

ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL

KEDDLE NETS

CONDITIONS FOR USE AT LICENSED STANDS

1. Keddle nets shall comprise of no more than three ranges or leaders which shall lead directly to a blythe or pound of a circular nature and have a diameter no greater than one hundred metres.

Each range and pound shall be connected in series so that there is a gap no greater than the depth of the netting being used between the netting of the range and the netting of the pound.

All ranges and blythes shall be constructed so as to present a single wall of netting.

2. The use of monofilament or multi-monofilament as a material is expressly prohibited.

All headlines and footsteps shall be of at least double construction (ie, single headlines and footropes are prohibited).

ALL MESH SIZE MEASUREMENTS RELATE TO THE DISTANCE BETWEEN DIAGONALLY OPPOSITE MESH KNOTS.

SUMMER FISHING

(Between 1 May and the following 30 September - both dates inclusive)

For all fish species the netting material used shall be of no lesser thickness than that known as "2z" and shall have a mesh size between 50mm and 64mm.

The material used in the construction of the net shall not be that known as monofilament or multi-filament nylon and shall be opaque in appearance.

(At the present time, braided and/or twisted twine materials will be acceptable).

WINTER FISHING

(Between 1 October and the following 30 April - both dates inclusive)

For pelagic species (mackerel and herring) the netting material used shall be of no lesser thickness than that known as "2z" and shall have a mesh size between 50mm and 64mm.

For all demersal species the netting material used shall be of no lesser thickness than that known as "4z" and shall have a minimum mesh size of 90mm.

3. Keddle nets shall be used from a stand licensed by Rother District Council only.
4. Keddle nets shall at all times be set, as near as possible at right angles to the shore.

The seaward extent of a Keddle net shall not exceed that part of the sea which can be reached by a person on foot, at lowest astronomical tide.

5. The range of mesh sizes between 64mm and 89mm shall be prohibited and are not to be used at any time.

When used in fishing for pelagic species the total catch of such species shall not be less than 70% by deadweight of the overall catch of all species taken. Any other fish over this limit shall be immediately returned to the sea whether dead or alive.

Keddle nets used in fishing for demersal fish species shall not be more than 60 meshes deep. When used in fishing for pelagic species Keddle nets shall not be more than 180 meshes deep.

During the period 1 May to 30 September in any year, both dates being inclusive, Keddle nets shall be stopped onto their headlines and footropes at no more than 2'0" intervals. All demersal nets shall be set up by no less than "the half".

6. No posts or stakes are to be used to give the effect of raising and/or permanently supporting the net or any part of the net.
7. The use of engine powered boats in any part of the operation is prohibited.
8. Each end of the range net and each end of the blythe net shall have at least one headline cork/float clearly marked with the licensed stand number. The seaward end of each Keddle net shall at all times be clearly marked by a buoy or flag bearing the licensed stand number.
9. Any salmon or sea trout caught shall be immediately returned to the sea whether dead or alive.

Any licensed stand holder who is found to have landed, stored, retained or had in his/her possession, for whatever purpose, any salmon or sea trout or any other protected fish specie which when measured if found to be below the minimum landing size for that specie, shall be aware that his/her stand licence is at risk of being revoked.

10. Keddle nets shall be attended at each low tide and the catch cleared.

No other type of net shall be taken onto or kept on the beach for any purpose.

No other vehicles shall be taken onto the beach/stand at any time.

11. The holder of a Keddle net stand licence shall be responsible for the actions of any authorised service attending the nets on his/her behalf. Such authorised servants shall, at all times when attending Keddle nets, carry a letter of authority signed by the licensed Keddle net stand holder.
12. At all times Keddle net stand licence holders shall make available for inspection by any officer of the Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee or the Environmental Agency, any nets used or fish caught.
13. The licensed stand holder agrees to indemnify the Rother District Council against any claim howsoever arising from the operation of Keddle net stands authorised by this licence.
14. Rother District Council reserves the right to amend these conditions at any time. This shall only take place after proper consultation with licensed stand holders, the Environment Agency and the Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee.
15. All licensed stand holders shall use their rights to use Keddle nets on at least 100 days in any consecutive 365 days.

(Please note that obstruction of a Fishery Officer in the course of his statutory duties is a serious criminal offence).