

Statutory Instrument 2000 No. 181

The Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Satellite Monitoring Measures) Order 2000

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2000 No. 181

SEA FISHERIES, ENGLAND AND WALES

SEA FISHERIES, NORTHERN IRELAND

The Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Satellite Monitoring Measures) Order 2000

<i>Made</i>	<i>30th January 2000</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>31st January 2000</i>
<i>Coming into force</i>	<i>21st February 2000</i>

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretaries of State respectively concerned with the sea fishing industry in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 30(2) of the Fisheries Act 1981^[1], and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following Order:

Title, commencement and extent

1. - (1) This Order may be cited as the Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Satellite Monitoring Measures) Order 2000 and shall come into force on 21st February 2000.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), this Order shall not form part of the law of Scotland.

(3) Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be treated as prejudicing the effect in Scotland of section 30(2A) of the Fisheries Act 1981[2] in relation to, or for purposes incidental to, any provision in this Order which creates an offence.

Interpretation

2. - (1) In this Order -

"capable of being polled", in relation to a satellite tracking device, means:

(a) capable of receiving a request by a Fisheries Monitoring Centre to provide that Centre with the required information at a time other than that required by article 3(4) of this Order, and

(b) immediately providing the required information to that Centre in response;

"Community satellite monitoring measure" means a provision of:

(a) Article 3 and Article 28c, in so far as it relates to satellite-based vessel monitoring systems, of Regulation 2847/93, or

(b) Regulation 1489/97;

"Fisheries Monitoring Centre" means a fisheries monitoring centre established under Article 3.7 of Regulation 2847/93;

"fishing boat" includes a receiving vessel within the meaning of Regulation 2847/93;

"Member State" means a Member State of the European Community;

"Regulation 2847/93" means Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2847/93 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy[3] as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No. 2870/95[4], Council Decision (EC) 95/528[5], Council Regulation (EC) 2489/96[6], Council Regulation (EC) 686/97[7], Council Regulation (EC) 2205/97[8], Council Regulation (EC) 2635/97[9] and Council Regulation (EC) 2846/98[10];

"Regulation 1489/97" means Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1489/97 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2847/93 as regards satellite-based vessel monitoring systems[11] as corrected by Commission Regulation (EC) 435/98[12] and amended by Commission Regulation (EC) 831/99[13] and Commission Regulation (EC) 2445/99[14];

"relevant British fishing boat" means a fishing boat, other than a Scottish fishing boat, which either is registered in the United Kingdom under Part II of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995[15] or is owned wholly by persons qualified to own British ships for the purposes of that Part of that Act;

"relevant offence" means:

(a) an offence under Article 4 of this Order, or

(b) an offence under any provision in an order extending to any other part of the United Kingdom made for the purposes of implementing a Community satellite

monitoring measure, being a provision in respect of which, by virtue of section 30(2A) of the Fisheries Act 1981, proceedings may be commenced in any place in the United Kingdom;

"required information" means data relating to:

- (a) the fishing boat's identification;**
- (b) the most recent geographical position of the fishing boat expressed in degrees and minutes of longitude and latitude within a margin of error of less than 500 metres and within a confidence interval of 99%; and**
- (c) the date and time of the fixing of that position;**

"satellite tracking device" means a device for sending required information to a Fisheries Monitoring Centre from a fishing boat via a satellite and land earth station;

"Scottish fishing boat" means a fishing boat which is registered in the register maintained under section 8 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 and whose entry in the register specifies a port in Scotland as the port to which the boat is to be treated as belonging;

"Scottish zone" has the same meaning as in the Scotland Act 1998[16].

(2) In this Order -

(a) the term "within relevant British Fishery Limits" does not include -

- (i) the Scottish zone;**
- (ii) the territorial sea adjacent to Wales;**
- (iii) the territorial sea adjacent to the Isle of Man;**
- (iv) the territorial sea adjacent to Jersey; and**
- (v) seas within British fishery limits adjacent to Guernsey, as defined by section 8 of the Fishery Limits Act 1976[17];**

(b) any reference to any relevant British fishing boat "wherever it may be" does not include such a fishing boat while in the territorial sea adjacent to Wales;

(c) any reference to a logbook, declaration, document or required information includes, in addition to a logbook, declaration, document or required information in writing -

- (i) any map, plan, graph or drawing,**
- (ii) any photograph,**
- (iii) any data, howsoever reproduced, received by a Fisheries Monitoring Centre from a satellite tracking device,**

(iv) any disk, tape, sound track or other device in which sounds or other data (not being visual aids) are recorded so as to be capable (with or without the aid of some other equipment) of being reproduced therefrom, and

(v) any film (including microfilm), negative, tape, disk or other device in which one or more visual images are recorded so as to be capable (as aforesaid) of being reproduced therefrom.

(3) Any reference in this Order to a Community instrument is a reference to that instrument and any amendment of such instrument in force on the date this Order is made.

