

## Human Activities Affecting Sea Life in Sussex Waters

- Commercial fishing
- Aggregate extraction
- Commercial shipping
- Waste disposal at sea
- Waste disposal from inshore outfall

## Influences on Fisheries and the Marine Environment

### THE SEA IS A COMPLEX AND EVER-CHANGING PLACE

Many physical factors influence where and what kind of marine life is found including depth, tidal currents and the type of seabed.

Large scale environmental influences impact on fish found in Sussex. Fish species such as gilthead bream and triggerfish common in the Mediterranean are now being seen off Sussex, this may be a result of global warming. The influence of physical changes can also be seen on a local scale when bass congregate near areas where industry discharges warm water.



### HOW WE AFFECT THE SEA

The way people use the sea and how these activities are managed directly affects the abundance of marine life.

The Sussex seabed has large deposits of sand and gravel that are extracted for use in construction and sea defences. Their removal by dredging is managed, in order to minimise the impact of extraction on marine life and fisheries. This industry can affect fish migration, spawning areas and breeding ground. The presence of dredgers also limits the access of fishing vessels.



## Protecting the Marine Environment

Legislation exists to protect our seas and coastline. Areas of Sussex coast are designated as European Marine Sites because of their international importance for sea life. Local and national initiatives are helping us to learn more about our valuable marine resource. However the seas are still less understood and less well protected than the land.

People have realised that fisheries and other marine activities need to be managed in a way that considers the whole marine environment. Sustainable management of fisheries will play a crucial role in protecting the entire sea. Without these controls the sea's ability to replenish itself will be severely reduced.

