

Draft regulations laid before Parliament under section 316(6)(b) and (7)(f) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, for approval by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2011 No.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
LICENSING (MARINE)
MARINE POLLUTION
TRIBUNALS AND INQUIRIES**

The Marine Licensing (Notices Appeals) Regulations 2011

Made - - - - *****
Coming into force - - *6th April 2011*

The Secretary of State, as the appropriate licensing authority under section 113(2)(a), (4)(a), (6)(a) and (8) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009⁽¹⁾, makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 108 and 316(1) of that Act.

In accordance with section 316(6)(b) and (7)(f) of that Act, a draft of these Regulations has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations—
 - (a) may be cited as the Marine Licensing (Notices Appeals) Regulations 2011, and
 - (b) come into force on 6th April 2011.

Application

2. These Regulations apply in relation to any area, and any licensable marine activity carried on in that area, for which the Secretary of State is—
 - (a) the appropriate licensing authority⁽²⁾ (and references in these Regulations to “the licensing authority” are to be read accordingly); or

⁽¹⁾ 2009 c. 23.

⁽²⁾ By virtue of section 113(2)(a), (4)(a), (6)(a) and (8) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the Secretary of State is the appropriate licensing authority as respects anything done in the course of carrying on certain activities in the Scottish offshore region, Wales and the Welsh inshore region, Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland inshore region, and in relation to any other area not mentioned in subsection (2), (4) or (6). See section 322(1) for definitions of those regions.

- (b) an enforcement authority⁽³⁾ (and references in these Regulations to “the enforcement authority” are to be read accordingly).

Appeals against variation, suspension or revocation of marine licence

3.—(1) A person to whom a notice under section 72 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (notice varying, suspending or revoking a marine licence, or extending a period of suspension) has been issued may appeal to the First-tier Tribunal⁽⁴⁾ against the notice.

(2) Where an appeal is made under paragraph (1) against a notice varying a marine licence, that notice is suspended so far as it relates to the subject matter of the appeal from the time the appeal is made pending determination of the appeal.

(3) The First-tier Tribunal may suspend any other notice referred to in paragraph (1), wholly or in part, pending determination of the appeal.

(4) Where a notice revoking a marine licence is suspended under paragraph (3), the licence is to be treated pending determination of the appeal (or, if sooner, for so long as the notice is suspended) as never having been revoked by that notice.

Appeals against enforcement notices, stop notices and emergency safety notices

4.—(1) A person to whom any of the notices referred to in paragraph (2) has been issued may appeal to the First-tier Tribunal against the notice.

(2) The notices are—

- (a) a compliance notice;
- (b) a remediation notice;
- (c) a stop notice;
- (d) an emergency safety notice⁽⁵⁾.

(3) Where an appeal is made under paragraph (1) against a compliance notice, that notice and any requirement in it is suspended so far as it relates to the subject matter of the appeal from the time the appeal is made pending determination of the appeal.

(4) The First-tier Tribunal may suspend a remediation notice, a stop notice or an emergency safety notice, wholly or in part, pending determination of the appeal.

Appeals – further provisions

5.—(1) In any appeal the burden of proof is on the licensing authority or enforcement authority (as appropriate), and—

- (a) where a question to be decided on the appeal is whether an offence has been committed, the authority must prove the commission of the offence beyond reasonable doubt;
- (b) in respect of any other issue to be decided on the appeal, the First-tier Tribunal is to determine the standard of proof.

(2) The First-tier Tribunal may—

(3) The Secretary of State is an enforcement authority for the areas for which the Secretary of State is the appropriate licensing authority: see section 114(2) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

(4) Appeals are assigned to the General Regulatory Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal by virtue of article 3 of the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Chambers) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/2655). The Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (General Regulatory Chamber) Rules 2009 (S.I. 2009/1976, amended by S.I. 2010/2653) sets out procedural rules relating to such appeals.

(5) In relation to the notices mentioned in paragraph (2)(a) to (d), see sections 90, 91, 102 and 104 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

- (a) withdraw the notice or any requirement contained in it;
 - (b) confirm the notice or any requirement contained in it;
 - (c) vary the notice or any requirement contained in it;
 - (d) take such steps as the licensing authority or enforcement authority (as appropriate) could take in relation to the act or omission giving rise to the notice; or
 - (e) remit the decision whether to confirm the notice, or any matter relating to that decision, to the licensing authority or enforcement authority (as appropriate).
- (3) Where a notice revoking a marine licence is withdrawn under paragraph (2), the licence is to be treated as never having been revoked by that notice.

Date

Name
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations provide for appeals to be made to the First-tier Tribunal against certain notices issued under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (“the Act”). They come into force on the same day as Part 4 comes into force (as required by section 108(2) of the Act).

The notices are—

- (a) a notice varying, suspending or revoking a marine licence, or extending a period of suspension, issued under section 72 of the Act in relation to which the Secretary of State is the appropriate licensing authority (regulations 2(a) and 3);
- (b) a compliance notice, a remediation notice, a stop notice, or an emergency safety notice, in relation to which the Secretary of State is an enforcement authority (regulations 2(b) and 4). See section 115(1) of the Act for definitions of those terms.

Regulation 5 sets out powers of the First-tier Tribunal.

A full impact assessment of the effect that this instrument will have on the costs of business, the voluntary sector and the public sector is available from the Licensing Policy Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, and from the Defra’s website at www.defra.gov.uk.