

# LICENCE TO FISH IN UNITED KINGDOM WATERS – FAROE ISLANDS VESSEL

## PART 2: CONDITIONS

### Definitions and matters of general application:

In this licence:

‘British fishery limits’ has the same meaning as in Section 1 of the Fishery Limits Act 1976;

‘Northern Ireland zone’ has the same meaning as in the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (c.47) (see section 98(1) and (8) of that Act);

‘Scottish zone’ has the same meaning as in the Scotland Act 1998 (c.46) (see section 126(1) and (2) of that Act);

‘Welsh zone’ has the same meaning as in the Government of Wales Act 2006 (c.32) (see section 158(1) and (3) of that Act);

‘English zone’ means the sea within British fishery limits other than the Scottish zone, the Northern Ireland zone, the Welsh zone.

‘Relevant United Kingdom fisheries authority’ means, in the Scottish zone, the Scottish Ministers, in the Welsh zone the Welsh ministers, in the Northern Ireland zone the Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs for Northern Ireland and in the English zone, the Marine Management Organisation;

‘Single Issuing Authority’ means the Marine Management Organisation, operating as the UK Single Issuing Authority for sea fishing licensing;

‘The UK licences and notices regulations’ means the Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, the Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) (Wales) Regulations 2019, the Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and the Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) (England) Regulation 2012;

‘The vessel’ means the vessel in respect of which this licence is granted.

Where a condition of this licence requires the vessel to notify the United Kingdom Fisheries Monitoring Centre (**UKFMC**) the master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer of the vessel must do so:

- by telephone or marine radio on 0044 131 244 2286;
- by email to UKFMC@gov.scot inserting the relevant subject heading in the subject box

Unless otherwise stated, reference in this licence to EU, Council or Commission Regulations shall be read as reference to those Regulations as they form part of retained EU law which, by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, forms part of UK domestic law and as may subsequently be amended from time to time.

The vessel must comply with all the law applicable in the relevant UK zone in which the vessel is operating.

Where a condition of this licence refers to an area that is closed or in which restrictions on fishing activities apply, the condition refers only to those parts of that area which fall

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within British fishery limits.

## 1. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN BRITISH FISHERY LIMITS

- 1.1. The vessel may only fish in those parts of British fishery limits which are set out in section 3 of Part 1 and subject to the conditions set out herein, together with any specific fishing authorisations and associated conditions issued to the vessel.
- 1.2. The vessel must be registered as a fishing vessel and hold a valid fishing licence issued by its flag state. If at any time following the issue of this licence the vessel ceases to hold a valid fishing licence issued by its flag state, this licence shall immediately cease to be valid.
- 1.3. This licence shall cease to be valid if any of the details for the vessel as referred to in Part 1 and to which this licence relates are incorrect.
- 1.4. This licence may be revoked, suspended or varied at any time, by a notice communicated in accordance with the UK licence and notices regulations.
- 1.5. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the UK licence and notices regulations, notices relating to the revocation, suspension or variation of this licence will be published on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website at the following URL address:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/united-kingdom-single-issuing-authority-uksia>

It is the responsibility of the vessel owner, and the master or, where appropriate, charterer of the vessel, to ensure that they are aware of the licence conditions and any variations to them, as made from time to time.

- 1.6. A copy of this licence must be carried on board the vessel and produced to a British Sea Fishery Officer or Marine Enforcement Officer on demand. This condition may be fulfilled by production of a copy in electronic format.
- 1.7. At all times, the vessel must comply with the law of the United Kingdom legislation relating to sea fishing, including EU law as it has been retained into UK law under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, applicable in that part of British fishery limits in which the vessel is operating, as well as any flag state or European Union legislation applicable to the vessel whilst operating in United Kingdom waters.
- 1.8. In the event that flag state legislation applicable to the vessel whilst it is operating in United Kingdom waters conflicts with United Kingdom laws, United Kingdom legislation shall have supremacy.
- 1.9. At all times when operating within British fishery limits, the vessel must comply with the following provisions of retained EU legislation in the same way as they apply to United Kingdom vessels:
  - 1.9.1. The following provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures:
    - Annex V, Part C, Point 6.2 (prohibition on directed fishing for deepwater sharks in ICES divisions 3a and 4a in charted depths of less than 600 m).

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- Annex VI, Part C, Point 9.2 (prohibition on directed fishing for deepwater sharks in ICES divisions 5b, 6a, 6b, 7b, 7c, 7h, 7j and 7k in charted depths of less than 600 m).
- Annex VII, Part C, Point 4.2 (prohibition on directed fishing for deepwater sharks in ICES subareas 8, 9, 10, and 12 east of 27° W in charted depths of less than 600 m).

1.9.2. The following provisions of Council Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy:

- Article 15(1) and (2) (electronic completion and transmission of fishing logbook data). References in those articles to a fisheries administration are to be read as references to the competent authorities of the flag state of the vessel.
- Article 17(1) (prior notification). References in that article to a fisheries administration are to be read as references to the competent authorities of the flag state of the vessel.
- Article 20(3) (Transshipment operations).
- Article 21 (Completion and submission of the transshipment declaration).
- Article 22 (Electronic completion and transmission of transshipment declaration data).
- Article 44 (Separate stowage of demersal catches subject to multiannual plans).
- Article 48 (Retrieval of lost gear).
- Article 49 (Catch composition).
- Article 49a (Separate stowage of catches below the minimum conservation reference sizes).

