

POLICY NOTE

THE PROHIBITION OF FISHING WITH MULTIPLE TRAWLS (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2017

SSI 2017/325

1. This Order revokes and re-enacts with amendments the Prohibition of Fishing with Multiple Trawls (No. 2) Order 2000, by prohibiting the fishing for sea fish with more than one trawl, except in two specified situations. The Order forms part of the law of Scotland only.

Policy Objectives

2. The Order prohibits fishing for sea fish with any trawl other than a single trawl. This prohibition applies to Scottish fishing boats wherever they may be and to any other British fishing boats within the Scottish zone.

3. The prohibition does not apply to beam trawlers fishing with two trawls nor does it apply to fishing with two trawls where both trawls have a mesh size of 80 millimetres or more.

4. The provisions of this Order reflect arrangements agreed with the fishing industry which allow the continued use of more effective conservation targeted fishing gear developed and utilised by the Scottish fishing fleet and which is now facilitated via a licence condition for the relevant vessels. The Scottish Government considers that a prohibition on fishing with twin trawls for vessels using mesh of less than 80 millimetres remains appropriate, whilst there is continued limited fishing effort at the permitted mesh range.

Consultation

5. Consultation is not deemed necessary because the Order allows for the status quo conservation measures to continue, these arrangements were subject to consultation with fishermen in November 2016.

EU Considerations

Technical conservation measures

6. The Order provides for stricter measures for the management and conservation of stocks, therefore Article 46 of Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98 for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of juveniles of marine organisms applies. The European Commission has been informed timeously in accordance with this Article and no objections have been raised.

Financial effects

7. There are no new financial implications associated with bring this Order into place.

Impact assessments

8. No Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment has been prepared in relation to this Order, as no new impact upon business is foreseen.

Marine Scotland
October 2017