SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No. 10

SEA FISHERIES

CONSERVATION OF SEA FISH

The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2026

Made - - - -	*14th January 2026*
Laid before the Scottish Parliament	*16th January 2026*
Coming into force - -	*14th February 2026*

The Scottish Ministers make the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 5(1)(a), 5(2) and 20(1) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967(**a**) and all other powers enabling them to do so.

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2026 and comes into force on 14 February 2026.

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

"Area A" means that part of the Scottish zone which is enclosed by the 3 boundary lines which are described in Part 1 of the schedule, by reference to—

(a) the co-ordinates of the points joined by the boundary line, and

(b) a topographical description of the boundary line,

"Area B" means that part of the Scottish zone which is enclosed by the 6 boundary lines which are described in Part 2 of the schedule, by reference to—

(a) the co-ordinates of the points joined by the boundary line, and

(b) a topographical description of the boundary line,

"Area C" means that part of the Scottish zone which is enclosed by the 14 boundary lines which are described in Part 3 of the schedule, by reference to—

(a) the co-ordinates of the points joined by the boundary line, and

(**a**) 1967 c. 84 ("the 1967 Act"). Section 5(1) of the 1967 Act was substituted by section 198(2) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (c. 23) ("the 2009 Act"), which extends to Scotland by virtue of section 158(1) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 5) ("the 2010 Act"). Sections 5 and 20 of the 1967 Act are modified in relation to Scotland by section 22A(2), (6) and (11) of that Act. Section 22A of the 1967 Act was inserted by S.I. 1999/1820. Section 22A(2) of the 1967 Act was amended by section 159 of the 2010 Act. Section 22A(6) of the 1967 Act was substituted by section 159(4) of the 2010 Act and section 22A(11) of the 1967 Act was amended by S.I. 2000/2040 and paragraph 6(13)(d) of schedule 4 of the Fisheries Act 2020 (c. 22).

(b) a topographical description of the boundary line,

"British fishing boat" means a fishing boat which either is registered in the United Kingdom under Part II of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995(**a**) or is owned wholly by persons qualified to own British ships for the purposes of that Part of that Act.

Prohibition on fishing

3. Subject to article 4, fishing for sea fish by any method, by any British fishing boat, is prohibited in Area A until the end of 13 February 2029.

Exemption from the prohibition in article 3

4.—(1) The prohibition in article 3 does not apply to—

(a) fishing for sea fish in Area A, other than in Area B or Area C, by a relevant British fishing boat,

(b) fishing for sea fish in Area B or Area C by a relevant British fishing boat during the periods referred to in paragraph (2),

(c) any operations involving fishing for sea fish which, under the authority of the Scottish Ministers, are conducted for the purpose of scientific investigation.

(2) The periods are—

(a) from the beginning of 1 May 2026 until the end of 13 February 2027,

(b) from the beginning of 1 May 2027 until the end of 13 February 2028, and

(c) from the beginning of 1 May 2028 until the end of 13 February 2029.

(3) In this article, "relevant British fishing boat" means any British fishing boat that has fished for sea fish in Area A and landed any quantity of sea fish on at least one occasion between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025.

Revocation

5. The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2024(**b**) is revoked.

MAIRI GOUGEON
A member of the Scottish Government

St Andrew's House,
Edinburgh
14th January 2026

(**a**) 1995 c. 21.
(**b**) S.S.I. 2024/6.

SCHEDULE

Article 2

Description of areas – boundary lines

PART 1

Boundary Line	*Set of co-ordinates of points which the boundary line joins*	*Topographic description of boundary line*
1.	O to P	Loxodrome
2.	P to Q	Loxodrome
3.	Q to O	Line following the mean high water spring mark

Where—

coordinate "O" is 55° 00.000' north latitude and 005° 10.120' west longitude,

coordinate "P" is 55° 00.000' north latitude and 005° 21.000' west longitude,

coordinate "Q" is 55° 17.962' north latitude and 005° 47.914' west longitude.

