

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**  
**An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara**

**Fisheries Natura Declaration No. 1 of 2023 (Dundalk Bay Protected Area)**

I, Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by Regulation 9(1)(a) and (b) of the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 290 of 2013), hereby issue the following declaration:

Citation

1. This Declaration may be cited as Fisheries Natura Declaration No. 1 of 2023 (Dundalk Bay Protected Area).

Commencement

2. This Declaration is issued on and comes into force on 1 July 2023.

Interpretation

3. In this Declaration:

“Authority” means the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority;

“Dundalk Bay” means the area up to the high-water mark landwards of a straight line between Latitude 53° 59.0845' N, Longitude 6° 13.2018' W and Latitude 53° 51.5976' N, Longitude 6° 14.2633' W;

“specified zone” means the area in Dundalk Bay enclosed by an imaginary line drawn from:

Latitude 53°54.3190'N, Longitude 006°19.4550'W through  
Latitude 53°54.5650'N, Longitude 006°17.0180'W through  
Latitude 53°54.1350'N, Longitude 006°16.8780'W through  
Latitude 53°53.8820'N, Longitude 006°19.3180'W to  
the first mentioned point.

Prohibition on fishing in specified zone

4. A person onboard a sea-fishing boat in Dundalk Bay shall not fish in the specified zone with any kind of dredge, beam trawl or bottom otter trawl.

Prohibition on possession, handling or sale

5. A person shall not have in his or her possession or under his or her control and shall not buy, handle, tranship, transport, land, process, store or sell fish taken in contravention of paragraph 4.

GPS Monitoring of certain fishing boats

6. (1) The owner, master or other person who is for the time being in charge of a sea-fishing boat fishing in Dundalk Bay shall ensure that a fully functioning

GPS (Global Positioning System) monitoring system is installed onboard the boat and operational at all times if that boat:

- (a) is using a dredge of any kind,
  - (b) is using a beam trawl of any kind,
  - (c) is using a bottom otter trawl of any kind and is less than or equal to 12 metres in overall length, or
  - (d) is using a bottom otter trawl of any kind, is more than 12 metres in overall length and does not have a fully functioning satellite-based vessel monitoring system installed onboard.
- (2) In relation to the GPS monitoring system referred to in paragraph (1), the owner, master or other person who is for the time being in charge of a sea-fishing boat shall:
- (a) ensure that the data of the GPS monitoring system is not altered in any way;
  - (b) ensure the GPS monitoring system is not obstructed, disconnected or blocked in such a way that could obstruct the transmission of data;
  - (c) not permit a person onboard the boat to destroy, damage or otherwise interfere with the GPS monitoring system unless an officer of the Authority has authorised its replacement;
  - (d) ensure that the GPS monitoring system:
    - (i) is of a type approved by the Authority,
    - (ii) can acquire, log (store) and transmit to shore information on the boat's position, speed and bearing as specified for that monitoring system,
    - (iii) transmits to shore information on the boat's position, speed and bearing at a frequency of up to once per minute in a format accessible by the Authority and the Marine Institute,
    - (iv) is fitted in a robust and tamperproof manner, and
    - (v) uses a power source that is capable of keeping the monitoring system operational and transmitting as required by this Declaration.

#### Satellite-based monitoring of certain sea-fishing boats

7. The owner, master or other person who is for the time being in charge of a sea-fishing boat that is more than 12 metres in overall length and has a satellite-based

vessel monitoring system installed onboard must ensure when fishing in Dundalk Bay that the vessel's position is reported through the vessel monitoring system at a frequency of at least once every 15 minutes.

GIVEN under my Official Seal,

27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie McConalogue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the declaration and does not purport to be a legal interpretation)*

This Declaration identifies an area in Dundalk Bay where fishing with specified types of fishing gear is prohibited. It also sets out monitoring requirements for certain sea-fishing boats operating in Dundalk Bay.

(FND 2023/001)