

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****SUSSEX IFCA: INSHORE TRAWLING AND FISHING**

This Council notes the importance of the marine environment to the city and to the city's tourism economy, and is very concerned at the damage that the fishing method of 'netting' and trawling causes to our marine environment, contributing to a decline in fish and the ecosystem present in Sussex waters.

As part of our commitment to maintain a 'Living Coast' and UNESCO Biosphere, this Council resolves to request the Chief Executive to write to the SIFCA Chief Fisheries and Conservation Officer, asking for:

- (a) changes to trawling management that respond positively to suggestions in the SIFCA consultation paper, including creating trawling exclusion areas in nearshore waters of Sussex;
- (b) changes to how 'netting' is managed, in line with the suggestions of SIFCA, including netting controls all year round and the of fisheries 'zones'

Proposed by: Cllr Sykes

Seconded by: Cllr Littman

Further information

The Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (SIFCA) has set out a number of options for updating management of both trawling and netting, given the state of our marine environment, declines in fish stocks and changes in commercial fishing technology.

- SIFCA, of which this Council is a member, has powers to write and enforce byelaws to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources. Their recent public consultation put forward a number of options for how ['netting'](#) and ['trawling'](#) can be restricted in Sussex waters.
https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/34087/sitedata/files/Byelaw_docs/Informal-consultation-Nearshore-Trawling.pdf
- The catching capacity of small boats has escalated since the introduction of 'netting', contributing to a decline in fish stocks. Bottom towed gears of some trawling operations can damage the marine environment and prevent the development of key ecosystem services, including habitats for breeding fish and nursery grounds for their juveniles, giving food and shelter. Sussex Wildlife Trust estimates that fish stocks including skate, cod, mackerel and herring are declining. Sussex eel stocks have fallen by over 90%.
- <https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/around-sussex/wetlands/wetland-species/fishDEFRA> are currently consulting on sustainable fisheries, stating the aim of the UK to become a 'world leader in marine protection.'

