

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Coarse Angling) Regulations 2009

S.R. 2009 No. 378

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under section 13(1) of the Foyle Fisheries Act 1952 and section 13(1) of the Foyle Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1952 (as amended by S.I. 1999/859 and S.I. 2007/915 (N.I. 9)) and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The Loughs Agency is responsible for the conservation and protection of inland fisheries in the Foyle and Carlingford Areas. These regulations are being introduced as a conservation and protection measure for certain species of coarse fish.

3. Background

- 3.1. Legislation is currently in place to protect Salmonid fish species from exploitation by both commercial and recreational fishermen. This regulatory framework does not, however, extend to coarse fish, which have traditionally been fished on a catch and release basis and returned alive to their waters.
- 3.2. There is also an increasing interest in recreational angling for coarse fish in the Foyle and Carlingford Areas. A proportion of the anglers appear to have been taking coarse fish for consumption and use as baits, a practise which, without regulation, may have a significant effect on the population stability of these fish species, and potentially an effect on the complex aquatic ecosystems of which they are a part

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The regulations were the subject to a full public consultation which included local stakeholders.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. These regulations have been subject to equality screening, carried out by the Loughs Agency, which found that a full EQIA is not necessary as the proposals apply equally to, and will have no disproportionate effect on, the section 75 groups.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment on these proposed regulations was the subject of full public and stakeholder consultation. The cost of implementation of the regulations was deemed to be negligible.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. None.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. These regulations comply with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

11.1. None.