

" To regulate, protect and where appropriate develop sea fisheries within the Sussex District in order to ensure their sustainability both now and into the future and to balance the needs of the fisheries in the context of a sustainable marine environment " .

The Sussex Sea Fisheries District Committee

The Sussex Sea Fisheries District Committee is a statutory body established in 1893 under the Sea Fisheries Regulations Act 1888; the Committee is one of 12 Sea Fisheries Committees established in England and Wales. Funding is provided by means of an annual precept on Local Authorities with a coastal jurisdiction (East & West Sussex, Kent and Brighton and Hove City Council). The Committee meets on a quarterly basis..

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The Committee's core responsibility is the management and enforcement of fisheries legislation; this responsibility is defined in various Acts, including The Sea Fisheries Regulations Act 1966. The Committee has powers to make and enforce byelaws for the protection of fisheries within its jurisdiction.

The Committee also has powers to enforce specific National and European fisheries regulations as well as legal duties for the protection of the marine environment. In addition to these responsibilities the Committee undertakes further activities that include the collection of data on the fisheries and basic stock assessment work. The Committee is a statutory consultee on marine development in accordance with The Food & Environmental Protection Act 1985, and provides expert advice through consultation and membership of coastal fora.

THE MEMBERS

The Committee is composed of 20 members, 10 County Councillors who represent the constituent authorities that fund the Committee, and 9 members appointed by The Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (formally the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food). The DEFRA appointed members are persons with a distinct connection to the local sea fishing industry, such as vessel skippers/owners, fish merchants, etc. These appointments also take into account recreational fishing within the District. Importantly Committee members do not represent their own interests but the needs of the fishery as a whole, they utilise their understanding and experience of the fishery in the consideration of the management needs. In addition to these members the Environment Agency makes one appointment to the Committee. The Committee also includes a member who is familiar with the environmental conservation needs of the District.

SUSSEX SEA FISHERIES
DISTRICT COMMITTEE