PART 2

Boundary Line	*Set of co-ordinates of points which the boundary line joins*	*Topographic description of boundary line*
1.	A to B	Loxodrome
2.	B to C	Loxodrome
3.	C to D	Loxodrome
4.	D to E	Loxodrome
5.	E to F	Loxodrome
6.	F to A	Line following the mean high water spring mark

Where—

coordinate "A" is 55° 30.000' north latitude and 005° 05.472' west longitude,

coordinate "B" is 55° 30.000' north latitude and 005° 00.000' west longitude,

coordinate "C" is 55° 23.820' north latitude and 005° 00.000' west longitude,

coordinate "D" is 55° 23.820' north latitude and 005° 24.600' west longitude,

coordinate "E" is 55° 30.000' north latitude and 005° 24.600' west longitude,

coordinate "F" is 55° 30.000' north latitude and 005° 19.947' west longitude.

PART 3

Boundary Line	*Set of co-ordinates of points which the boundary line joins*	*Topographic description of boundary line*
1.	A to B	Loxodrome
2.	B to C	Loxodrome
3.	C to D	Loxodrome

4.	D to E	Loxodrome
5.	E to F	Loxodrome
6.	F to G	Loxodrome
7.	G to H	Line following the mean high water spring mark
8.	H to I	Loxodrome
9.	I to J	Line following the mean high water spring mark
10.	J to K	Loxodrome
11.	K to L	Loxodrome
12.	L to M	Line following the mean high water spring mark
13.	M to N	Loxodrome
14.	N to A	Line following the mean high water spring mark

Where—

coordinate “A” is 55° 25.713’ north latitude and 005° 32.426’ west longitude,

coordinate “B” is 55° 26.100’ north latitude and 005° 31.920’ west longitude,

coordinate “C” is 55° 17.220’ north latitude and 005° 16.860’ west longitude,

coordinate “D” is 55° 10.680’ north latitude and 005° 14.700’ west longitude,

coordinate “E” is 55° 12.960’ north latitude and 005° 08.940’ west longitude,

coordinate “F” is 55° 13.860’ north latitude and 005° 00.000’ west longitude,

coordinate “G” is 55° 06.797’ north latitude and 005° 00.000’ west longitude,

coordinate “H” is 55° 00.000’ north latitude and 005° 02.496’ west longitude,

coordinate “I” is 55° 00.000’ north latitude and 005° 05.170’ west longitude,

coordinate “J” is 55° 00.000’ north latitude and 005° 10.120’ west longitude,

coordinate “K” is 55° 00.000’ north latitude and 005° 21.000’ west longitude,

coordinate “L” is 55° 17.962’ north latitude and 005° 47.914’ west longitude,

coordinate “M” is 55° 25.088’ north latitude and 005° 33.303’ west longitude,

coordinate “N” is 55° 25.392’ north latitude and 005° 33.065’ west longitude.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order prohibits all methods of fishing within specified areas of the Firth of Clyde (article 3).

Article 4 provides for exemptions to the prohibition on fishing in article 3 in respect of Area A and Areas B and C.

The areas closed to fishing under this Order are shown on the illustrative map which accompanies this Explanatory Note.

The Order applies only to British fishing boats (article 3).

