

The Chairman
Sussex Sea Fisheries District Committee
Unit 6
Highdown House
Shoreham Airport
Shoreham by sea
BN43 5PB

RE: Pair Trawling off Bognor Regis and Littlehampton

Dear Sir,

Pair trawling in the sea bream breeding grounds off the coast of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton during the breeding season is decimating the future fish stock because the netting takes in juvenile fish that are undersize and when returned they die and pregnant fish are caught so potential new stock are lost. Also, and just as disastrous, is the breaking up of the rocky ground in which the bream spawn by the huge metal bars that are at the base of the trawl nets.

The law at the moment allows boats under 14 metres to pair trawl between a quarter and six miles offshore. The way some boats get around this restriction is to shorten the boat length by shortening the bow. I also understand that there are about ten boats, over 14 metres, which are allowed to carry out the pair trawling between 3 and 6 miles for historical reasons. Your committee office has assured me that the pair trawling that is going on at present is within the law. Consequently, I am requesting a change to the law to ban all pair trawling within the six mile limit. It is imperative that we stop this practice; otherwise we will lose the species forever.

I understand that your committee has the power to change the bye laws and I would urge you to take on this cause, in order to help maintain the future of our bream fish stocks. Do not let them go the way of other fish species that have been seriously depleted, if not lost forever, by over fishing.

I hope you will take the urgent action needed to help resurrect the bream fish stocks to their natural levels of the past.

Yours faithfully,