1993 No. 155

FISHERIES

The Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing and Fishing Methods) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993

Made	*30th March 1993*
Coming into operation . .	*31st March 1993*

Whereas, in accordance with section 185A of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(**a**), it appears to the Department of Agriculture (''the Department'') that it is desirable to —

(*a*) preserve natural beauty or amenity, and

(*b*) conserve flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interests.

Now, therefore, the Department, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 19(1) and 124(1) and (2)(**b**) of the said Act and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing and Fishing Methods) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 and shall come into operation on 31st March 1993.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

''the Act'' means the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966;

''beam trawl'' means a net which is constructed to capture sea fish whilst being towed along the sea bed by a fishing boat, and which has its mouth extended by a beam, bar or other rigid device;

''Belfast Lough'' means the sea area to the westward and southward of an imaginary straight line drawn from the South Briggs buoy off the coast of County Down to Black Head Light in the County of Antrim;

''Carlingford Lough'' means the sea area to the landward side of an imaginary straight line drawn from Dunany Point, County Louth, to Cranfield Point, County Down;

''dredge'' means a device with a rigid framed mouth constructed to capture various species of sea fish whilst being towed along the sea bed by a fishing boat;

(**a**) 1966 c. 17 (N.I.); section 185A was inserted by 1968 c. 31 (N.I.) s. 4
(**b**) 1966 c. 17 (N.I.); the relevant amendment to which is S.I. 1981/227 (N.I. 7) Art. 6

"Dundrum Bay" means the sea area to the landward side of an imaginary straight line drawn from the Chapel (near Miner's Town, County Down) at Rossglass Bay to Roaring Rock (and thence to the nearest point of mainland);

"horse mussels" means fish of the species *Modiolus modiolus*;

"length" means the distance between the foremost point of a fishing boat and the rudder stock;

"Northern Ireland inshore waters" means such part of the fishery limits of the British Islands as is mentioned in Schedule 2, paragraph 14 of the Fishery Limits Act 1976(**a**);

"queen scallops" means fish of the species *Chlamys opercularis*;

"scallops" means fish of the species *Pecten maximus*;

"seine net" means a fishing gear assembly incorporating a conical shaped net and ropes, constructed to capture sea fish by a method of encirclement;

"Strangford Lough" means the sea area to the northwest of an imaginary straight line drawn from Killard Point to Ballyquinton Point, County Down;

"suction dredging" means the raising from the sea bed of material, fish and shellfish with gear involving the use of a solids pump or air lift, or water jets to dig into the sea bottom; and "suction dredge" shall be construed accordingly;

"tickler chain" means a device towed in front of a dredge for the purpose of disturbing sea fish on the sea bed;

"trawl net" means a fishing gear assembly incorporating a conical shaped net, ropes and hardware to hold open the mouth of the net, constructed to capture sea fish whilst being towed by a fishing boat.

Prohibition of fishing and fishing methods

3. Subject to the exceptions in regulation 4:—

(1) In Belfast Lough—

(*a*) the use of any trawl net or any seine net for the capture of sea fish to the westward and southward of an imaginary straight line drawn from the Flag Staff of the Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club at Cultra in the County of Down, through No. 13 channel buoy to Whiteabbey in the County of Antrim, is prohibited;

(*b*) the capture of sea fish by any net is prohibited except from a fishing boat of 12.19 metres in length or less or by a net for the capture of trout, mullet or herring.

(2) In Northern Ireland inshore waters off the coasts of Counties Londonderry and Antrim the use of any trawl net or seine net for the capture of sea fish at any place within an area to the southward and westward of an imaginary straight line drawn from Fair Head, County Antrim to Bull Point, Rathlin Island and thence to the Whistling Buoy off Inishowen Head, County

(**a**) 1976 c. 86