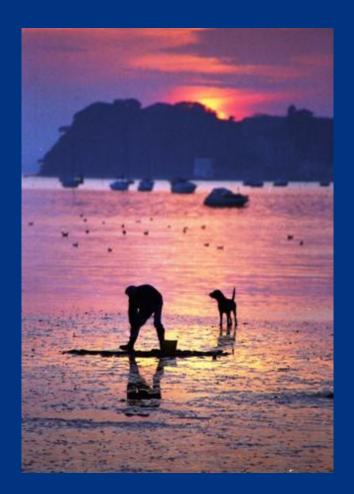
# ANGLING TRUST RECOMMENDED VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BAIT DIGGING



## **Eight Golden Rules!**

- 1. Observe local byelaws, regulations and access arrangements which affect the use of the coast, or access to permanently and seasonally closed areas
- 2. Collect bait sustainably
- 3. Back fill holes for safety, and to maintain the intertidal habitat
- 4. Be aware of local hazards and conditions
- 5. Avoid disturbing wildlife wherever possible
- 6. Replace all rocks and stones as you found them, seaweed side up
- 7. Don't dig around moorings, slipways and sea walls
- 8. Take all your litter home

See Overleaf For The Full Code



### The Bait Digging Code In Detail...

# 1. Observe local byelaws, regulations and access arrangements which affect the use of the coast, or access to permanently and seasonally closed areas.

- •Check the local situation before collecting bait in unfamiliar areas, ignorance of the law is no excuse.
- •Contact your local IFCA for details of byelaws and regulations.
- •Keep to paths, agreed access routes, remember to close gates and respect other coast users at all times – always remember that others judge bait collecting by your behaviour.

#### 2.Collect bait sustainably.

- •Collect only what you need for personal use by yourself, family or friends but not for sale.
- •Do not dig-out an area leave adult organisms to repopulate the area.
- Avoid damaging other animals in the sediment or under rocks/ tiles
- Store your bait correctly to reduce wastage
- •Do not take green spawning ragworm or king ragworm less than 100mm.
- •Return any live, unused bait to the habitat from which you collected it.

### 3.Back fill holes for safety, and to maintain the intertidal habitat.

- •Backfilling ensures the foreshore recovers more quickly and prevents organisms from suffocating under spoil mounds
- •Backfilling reduces the evidence of bait digging and leaves the habitat looking in a more natural condition.
- •Backfilling also prevents accidents and injury to yourself, other bait collectors and other foreshore users.
- •Backfilling prevents hazardous and toxic substances being released that may have been trapped in the sediment.
- •Backfilling helps to protect other marine life that has been disturbed from being eaten by birds.
- •The use of a bait pump, where the ground permits, can reduce the disturbance to habitats and species and removes the need for backfilling.

#### 4.Be aware of local hazards and conditions.

- •Tell someone where you intend to dig.
- •Strong tidal currents, deep sand or mud and unfamiliar surroundings can cause difficulties always carry a mobile phone and compass for emergencies.
- •Tell someone what time you intend to return and contact them if you are delayed it could save a call to the emergency services.

#### 5. Avoid disturbing wildlife wherever possible.

- Disturbing over-wintering birds can prevent them from feeding and roosting and can waste the energy they need for migration.
- •Ground nesting birds may lose their eggs if they are disturbed.
- •Avoid disturbing seals in their haul-outs.
- •Avoid trampling on plants and or breeding animals and birds.
- •Do not dig in sea (eel) grass beds. Sea grass beds are considered to be of significant importance as a habitat for a number of species and are designated for protection within a number of proposed marine conservation zones.

#### 6.Replace rocks and as you found them, seaweed side up.

- •Take care not to crush wildlife when turning boulders over.
- •Many intertidal animals and plants are specially adapted to living under rocks and boulders. Make sure you return boulders as you found them so that these organisms can survive.

#### 7.Do not dig around moorings, slipways and sea walls.

- •Existing harbour byelaws often prohibit digging for health and safety reasons.
- •The combined effects of tides, waves and digging may undermine walls and allow moorings to shift.
- •Digging around fixed structures can often cause conflict with other shore users, property owners and harbour authorities.

#### 8. Take all your litter home.

- •Litter causes damage to the marine environment. Synthetic materials degrade slowly and threaten marine life for decades.
- •Litter is an eyesore that spoils the coast for everyone
- •Wherever possible, be a responsible angler and collect and remove any angling debris, such as discarded fishing line.

#### Did You Know...?

- No legal right exists to gather bait for sale or reward.
- Commercial bait digging requires consent from any agencies and the landowner's permission.
- Anyone who recklessly damaged or destroys a site of special scientific interest of European Marine site can be fined up to £20,000.

#### **For More Information Contact:**

Angling Trust: www.anglingtrust.net

Natural England: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Marine Management Organisation: www.marinemanagement.org.uk

**Inshore Fishery and Conservation Authorities:** 

http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/about/ifcas/index.htm

# Also available online at www.anglingtrust.net!

