

Order made by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and laid before the Assembly under section 1(8) of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 for approval by resolution of the Assembly before the expiration of twenty-eight days beginning with the day on which the Order was made, subject to extension for periods of dissolution or recess for more than four days.

STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2001 No. 296

PUBLIC HEALTH

**Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) Order
(Northern Ireland) 2001**

Made 8th August 2001

Coming into operation 8th August 2001

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety^(a) in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 1(1) and (2) and 24(3) of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985^(b) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, being of the opinion in accordance with section 1(1) of that Act that there exist or may exist circumstances which are likely to create a hazard to human health through human consumption of food and that in consequence food which is derived or may be in the future derived from bivalve molluscs in the area described in the following Order is, or may be, or may become, unsuitable for human consumption, hereby makes the following Order:—

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2001 and shall come into operation on 8th August 2001.

(2) In this Order—

- (a) “designated area” means the area designated in Article 3 and the Schedule;
- (b) “relevant time” means, in relation to the designated area, 0001 hours on 8th August 2001;
- (c) “scallop” means scallops of the species *Pecten maximus* and Queen scallops of the species *Chlamys opercularis*;
- (d) “the Department” means the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

(a) Formerly the Department of Health and Social Services; see S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1) Article 3. See also section 25(2) of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985; functions formerly exercisable by the Department of Agriculture (now the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; see Article 3 of S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1)) are now exercisable by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety pursuant to paragraphs (5) and (6) of Schedule 5 to the Food Standards Act 1999 (c. 28) which amended the said section 25(2)

(b) 1985 c. 48; section 1(1) and (2) was amended by section 51(2)(a) and (b) of the Food Safety Act 1990 (c. 16); section 1(2) was further amended by S.I. 1999/1756

(3) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(a) shall apply to this Order as it applies to an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Designated circumstances

2. In the opinion of the Department, scallops in the designated area may be affected by the toxin which causes diarrhetic shellfish poisoning in human beings and are likely to create a hazard to human health if they are consumed.

Designated area

3. The area described in the Schedule is hereby designated for the purposes of Part I of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985.

Activity prohibited in the designated area

4. A person shall not fish for or take any scallops in the designated area.

Prohibition on movement

5. A person shall not move any scallops out of the designated area or from one place to another within the designated area.

Restrictions

6. A person shall not—
- (a) use any scallops taken out of the designated area after the relevant time in the preparation or processing for supply of food and anything from which food could be derived;
 - (b) land any scallops which were in waters in the designated area after the relevant time;
 - (c) supply, or have in possession for supply, any scallops which were in the designated area after the relevant time;
 - (d) supply, or have in possession for supply, any food or anything from which food could be derived in the preparation or processing of which anything was used in contravention of paragraph (a); or
 - (e) feed to any creature a feeding stuff in the preparation or processing of which anything was used in contravention of paragraph (a).

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 8th August 2001.

(L.S.)

W. B. Smith
Senior Officer of the Department of
Health, Social Services and Public Safety

The Designated Area

Waters in ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) area VIA which are within British fishery limits and which are adjacent to Northern Ireland.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order.)

This Order contains emergency prohibitions restricting various activities in order to prevent human consumption of scallops or food which is derived from scallops originating in the area described in the Schedule (“the designated area”) and which has been or may have been rendered unsuitable for human consumption in consequence of shellfish having been affected by the toxin which causes diarrhetic shellfish poisoning in human beings (Articles 2 and 3).

Fishing for or taking scallops (Article 4) and the movement of scallops out of the designated area is prohibited (Article 5). The preparation or processing of food or feeding stuffs derived from shellfish that were in the designated area on or after 0001 hours on 8th August 2001 is also prohibited (Article 6).

Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Order is guilty of an offence and is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £5,000 or on conviction on indictment to a fine or to imprisonment for a term of not more than 2 years or to both.

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