

1976 No. 333

FISHERIES

The Sea Fish (Minimum Size) Order (Northern Ireland) 1976

Made 5th November 1976

Coming into operation 1st January 1977

The Department(a) of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 127 of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(b) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:—

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Sea Fish (Minimum Size) Order (Northern Ireland) 1976 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1977.

Interpretation

2. In this Order "size" means—

- (a) in relation to any fish of any of the descriptions in the first column of the Schedule, other than scallops and lobsters, the size calculated by measuring in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme end of the tailfin when the fish is laid out flat.
- (b) in relation to any scallop the size calculated by measuring in a straight line across its greatest length, and
- (c) in relation to any lobster the size calculated by measuring in a straight line from the rear edge of the eye socket to the mid-point of the hind edge of the carapace.

Prohibition

3. A person shall not land, sell, or offer or expose for sale, or have in his possession for the purpose of sale or processing or otherwise using in the course of business, any sea fish of the descriptions specified in the first column of the Schedule being a fish of a smaller size than the sizes specified in the second column of the Schedule.

Revocation

4. The Sea Fish (Minimum Size) Order (Northern Ireland) 1972(c) is hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 5th November 1976.

(L.S.)

E. G. Sherrard

Assistant Secretary

(a) Formerly Ministry: see 1973 c. 36 Section 40 and Sch. 5 para. 8(1)

(b) 1966 c. 17 (N.I.)

(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 96 (p. 378)

SCHEDULE

Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	30 centimetres
Cod (<i>Gadus calarias</i>)	30 centimetres
Dabs (<i>Pleuronectes limanda</i>)	15 centimetres
Haddock (<i>Gadus aeglefinus</i>)	27 centimetres
Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>)	30 centimetres
Lemon Soles (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>)	25 centimetres
Megrims (<i>Lepidorhombus whiff</i>)	25 centimetres
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	25 centimetres
Saithe (<i>Gadus virens</i>)	30 centimetres
Soles (<i>Solea solea</i>)	24 centimetres
Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>)	30 centimetres
Whiting (<i>Gadus merlangus</i>)	25 centimetres
Witches (<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>)	28 centimetres
Escallops (<i>Pecten Maximus</i>)	11 centimetres
Lobsters (<i>Homarus Vulgaris</i>)	8 centimetres

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Order prescribes minimum sizes for various species of sea fish which it is permissible to land, sell or use in the course of business in Northern Ireland. It replaces a similar Order made in 1972. It adds saithe and lobster to the list of species. In the case of lobsters the minimum size of 9 inches total length prescribed in Section 157 of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 has ceased to have effect. The new minimum size prescribed in the Order using a carapace measurement is roughly equivalent to 9 inches total length.