
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1994 No. 2716

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994

PART III

PROTECTION OF SPECIES

Power to grant licences

Grant of licences for certain purposes

44.—(1) Regulations 39, 41 and 43 do not apply to anything done for any of the following purposes under and in accordance with the terms of a licence granted by the appropriate authority.

(2) The purposes referred to in paragraph (1) are—

- (a) scientific or educational purposes;
- (b) ringing or marking, or examining any ring or mark on, wild animals;
- (c) conserving wild animals or wild plants or introducing them to particular areas;
- (d) protecting any zoological or botanical collection;
- (e) preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;
- (f) preventing the spread of disease; or
- (g) preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property or to fisheries.

(3) The appropriate authority shall not grant a licence under this regulation unless they are satisfied—

- (a) that there is no satisfactory alternative, and
- (b) that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

(4) For the purposes of this regulation “the appropriate authority” means—

- (a) in the case of a licence under any of sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) of paragraph (2), the appropriate nature conservation body; and
- (b) in the case of a licence under any of sub-paragraphs (e) to (g) of that paragraph, the agriculture Minister.

(5) The agriculture Minister shall from time to time consult with the nature conservation bodies as to the exercise of his functions under this regulation; and he shall not grant a licence of any description unless he has been advised by the appropriate nature conservation body as to the circumstances in which, in their opinion, licences of that description should be granted.

Licences: supplementary provisions

45.—(1) A licence under regulation 44—

- (a) may be, to any degree, general or specific;
- (b) may be granted either to persons of a class or to a particular person; and
- (c) may be subject to compliance with any specified conditions.

(2) For the purposes of a licence under regulation 44 the definition of a class of persons may be framed by reference to any circumstances whatever including, in particular, their being authorised by any other person.

(3) A licence under regulation 44 may be modified or revoked at any time by the appropriate authority; but otherwise shall be valid for the period stated in the licence.

(4) A licence under regulation 44 which authorises any person to kill wild animals shall specify the area within which and the methods by which the wild animals may be killed and shall not be granted for a period of more than two years.

(5) It shall be a defence in proceedings for an offence under section 8(b) of the Protection of Animals Act 1911⁽¹⁾ or section 7(b) of the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1912⁽²⁾ (which restrict the placing on land of poison and poisonous substances) to show that—

- (a) the act alleged to constitute the offence was done under and in accordance with the terms of a licence under regulation 44, and
- (b) any conditions specified in the licence were complied with.

(6) The appropriate authority may charge for a licence under regulation 44 such reasonable sum (if any) as they may determine.

False statements made for obtaining licence

46.—(1) A person commits an offence who, for the purposes of obtaining, whether for himself or another, the grant of a licence under regulation 44—

- (a) makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information, which he knows to be false in a material particular, or
- (b) recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information, which is false in a material particular.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this regulation is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

(1) 1911 c. 27; section 8 was amended by section 1 of the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1927 (c. 27).

(2) 1912 c. 14.