1.9.3. The following provisions of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy:

- Article 6 (Marking of fishing vessels).
- Article 7 (Documents carried on board a fishing vessel).
- Article 8 (Marking of crafts and fish aggregating devices).
- Articles 9 to 12 (General rules for passive gear and beam trawls).
- Articles 13 to 17 (Rules for buoys and cords).
- Article 20 (Responsibilities of the masters concerning the satellite-tracking devices).
- Article 29 (Rules for fishing vessels subject to the completion and submission of a fishing logbook and transshipment / landing declaration in paper format).
- Article 49 (Conversion factors).

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1.9.4. The following provision of Council Regulation (EC) No 1984/2003 of 8 April 2003 introducing a system for the statistical monitoring of trade in swordfish and bigeye tuna within the Community:

- Article 5 (Statistical document for exportation).

1.9.5. The following provision of Council Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003 of 26 June 2003 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels:

- Article 3 (Prohibitions).

1.9.6. The following provision of Commission Regulation (EC) No 494/2002 of 19 March 2002 establishing additional technical measures for the recovery of the stock of hake in ICES sub-areas 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and ICES divisions 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e:

- Article 2

## 2. **PERMITTED CATCHES**

2.1. The vessel shall not retain on board, land or trans-ship any sea fish of the descriptions set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 3: Annex to this licence in the sea areas listed therein. Any sea fish so caught must be returned to the sea immediately.

2.2. The vessel must not retain on board, land or trans-ship fish taken in accordance with this licence in excess of the amounts specified in relation to each such species in paragraph 3 of Part 3: Annex of this licence.

## 3. **RECORDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

3.1. Masters shall send all electronic reports in conditions 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.7 below by email to the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre (UKFMC) [UKFMC@gov.scot](mailto:UKFMC@gov.scot)

3.2. The master of a vessel intending to fish in British Fishery Limits shall send a catch on entry (COE) report at least 2 hours and no more than 6 hours prior to entry into British Fishery Limits (UK EEZ).

3.2.1. The notification in condition 3.2 shall contain the following information:

- a) Email subject heading: NOTIFICATION OF CATCH ON ENTRY (FAROES VESSEL)
- b) Sequence number of the code
- c) Licence number (optional)
- d) Directed Species (Target species)
- e) International Radio Call Sign (IRCS)
- f) The vessel's IMO number
- g) The number of the trip within this year (optional)

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- h) Name of Vessel
- i) The name of the Master of the vessel
- j) External registration number
- k) Area in which the vessel will fish
- l) Latitude of report transmission
- m) Longitude of report transmission
- n) Total Catch on Board by Species (FAO 3 alpha code) in kilogrammes (kg) live weight
- o) Date of report transmission (dd-mm-yyyy)
- p) Time of report transmission UTC (24 hh:mm)
- q) Remarks

3.3. The vessel may only commence fishing activities after having received authorisation from the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre (UKFMC) in response to the report outlined in condition 3.2.

3.4. The master shall send a daily catch (CAT) report every day before 12:00 UTC of the previous day's catches. This report shall be sent even if there are no catches.

3.4.1. The notification in condition 3.4 shall contain the following information:

- a) Subject heading: NOTIFICATION OF DAILY CATCH (FAROES VESSEL)
- b) Sequence number of the code
- c) Licence number (optional)
- d) Directed Species (Target species)
- e) International Radio Call Sign (IRCS)
- f) The vessel's IMO number
- g) The number of the trip within this year (optional)
- h) Name of vessel
- i) The name of the Master of the vessel
- j) External registration number
- k) The area in which the ship is fishing
- l) Latitude of report transmission
- m) Longitude of report transmission
- n) Catch of the previous day (00:00 to 23:59) by species (FAO 3 alpha code) in kilogrammes (kg) live weight
- o) Total catch on board by species (FAO 3 alpha code) in kilogrammes (kg) live weight.

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- p) Date of CAT report transmission (dd-mm-yyyy)
- q) Time of report transmission UTC (24 hh:mm)
- r) Remarks

3.5. The master shall send a Catch on Exit (COX) report at least four hours prior to the intention of leaving British Fishery Limits. This report may be cancelled or corrected.

3.5.1. The notification in condition 3.5 shall contain the following information:

- a) Subject heading: NOTIFICATION OF CATCH ON EXIT (FAROES VESSEL)
- b) Sequence number of the code
- c) Licence number (optional)
- d) Directed Species (Target species)
- e) International Radio Call Sign (IRCS)
- f) The vessel's IMO number
- g) The number of the trip within this year (optional)
- h) Name of vessel
- i) The name of the Master of the vessel
- j) External registration number
- k) The area in which the ship is fishing
- l) Latitude of report transmission
- m) Longitude of report transmission
- n) Catch of the previous day (00:00 to 23:59) by species (FAO 3 alpha code) in kilogrammes (kg) live weight
- o) Total catch on board by species (FAO 3 alpha code) in kilogrammes (kg) live weight.
- p) Port of landing or transshipment
- q) Company or vessel to which the catch will be landed or transhipped
- r) Estimated date of landing or transshipment (dd-mm-yyyy).
- s) Estimated time of landing or transshipment (UTC) (24 hh:mm)
- t) Remarks

3.6. The vessel may only leave British Fishery Limits (UK EEZ) after having received acknowledgement from the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre (UKFMC) in response to the report outlined in condition 3.5.

