in this location, including the Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024, and all other applicable legislation (including fisheries and environmental legislation).

[The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting \(Specified Area\) \(Wales\) Order 2024 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)  
<https://gov.wales/south-wales-inshore-fishery-legislation>



**Julian Bray, Head of Fisheries Policy and Governance, Welsh Government.**

**Date: 2 April 2026.**

This Permit is issued under authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, one of the Welsh Ministers pursuant to The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024.

Please note:

1. This Permit is issued pursuant to 'The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024'.
2. The Permit Holder must comply with all other applicable legislation (including the Byelaws of the former South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee and other applicable legislation (including fisheries and environmental legislation)) and obtain any other necessary permissions and/or authorisations before fishing for and taking any cockles from the Area defined in the Schedule to this Permit.
3. **The Permit does not authorise the use of vehicles on or otherwise grant access to land bordering the Area except for those as stated in condition 7 above.** This authorisation does not provide any defence to prosecution under any other legislation. It has no effect in relation to and will not provide a defence to any other legal provision or requirement, including any provision of the Road Traffic Act 1988 or any other legislation applying to the use of a vehicle.

4. This permit does not provide right of access/exit over privately owned land/foreshore. It is the Licensees responsibility to gain the consent of the owners of the land/foreshore where appropriate.
5. In addition to other statutory provisions, you may be committing a criminal offence if you use a vehicle in the Area and bordering areas without first obtaining the prior permission of all relevant landowners (and any other relevant bodies) over whose land you intend to travel. You should also note that unless each relevant landowner has carried out all assessments required under any relevant nature conservation or environmental legislation (for example under the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) before granting permission to use your vehicle in the specified area, you may still be committing a criminal offence even if you have the landowner's permission.
6. Permit holders should be aware that it is a legal requirement that each batch of cockles must be accompanied by a Registration Document (previously movement documents) when moved from the production area, i.e. the shellfish bed, or when first placed on the market. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Registration Documents must be completed and include the gatherer's details, the bed from which the shellfish were gathered and the date, before the cockles are transported. These documents can be obtained from either Swansea County Council which is situated in the Burry Inlet area or Carmarthenshire County council using the following contact details: Permit holders should contact the Food Safety Team, Swansea Council via telephone 01792 635600 or email [foodandsafety@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:foodandsafety@swansea.gov.uk). Permit holders can also contact the public health team, Carmarthenshire County council via telephone number 01267 234567 or email [publichealth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@carmarthenshire.gov.uk).
7. The Welsh Government has determined a Harvestable Surplus ("HS") of Cockles from Burry Inlet of **3144 tonnes** for the 2025/2026 season. When the Harvestable Surplus has been reached, the relevant area will be closed by the Welsh Government pursuant to 'The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024'.
8. Similarly, if it should transpire that the activities authorised by this Permit will result or are likely to result in a significant effect to any European Marine Site (as defined by Regulation 8(4) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/490) the Welsh Government will close the fishery.
9. Any closure of the Area to cockle fishing activity will be notified, in the first instance, by Welsh Government Enforcement Staff present at the site and by notices put up in that area. An email or letter will also be sent to each permit holder confirming the area which is closed, and the relevant closure notice will be published on the Welsh Government website at: <https://gov.wales/intertidal-fisheries>
10. Gathering cockles can be dangerous and brings with it a significant element of risk to personal safety. It is strongly recommended that you carry out your own health and safety and risk assessments before undertaking this activity. Please take note of any guidance from our partner and other official organisations. The guidance issued is not exhaustive and it is your responsibility to implement any measures that ensures your safety.

11. Unaccompanied bags of cockles should not be left on the cockle bed after gathering has concluded as they may be seen as abandoned. Any abandoned cockles will be returned to the cockle bed.
12. At the time of this permit being issued the gathering area within the Burry Inlet estuary area is classified C for the gathering of cockle (*C. edule*).

**Class C** ( $\leq 46000$  *E. coli*/100g) - molluscs can be sold for human consumption only after re-laying for at least two months in an approved re-laying area followed, where necessary, by treatment in a purification centre, relaying for at least two months in an approved class A relaying area or after an EC-approved heat treatment process. In all cases, the health standards in Annex III of EC Regulations 853/2004 and the microbiological criteria adopted under EC Regulation 2073/2005 must be met. Molluscs must not be subject to production or collected in prohibited areas.