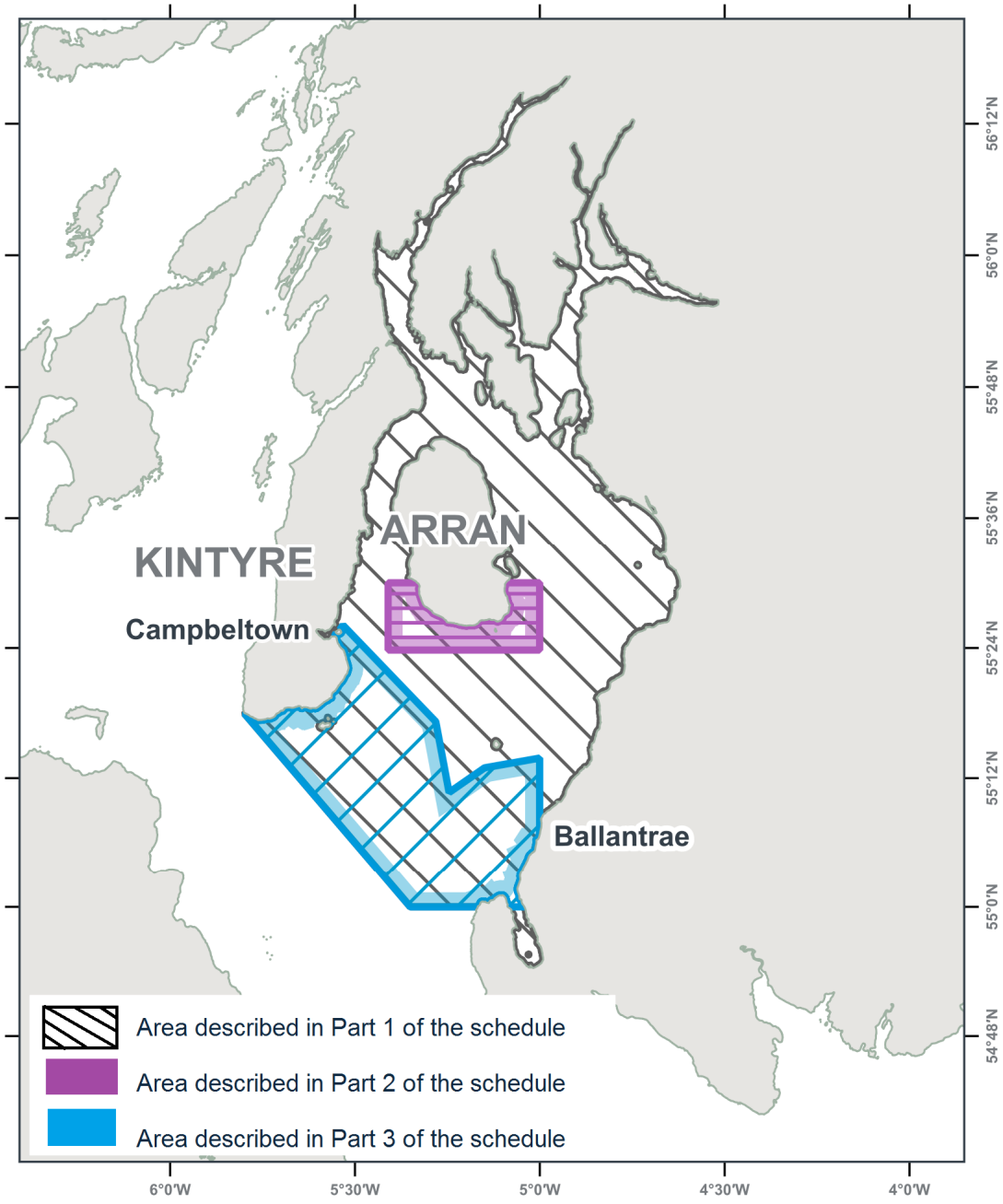
The South Arran Marine Conservation Order 2015 (S.S.I. 2015/437) imposes separate restrictions on activities within part of the area referred to in article 2 and described in Part 1 of the schedule.

Under section 5(1) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 it is an offence to contravene any prohibition imposed by this Order. The penalties are fixed by section 11 of that Act. On summary conviction, the penalty is a fine not exceeding £50,000. On conviction on indictment, the penalty is an unlimited fine. In either case, the court may also order forfeiture of any fish in respect of which the offence was committed and of any net or other fishing gear used in committing the offence. On summary conviction, if the court does not order the forfeiture of fish, it may impose an additional fine not exceeding the value of the fish.

The Order revokes the Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2024 (article 5).

A Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment ("BRIA") has been prepared in relation to this Order and placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre. Copies of the BRIA are available from the Scottish Government Marine Directorate, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ and online at www.legislation.gov.uk.

Illustrative Map Referred to in the Explanatory Note to the Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2026



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