
SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2010 No. 238

The Sea Fishing (Restriction on Days at Sea) (Scotland) Order 2010

Powers of British sea-fishery officers in relation to fishing boats

8.—(1) For the purpose of enforcing article 4 or 5, or any equivalent provision, a British sea-fishery officer may exercise the powers conferred by paragraphs (2), (3), (4) and (5) in relation to any relevant fishing boat.

(2) A British sea-fishery officer may go on board the boat, with or without persons assigned to assist in the duties of that officer, and may require the boat to stop and do anything else which will facilitate either the boarding of, or the disembarkation from, the boat.

(3) A British sea-fishery officer may require the attendance of the master and other persons on board the boat and may make any examination and inquiry which appears to that officer to be necessary for the purposes of enforcement referred to in paragraph (1) and, in particular, may—

- (a) search for fishery products or fishing gear on the boat and may examine any such products on the boat and the equipment of the boat, including the fishing gear, and require persons on board the boat to do anything which appears to that officer to be necessary for facilitating the examination;
- (b) require any person on board the boat to produce any document relating to the boat, to any fishing operations ancillary thereto or to the persons on board, which is in the custody or possession of that person;
- (c) for the purpose of ascertaining whether a relevant offence has been committed, search the boat for any such document and may require any person on board the boat to do anything which appears to that officer to be necessary for facilitating the search;
- (d) inspect, take copies of and retain in the possession of that officer while any search, examination or inspection provided for under this article is being carried out, any such document produced to that officer or found on board;
- (e) require the master or any person for the time being in charge of the boat, to render all such documents on a computer system into visible and legible form and to produce them in a form in which they may be taken away; and
- (f) where the boat is one in relation to which that officer has reason to suspect that a relevant offence has been committed, seize and detain any such document produced to that officer or found on board, for the purpose of enabling the document to be used as evidence in proceedings for the offence,

but nothing in sub-paragraph (f) permits any document required by law to be carried on board the boat to be seized and detained except while the boat is detained in a port.

(4) Where it appears to a British sea-fishery officer that a relevant offence has at any time been committed the officer may—

- (a) require the master of the boat in relation to which the offence took place to take, or the officer may take, the boat and its crew to the port which appears to the officer to be the nearest convenient port; and

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(b) detain, or require the master to detain, the boat in the port.

(5) If such an officer detains or requires the detention of a boat, the officer must serve notice in writing on the master stating that the boat is to be detained until the notice is withdrawn by the service on the master of a further notice in writing signed by a British sea-fishery officer.