3.7. If instructions have been received by the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre (UKFMC) to present the vessel for inspection at a Control Area in response to

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reports sent in line with conditions 3.2 and 3.5, the master will use one of the following Control Areas.

| Control Point                                       | Code    |
|---|---------|
| UK Demersal Inspection CPT 1 (ICES rectangle 50 E9) | GBRCPT1 |
| UK Demersal Inspection CPT 2 (ICES rectangle 49 E8) | GBRCPT2 |

3.8. If instructions have been received by the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre (UKFMC) to present the vessel for inspection at a UK port, it will be one of the ports specified below:

- Lerwick
- Scrabster

### 4. **Marine Mammal Bycatch Reporting**

4.1. Where the vessel undertakes fishing activities the result of which causes or contributes to the mortality of or injury to any species of marine mammal, or where such species are taken as bycatch (regardless of whether such catches are retained on board) the master, owner, charterer, as appropriate, of the vessel to which this licence relates must complete and submit to the Marine Management Organisation a marine mammal injury reporting form in accordance with the guidance provided at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/marine-mammal-reporting-requirements> no later than 48 hours after the vessel returns to port.

4.2. For the purposes of this licence condition, the term “marine mammal” means any mammal which (a) is morphologically adapted to the marine environment including sea otters and members of the orders Cetacea (whales, dolphins, and porpoises), Pinnipedia, (walrus, seals and sea lions) and Sirenia (dugongs and manatees), or (b) primarily inhabits the marine environment (such as the polar bear); and includes any part of any such marine mammal, including but not limited to its raw, dressed, or dyed fur or skin.

### 5. **LANDING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STOCKS**

5.1. Landings into the United Kingdom of North Sea herring caught under the authority of this licence shall only be landed at one of the ports specified below:

- Aberdeen
- Fraserburgh
- Grimsby
- Hull
- Lerwick
- Peterhead

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## 6. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY TO UK PORTS

- 6.1. If landing into a UK port, the owner, master and/or charterer of a fishing vessel shall not commence landing, transshipment or make use of other port services, unless prior authorisation has been granted by the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre; and, the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) period, as stated in the prior notification form (PSC1 or PSC2), has expired.
- 6.2. The master of a fishing vessel may commence landing, transshipment and/or make use of other port services prior to the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) with written permission from the competent authorities of the port State. The master shall present evidence of this permission on request by an inspector.

## 7. PAIR TRAWLING

- 7.1. The vessel shall not pair trawl in UK waters with a vessel of another flag state without prior approval from a relevant United Kingdom fisheries authority.

## 8. FISHING GEAR AND EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

- 8.1. The vessel shall only carry on board electrical generating equipment required for safe navigation and safe operation of the vessel. The vessel shall not carry on board nor deploy into the sea any electrical equipment, including electrical generators, cables, probes, grids or any other equipment capable of transmitting electrical currents to the seabed.

### Celtic Sea Technical Measures

- 8.2. Where the vessel fishes using bottom otter trawls or bottom seines (OTB, OTT, OT, PTB, PT, SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV, TBN, TBS, TB, TX) in those parts of British fishery limits which fall within the Celtic Sea Protection Zone it must use a codend<sup>1</sup> with minimum 110 mm mesh size and fitted with a square mesh panel with 120 mm minimum mesh size.
- 8.3. Where the vessel fishes using otter trawls or bottom seines in those parts of British fishery limits which fall within ICES divisions 7e-j other than those referred to in condition 8.2 above, it must use a codend with minimum 100 mm mesh size, and when fishing west of longitude 5° W it must also use a square mesh panel with minimum 100 mm mesh size.
- 8.4. Where the vessel fishes using otter trawls or bottom seines in ICES divisions 7e-j it must use a codend that is constructed of a single twine of a maximum of 6 mm or a double twine of a maximum of 4 mm.

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<sup>1</sup> Including any extension piece attached thereto

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- 8.5. Where the vessel fishes using otter trawls or bottom seine in ICES divisions 7e-j, other than when targeting nephrops, it must not use or carry on board a strengthening bag<sup>2</sup>.
- 8.6. The obligation in condition 8.2 does not apply to a vessel which fishes using otter trawls or bottom seines in ICES division 7f within 12 nautical miles of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom is measured, which must instead use a codend with minimum 100 mm mesh size and square mesh panel with minimum 100 mm mesh size.
- 8.7. The obligation in conditions 8.2 and 8.3 do not apply to a vessel whose catch comprises 5% or more of nephrops, which must instead use any one of the following gear configurations:
- a) a codend of at least 80 mm mesh size coupled with a 300 mm square mesh panel (for vessels in excess of 12 metres in length) or a 200 mm square mesh panel (for vessel below 12 metres in length);
  - b) Seltra panel;
  - c) Sorting grid with a 35 mm bar spacing;
  - d) 100 mm codend with a 100 mm square mesh panel;
  - e) Dual codend with the uppermost codend constructed with T90 mesh of at least 90 mm and fitted with a separation panel with a maximum mesh size of 300 mm.
- 8.8. The obligation in condition 8.2 does not apply to a vessel whose catch comprises more than 55% of whiting, or 55% of anglerfish, hake or megrim combined, which must instead use a codend with minimum 100 mm mesh size and square mesh panel with minimum 100 mm mesh size.
- 8.9. The obligation in condition 8.2 does not apply to a vessel which fishes solely in ICES division 7f to the east of longitude 5° W west and whose catch comprises less than 10% gadoids (*Gadidae*), which must instead use a codend with minimum 80 mm mesh size and a square mesh panel with minimum 120 mm mesh size.
- 8.10. The obligation in condition 8.2 condition 8.3 or condition 8.6 does not apply to a vessel which fishes West of longitude 5° West, in ICES divisions 7e, or in ICES division 7f within 12 nautical miles of the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea adjacent to the United Kingdom is measured, provided that the vessel instead uses a 100 mm single twine codend with maximum 5mm twine thickness, derogating from the twine thickness requirements in 8.4.
- 8.11. By way of derogation to points 8.2, 8.3 and 8.6 – 6.9 above, vessels of 12 m or less and an engine power of 221 kw or less fishing within 12 nm of the United Kingdom in ICES area 7e east of 5 degrees west, may fish in accordance Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20

