

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations prohibit fishing for sea-fish by mobile fishing gear in the waters within the Rathlin Zone. The boundaries of the Rathlin Zone correspond to the seaward boundaries of the Rathlin Island Special Area of Conservation, designated pursuant to Article 4 of Council [Directive 92/43/EEC](#) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p.7).

Article 11(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p.22) empowers member States to adopt conservation measures not affecting fishing vessels of other member States that are necessary for the purpose of complying with their obligations under certain EU environmental Directives, including Article 6 of Council [Directive 92/43/EEC](#).

Contravention of the Regulations is an offence under section 124(3) of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966. The penalty on summary conviction is a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (£5,000).