EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

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

S.R. 2026 No. 15

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.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by section 124 (1) and (2) of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this Rule is to revoke the Shellfish Gathering (Conservation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 (S.R. 2026 No.1).

3. Background

3.1. The Shellfish Gathering (Conservation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 (S.R. 2026 No. 1) was made on 6 January 2026 with a coming into operation date of 6 February 2026. The effect of these Regulations was to prohibit the taking of periwinkles in the Northern Ireland intertidal area each year during the months from January to April inclusive.

4. Consultation

4.1. Following further consultation with the Assembly's Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee, the Department has agreed to revoke the Shellfish Gathering (Conservation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 (S.R. 2026 No.1).

5. Equality Impact

5.1. There are no equality issues associated with this Statutory Rule.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. This Statutory Rule does not have any material impact on small businesses nor the community or voluntary sector in Northern Ireland.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications associated with the making of this Statutory Rule.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. This Statutory Rule complies with the provisions set out in Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. None.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable

11. Additional Information

11.1. For further information contact Patrick Smith (Tel. 028448618111) at the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs or e-mail patrick.smith@daera-ni.gov.uk or seafisheries@daera-ni.gov.uk.