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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1993 No. 2459**

**SEA FISHERIES**

CONSERVATION OF SEA FISH

**The Sole (Specified Sea Areas)  
(Prohibition of Fishing) Order 1993**

<i>Made</i>	- - - -	<i>6th October 1993</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		<i>13th October 1993</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>	- -	<i>14th October 1993</i>

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretaries of State respectively concerned with the sea fishing industry in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, acting jointly, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 5(1), 15(3) and 22(2)(a) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967(1), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following Order:

**Title, commencement and interpretation**

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Sole (Specified Sea Areas) (Prohibition of Fishing) Order 1993 and shall come into force on 14th October 1993.

(2) In this Order—

“British fishing boat” means a fishing boat which is registered in the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands or which, not being so registered, is British-owned;

“sea area” means a statistical sub-area or division of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea(2) specified in the Schedule hereto.

**Prohibition and exception**

2.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) below, fishing for sole (*Solea solea*)—

(a) by any British fishing boat registered in the United Kingdom within any part of a sea area;  
or

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(1) 1967 c. 84; section 5(1) was substituted by section 22(1) of the Fisheries Act 1981 (c. 29); section 15(3) was substituted by paragraph 38(3) of Schedule 1 to the Sea Fisheries Act 1968 (c. 77) and amended by paragraph 16(1) of Schedule 2 to the Fishery Limits Act 1976 (c. 86); section 22(2)(a) which contains a definition of “the Ministers” for the purposes of sections 5 and 15(3) was amended by the Fisheries Act 1981, sections 19(2)(d) and 45(b).

(2) Cmnd. 2586.

- (b) by any other British fishing boat within any part of a sea area which lies within British fishery limits,

is prohibited during the period beginning with the date of coming into force of this Order and ending immediately before 1st January 1994.

(2) The prohibition in paragraph (1)(a) above shall not apply to fishing within that part of the sea area ICES Statistical Division Vb which lies outside British fishery limits.

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

3.—(1) For the purpose of the enforcement of this Order a British sea-fishery officer may exercise the powers conferred by paragraphs (2) to (4) below—

- (a) anywhere in relation to any British fishing boat registered in the United Kingdom, and
- (b) in any waters adjacent to the United Kingdom and within British fishery limits in relation to any other British fishing boat.

(2) He may go on board the boat, with or without persons assigned to assist him in his duties, and for that purpose may require the boat to stop and do anything else which will facilitate the boarding of the boat.

(3) He may require the attendance of the master and other persons on board the boat and may make any examination and inquiry which appears to him to be necessary for the purpose mentioned in paragraph (1) above and, in particular—

- (a) may examine any fish 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 him to be necessary for facilitating the examination;
- (b) may require any person on board the boat to produce any document relating to the boat, to its fishing operations or other operations ancillary thereto or to the persons on board which is in his custody or possession and may take copies of any such document;
- (c) for the purpose of ascertaining whether the master, owner or charterer of the boat has committed an offence under section 5(1) or (6) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967(3) as read with this Order, may search the boat for any such document and may require any person on board the boat to do anything which appears to him to be necessary for facilitating the search; and
- (d) where the boat is one in relation to which he has reason to suspect that such an offence has been committed, may seize and detain any such document produced to him 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 (d) above shall permit 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 contravention of this Order has at any time taken place within British fishery limits, he may—

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

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(3) Subsection (6) was amended by section 22(2) of the Fisheries Act 1981. By virtue of subsection (7), where subsection (6) is not complied with in the case of any fishing boat, the master, the owner and the charterer (if any) are guilty of an offence under that subsection.

and where such an officer detains or requires the detention of a boat he shall serve on the master a notice in writing stating that the boat will be or is required 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.

In witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 6th October 1993.

L.S.

*Gillian Shephard*  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

5th October 1993

*Hector Monro*  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Scottish  
Office

29th September 1993

*Gwilym Jones*  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Welsh  
Office

30th September 1993

*Arran*  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,  
Northern Ireland Office

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

## SCHEDULE

Article 1(2)

## SEA AREAS IN RESPECT OF WHICH PROHIBITION OF FISHING FOR SOLE APPLIES

**ICES Statistical Division Vb (Faroes Grounds)**

The waters bounded by a line beginning at a point in 63°00' north latitude, 4°00' west longitude; thence due west to 15°00' west longitude; thence due south to 60°00' north latitude; thence due east to 5°00' west longitude; thence due north to 60°30' north latitude; thence due east to 4°00' west longitude; thence due north to the point of beginning.

**ICES Statistical Sub-Area VI (Rockall and West of Scotland)**

The waters bounded by a line beginning at a point on the north coast of Scotland in 4°00' west longitude; thence due north to 60°30' north latitude; thence due west to 5°00' west longitude; thence due south to 60°00' north latitude; thence due west to 18°00' west longitude; thence due south to 54°30' north latitude; thence due east to the coast of the Republic of Ireland; thence in a northerly and easterly direction along the coasts of the Republic of Ireland and of Northern Ireland to a point on the east coast of Northern Ireland in 55°00' north latitude; thence due east to the coast of Scotland; thence in a northerly direction along the west coast of Scotland to the point of beginning.

**ICES Statistical Sub-Area XII (North of Azores)**

The waters bounded by a line beginning at a point in 62°00' north latitude; 15°00' west longitude; thence due west to 27°00' west longitude; thence due south to 59°00' north latitude; thence due west to 42°00' west longitude; thence due south to 48°00' north latitude; thence due east to 18°00' west longitude; thence due north to 60°00' north latitude; thence due east to 15°00' west longitude; thence due north to the point of beginning.

**ICES Statistical Sub-Area XIV (East Greenland)**

The waters bounded by a line from the geographic North Pole along the meridian of 40°00' west longitude to the north coast of Greenland; thence in an easterly and southerly direction along the coast of Greenland to a point in 44°00' west longitude; thence due south to 59°00' north latitude; thence due east to 27°00' west longitude; thence due north to 68°00' north latitude; thence due east to 11°00' west longitude; thence due north to the geographic North Pole.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This Order prohibits, subject to an exception, fishing for sole (*Solea solea*) during the period beginning with the date of coming into force of the Order and ending immediately before 1st January 1994—

- (a) by any British fishing boat registered in the United Kingdom within any part of a sea area specified in the Schedule to the Order, or

- (b) by any British fishing boat registered in the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands or by any British-owned fishing boat within any part of such a sea area which lies within British fishery limits (article 2).

The Order does not apply to fishing by fishing boats registered in the United Kingdom within that part of the sea area ICES Statistical Division Vb which lies outside British fishery limits (article 2(2)).

By virtue of section 5(6) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 (as amended by section 22(2) of the Fisheries Act 1981), where, in the course of any fishing operations conducted in any of the above-mentioned sea areas, sole are taken on board a boat to which this Order applies, those fish shall (subject to section 9 of that Act) be returned to the sea forthwith.

British sea-fishery officers are given certain enforcement powers for the purpose of the enforcement of the Order (article 3).