

Sea Fishing Boat Licensing Policy – Policy Directive 1/2019

Objectives and Reasons for Policy Directive 1/2019

Legal Basis

The Minister is empowered under section 3 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2003 (No. 21 of 2003) (as amended by section 99 of the Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (No. 8 of 2006) and the Sea Fisheries, Foreshore and Dumping at Sea (Transfer of Department Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2007 (S.I. No. 707 of 2007)) (as adapted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2011 (S.I. No. 455 of 2011)), to give written policy directives to the independent Licensing Authority established under the Act.

Reasons for Policy Directive 1/2019

This Policy Directive is intended to give effect to the measures announced by the Minister on 21 December 2018 in relation to trawling activity (that is operating trawl or seine nets) inside the six nautical mile zone and inside the baselines.

This Policy Directive provides that vessels over 18m LOA (Length Overall) will be excluded from trawling activity inside six nautical miles, including inside the baselines, from 1 January 2020.

Without prejudice to an existing licence condition restricting access to this zone, Polyvalent and RSW Pelagic Vessels over 18m LOA targeting sprat shall be permitted to operate trawl or seine nets inside the six nautical mile zone, including inside the baselines, up to and including 31 December 2021 subject to the following catch limits;

A total allowable catch up to 2,000 tonnes of sprat will be permitted for over 18m LOA vessels inside 6 nautical miles and the baselines during 2020, reducing to 1,000 tonnes in 2021, with all trawling activity by over 18m LOA vessels inside six nautical miles, including inside the baselines, being entirely curtailed from 2022 onwards.

It is intended that as the sprat fishery is concentrated inside the six nautical mile zone, including inside the baselines, the transition period will allow those vessels involved in the sprat fishery time to transition to other fishing activities.

These measures aim to provide ecosystem benefits, including for nursery areas and juvenile fish stocks. They are also intended to facilitate the further sustainable development of the small scale inshore and the sea-angling sectors which strongly rely on inshore waters

Sea Fishing Boat Licensing Policy

To: Registrar General
From: Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Policy Directive 1 of 2019

A Policy Directive under section 3 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2003 (No. 21 of 2003) (as amended by section 99 of the Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (No. 8 of 2006) and the Sea Fisheries, Foreshore and Dumping at Sea (Transfer of Department Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2007 (S.I. No. 707 of 2007)) (as adapted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2011 (S.I. No. 455 of 2011)) is issued as set out below:

1. The Sea Fishing boat licences of vessels over 18 metres LOA (length overall) shall include a condition to the effect that such vessels are precluded from operating trawl or seine nets inside the six nautical mile zone, including inside the baselines, from 1 January 2020.
2. As a derogation from the above and without prejudice to an existing licence condition restricting access to this zone, the Sea Fishing boat licences for Polyvalent segment and RSW Pelagic segment vessels over 18 metres LOA shall include a condition to the effect that such vessels are permitted to operate trawl or seine nets inside the six nautical mile zone, including inside the baselines, for the targeting of sprat only, up to and including 31 December 2021, subject to any catch limits as may be determined by the Minister from time to time.
3. This Policy Directive shall enter into force on 1 January 2020.



Michael Creed TD

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

5 March 2019