## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order amends the Sea Fishing (Restriction on Days at Sea) (Scotland) Order 2003 ("the principal Order") which provides for the enforcement in Scotland of the provisions of Annex XVII ("the Annex") to Council Regulation (EC) No. 2341/2002 (O.J. No. L 356, 31.12.02, p.12) fixing for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks the fishing opportunities in Community waters for 2003 as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No. 671/2003 (O.J. No. L 97, 15.4.03, p.11) and Council Regulation (EC) No. 2287/2003 (O.J. No. L 344, 31.12.03, p.1) and amplified by Commission Decision 2003/185/EC (O.J. No. L 71, 15.3.03, p.28).

The Order in Article 2 contains provisions which amend the principal Order to enforce the amendments made by Council Regulation (EC) No. 2287/2003 by adding the month of January 2004 to the period in which fishing is restricted, subject to the qualification that an activity will not be an offence if it would not have been had December 2003 and January 2004 counted as a single two month period.

Article 3 of the Order provides for the extension of the Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Control Measures) (Scotland) Order 2000 in pursuance of the Annex.

No Regulatory Impact Assessment has been prepared in relation to these Regulations.