
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations set a long-term environmental target under section 1 of the Environment Act 2021 (c. 30). The target set by regulation 3 is in respect of the condition of protected features in marine protected areas. These Regulations specify the standard to be achieved in respect of the target and the date by which it must be achieved.

Regulation 3(2) sets the long-term target that before the end of 31st December 2042 the number of protected features within relevant marine protected areas that are in “favourable condition” is to be not less than 70% of the total number of protected features within relevant marine protected areas, with the remainder to be in “recovering condition”.

Regulation 3(3) defines “favourable condition” and “recovering condition” for the purpose of the target in regulation 3(2).

Regulation 4 makes provision for the Secretary of State to require advice from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee for the performance of the functions of the Secretary of State in relation to the target in regulation 3(2).

Regulation 5 provides that the reporting date for the target in regulation 3(2) is 31st January 2044.

A full impact assessment of the effect that this instrument will have on the costs of business, the voluntary sector and the public sector is available for inspection at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF, and is published with an Explanatory Memorandum alongside these Regulations on www.legislation.gov.uk.