
SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1999 No. 194

The Shetland Islands Regulated Fishery (Scotland) Order 1999

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Shetland Islands Regulated Fishery (Scotland) Order 1999 and shall come into force on 31st January 2000.

(2) This Order extends to Scotland only.

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

“the 1967 Act” means the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967;

“the fishery” means that part of the bed of the sea adjacent to the Shetland Islands which lies between the line of mean low water springs and a distance of six nautical miles measured from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, and which is illustrated and shown coloured yellow on the relevant map;

“the fishing season” means the period of 12 months from 1st February in any year to 31st January of the following year, inclusive of both dates;

“the Organisation” means the Shetland Shellfish Management Organisation a company limited by guarantee and having its registered office at SFA, Shetland Seafood Centre, Stewart Building, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LL;

“the prescribed species” means oysters, mussels, cockles, clams, lobsters, scallops, queens, crabs, whelks and razorshells;

“the relevant map” means the map prepared in duplicate, each copy of which is signed by Ross Finnie, Minister for Rural Affairs, and marked “Map referred to in the Shetland Islands Regulated Fishery Order 1999” one such copy of which is deposited in the principal office of the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department at Pentland House, 47 Robb’s Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TW and the other such copy of which is deposited in the place of business of the Organisation.

Rights of regulating a fishery

3. There is hereby conferred on the Organisation for a period of 10 years the right of regulating a fishery for the prescribed species with respect to the whole of the area of the fishery.

Power to impose restrictions and make regulations

4.—(1) The Organisation may, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers from time to time impose restrictions on, and make regulations respecting, the dredging, fishing for and taking of the prescribed species within the whole or any specified part of the fishery.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1) above, regulations may be made under that paragraph for the purpose of—

- (a) determining the size below which or above which it shall be unlawful to take any of the prescribed species from the fishery or to remove them from one part of the fishery to another; and
 - (b) determining the size or description of vessels, dredges and fishing instruments to be used in dredging, fishing for or taking any of the prescribed species.
- (3) The production of a copy of any regulation purporting to be certified by Scottish Ministers shall be conclusive evidence of the existence of the regulation and of the due making of it.

Licensing of Fishing

5.—(1) No person shall dredge, fish for or take any of the prescribed species within the fishery except under the authority of a licence issued in that behalf, on application, by the Organisation and, subject to paragraph (4) below, a licence shall be valid for a period not exceeding 12 months specified therein.

(2) No person shall use a vessel for dredging, fishing for or taking any of the prescribed species within the fishery except under the authority of a licence issued under paragraph (1) above in which the vessel is named.

(3) The prohibitions in paragraphs (1) and (2) above shall not apply to any person—

- (a) fishing for or taking, or
- (b) using a vessel wholly to fish for or take,

any of the prescribed species within the fishery where none of those species caught or taken is to be sold, traded or otherwise exchanged for benefit.

(4) Subject to paragraph (10) below, a licence for dredging, fishing for or taking any of the prescribed species from a vessel shall be issued jointly to the applicant, who shall be the owner of the vessel, and his representative and shall be used only by those persons or, with the written authority of the Organisation and in accordance with any conditions contained in that authority, by a deputy nominated by them.

(5) No applicant who is the registered joint owner of a vessel shall be issued with a licence in accordance with paragraph (4) above to dredge, fish for or take any of the prescribed species from that vessel if, for the period in respect of which the application relates, the Organisation has—

- (a) received from another joint owner an application for a licence, or
- (b) granted to another joint owner a licence,

to dredge, fish for or take any of the prescribed species from that vessel.

(6) Subject to any directions given by the Scottish Ministers and the provisions of this Order, the Organisation may issue licences under paragraph (1) above in such numbers and to such persons as it may determine and in particular may, after consultation with such organisations as appear to it to be representative of interests likely to be substantially affected by a limitation on the number of licences issued, and such other persons as the Organisation thinks fit, place a limitation on the number of such licences which may be issued in any one fishing season having particular regard to scientific advice on the desirability of limiting the level of exploitation.

(7) Subject to any directions given by the Scottish Ministers and the provisions of this Order, licences issued under paragraph (1) above may authorise the dredging, fishing for or taking of any of the prescribed species at such times, in such manner and in such parts of the fishery as the Organisation may determine.

(8) Any person dredging, fishing for or taking any of the prescribed species under the authority of a licence issued under paragraph (1) above shall, when so requested by any officer authorised by the Organisation and after production by that officer of written evidence of his authority if so required,

produce the licence and shall desist from dredging, fishing for or taking any of the prescribed species within the fishery until it is produced.

