

CA lobster pots campaign – the petition is live!

Thanks to everyone who has expressed an interest in our safety campaign. We are pleased to announce that the CA petition is up and running on the government website after the hiatus caused by the general election.

Poorly marked lobster pots and fishing gear are the most difficult and unpredictable hazard facing coastal cruising people. Fishermen, too, report the loss of expensive gear as a result of entanglements. These encounters could even be life-threatening. In one year alone the RNLI has dealt with 295 incidents of fouled propellers. Many incidents go unreported, as shown by the tales of close encounters which have poured in to us over the summer, so this figure could be a fraction of the actual number.

We think it is time for everybody with an interest to work together to find a solution, particularly one that is cheap and practical for our fishermen. With this aim, the CA hopes to secure a government consultation about the effectiveness of the current guidance and the merits of enforceable regulations for the whole of the UK. We have been working to establish a consensus amongst interested parties, including representatives of fishermen's organisations as well as the RYA, RNLI and others concerned with yacht safety.

If you support our campaign, please:

- [sign the petition](#), even if you had already done so, as previous votes can't be carried over
- carry on reporting incidents to us via lobsterpots@theca.org.uk, and [fill in the new RYA form](#)
- tell your friends, family and club members about what we are trying to do.

It's time to change the rules, for safety's sake.

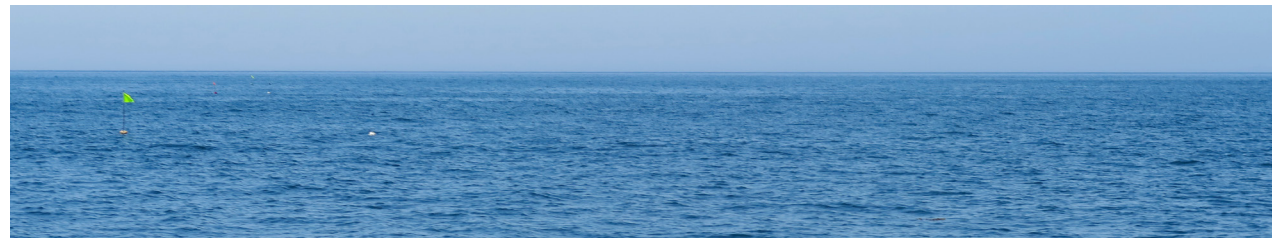


Photo: Angle RNLI

Lobster pots & small craft safety: time to change the rules

The petition wording reads: "We, the undersigned, urge the Minister of State (DEFRA) to improve the way static fishing gear is marked for the safety of all small craft at sea. The current, voluntary, guidance is not adequate. We ask that DEFRA seeks views regarding enforceable regulation, among other options."

Sign the petition here:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/200001>