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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations prescribe a system for classifying the quality of controlled waters which are coastal or brackish waters which need protection or improvement in order to support shellfish life and growth.

The classification SFW (“shellfish waters”) reflects the mandatory values assigned by Directive [79/923/EEC](#) (on the quality required of shellfish waters) to the parameters listed in the Schedule to these Regulations.

The Regulations also incorporate the reference methods of measurement, and the minimum frequency required for sampling and analysis, laid down in that Directive for those parameters.

The Regulations, together with the Surface Waters (Shellfish) (Scotland) Directions 1997, transpose Directive [79/923/EEC](#) in relation to Scotland. Copies of the Surface Waters (Shellfish) (Scotland) Directions 1997 may be obtained from the Environment Protection Unit, Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.