**You can view the current classification maps on the following link:**

[Classification zone maps - Cefas \(Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science\)](#)

It is your responsibility to be aware of the current classification of the gathering area. This could change during the period of opening, if classification sample results do not meet the requirements of a C classification the beds will immediately close. Notification of such a closure will include an article on the Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Website.

13. Permit holders must take care when negotiating the “training wall” running through the estuary.
14. All participants in the fisheries, whether fishermen, merchants or regulatory staff, should thoroughly wash all external clothing and clean footwear and all equipment / implements used in the fishery and allow time to dry. This includes cockle and mussel bags if they are to be reused in another fishery. All sediment and organic matter should be removed.
15. Vehicles used in any shellfish fisheries (cockles and mussels) should be power washed to remove all sediment and organic matter prior to their use on other fisheries. Particular emphasis should be placed on any areas that have come into contact with shellfish or intertidal sediments, for instance via loaded cockle or mussel bags, footwear, or external clothing. Vehicles returning to the Burry Inlet from outside areas should be power washed prior to entering to prevent introduction of new / additional pathogens and invasive non-native species.
16. Permit holders are advised to use a vessel that is suitable and appropriately equipped for the conditions, in order to ensure their safety.
17. Permit holders are advised to hold liability insurance for any vessel used to gather cockles.

## **WARNING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE**

All activity undertaken pursuant to this Authorisation is undertaken entirely at the risk of the person undertaking those activities.

In particular, the Welsh Government would highlight to all proposing to undertake fishing activities that the Burry Inlet area has been used in the past for ordnance testing.

We must **STRONGLY ADVISE** all individuals who wish to operate in this area (whether pursuant to this Authorisation or otherwise) to act with caution and carry out their own risk assessment prior to any gathering or other activity taking place in this vicinity. Should any unexploded ordnance be found please contact QinetiQ on 0800 0921345.

Advice on unexploded ordnance can be found at:

<http://pendine.qinetiq.com/public-safety/unidentified-objects.aspx>

## **SCHEDULE**

In this Schedule a group of six or eight figures identifying or associated with any point represents the map co-ordinates of that point on the grid of the national reference system used by the Ordnance Survey on its maps and plans.

All latitude and longitude co-ordinates given are in degrees, minutes and decimal fractions of a minute and are co-ordinates of the World Geodetic System 1984.

### **Burry Inlet area**

The area is defined as:

- (i) on the West, from the seaward end of Pembrey Pier to the most northerly point of Whiteford Point, which lies between High Water Mark or Ordinary Tides on the northern and southern shores of the estuary respectively;
- (ii) on the east, from the seaward side of that part of the Loughor Railway Bridge which is situated between High Water Mark of Ordinary Tides on the north-western and south-eastern shores respectively and a line drawn from the south-eastern end of that part of the railway bridge due south until it again meets High Water Mark of Ordinary Tides;
- (iii) on the north and south, from the High Water Mark of Ordinary Tides on the northern and southern shores of the estuary respectively between the western and eastern boundaries;

## Annex 1

### Map



### Coordinates

#### **Burry Inlet**

Defined as:

A straight line from position:

A) SN 4670 0074; 51° 41'.07 North, 04° 13'.14 West.

Thence in a straight line to position:

B) SS 4670 9903; 51° 40'.124 North, 04° 13'.09 West

Thence in a straight line to position:

C) SS 4421 9903; 51° 40'.10° North, 04° 15'.25 West

Thence in a straight line to position:

D) SS 4280 9423; 51° 37'.49° North, 04° 16'.34 West

Thence following the boundary lines to position:

E) SS 4670 9593; 51° 38'.47° North, 04° 13'.01 West

Thence following the boundary lines to position:

F) SS 4924 9444; 51° 37'.71° North, 04° 10'.77 West

Thence following the boundary lines to position:

G) SS 5360 9593; 51° 38'.58° North, 04° 07'.03 West

Thence in a straight line to position:

H) SS 5379 9773; 51° 39'.56° North, 04° 06'.91 West

Thence in a straight line to position:

I) SS 5219 9587; 51° 41'.07° North, 04° 13'.14 West

Thence in a straight line to position:

J) SS 4928 9638; 51° 38'.76° North, 04° 10'.79 West

Thence in a straight line to position:

K) SS 4933 9958; 51° 40'.48° North, 04° 10'.83 West

A map of this area can be found at Annex 1.

## **Annex 2**

Map of Burry Inlet showing access route from Croftly.