(9) Subject to paragraphs (4), (5) and (6) above and (10) below, an applicant for a licence for dredging, fishing for or taking any of the prescribed species from a vessel shall be entitled to have a licence issued to him if—

- (a) in respect of licences for the first fishing season or part of that season after the coming into force of this Order, he was, as the owner of that vessel or of another vessel of similar size, capacity and fishing power to that vessel, engaged as a commercial activity, or as part of a commercial activity, in dredging, fishing for or taking any of the prescribed species from the vessel within the fishery at any time prior to 1st January 1998;
- (b) in respect of licences for all subsequent fishing seasons, he held a licence issued under this Order in which that vessel (or another vessel of similar size, capacity and fishing power to that vessel) was named in respect of the immediately preceding fishing season.

(10) At the discretion of the Organisation—

- (a) no person may be named on a licence in accordance with paragraph (4) above as the representative of an applicant if on at least two separate occasions within the period of 24 months immediately preceding the date of application for the licence that person has been convicted of a relevant offence, and
- (b) the entitlement described in paragraph (9) above shall not apply if on at least two separate occasions within the period of 24 months immediately preceding the date of application for the licence the applicant has been convicted of a relevant offence or if during that period any licence held by the applicant under this Order has been cancelled by the Organisation under section 4(7) of the 1967 Act.

(11) In this article “relevant offence” means an offence under section 3(3) of the 1967 Act.

Tolls payable for fishing

6.—(1) Any person to whom the Organisation proposes to issue a licence under the provisions of Article 4 of this Order shall pay to the Organisation before or upon receipt of the licence a toll in respect of a combined licence (which authorises the dredging, fishing for and taking of any of the prescribed species) of £100 per annum.

(2) The Organisation may from time to time with the consent of the Scottish Ministers vary the toll payable under paragraph (1) above, and introduce separate tolls in respect of each of the prescribed species for which dredging, fishing for or taking is authorised.

Power to create reserves

7. The Organisation may from time to time designate and mark out as reserves such parts of the fishery as it thinks necessary for—

- (a) experimental, management or scientific purposes, including the control of pests or diseases of any of the prescribed species;
- (b) cleansing and subsequent restocking with any of the prescribed species and the protection of stock introduced;
- (c) the collection of spat of any of the prescribed species;
- (d) the deposit or re laying of any of the prescribed species for the purposes of cleansing before their removal from the fishery,

and may use such reserves for their designated purposes and prohibit their use for any other purpose connected with or ancillary to dredging, fishing for or taking any of the prescribed species.

Power to remove juvenile shellfish

8. For the purpose of cultivating the fishery any person authorised by the Organisation may remove any spat or small shellfish of the prescribed species from the fishery or from one part of the fishery to any other part at such times and in such quantities as the Organisation may direct.

Exemptions for scientific purposes

9. The Organisation may, by authority given in writing, exempt any person who is dredging, fishing for or taking any of the prescribed species for scientific purposes from any provision of this Order or from any restriction imposed or regulation made under this Order.

Accounts of income and expenditure and other information

10. The Organisation shall:—

- (a) render to the Scottish Ministers annual accounts of its income and expenditure under this Order;
- (b) furnish to the Scottish Ministers all other information required by them with reference to this Order and to the fishery in such form and at such times as they may require;
- (c) allow any person authorised by the Scottish Ministers in that behalf to inspect the fishery and all books of account and other documents in the possession of the Organisation relating to this Order and to the fishery and shall give to such person any information relating thereto as he may require.

Rights of the Crown

11.—(1) Nothing in this Order or in any restriction imposed or regulation made by the Committee shall affect prejudicially any estate, right, power, privilege or exemption of the Crown and in particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing nothing herein contained shall authorise the Organisation to take, use, enter upon or in any manner interfere with any land, or interest in land, any rights of whatever description (including any portion of the shore or bed of the sea or of any river, channel, creek, bay or estuary) belonging to Her Majesty in right of the Crown and under the management of the Crown Estate Commissioners without the consent in writing of those Commissioners.

(2) A consent under paragraph (1) above may be given unconditionally or subject to such conditions and upon such terms as shall be considered necessary or appropriate.

St Andrew's House,
Edinburgh
20th December 1999

ROSS FINNIE
A member of the Scottish Executive