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<sup>2</sup> as defined by article 6 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3440/84 of 6 December 1984 on the attachment of devices to trawls, Danish seines and similar nets

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June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures.

8.12. For the purposes of this condition, the Celtic Sea Protection Zone shall mean ICES divisions 7f, 7g, that part of ICES division 7h which is north of latitude 49° 30' N and that part of ICES division 7j which is north of latitude 49° 30' North and east of longitude 11°W.

8.13. Square mesh panels as referred to in this condition shall be placed into the top panel of the codend. The rearmost edge of the square mesh panel, which is the part closest to the codline, shall be no more than 9 metres from the codline.

## **9. AREAS IN WHICH THE VESSEL MAY NOT FISH**

9.1. Where a provision of this licence prohibits the vessel from fishing in an area, the vessel must not be present in that area other than when travelling at a speed of greater than six knots (except in the case of force majeure or adverse weather conditions).

9.2. In case of force majeure or adverse weather conditions during which the vessel is or will be present in such an area, the master of the vessel must immediately notify the UKFMC. The notification shall contain the following information:

9.2.1. the subject heading: FORCE MAJEURE OR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

9.2.2. the name, external identification and international radio call sign of the vessel;

9.2.3. the name of the master of the vessel;

9.2.4. the geographical location of the vessel to which the notification refers;

9.2.5. the area into which the fishing vessel will enter;

9.2.6. the expected date and time of exit;

9.2.7. the catch retained on board by species in kilograms live weight.

9.3. Where a provision of this licence prohibits the vessel from fishing in an area the vessel may transit any such closed area provided that all fishing gear is lashed and stowed in such a way that it may not be used deployed in the water prior to entry to the closed area(s) and remains lashed and stowed until its departure from the closed area(s).

## **10. CLOSURES**

### **Farne Deeps Restrictions**

10.1. Subject to the exemptions below vessels deploying demersal trawls and seines (with the exception of beam trawls) are prohibited from fishing in the Farne Deeps.

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10.2. The prohibition in condition 10.1 shall not apply to vessels deploying single-rig or twin-rig demersal trawls or seines outside 12 nautical miles of the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured and:

- 10.2.1. of which the mesh size of the cod-end and any extension piece is 90 mm or greater in respect of single rigged vessels and is constructed wholly or in part of a single twine of 5 mm or less, or
- 10.2.2. of which the mesh size of the cod-end and any extension piece is 100 mm or greater and is constructed wholly or in part of a multiple twine of which no twine is of a thickness greater than 5 mm and which is deployed only between 00:00 on 15 May and 23:59 on 15 September, or
- 10.2.3. of which the mesh size of the cod-end and any extension piece is 120 mm or greater and is constructed wholly or in part of a multiple twine of which no twine is of a thickness greater than 5 mm.

10.3. Vessels fishing in accordance with the exemptions in 10.2.2. and 10.2.3. above are not permitted to deploy demersal trawls or seines with more than one cod-end per rig.

10.4. For the purposes of the prohibitions above “Farne Deeps” shall consist of all waters within the following ICES statistical rectangles:

- 38E8
- 38E9
- 39E8
- 39E9
- 40E8
- 40E9

### **11. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN THE SCOTTISH ZONE**

#### **Notification of variations**

11.1. The master, owner or charterer, as appropriate, of the vessel to which this licence relates shall ensure that, no later than midnight every Friday in each week, the Single Issuing Authority website page is viewed, in order to check for notices of variation, suspension or revocation affecting the licence, which appear on that page linked in 1.5.

#### **Observers**

11.2. The vessel shall, on receipt of a reasonable request, accept on board observers authorised by the Scottish Ministers to undertake activities specified by the Scottish Ministers. The master of the vessel shall provide adequate

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accommodation for observers, facilitate their work and avoid interference with the discharge of their duties. The master of the vessel shall also provide observers access to relevant parts of the vessel, including the catch, and to the vessel's documents including electronic files.

