

# Fisheries Information Notice 2-2020

## Closed Area in Irish Sea Cod Box



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM  
CHOSAINT  
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES  
PROTECTION  
AUTHORITY

The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information entitled:

### 'Closed Area in Irish Sea Cod Box'

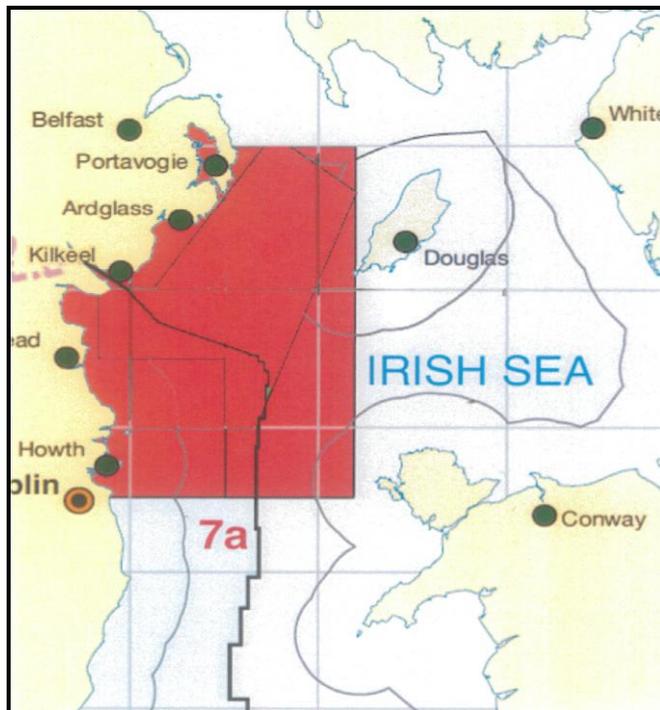
#### Legislative Basis:

- EU 1241/2019
- EU 2239/2019
- EU 1224/2009
- SI 520/2019
- Policy Directive 1/2019

#### Introduction

##### **Closed area for the conservation of cod in ICES Division 7a**

From the 14<sup>th</sup> of February until 30<sup>th</sup> April each year, it is **PROHIBITED** to use any demersal trawl, seine or similar towed net, any gillnet, entangling net or any trammel net or any fishing gear incorporating hooks within the part of ICES Division 7a, as shown in the area coloured in red in Figure 1.



#### Closed Area in ICES Division 7a

The east coast of Ireland and the east coast of Northern Ireland and straight lines sequentially joining the following geographical coordinates:

- a point on the east coast of the Ards peninsula in Northern Ireland at 54°30' N,
- 54°30' N, 04°50' W,
- 54°15' N, 04°50' W,
- a point on the east coast of Ireland at 53°15' N.

Figure 1: Area shaded in red indicates Closed Area.

Source: Fishery Management Map by La Tene Maps and Bord Iascaigh Mhara

#### Derogations (Art 10 Regulation (EU) 2239/2019)

By way of derogation the following use of bottom trawls of any length with a cod-end mesh size >70 mm and <100 mm with catches comprising greater than 5 % of Norway lobster shall be permitted within the specified area and time period, provided that one of the following gears are used:

- 300mm Square Mesh Panel; vessels below 12m may use a 200 mm squared mesh panel;
- Seltra panel;
- Sorting Grid with 35mm bar spacing;
- CEFAS Netgrid;
- Flip-flap trawl.

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### **Derogations (Art 10 Regulation (EU) 2239/2019)**

*Vessels equal to or greater than 12m in length overall operating with bottom trawls with catches comprising >10% of haddock, cod, skates and rays combined, provided that one of the following gears are used:*

- 120mm codend;
- Eliminator trawl with 600mm large mesh panels and a 100mm codend.

*Vessels equal to or greater than 12m in length overall operating with bottom trawls with catches comprising >10% haddock, cod, skates and rays combined or catches comprising >30% Nephrops and >85% Queen scallops, provided that the following gear is used:*

- 100mm codend and 100mm square mesh panel.

### **Derogations (Annex VI Part B 1.2 Regulation (EU) 1241/2019)**

*Vessels of any length operating beam trawls in directed fishing for sole, provided that the following gear is used:*

- At least 80mm codend and a panel with a mesh size of 180mm fitted in the upper half of the anterior part of the net.

### **Prohibition over 18m Irish fishing vessels trawling within 6nm** (Policy Directive 1/2019)

Trawling activity is prohibited for Irish fishing vessels over 18m in overall length from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, other than for the targeting of sprat subject to catch limits as may be determined by the Minister from time to time, in any part of the exclusive fishery limits of the State inside the six nautical mile zone, including inside the baselines.

### **Restricted Area**

Within any restricted or closed area masters are obliged to comply with the rules for a vessel present in a restricted area, these rules are contained in EC 1224/2009 Art 47 which specify rules for prior-notification and stowage of gear.

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