

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations amend the Edible Crabs (Conservation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 (the Principal Regulations) to prohibit the retention on board a sea-fishing boat, the bringing to land, the landing, having in possession, selling, exposing for sale, buying for sale, or consigning to any person for the purpose of sale, a soft-shelled edible crab. A soft-shelled edible crab brought on board a sea-fishing boat must be immediately returned to the sea.

The Regulations also amend regulation 3 of the Principal Regulations as a consequence of the minimum landing size for edible crab of 150mm as provided for in the Edible Crabs (Undersized) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021 ([S.R. 2021 No. 335](#)). Regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations is also amended to clarify the exemptions that apply to the prohibitions.