## Use of Fishing Equipment

### **Requirements for Square Mesh Escapement Panel**

- 11.3. The vessel must, when fishing with trawls or seines with cod-end mesh size of 70 mm or greater but less than 100 mm, install into their fishing gear a 200 mm square mesh escapement panel which has no more than two open diamond meshes (five in the North Sea) between the longitudinal side of the panel and the adjacent selvedge and shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of a net in front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end. The overall length of the panel will be 3 metres and will be positioned no further than 12-15 metres from the cod-line (i.e. the rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line). If the vessel has engine power of 112 kilowatts or less the overall length of the panel may be 2 metres.
- 11.4. The vessel must, when fishing with trawls or seines with cod-end mesh size of 100 mm or greater but less than 120 mm, install into their fishing gear a 120 mm square mesh escapement panel which has no more than two open diamond meshes (5 in the North Sea) between the longitudinal side of the panel and the adjacent selvedge and shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of a net in front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end. The overall length of the panel will be 3 metres and will be positioned no further than 12-15 metres from the cod-line (i.e. the rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line). If the vessel has engine power of 112 kilowatts (taken from the vessel's certificate of registry or this licence, including any mismatch) or less the overall length of the panel may be 2 metres.
- 11.5. Vessels operating with bottom trawls or seines within the Scottish Zone of ICES divisions 6a and 5b and East of 12°W (West of Scotland) shall comply with the following measures: (a) mandatory use of a square mesh panel (positioning retained) of at least 300 mm for vessels deploying a cod-end mesh size less than 100 mm; for vessels below 12 m in length over all and/or with engine power of 200 kW or less, the panel overall length may be 2 m and the panel 200 mm in Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) fisheries; (b) mandatory use of a square mesh panel (positioning retained) of at least 160 mm mesh size for vessels deploying a cod-end mesh size of 100-119 mm and if catches comprising more than 30% of Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*).
- 11.5.1. A selective gear or device assessed and certified by one of the relevant United Kingdom fisheries authorities as having the same or higher selectivity characteristics for cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) and whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) then the measures set out in paragraph 8.3 may be used as an alternative to those measures.

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## **North Sea Cod Avoidance Plan**

11.6. The vessel to which this licence relates, whilst using mobile gear, must use a minimum mesh size of 120 mm in all waters or sea area 4, bar activity in mud areas/nephrops areas. There are eight defined mud/nephrops areas within the 120 mm zone which are exempt on the basis that mud areas are primarily nephrops grounds. In these areas it is permitted to use gear less than 120 mm. Vessels using gear that is not designed to come into contact with the bottom, and are fishing for herring, mackerel, horse mackerel, sprats or blue whiting, or targeting sandeel, Norway pout or Northern prawn are derogated from the above compulsory measures, these areas are detailed in the attached webpage – <https://www.gov.scot/publications/north-sea-cod-plan/>

## **Rockall Haddock Box and Northwest Rockall**

11.7. When the vessel to which this licence relates is present within either of the closed areas Rockall Haddock Box or North West Rockall, described in paragraph 4 of Part C of Annex VI and paragraph 1 of Part D of Annex XII of retained Regulation (EU) 2019/1241, respectively, it must

11.7.1. maintain a speed of six knots or more (except in the case of force majeure) and,

11.7.2. prior to entry into either of those areas, ensure that all fishing gear is lashed and stowed in accordance with Article 47 of retained Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 and remains lashed and stowed until departure.

11.8. If the fishing vessel to which this licence relates travels at a speed below six knots within Rockall Haddock Box or Northwest Rockall, including in the case of force majeure, it must comply with condition 9 and provide an explanation to UKFMC as to why the vessel was there below six knots.

11.9. Conditions 11.7 and 11.8 do not apply to longline vessels fishing in the Rockall Haddock Box.

## **12. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN THE WELSH ZONE**

### **Square mesh panel installation measures**

12.1. Where the vessel is required, by virtue of this licence or other legislation, to fit a square mesh panel, unless otherwise specified, it must be fitted in accordance with the following requirements:

12.1.1. It shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of the net in front of any extension piece or at any point between the front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end;

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- 12.1.2. It shall not be obstructed in any way by either internal or external attachments;
- 12.1.3. It shall be at least three metres in length; except when incorporated into nets towed by vessels of less than 112 kilowatts, when it must be of at least two metres in length;
- 12.1.4. The rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line;
- 12.1.5. It shall be constructed of knotless netting or of netting constructed with non-slip knots, and shall be inserted in such a way that the meshes remain fully open at all times while fishing;
- 12.1.6. It shall be constructed so that the number of meshes in the anterior row of meshes of the panel is equal to or greater than the number of meshes in the posterior row of meshes in the panel;
- 12.1.7. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted in an un-tapered portion of the net, there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between each panel side and the adjacent selvages of the net;
- 12.1.8. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted, wholly or partially, into a tapered portion of the net there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between the posterior row of meshes in the square-meshed panel and the adjacent selvages of the net;
- 12.1.9. Measurements of the mesh size of any square-meshed panel inserted into any part of a net shall not be taken into consideration when assessing the mesh size of a towed net;
- 12.1.10. Where the vessel deploys a net in which a square mesh panel is inserted other than by virtue of this licence or other legislation, the square mesh panel shall adhere to the minimum mesh size requirements for the net into which it is inserted.

