



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

## **The Sea Fisheries (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2024 No.1028**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is The Sea Fisheries (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2024 No.1028 and why has it been introduced?**

Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 1028, laid before Parliament on 16th October 2024, enacts various fisheries management measures into law as part of the UK's commitment to manage fisheries through the production of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs).

Further information on FMPs can be found on the MMO website, [What are FMPs and how are they prepared – Fisheries Management Plans](#)

#### **Which FMPs does the new regulation relate to?**

SI No. 1028 introduces management measures for the following FMPs; Channel demersal non-quota species FMP, Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel mixed flatfish FMP, Crab and lobster FMP, and the Bass FMP.

#### **What are the main changes I should be aware of?**

- A new minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) is being introduced for lemon sole, turbot and brill, in English waters of the Channel Sea within ICES areas 7d and 7e. The new MCRS are set out in the table below.

Lemon Sole (LEM)	25cm
Brill (BLL)	30cm
Turbot (TUR)	30cm

- Additionally, the MCRS of crawfish has increased from 95mm to 110mm, and is applicable in all English waters.
- Vessels using flyseining gear within the English zone of ICES areas 7d and 7e, must use a minimum mesh size of 100mm.
- Vessels using flyseining gear that have an engine power greater than 221kw are not permitted to fish within 12nm of the English coast within ICES areas 7d and 7e.
- Bass catch limits have been removed from primary legislation and will now be managed and updated through fishing vessel licence conditions.

### What is defined as flyseining gear?

Flyseining gear is defined as encircling and towed gear, operated from a boat by the means of two long ropes (seine ropes) designed to herd the fish towards the opening of the seine. The gear is made up of a net which is similar in design to a bottom trawl. This includes the use of Danish seines (SDN) and Scottish seines (SSC).

### How do I know how much bass quota I have?

The bass quota allocations have been removed from legislation; Therefore, you should refer to your fishing vessel licence conditions for bass quota allocations.

### How do I comply with the new regulations?

- If you fish using flyseining gear in English waters of ICES area 7d and 7e, you must use a minimum mesh size of 100mm. Additionally, if you fish using flyseining gear in English waters of ICES area 7d and 7e, and your fishing vessel has an engine power greater than 221kw, you must not fish within 12nm of the English coast.
- Catches of lemon sole, brill and turbot caught and retained in ICES area 7d and 7e, must comply with the new MCRS for each species. Catches of these species below MCRS must be discarded.
- Crawfish which are caught and retained in all English waters, must comply with the new MCRS. Any below MCRS should be discarded.
- You should check your fishing vessel licence conditions regularly to ensure you are aware of and can remain within your catch limit for bass.

