

Fisheries Information Notice 02-2007

Incidental catches of Cetaceans – Acoustic Deterrent devices



The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information Notice 02-2007 entitled “Incidental catches of cetaceans – Acoustic deterrent devices”.

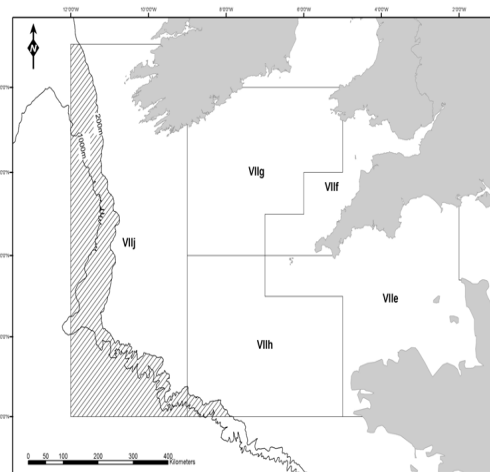
This Notice comes into effect on 06th July 2007.

LEGISLATION

Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004 enforced by S.I. 274/2007
Derogation *Iris Oifigiúil Issue 48* dated 15th June 2007

INTRODUCTION

Regulation 812/2004 was introduced to provide protection for cetaceans from incidental capture in static net fisheries. It requires the fitting of acoustic deterrent devices to certain static nets. The legislation covers a wide area of Community waters and different static fishing methods including ICES divisions VII e, f, g, h, and j which form part of the Irish exclusive fishery limits.



ICES division VII e, f,g,h and j

The regulation requires all vessels of 12m or over in overall length operating any bottom-set gillnet or entangling net to use active acoustic deterrent devices. The requirement is year round and is in force from 01st Jan 2006.

The technical specification and conditions of use of the acoustic deterrent devices are outlined in Annex II to the main regulation. This requires a maximum spacing along the net between devices of 200m or 100m depending on the technical specification of the device.

However Ireland has made a derogation on this under Article 3(2) of 812/2004 which was published in *Iris Oifigiúil* on 15th June 2007. This derogation allows for an increase in the maximum spacing to 500 metres for digital devices and is in force from 13th June 2007 until 12th June 2009 inclusive. This derogation covers all vessels operating in the Irish exclusive fishery limits.

AT-SEA OBSERVER SCHEME

As part of the monitoring of cetaceans Member States are to set up an observer scheme to monitor cetacean by-catch in specific fisheries. This program is focussed on vessels of 15m or over in overall length and covers the following fisheries within our remit:

Area	Gear	Start date	Coverage
VI, VII, VIII	Pelagic trawls	01 st Jan 2005	10% of fleet, min 3 vessels
VIIa & VIIb	Bottom set gillnets or entangling nets mesh > 80mm	01 st Jan 2005	5% of fleet, min 3 vessels
VIa & VII (exempt VIIc & VIIk)	Driftnets	01 st Jan 2006	5% of fleet, min 3 vessels
VI & VII	High-opening trawls	01 st Jan 2006	5% of fleet, min 3 vessels

SUMMARY

- Devices required for all vessels over 12m.
- Devices to be operational when setting the gear
- Not required to be fitted on nets when in harbour
- Covers bottom gillnet and entangling gear.
- Required in Irish EFL in ICES VII g, h and j.