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S T A T U T O R Y   I N S T R U M E N T S

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1981 No. 551

SEA FISHERIES

LANDING AND SALE OF SEA FISH

**The Immature Crabs and Lobsters Order 1981**

<i>Made - - - -</i>	<i>6th April 1981</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>13th April 1981</i>
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	<i>1st May 1981</i>

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 by section 1(1) and (4) 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 their other enabling powers, hereby make the following order:—

*Citation and commencement*

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

*Revocation*

2. The Immature Crabs and Lobsters Order 1976(d) is hereby revoked.

*Minimum size for crabs*

3. 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 a smaller size than such size as may be prescribed in relation to sea fish of that description by an order made under that sub-section) the following size is hereby prescribed in relation to crabs of the species *Cancer pagurus* (edible crab): a width of 115 mm across the broadest part of the back.

*Minimum size for lobsters*

4. For the purposes of section 1(1) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 (which is described in article 3 of this order) the following size is hereby prescribed in relation to lobsters of the species *Homarus gammarus* (European lobster): a carapace length of 83 mm, being the length measured from the rear of either eye socket to the rear end of the body shell along a line parallel to the centre line of the body shell.

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

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

(c) By article 2(3) of the Transfer of Functions (Wales) (No. 1) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/272).

(d) S.I. 1976/305.

*Foreign fishing boats*

5. There shall not be carried by any foreign fishing boat in waters adjacent to the United Kingdom and within British fishery limits any crab or lobster to which this order relates which is of less than the minimum size prescribed in relation thereto by article 3 or 4 of this order.

*Enforcement*

6. For the purpose of the 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 26th March 1981.

(L.S.)

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

30th March 1981.

*George Younger,*  
Secretary of State for Scotland.

6th April 1981.

*Nicholas Edwards,*  
Secretary of State for Wales.

3rd April 1981.

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

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EXPLANATORY NOTE.

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

This order supersedes the Immature Crabs and Lobsters Order 1976. It prescribes minimum sizes below which it is an offence in Great Britain to land, sell, expose or offer for sale or possess for the purpose of sale edible crabs and European lobsters. It also prohibits the carrying of such shellfish, if they are of less than the prescribed size, by foreign fishing boats within British fishery limits. For the purposes of enforcement of the order all British sea-fishery officers are given the powers provided by section 8(2) to (4) of the Sea Fisheries Act 1968.

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

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