

Fisheries Information Notice 5-2017 Restrictions on fishing in Deep Sea Species & protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems



The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information Notice No.5 of 2017 entitled:

Restrictions on fishing in Deep Sea Species & Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.

Legislation

Reference:

- EU 2016/2336 Conditions for fishing for Deep sea Stocks
- EU 1224/2009 Control Regulation
- SI 50/2017 SEA-FISHERIES (CONSERVATION AND RATIONAL EXPLOITATION OF DEEP-SEA SPECIES) REGULATIONS 2017

Introduction

Restrictions on fishing in Deep Sea Species

Deep sea Species are species which occur in deep sea-waters and have low reproduction rates with slow maturity, deep-sea species and most vulnerable species, listed (Table 1.)

Regulation 2016-2336 requires that any vessel, targeting or catching incidental catches of the species listed below, only do so subject to an Authorisation namely a “Targeting Fishing Authorisation” which will specify the species the vessel is authorised to target

Fishing Authorisation - Deep Sea Species.

The EU regulation calls for 2 types of Authorisation, for vessels targeting deep sea species and for vessels which encounter a by-catch.

Where a vessel communicates in any of the official records; logbook; landing declaration; sales note or similar document, a quantity exceeding 8% of deep sea species in any trip and where the vessel records more than 10 tonnes of Deep Sea Species in a calendar year, the vessel shall be deemed to target Deep-Sea Species.

Where fishing activity does not target deep sea species but catches deep sea species as a by-catch, such vessels shall be subject to a “By-catch Fishing Authorisation”.

Vessels NOT holding an Authorisation

Any vessel, NOT holding either type of Authorisation, is prohibited from fishing for Deep Sea Species in excess of 100kg in any trip. Deep sea species in excess of 100kg shall not be retained or landed, except where they are subject to the landing obligation.

Limitation on depth - Deep Sea fishing authorisations.

The Area of activity will be limited to existing deep sea areas.

- The vessel authorisation limits the depth at which bottom trawls can be operated at **above 800m.**

Disclaimer

The contents of these pages are provided as a guide only. They are intended to enhance access to information. While every effort is made in preparing material for publication no responsibility is accepted by or on behalf of the SFPA for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages.

Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)

These rules apply in areas **below 400m depth**.

Where, in the course of fishing operations, the quantity of VME indicators caught in that fishing operation, as set out in Table 2 below exceeds the following thresholds

- for a trawl tow, and other fishing gear than longlines: the presence of more than 30 kg of live coral and/or 400 kg of live sponge of VME indicators; and
- for a longline set: the presence of VME indicators on 10 hooks per 1,000 hook segment or per 1,200 m section of longline, whichever is the shorter.”

...then an encounter with VME's is considered to have taken place.

That being the case the master shall immediately cease fishing operations in the area concerned and may only resume in an alternative area no less than 5 NM distant from where the encounter occurred.

The Master of the fishing vessel shall immediately report each encounter with VME's to their national authority (FMC) who shall notify to the Commission without delay.

Designated Ports

No landing in excess of 100kg of Deep Sea Species may take place in other than a designated port.

Prior notification

The Master of a Union Vessel of over 12m shall provide at least 4 hours' notice prior to the estimated time of arrival in port. The Master of a Union Vessel of less than 12m shall provide at least 1 hours' notice prior to the estimated time of arrival in port.

Recording of catch and activity.

For vessels holding either a Deep Sea Authorisation or a Deep Sea By-Catch Authorisation, shall:

- draw a new line in the paper logbook after each haul; or
- record separately after each haul in the Electronic reporting System.

Masters shall record all quantities of deep sea species listed, below and any quantity of VME listed in excess of :

- for a trawl tow, and other fishing gear than longlines: the presence of more than 30 kg of live coral and/or 400 kg of live sponge of VME indicators; and
- for a longline set: the presence of VME indicators on 10 hooks per 1 000 hook segment or per 1 200 m section of longline, whichever is the shorter.

The master shall report species compositions & weights to the competent authority.

Summary

Fishing for deep sea species is restricted to depths of less than 800m, vessels targeting or incidentally catching deep sea species, in excess of 100kg, are required to have a Deep Sea Authorisation.

Where a vessel encounters a vulnerable marine ecosystem, the master is required to move at least 5 NM away from the incident.

Disclaimer

The contents of these pages are provided as a guide only. They are intended to enhance access to information. While every effort is made in preparing material for publication no responsibility is accepted by or on behalf of the SFPA for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages.

Table 1 Deep-sea species

Scientific name	Common name	Most vulnerable (x)
<i>Centrophorus</i> spp.	Gulper sharks	
<i>Centroscyllium fabricii</i>	Black dogfish	x
<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>	Portuguese dogfish	x
<i>Centroscymnus crepidater</i>	Longnose velvet dogfish	x
<i>Dalatias licha</i>	Kitefin shark	x
<i>Etmopterus princeps</i>	Greater lanternshark	x
<i>Apristuris</i> spp.	Iceland catshark	
<i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i>	Friiled shark	
<i>Deania calcea</i>	Birdbeak dogfish	
<i>Galeus melastomus</i>	Blackmouth dogfish	
<i>Galeus murinus</i>	Mouse catshark	
<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	Bluntnose six-gilled shark	x
<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>	Velvet belly	
<i>Oxynotus paradoxus</i>	Sailfin roughshark (Sharpback shark)	
<i>Scymnodon ringens</i>	Knifetooth dogfish	
<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>	Greenland shark	
<i>Alepocephalidae</i>	Smoothheads (Slickheads)	
<i>Alepocephalus Bairdii</i>	Baird's smoothhead	
<i>Alepocephalus rostratus</i>	Risso's smoothhead	
<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	Black scabbardfish	
<i>Argentina silus</i>	Greater silver smelt	
<i>Beryx</i> spp.	Alfonsinos	
<i>Chaceon (Geryon) affinis</i>	Deep-water red crab	
<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>	Rabbitfish (rattail)	
<i>Hydrolagus mirabilis</i>	Large-eyed rabbitfish (Ratfish)	
<i>Rhinochimaera atlantica</i>	Straightnose rabbitfish	
<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	Roundnose grenadier	
<i>Epigonus telescopus</i>	Black cardinalfish	x

