

Commercial Fishing in Sussex



Fishing boats in Sussex are mainly inshore; this means they stay close, usually within six nautical miles of the coast. They will land their catch daily. Most of the fleet are multi-purpose so they can target different types of fish depending on the season.

Sussex has about 400 fishing vessels and more than 40 commercial angling vessels. Most of the Sussex fishing boats are under ten metres in length. Sussex is also an important base for larger offshore fishing vessels. They use the deep water moorings at Shoreham and Newhaven as a temporary base when fishing in the Eastern English Channel and beyond.

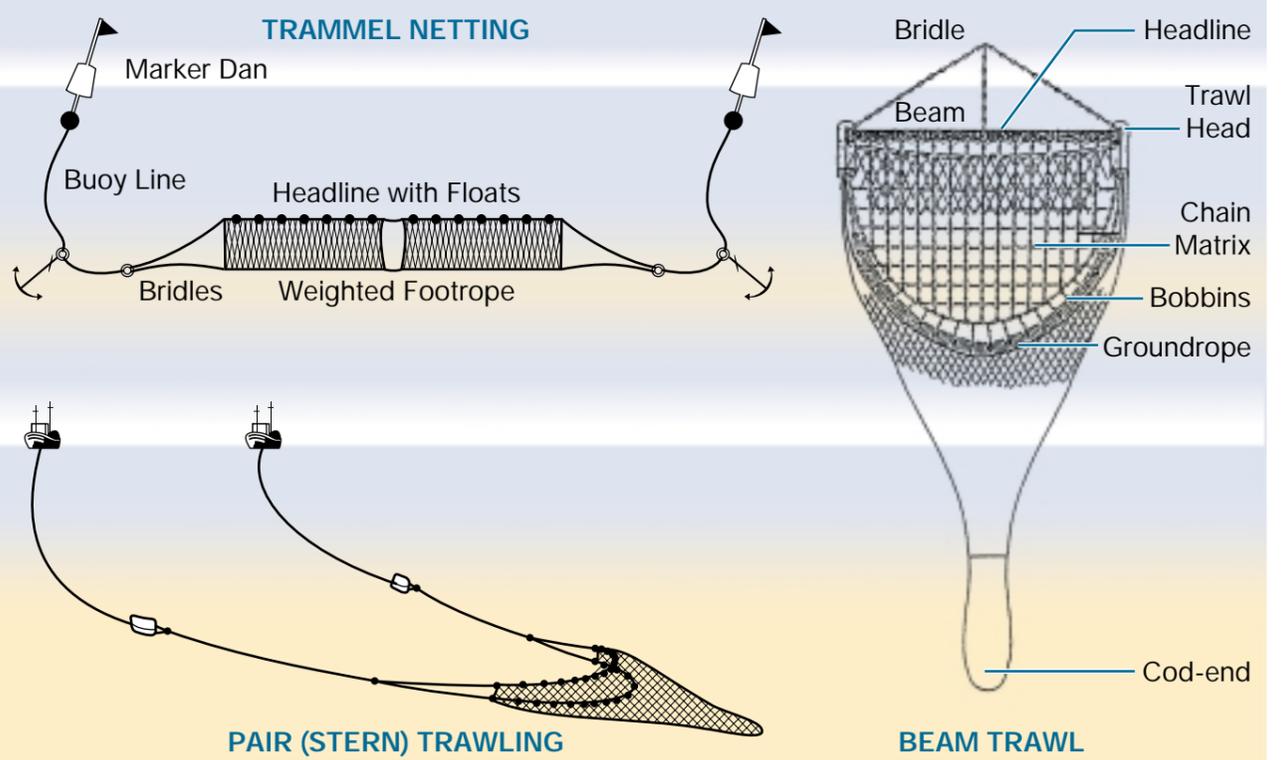
Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee Byelaws manage fishing activity inside six nautical miles offshore, and restrict fishing by those vessels greater than 14m in length.

Much of the Sussex coastline has no man made or natural harbour. Fishermen have overcome this by mooring offshore at Selsey, while the fishing fleets at Worthing and Hastings launch straight from the beach.

Stern trawling, beam trawling, pair trawling, scallop dredging, oyster dredging, trammel netting, gillnetting, lobster potting are but a few of the many commercial fishing methods used off the Sussex Coast.



SCALLOP DREDGING



This Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee initiative is part of a major project co-ordinated by The Wildlife Trusts' South East Marine Programme. The project, entitled 'Marine biodiversity and aggregates in South East England', is supported by English Nature, through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.