

# Marine Management Organisation

## Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (c.23)

### The Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation (Specified Area) Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2022

The Marine Management Organisation<sup>1</sup>, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 129B of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, and having:

- placed copies of the draft byelaw in convenient places for the purpose of inspection in accordance with section 130(3) of that Act;
- provided a copy of the draft byelaw to any person upon request in accordance with section 130(4) of that Act;
- published notice of its proposal to make the byelaw in accordance with sections 130(6) and 130(7) of that Act;

makes the following byelaw to protect the following marine habitat: sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time.

#### Interpretation

1. In this byelaw:
  - a. “bottom towed fishing gear” means any trawls, seines, dredges or similar gear, including trawls towed on or very close to the sea bed, which are actively moved in the water by one or more fishing vessels or by any other mechanised system and in which any part of the gear is designed and rigged to operate on, and be in contact with, the seabed;
  - b. “inboard, lashed and stowed” means stored in such a way that it cannot readily be used for fishing; and,
  - c. “specified area” means the area defined in the Schedule.
2. Co-ordinates used in this byelaw are measured from WGS 84 datum. The WGS 84 means the World Geodetic System revised in 1984 and 2004.

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<sup>1</sup> The Marine Management Organisation was established by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, section 1.

### **Prohibition**

3. A person must not use bottom towed fishing gear in the specified area.
4. A vessel transiting through the specified area must have all bottom towed fishing gear inboard, lashed and stowed.

### **Exemption for Scientific, Stocking or Breeding Purposes**

5. Paragraphs 3 and 4 do not apply to a person performing an act which would otherwise constitute an offence against this byelaw, if:
  - a. the act was carried out in accordance with written permission issued by the Marine Management Organisation permitting that act for scientific, stocking or breeding purposes; or,
  - b. the act was carried out in accordance with a marine licence issued by the Secretary of State under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, in connection with a decommissioning programme required under Part IV of the Petroleum Act 1998 (c.17).

### **Citation**

6. This byelaw may be cited as the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation (Specified Area) Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2022.

Made under the Common Seal of the Marine Management Organisation on

The Common Seal of the Marine Management Organisation was affixed to this byelaw in the presence of:

Michael Coyle  
Director of Operations  
Marine Management Organisation

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in exercise of the power conferred by section 130(8) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 confirms this byelaw.

A Senior Civil Servant for, and on behalf of, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Date:

This byelaw comes into force on:

## Schedule

The “specified area” means the area enclosed by a line drawn from:

Point 1        55°11.7013'N 01° 36.7388'E; to  
Point 2        55°29.9112'N 02° 54.2228'E; to  
Point 3        55°29.0225'N 03° 15.0202'E; due east to  
the UK exclusive economic zone boundary; then  
following this boundary south; to  
latitude 54°22.5797'N; then due West to  
Point 4        54°22.5797'N 02°45.7588'E; to  
Point 5        54°18.2478'N 02°43.2465'E; to  
Point 6        54°16.0012'N 02°31.9277'E; to  
Point 7        54°14.3408'N 02°22.6527'E; to  
Point 8        54°17.6363'N 02°00.0962'E; to  
Point 9        54°29.4375'N 01° 16.6388'E; to  
Point 10       54°49.1315'N 01° 08.1282'E; to  
Point 11       55°03.5550'N 01° 19.6207'E; and returning to Point 1.

## Explanatory Note

*(This note is not part of the byelaw)*

The Marine Management Organisation has made this byelaw to protect the following marine habitat, which is a designated feature of the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation: sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time.

The byelaw prohibits the use of bottom towed fishing gear, including demersal seines and semi-pelagic towed gear, throughout the whole of the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation. The specified area includes a buffer zone to ensure that fishing activities taking place adjacent to the marine habitat do not negatively impact it.