### **13. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN THE NORTHERN IRISH ZONE**

#### **Square mesh panel installation measures**

- 13.1. Where the vessel is required, by virtue of this licence or other legislation, to fit a square mesh panel, unless otherwise specified, it must be fitted in accordance with the following requirements:
  - 13.1.1. It shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of the net in front of any extension piece or at any point between the front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end;
  - 13.1.2. It shall not be obstructed in any way by either internal or external attachments;
  - 13.1.3. It shall be at least three metres in length; except when incorporated into nets towed by vessels of less than 112 kilowatts, when it must be of at least two metres in length;
  - 13.1.4. The rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line;

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- 13.1.5. It shall be constructed of knotless netting or of netting constructed with non-slip knots, and shall be inserted in such a way that the meshes remain fully open at all times while fishing;
- 13.1.6. It shall be constructed so that the number of meshes in the anterior row of meshes of the panel is equal to or greater than the number of meshes in the posterior row of meshes in the panel;
- 13.1.7. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted in an un-tapered portion of the net, there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between each panel side and the adjacent selvages of the net;
- 13.1.8. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted, wholly or partially, into a tapered portion of the net there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between the posterior row of meshes in the square-meshed panel and the adjacent selvages of the net;
- 13.1.9. Measurements of the mesh size of any square-meshed panel inserted into any part of a net shall not be taken into consideration when assessing the mesh size of a towed net;
- 13.1.10. Where the vessel deploys a net in which a square mesh panel is inserted other than by virtue of this licence or other legislation, the square mesh panel shall adhere to the minimum mesh size requirements for the net into which it is inserted.
- 13.2. It is prohibited to fish for herring from 00:01hrs 21 September 2024 to 23:59hrs 31 December 2024, within the part of ICES Division 7a bounded by the following coordinates:
- the east coast of Northern Ireland at latitude 54°15' N,
  - latitude 54°15' N, longitude 5°15' W,
  - latitude 53°50' N, longitude 5° 50' W,
  - the east coast of Ireland at latitude 53°50' N;
- 13.3. By way of derogation from 13.2 the vessel may deploy drift nets within the restricted area if it holds, and complies with the conditions of, a valid Mourne Shore Herring Fishery licence, as issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland).

### **Irish Sea Conservation Measures**

- 13.4. Vessels operating in the Northern Ireland zone of ICES Area 7a must comply with the specific technical measures described for the Irish Sea as specified in EU Regulations (EU) 2019/1241 and (EU) 2019/2239. These regulations provide a number of options for highly selective gears (HSE) that must be used in the Irish Sea.
- 13.5. All vessels must use an appropriate highly selective gear in the Irish Sea.

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13.6. Vessels (greater than 12 m in length) operating with bottom trawls or seines with catches comprising more than 10% of haddock, cod and skates and rays combined, shall use one of the following gear options: (a) 120 mm cod-end; (b) an eliminator trawl with 600 mm large mesh panels and a 100 mm cod-end.

13.7. The gears described above paragraph 13.6 cannot be used within Northern Ireland zone of the Irish Sea (ICES Area 7a) from 14 February to 30 April 2024, both dates inclusive, within the following area:

- a point on the east coast of the Ards peninsula in Northern Ireland at 54°30'N
- 54°30' N, 04°50' W
- 53°15' N, 04°50' W
- a point on the east coast of Ireland at 53°15' N.

### **Irish Sea Observation Programme**

13.8. Vessels must carry a scientific observer on-board their vessel if requested to do so.

13.9. If a vessel has been advised that it has been selected to carry an observer on board it must not leave port without the observer.

### **Prohibition on the deployment of mechanical, hydraulic, suction or any other form of dredging gear in the defined area of Donaghadee Sound**

13.10. The vessel to which this licence relates is prohibited at all times from deploying, mechanical, suction, hydraulic or other form of, dredging gear in the defined area of Donaghadee Sound, County Down, Northern Ireland, subject to the derogation in 13.12.

13.11. The Defined area of Donaghadee Sound is the area:

- 54° 39.97N 005° 34.08W
- 54° 40.60N 005° 32.58W
- 54° 40.24N 005° 31.24W
- 34° 39.80N 004° 30.77W
- 54° 38.70N 005° 31.85W

13.12. By way of derogation from 13.10 the vessel to which this licence relates may deploy dredging gear for mussel seed only within the defined area of Donaghadee Sound if it holds, and complies with the conditions of, a valid licence for Collecting Mussel Seed, issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland).

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## Prohibition on fishing in Strangford Lough

- 13.13. The vessel to which this licence relates is prohibited at all times from fishing in Strangford Lough, County Down, Northern Ireland.
- 13.14. “Strangford Lough” means the area of sea to the northwest of an imaginary straight line drawn from Killard Point, County Down (54° 18.0’N and 5° 31.0’W) to Ballyquintin Point, County Down (54° 20.0’N and 5° 29.0’W).

