EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Scallop Enhancement Sites (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

SR 2025 No. 102

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (the Department) to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Statutory Rule is subject to the negative resolution procedure in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 19(1) and 124(1), (2) and (2A) of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this Statutory Rule is to amend The Scallop Enhancement Sites (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022 ("the Principal Regulations").

2.2 The Principal Regulations defined four scallop enhancement sites in the Northern Ireland zone located at Ballyquintin, Drumfad Bay, Roaring Rock and Whitehead, and prohibited fishing for scallops using demersal mobile gear and diving for scallops in these sites, the traditional methods of targeting scallops.

2.3 An innovative method of fishing scallops using pots with lights fitted to attract and catch scallops has recently been introduced on the market.

2.4 The amendment in this Statutory Rule confirms the policy position and prohibits fishing for scallops by any means in the scallop enhancement sites.

3. Consultation

3.1. A full public consultation was carried out from 30 November 2020 until 31 March 2021 on proposed fisheries management measures in marine protected areas and in the proposed scallop enhancement sites, ahead of the Principal Regulations being made.

3.2 The Department consulted industry representatives about this minor amendment, who support it.

4. Equality Impact

4.1. The policy given effect in the Principal Regulations was screened out. This amendment in this Statutory Rule does not alter that decision.

5. Regulatory Impact/Better Regulation

5.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment was published with the Principal Regulations. This amendment in this Statutory Rule does not alter that assessment.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications for the Department associated with the making of this Statutory Rule.

7. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

7.1. This Statutory Rule is compliant with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

8. EU Implications

8.1. None.

9. Parity or Replicatory Measure

9.1. N/A

10. Additional Information

10.1. For further information contact Patrick Smith (Tel. 02844618111) or Fiona Taylor (02844618700) at the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs or e-mail patrick.smith@daera-ni.gov.uk or seafisheries@daera-ni.gov.uk.