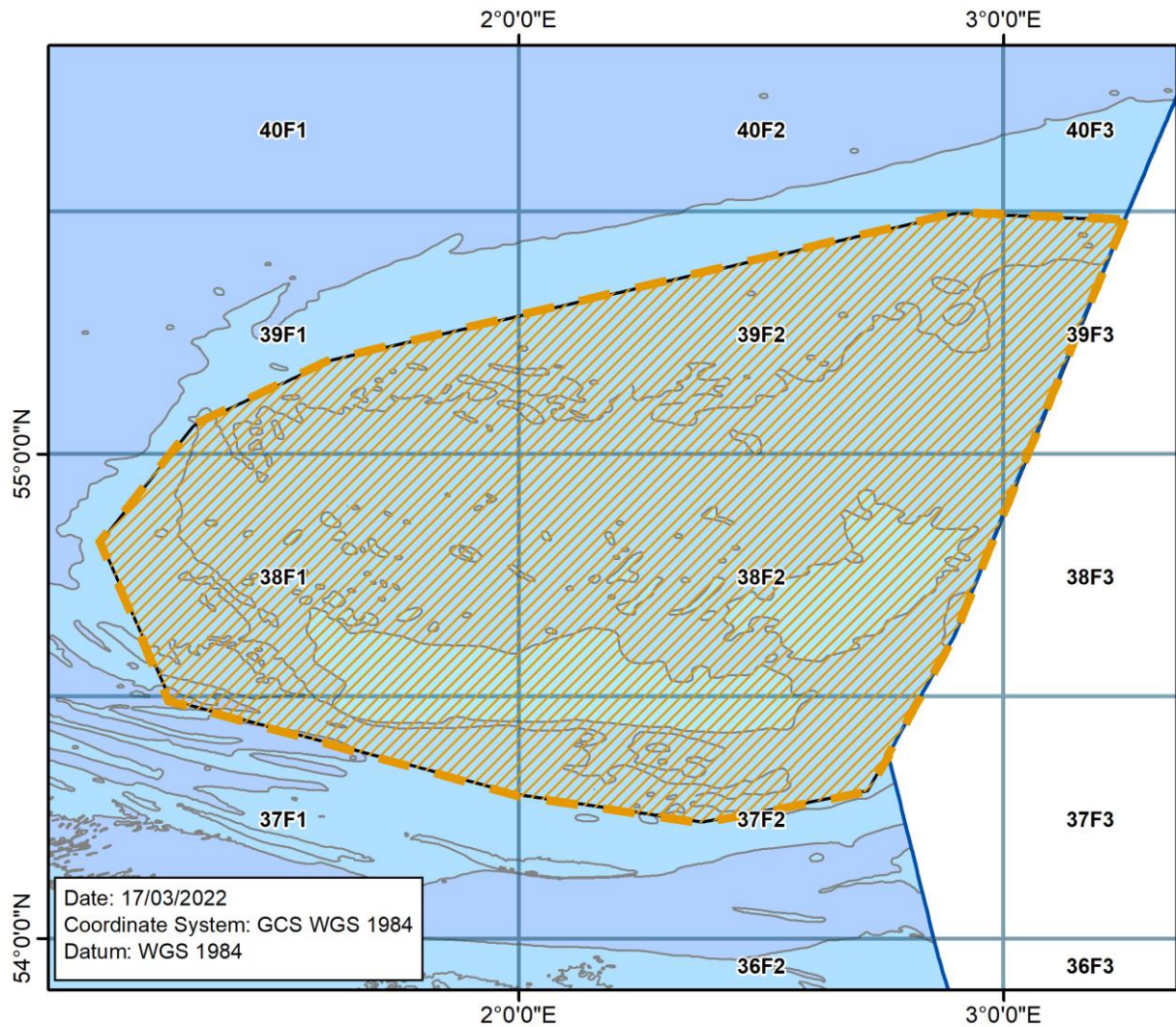
The specified area is defined in paragraph 1 of the Schedule to this byelaw.

The specified area is identified, for illustrative purposes only, on the map overleaf.

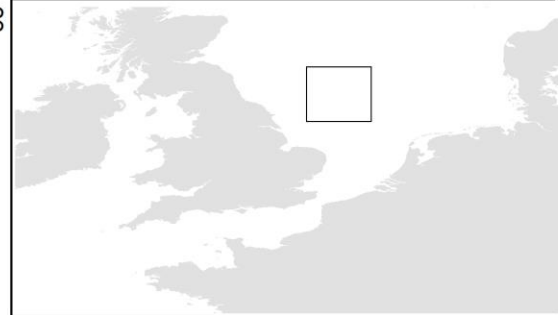


Marine  
Management  
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- Bathymetry Contours (UKHO)
  - UK EEZ
  - ICES Statistical Rectangles
  - Dogger Bank SAC
  - Specified area (bottom towed fishing prohibited)
- Depth Areas (UKHO)**
- ≤25m
  - ≤50m
  - ≤100m



Not to be used for navigation.  
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