Disclaimer

The contents of these pages are provided as a guide only. They are intended to enhance access to information. While every effort is made in preparing material for publication no responsibility is accepted by or on behalf of the SFPA for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages.

<i>Helicolenus dactilopterus</i>	Bluemouth (Bluemouth redfish)	
<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	x
<i>Macrourus berglax</i>	Roughhead grenadier (Rough rattail)	
<i>Molva dypterigia</i>	Blue ling	
<i>Mora moro</i>	Common mora	
<i>Antimora rostrata</i>	Blue antimora (Blue hake)	
<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	Red (blackspot) seabream	
<i>Polyprion americanus</i>	Wreckfish	
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	
<i>Cataetyx laticeps</i>		
<i>Hoplosthetus mediterraneus</i>	Silver roughy (Pink)	
<i>Macrouridae</i> other than <i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i> and <i>Macrourus berglax</i>	Grenadiers (rattails) other than roundnose grenadier and roughhead grenadier	
<i>Nesiarchus nasutus</i>	Black gemfish	
<i>Notocanthus chemnitzii</i>	Snubnosed spiny eel	
<i>Raja fyllae</i>	Round skate	
<i>Raja hyperborea</i>	Arctic skate	
<i>Raja nidarosiensis</i>	Norwegian skate	
<i>Trachyscorpia cristulata</i>	Spiny (deep-sea) scorpionfish	
<i>Lepidopus caudatus</i>	Silver scabbardfish (Cutlass fish)	
<i>Lycodes esmarkii</i>	Greater eelpout	
<i>Sebastes viviparus</i>	Small redfish (Norway haddock)	

Disclaimer

The contents of these pages are provided as a guide only. They are intended to enhance access to information. While every effort is made in preparing material for publication no responsibility is accepted by or on behalf of the SFPA for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages.

Table 2. Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) Indicator species

The following is a list of VME habitat types, with the taxa most likely to be found in those habitats which shall be considered as VME indicators.

VME Habitat type	Representative Taxa
1. Cold-water coral reef	
(a) <i>Lophelia pertusa</i> reef	<i>Lophelia pertusa</i>
(b) <i>Solenosmilia variabilis</i> reef	<i>Solenosmilia variabilis</i>
2. Coral garden	
(a) Hard bottom garden	
(i) Hard bottom gorgonian and black coral gardens	<i>Anthothelidae</i> <i>Chrysogorgiidae</i> <i>Isididae, Keratoisidinae</i> <i>Plexauridae</i> <i>Acanthogorgiidae</i> <i>Coralliidae</i> <i>Paragorgiidae</i> <i>Primnoidae</i> <i>Schizopathidae</i>
(ii) Colonial scleractinians on rocky outcrops	<i>Lophelia pertusa</i> <i>Solenosmilia variabilis</i>
(iii) Non-reefal scleractinian aggregations	<i>Enallopsammia rostrata</i> <i>Madrepora oculata</i>
(b) Soft-bottom coral gardens	
(i) Soft-bottom gorgonian and black coral gardens	<i>Chrysogorgiidae</i>
(ii) Cup-coral fields	<i>Caryophylliidae</i>
(iii) Cauliflower coral fields	<i>Flabellidae</i> <i>Nephtheidae</i>
3. Deep-sea sponge aggregations	
(a) Other sponge aggregations	<i>Geodiidae</i> <i>Ancorinidae</i> <i>Pachastrellidae</i>
(b) Hard-bottom sponge gardens	<i>Axinellidae</i> <i>Mycalidae</i> <i>Polymastiidae</i> <i>Tetillidae</i>

Disclaimer

The contents of these pages are provided as a guide only. They are intended to enhance access to information. While every effort is made in preparing material for publication no responsibility is accepted by or on behalf of the SFPA for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages.

(c) Glass sponge communities	<i>Rossellidae</i> <i>Pheronematidae</i>
4. Sea pen fields	<i>Anthoptilidae</i> <i>Pennatulidae</i> <i>Funiculinidae</i> <i>Halipteridae</i> <i>Kophobelemnidae</i> <i>Protoptilidae</i> <i>Umbellulidae</i> <i>Vigulariidae</i>
5. Tube-dwelling anemone patches	<i>Cerianthidae</i>
6. Mud- and sand-emergent fauna	<i>Bourgetcrinidae</i> <i>Antedontidae</i> <i>Hyocrinidae</i> <i>Xenophyophora</i> <i>Syringamminidae</i>
7. Bryzoan patches	

Disclaimer

The contents of these pages are provided as a guide only. They are intended to enhance access to information. While every effort is made in preparing material for publication no responsibility is accepted by or on behalf of the SFPA for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages.