



Notification Number: 2008/340/UK

## Conservation of Scallops Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008

Date received : 29/07/2008

End of Standstill : 30/10/2008

### Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - SG(2008) D/51521

Directive 98/34/EC

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação - Hlásenie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan - Нотификация : 2008/0340/UK - Notificare.

No abre el plazo - Nezahtuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare.

(MSG: 200801521.EN)

#### 1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2008 0340 UK EN 30-10-2008 29-07-2008 UK NOTIF 30-10-2008

#### 2. Member State

UK

#### 3. Department Responsible

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#### 3. Originating Department

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland

#### 4. Notification Number

2008/340/UK – C10A



## 5. Title

Conservation of Scallops Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008

## 6. Products Concerned

Scallop dredges

## 7. Notification Under Another Act

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## 8. Main Content

The draft regulations set out a framework for the management of scallop fishing in Northern Ireland waters. Scallops are a bi-valve mollusc that inhabits the sea bed. They are normally fished using a scallop dredge which consists of a system of metal frames and metal mesh bags (dredges) dragged along the seabed by a fishing vessel. The Regulations contain a number of measures to aid the conservation of scallop stocks that include a closed period during which scallop fishing is prohibited, a limitation on the number of dredges which a fishing boat is permitted to carry, as well as a prohibition on catching scallops of a size less than 110mm. The regulations also contain a prohibition on diving for scallops in the part of the Irish Sea which lies within the Northern Ireland Zone (see attached copy of Adjacent Waters Boundaries (NI) Order 2002) from 1st June to 31st October.

As well as restricting the number of scallop dredges a vessel can carry, the legislation also details the permitted specification for scallop dredges by a British fishing boat operating in the Northern Ireland Zone. These specifications are:

- aggregate width of a scallop dredge, or system of scallop dredges, should not be any more than 915 cms;
- the tooth bar or dredge should have no more than 9 teeth per dredge or bar;
- spaces between the internal edges of teeth on a dredge or tooth bar must be at least 75mm;
- dredges with belly rings must have a clear opening, at least 75mm in diameter;
- mesh size of the dredge must be at least 100mm in the netting cover; and;
- dredges with paravanes, diving plates, pressure plates, water deflecting plates or similar devices, alongside rigid fixed teeth (known as a French dredge) are prohibited.

The Regulations will only apply to British fishing boats fishing for scallops in the Northern Ireland Zone.

## 9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The regulations have been proposed to aid the conservation of scallop stocks and reduce the environmental impact of dredging. Increasing the closed time, limiting the number of dredges that can be deployed and specifying mesh size and the type of dredge all reduce effort and leave more scallops on the seabed, thus enhancing the reproductive capacity of the stock and therefore increasing the available stock over the long term. Limiting the number of dredges and the specifying of the type of dredge used ensures that dredges used in Northern Ireland waters have minimal environmental impact on the seabed.

## 10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

- a) Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966
- Adjacent Waters Boundaries (NI) Order 2002



**11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure**

No

**12. Grounds for the Emergency**

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**13. Confidentiality**

No

**14. Fiscal measures**

No

**15. Impact assessment**

The impact assessment is attached.

**16. TBT and SPS aspects**

TBT Aspect

No

The draft does not have a significant effect on international trade.

SPS Aspect

No

The draft is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure in the sense of Annex A of the SPS Agreement.

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