
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2023 No. 1054

SEA FISHERIES, ENGLAND

The Sea Fisheries (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023

Made - - - - *28th September 2023*
Laid before Parliament *29th September 2023*
Coming into force - - *24th October 2023*

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 15(2) of [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1241](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures⁽¹⁾ and now vested in the Secretary of State, makes the following Regulations.

In accordance with Article 15(2) of that Regulation, the Secretary of State has obtained scientific evidence to support the measures contained in these Regulations.

In accordance with Article 15(2C) of that Regulation, the Secretary of State has consulted such bodies or persons as appear to the Secretary of State to be representative of the interests likely to be substantially affected by the measures contained in these Regulations and such other bodies or persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Sea Fisheries (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023 and come into force on 24th October 2023.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

(1) EUR 2019/1241, amended by [S.I. 2019/1312](#) and [2021/1429](#) and by paragraph 11 of Schedule 11 to the Fisheries Act 2020 ([c. 22](#)). [S.I. 2019/1312](#) came into force on IP completion day by virtue of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 5 to the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ([c. 1](#)) and was amended before it came into force by [S.I. 2020/1542](#). The power previously contained in Article 15(2) is now vested in the Secretary of State; see Article 1 of [Regulation \(EU\) No 1380/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy (EUR 2013/1380) for the definition of “a fisheries administration” and associated provisions regarding the interpretation of a power exercisable by a fisheries administration (for these purposes, the definition of “relevant retained direct EU legislation” is contained in Article 4(1) of that Regulation). [Regulation \(EU\) No 1380/2013](#) was amended by paragraph 2 of Schedule 11 to the Fisheries Act 2020, [S.I. 2019/739](#) and [2019/753](#). [S.I. 2019/739](#) and [2019/753](#) came into force on IP completion day by virtue of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 5 to the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 and were both amended before they came into force by [S.I. 2020/1542](#).

Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures

2.—(1) Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures is amended as follows.

(2) In Article 6 (definitions)—

(a) for the full stop at the end of point (51) substitute a semicolon, and

(b) after point (51) insert—

“(52) ‘the English zone’ means United Kingdom waters⁽²⁾ but excluding the Northern Ireland zone, the Scottish zone and the Welsh zone;

(53) ‘the Northern Ireland zone’ has the same meaning as in the Northern Ireland Act 1998⁽³⁾;

(54) ‘the Scottish zone’ has the same meaning as in the Scotland Act 1998⁽⁴⁾;

(55) ‘the Welsh zone’ has the same meaning as in the Government of Wales Act 2006⁽⁵⁾.”.

(3) In Part B of Annex 5 (mesh sizes), in the table following point 1, in the row beginning with “At least 40mm”, in the second column of that row after “Whole area” insert “excluding waters within the English zone”.

(4) In Part B of Annex 6 (mesh sizes), in the table following point 1, in the row beginning with “At least 40mm”, in the second column of that row after “Whole area” insert “excluding waters within the English zone”.

Mark Spencer
Minister of State

Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs

28th September 2023

(2) “United Kingdom waters” is defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy.

(3) 1998 c. 47; see section 98(1) and (8). S.I. 2002/791 determines the extent of the area of the sea which is to be treated as adjacent to Northern Ireland for the purposes of the definition of the Northern Ireland zone.

(4) 1998 c. 46; see section 126(1) and (2). S.I. 1999/1126 determines the extent of the area of the sea which is to be treated as adjacent to Scotland for the purposes of the definition of the Scottish zone.

(5) 2006 c. 32; see section 158(1) and (3). Section 158(1) was amended by section 43(2) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (c. 23). S.I. 2010/760 determines the extent of the area of the sea which is to be treated as adjacent to Wales for the purposes of the definition of the Welsh zone.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make minor amendments to [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1241](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures (EUR 2019/1241).

Regulation 2 increases the mesh size requirement for vessels fishing for squid in “the English Zone” (which is defined in that regulation). The relevant provisions previously specified a minimum mesh size requirement of 40mm for directed fishing for squid in the North Sea and in North Western Waters but these Regulations increase that minimum mesh size to 80mm for directed fishing for squid using towed gear in the English zone.

An impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.