## 14. LICENCE CONDITIONS THAT APPLY IN THE ENGLISH ZONE

### Square mesh panel installation measures

- 14.1. Where the vessel is required, by virtue of this licence or other legislation, to fit a square mesh panel, unless otherwise specified, it must be fitted in accordance with the following requirements:
- 14.1.1. It shall be placed in the top half or top sheet of the net in front of any extension piece or at any point between the front of any extension piece and the posterior of the cod-end;
  - 14.1.2. It shall not be obstructed in any way by either internal or external attachments;
  - 14.1.3. It shall be at least three metres in length; except when incorporated into nets towed by vessels of less than 112 kilowatts, when it must be of at least two metres in length;
  - 14.1.4. The rearmost row of meshes of the panel shall be no more than 12 metres from the cod-line;
  - 14.1.5. It shall be constructed of knotless netting or of netting constructed with non-slip knots, and shall be inserted in such a way that the meshes remain fully open at all times while fishing;
  - 14.1.6. It shall be constructed so that the number of meshes in the anterior row of meshes of the panel is equal to or greater than the number of meshes in the posterior row of meshes in the panel;
  - 14.1.7. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted in an un-tapered portion of the net, there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between each panel side and the adjacent selvages of the net;
  - 14.1.8. In any net in which a square-meshed panel is inserted, wholly or partially, into a tapered portion of the net there shall be no more than five open diamond meshes between the posterior row of meshes in the square-meshed panel and the adjacent selvages of the net;
  - 14.1.9. Measurements of the mesh size of any square-meshed panel inserted into any part of a net shall not be taken into consideration when assessing the mesh size of a towed net;
  - 14.1.10. Where the vessel deploys a net in which a square mesh panel is inserted other than by virtue of this licence or other legislation, the square mesh panel shall adhere to the minimum mesh size requirements for the net into which it is inserted.

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## **Sandeel closure**

14.2. From 00:01 26 March 2024 the fishing of sandeel within English waters of ICES subarea 4 (North Sea) is prohibited by all vessels. “Sandeel” means fish species of the family *Ammodytidae*.

## **North Sea cod avoidance plan seasonal closures**

14.3. The vessel must not be present in an area specified in the table below, other than when transiting at a speed of more than six knots (except in the case of force majeure or adverse conditions).

| <b>English Closure Number</b> | <b>Coordinates and Description</b>  | <b>Closed Between</b> |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Seasonal closure 1            | 52°41.000'N 003°18.000'E – a circle of 10 nautical miles from this point  | 1 January – 30 April  |
| Seasonal closure 2            | 52°10.500'N 002°50.750'E – a circle of 10 nautical miles from this point. | 1 January – 30 April  |

14.4. The prohibition in 14.3 above shall not apply to vessels exclusively using pelagic trawls and purse seines.

## **Single Area Licence Conditions**

14.5. Where the vessel deploys beam trawls within that part of British Fishery Limits which falls within ICES area 7e east of 5 degrees west (“the relevant area”), it may not fish in any other ICES area within British Fishery Limits during the same voyage. For any voyage where beam trawls are deployed in the relevant area the vessel must depart from and return to (and only to) a UK port.

14.6. The vessel shall be exempt from the provisions in 14.5. provided the following requirements are met;

14.6.1. The master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer vessel contacts the UKFMC at least 4 hours and no more than 8 hours prior to entry into the area in the relevant area and, if requested, facilitates an inspection of the vessel at a position and time provided by the MMO FMC Operations team, prior to commencing fishing operations; and,

14.6.2. The master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer vessel contacts the UKFMC at least 4 hours and no more than 8 hours before leaving the relevant area and, if requested, facilitates an inspection of the vessel at a position and time provided by the MMO FMC Operations team, before leaving the relevant area.

## LICENCE TO FISH IN UNITED KINGDOM WATERS – FAROE ISLANDS VESSEL

14.7. The notification at 14.6.1. shall contain the following information:

- 14.7.1. subject heading: NOTIFICATION OF ENTRY INTO SOLE RECOVERY ZONE RELEVANT AREA
- 14.7.2. the name, external identification, and international radio call sign of the vessel;
- 14.7.3. the name of the master of the vessel;
- 14.7.4. Date/time/location of intended entry into the area and the intended commencement of fishing activity in the relevant area in the following format:
  - a) in respect of the position of entry, the approximate latitude and longitude of the position at which the vessel will enter the area, and
  - b) in respect of intended fishing grounds, the ICES statistical rectangles in which fishing operations will be commenced.
- 14.7.5. the total quantity of sole retained on board in kilograms live weight.

14.8. The notification at 14.6.2. shall contain the following information:

- 14.8.1. subject heading: NOTIFICATION OF EXIT FROM SOLE RECOVERY ZONE RELEVANT AREA
- 14.8.2. the name, external identification, and international radio call sign of the vessel;
- 14.8.3. the expected date/time/location of exiting the relevant area.
- 14.8.4. the total quantity of sole retained on board in kilograms live weight.

14.9. If, at the point the vessel enters the area the quantity of sole retained on board is different to the quantity reported in accordance with condition 14.7.5. above then the master, owner or (where appropriate) the charterer of the vessel must immediately, and before commencing fishing operations, notify the UKFMC of the quantity of sole retained on board.

14.10. The vessel may not be present in the relevant area whilst carrying beam trawls on board other than in accordance with 14.5. and 14.6. or when transiting at a speed of greater than six knots (except in the case of force majeure or adverse conditions) in accordance with condition 9.1 or when in port. Beam trawls must be lashed and stowed in accordance with condition 9.3.

