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 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS
 

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1981 No. 535

## SEA FISHERIES

## LANDING AND SALE OF SEA FISH

## The Immature Bass Order 1981

<i>Made</i> - - - -	2nd April 1981
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	10th April 1981
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	1st May 1981

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Secretary of State concerned with the sea fishing industry in Scotland and the Secretary of State for Wales, acting jointly, in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by section 1(1), (4) and (5) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967(a), and the said Minister, the said Secretaries of State and the Secretary of State concerned with the sea fishing industry in Northern Ireland, acting jointly, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 15(3) of the said Act(b), and now in each case vested in them(c), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following order:—

*Citation and commencement*

1. This order may be cited as the Immature Bass Order 1981 and shall come into operation on 1st May 1981.

*Interpretation*

2. In this order, “length” means length from the tip of the snout to the extreme end of the tail fin.

*Revocation*

3. The Immature Bass Order 1976(d) is hereby revoked.

*Size limit for bass*

4. For the purposes of section 1(1) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 (which prohibits in Great Britain the landing, sale, exposure or offering for sale, or the possession for the purpose of sale of any sea fish of any description, being a fish of smaller size than such size as may be prescribed in relation to sea fish of that description) the following size is hereby prescribed in relation to bass of the species *Dicentrarchus labrax*:—

- (a) during the period from 1st May 1981 until 30th April 1983 inclusive a length of 32 centimetres;
- (b) thereafter a length of 38 centimetres.

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(a) 1967 c. 84; section 1 was amended by the Sea Fisheries Act 1968 (c. 77), section 16 and by the Fishery Limits Act 1976 (c. 86), section 9(1) and Schedule 2, paragraph 16(1).

(b) Section 15 was amended by the Sea Fisheries Act 1968, section 22(1) and Schedule 1, paragraph 38 and by the Fishery Limits Act 1976, section 9(1) and Schedule 2, paragraph 16(1).

(c) In the case of Wales, by virtue of article 2(3) of the Transfer of Functions (Wales) (No. 1) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/272).

(d) S.I. 1976/1826.

*Prohibition*

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this article, there shall not be carried by any foreign fishing boat in waters adjacent to the United Kingdom and within British fishery limits any bass which is of less than the minimum size prescribed in relation thereto by article 4 of this order.

(2) The prohibition in paragraph (1) above shall not apply in relation to bass which has not been caught within British fishery limits.

*Enforcement*

6. For the purpose of enforcement of this order, there are hereby conferred on every British sea-fishery officer all the powers of a British sea-fishery officer under section 8(2) to (4) of the Sea Fisheries Act 1968(a).

In Witness whereof the official seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 25th March 1981.

(L.S.)

*Peter Walker,*  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

*George Younger,*  
Secretary of State for Scotland.

26th March 1981.

*Nicholas Edwards,*  
Secretary of State for Wales.

27th March 1981.

*Humphrey Atkins,*  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

2nd April 1981.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Order.)*

This order—

- (1) prescribes for bass of the species *Dicentrarchus labrax* a minimum size below which the fish may not be landed or sold in Great Britain: the minimum size prescribed is 32 centimetres for the period from 1st May 1981 until 30th April 1983 and 38 centimetres thereafter;
- (2) prohibits the carrying by foreign fishing boats within British fishery limits of bass below that size caught within British fishery limits (as defined in section 1 of the Fishery Limits Act 1976. By virtue of section 1(3) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967, bass which are of less than the minimum size may not be carried, whether within or outside those limits, on a British fishing boat.

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(a) 1968 c. 77; subsection (4) was amended by the Fishery Limits Act 1976, sections 2(8) and 9(1) and Schedule 2, paragraph 17(1).



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