STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 1

FISHERIES

The Shellfish Gathering (Conservation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Made - - - -	*6th January 2026*
Coming into operation	*6th February 2026*

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs(**a**) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 124(1) and (2) of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(**b**) and now vested in it.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Shellfish Gathering (Conservation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 and come into operation on 6th February 2026.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"inter-tidal area" means the area between the high water mark of ordinary spring tides and the low water mark of ordinary spring tides;

"periwinkles" means the species *Littorina littorea*;

Prohibition on the taking of periwinkles

3. Subject to regulation 4, a person must not take periwinkles by any means from the inter-tidal area during the period 1st January to 30th April, both dates inclusive, in any year.

Exemptions

4. The prohibition imposed by regulation 3 does not apply to any person operating under the authority of, and in accordance with a permit granted under section 14 of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on 6th January 2026.

(**a**) Formerly the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland; see S.I. 1999/283 (N.I.1), Article 3(4); and 2016 c. 5 (N.I.), Article 1(2)

(**b**) 1966 c.17 (N.I.), relevant amendments are 1981 No. 227 (N.I. 7); 2001 c. 4 (N.I.); S.I. 2002/790; and 2007 No. 915 (N.I. 9)

L.S.

Owen Lyttle
A senior officer of the
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations prohibit the taking of periwinkles from the inter-tidal area in Northern Ireland during the period 1 January to 30 April each year.

An exemption to this prohibition applies where a person has been granted a permit by the Department under section 14 of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966.

© Crown copyright 2026

Printed and published in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited under the authority and superintendence of Saul Nassé, Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office being the Government Printer for Northern Ireland and the Officer appointed to print Acts of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

£6.40

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/nisr/2026/1

ISBN 978-0-33-802563-0