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# LICENCE TO FISH IN UNITED KINGDOM WATERS – FAROE ISLANDS VESSEL

## PART 3: ANNEX

### 1. PROHIBITED SPECIES

| Description of Sea Fish  | Areas of Sea  |
|--|---|
| The following species of sawfish:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. narrow sawfish (<i>Anoxypristis cuspidata</i>);</li> <li>2. dwarf sawfish (<i>Pristis clavata</i>);</li> <li>3. smalltooth sawfish (<i>Pristis pectinata</i>);</li> <li>4. largetooth sawfish (<i>Pristis pristis</i>);</li> <li>5. green sawfish (<i>Pristis zijsron</i>);</li> </ol>  | All waters  |
| Basking shark ( <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> ) and white shark ( <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> )  | All waters  |
| Smooth lantern shark ( <i>Etmopterus pusillus</i> )  | United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4 and in United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 5, 6, 7 and 8 |
| Reef manta ray ( <i>Manta alfredi</i> )  | All   |
| Giant manta ray ( <i>Manta birostris</i> )   | All   |
| The following species of Mobula rays:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. devil fish (<i>Mobula mobular</i>);</li> <li>2. lesser Guinean devil ray (<i>Mobula rochebrunei</i>);</li> <li>3. spinetail mobula (<i>Mobula japanica</i>);</li> <li>4. smoothtail mobula (<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>);</li> <li>5. longhorned mobula (<i>Mobula eregoodootenkee</i>);</li> <li>6. Munk's devil ray (<i>Mobula munkiana</i>);</li> <li>7. Chilean devil ray (<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>);</li> <li>8. shortfin devil ray (<i>Mobula kuhlii</i>);</li> <li>9. lesser devil ray (<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>);</li> </ol> | All   |
| Norwegian skate ( <i>Raja (Dipturus) nidarosiensis</i> )   | United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 6a, 6b, 7a, 7e, 7f, 7g and 7h   |
| White skate ( <i>Raja alba</i> )   | United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 6, 7 and 8   |
| Guitarfishes ( <i>Rhinobatidae</i> )   | United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 5–8  |
| Angel shark ( <i>Squatina squatina</i> )   | All   |
| Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) and sea trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )  | United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 2 and 4-8  |
| Houting ( <i>Coregonus oxyrhynchus</i> )   | United Kingdom waters of ICES division 4b   |
| The Adriatic sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser naccarii</i> ) and common sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser sturio</i> )  | All   |
| Hatpin urchin ( <i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i> )   | All   |

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Starry ray ( <i>Amblyraja radiata</i> )   | United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 2a and 7d and ICES subarea 4;   |
| Leafscale gulper shark ( <i>Centrophorus squamosus</i> )  | United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4   |
| Portuguese dogfish ( <i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i> )  | United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4   |
| Kitefin shark ( <i>Dalatias licha</i> )   | United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4   |
| Birdbeak dogfish ( <i>Deania calcea</i> )   | United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4   |
| Common skate ( <i>Dipturus batis</i> ) complex<br>( <i>Dipturus cf. flossada</i> and <i>Dipturus cf. intermedia</i> ) | United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and ICES subareas 4, 6, 7 and 8   |
| Great lanternshark ( <i>Etmopterus princeps</i> )   | United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4   |
| Tope shark ( <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> )  | When taken with longlines in United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4 and in United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 5, 6, 7 and 8. |
| Porbeagle ( <i>Lamna nasus</i> )  | All   |
| Undulate ray ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )   | United Kingdom waters of ICES subarea 6   |
| Whale shark ( <i>Rhincodon typus</i> )  | All   |
| Orange roughy ( <i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i> )  | United Kingdom waters of ICES subareas 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8.  |
| Short Fin Mako ( <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> )   | All   |

### 2. SPECIES FOR WHICH YOU MAY NOT FISH

| Description of Sea Fish | Areas of Sea |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| [INTENTIONALLY BLANK]   |              |

## LICENCE TO FISH IN UNITED KINGDOM WATERS – FAROE ISLANDS VESSEL

### 3. SPECIES FOR WHICH YOU MAY FISH IN LIMITED QUANTITIES

| Description of Sea Fish                                     | Areas of Sea                               |
|---|--|
| Greenland halibut ( <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i> )   | ICES subareas 4 and 6, divisions 2a and 5b |
| By-catch stock <sup>1</sup>                                 | ICES subareas 4 and 6, divisions 2a and 5b |
| Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> ) <sup>2</sup>    | ICES subarea 4                             |
| Ling ( <i>Molva molva</i> ) <sup>2</sup>                    | ICES subarea 4                             |
| Tusk ( <i>Brosme brosme</i> ) <sup>2</sup>                  | ICES subarea 4                             |
| By-catch stock <sup>3</sup>                                 | ICES subarea 4                             |
| Cod (West of Scotland) ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> ) <sup>4</sup> | ICES division 6a                           |
| Pollack ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> ) <sup>5</sup>           | ICES subarea 6                             |
| Blue ling (Western) ( <i>Molva dypterygia</i> )             | ICES subareas 6 and 7                      |

- <sup>1</sup> Miscellaneous species exclusively for bycatch in Greenland halibut fisheries, excluding catches of species of which the UK has transferred quota to the Faroe Islands. Catches of these stocks should be counted against the relevant quota. All species caught must be entered into the elog.
- <sup>2</sup> Targeted fishery by longline or jigreeel only – no more than four Faroese vessels will target these stocks in UK waters of ICES subarea 4 at any one time.
- <sup>3</sup> Miscellaneous species exclusively for bycatch in North Sea fisheries, excluding catches of species of which the UK has transferred quota to the Faroe Islands. Catches of these stocks should be counted against the relevant quota. All species caught must be entered into the elog.
- <sup>4</sup> Exclusively for bycatch purposes in the western blue ling fishery.
- <sup>5</sup> Bycatch only.