

Fisheries Information Notice 10-2021

Access and Technical Measures for Irish Fishing Vessels in UK waters



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The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information Notice (FIN) entitled: 'Access and Technical Measures for Irish Fishing Vessels in UK waters'.

Introduction

Since the 1st January 2021, the United Kingdom (UK) is an independent coastal state. Irish fishing vessels operating in UK waters may only fish in UK waters with a valid fishing licence issued by United Kingdom Single Issuing Authority (UKSIA). The requirements to obtain, and comply with the conditions of, such a valid fishing licence are independent of, and in addition to, the obligations of Irish fishing vessels to the Irish authorities, including the reporting obligations to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) and SFPA for fishing in third country waters under [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2403](#).

This FIN will direct operators to specific guidance documents by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on Technical Measures on certain fishing area and fishing gear in UK waters.

Requirements of Access for Irish Vessels to Fish in UK Waters

UK Fishing Licence - Irish fishing vessels are required to have a fishing vessel licence issued by the United Kingdom Single Issuing Authority ([UKSIA](#)) to fish in the UK EEZ. A list of EU fishing vessels authorized to fish in UK waters are published on the following website [UKSIA](#).

If you have not been issued with the above licence, you may not fish in UK waters, and you will need to apply for such a licence through [Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine \(DAFM\)](#).

Access to UK Waters is authorised to Irish vessels who have been granted access to fish in the UK EEZ 12-200nm limit (Figure 1). Authorised Irish vessels are permitted to access specific waters of the UK 6-12nm and Northern Ireland 0-6nm only if expressly authorised in their UK foreign vessel licence (Figure 1). The list of Irish fishing vessels authorized to fish in UK waters and the specific parts of the waters are published on the following website: [UKSIA](#)

Compliance with Licence Conditions and UK Legislation -

It is the responsibility of the vessel owner and the master of Irish fishing vessels to be aware and comply with the licence conditions, applicable UK law, National UK fisheries legislation and specific regulations that apply in English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish waters. Link to the legislation: [UK Legislation](#)

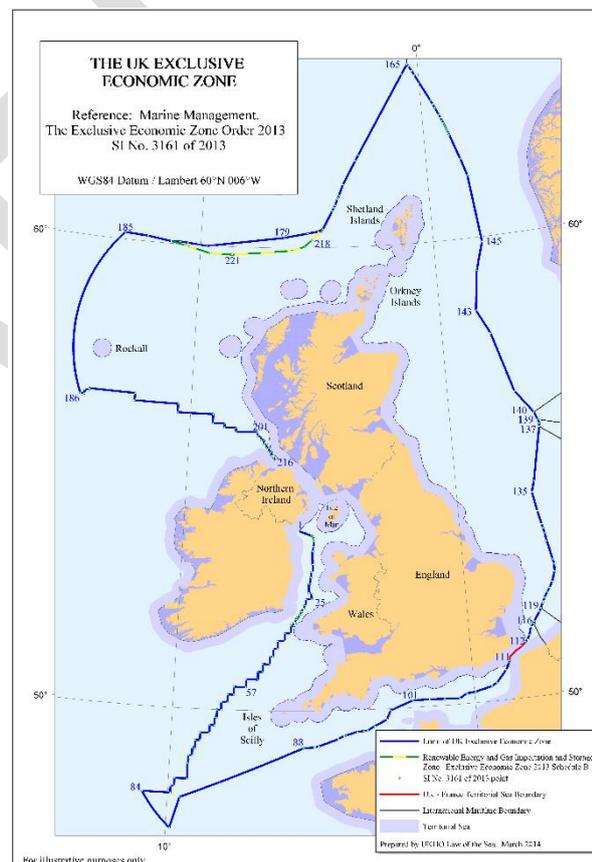


Figure 1. Map of the UK EEZ

Technical Measures in UK waters

The Technical Measures Regulation has general rules for each EU basin and further rules specific to regional fisheries. The technical measures align with the Landing obligation (LO) regulations and are spread across a number of regulations. In order to provide clarity on the technical measures and landing obligation, the MMO (have produced user friendly guidance documents for fishing vessels operating in UK waters. The individual guidance documents are broken down into technical measure rules for the

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following categories in fishing area, fishing gear and fishery in UK waters. The guidance documents are available via the following links:

- [MMO Guidance – New Technical Measures Background](#)
- [MMO guidance – Celtic Sea - Nephrops Fishery](#)
- [MMO Guidance - Celtic Sea – Demersal Towed Gears](#)
- [MMO Guidance - Irish Sea - Demersal Towed Gear](#)
- [MMO Guidance - Irish Sea -Towed Gear](#)
- [MMO Guidance - English Channel - Demersal Towed Gear](#)
- [MMO Guidance - North Sea - Beam Trawl](#)
- [MMO Guidance - North Sea & North Western Waters - Pelagic Gears](#)
- [MMO Guidance - North Western Waters - Beam Trawls](#)
- [MMO Guidance - North Western Waters - Fixed nets](#)

Further MMO guidance documents for other fishing areas and fishing gear not listed above are available via [MMO Guidance - Technical Conservation & Landing Obligation Rules and Regulation 2021](#). Please note the measures and exemptions to the landing obligation rules detailed within the MMO guidance apply within UK waters.

Landing Obligation Regulations in UK waters

The Landing Obligation (LO) applies to all fishing vessels, including those under 10 metres in length. All quota species must be landed and counted against quota unless exemptions apply. The LO applies to all sizes of fish so it is important to minimise catches of undersized fish which will use up quota. The following link directs to the Landing Obligation guidance, which are broken down into fishing area and fishing gear;

- [MMO Guidance – Landing Obligation General Requirements](#)

Vessel owners or operators fishing in UK waters are advised to regularly check the UK MMO website for updates on the guidance on technical measures and landing obligation regulation for UK waters.

Enforcement in UK waters

Please refer to the [MMO compliance and enforcement strategy](#) for further information. Enforcement within Devolved administration waters will be in line with the relevant guidance. Any particular queries relating to fishing in UK waters can be submitted to Compliance@marinemanagement.org.uk.

This fisheries information notice was published on 18/10/2021. sfpafood&fisheriessupport@sfpa.ie

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