Satellite tracking of fishing boats

3. - (1) Subject to paragraph (2) this article applies to -

(a) any relevant British fishing boat wherever it may be, and

(b) any other fishing boat which is within relevant British Fishery Limits, which measures more than 20 metres between perpendiculars or more than 24 metres in overall length.

(2) This article does not apply to such a fishing boat which -

(a) operates exclusively within 12 nautical miles of the baselines from which the territorial sea of its flag Member State is measured, or

(b) which never spends more than 24 hours at sea taken from the time of departure to the time of return to port.

(3) A satellite tracking device shall -

(a) be installed;

(b) be maintained fully operational,

on a fishing boat to which this article applies.

(4) Such a satellite tracking device shall transmit the required information -

(a) where the satellite tracking device is capable of being polled:

(i) at least every two hours; or

(ii) in a case for which a different maximum interval is specified in Annex I of Regulation 1489/97, at or within such intervals; or

(b) where the satellite tracking device is not capable of being polled, hourly,

in the format prescribed by Annex II to Regulation 1489/97 to a Fisheries Monitoring Centre.

Offences

4. - (1) Where there is a contravention of, or failure to comply with -

(a) any provision of article 3 of this Order, or

(b) in respect of any fishing boat to which article 3 of this Order applies, article 6.1 or 6.2 of Regulation 1489/97,

the owner, the charterer (if any) and the master shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) It is a defence in proceedings for a contravention of, or failure to comply with, article 3(3)(b) of (4) for the owner, the charterer (if any) or the master of the boat to prove that he has complied with article 6.1 and 6.2 of Regulation 1489/97.

(3) Any person who in any way -

(a) changes, substitutes or replicates the identification of a satellite tracking device installed on a relevant British fishing boat; or

(b) removes the satellite tracking device from such a fishing boat;

without prior notification thereof to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) In relation to any fishing boat to which article 3 of this Order applies, any person who in any way -

(a) delays or otherwise interferes with the transmission of required information by a satellite tracking device;

(b) interferes with the ability of the satellite tracking device to be polled; or

(c) knowingly transmits or furnishes false required information,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) Paragraphs (3) and (4) do not apply to Wales or the territorial sea adjacent to Wales.

Penalties

5. - (1) A person found guilty in England or Northern Ireland of a relevant offence in respect of a contravention of, or failure to comply with, article 3(3)(b) or (4) of this Order or article 6.1 or 6.2 of Regulation 1489/97 shall be liable -

(a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;

(b) on conviction on indictment to a fine.

(2) A person found guilty in England or Northern Ireland of any other relevant offence shall be liable -

- (a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50,000;**
- (b) on conviction on indictment to a fine.**

Recovery of fines

6. - (1) Where a fine is imposed by magistrates' court in England or Northern Ireland on the master, owner, charterer, person responsible for the fishing boat or any other person who is convicted by the court of a relevant offence or an offence under article 9 of this Order, the court may for the purpose of levying the amount of the fine -

(a) issue a warrant of distress against the boat involved in the commission of the offence and its gear and catch and any property of the person convicted for the purpose of levying the amount of the fine; or

(b) order the boat to be detained for a period not exceeding three months from the date of the conviction or until the fine is paid or the amount of the fine is levied in pursuance of any such warrant, whichever occurs first.

(2) Sections 77(1) and 78 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980[18] (postponement of issue of, and defects in, warrants of distress) shall apply to a warrant of distress issued under this article in England as they apply to a warrant of distress issued under Part III of that Act.

(3) Articles 114(2) and 154 of the Magistrates' Court (Northern Ireland) Order 1981[19] (postponement of issue of certain warrants and objections as to want of form or variance between complaint etc and evidence adduced) shall apply to a warrant of distress issued under this article in Northern Ireland as it applies to a warrant referred to in those articles of that Order.

(4) Where in relation to a fine in respect of a relevant offence a transfer of fine order under section 90 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, Article 95 of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 or section 222 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995[20] specifies a petty sessions area in England or a petty sessions district in Northern Ireland this article shall apply as if the fine were imposed by a court within that petty sessions area or petty sessions district.

Powers of British sea-fishery officers in relation to fishing boats

7. - (1) For the purpose of the enforcement of article 4 of this Order, or any equivalent provision in an order extending to any other part of the United Kingdom made for the purposes of implementing a Community satellite monitoring measure, a British sea-fishery officer may exercise in relation to -

- (a) any relevant British fishing boat wherever it may be, or**
- (b) any other fishing boat which is within relevant British Fishery Limits,**

the powers conferred by paragraphs (2) to (4) of this article.

(2) He may go on board the boat, with or without persons assigned to assist him in his duties, and may require the boat to stop and do anything else which will facilitate

either the boarding of, or the disembarkation from, the boat.

(3) He may require the attendance of the master and other persons on board the boat and may make any examination and inquiry which appears to him to be necessary for the purpose mentioned in paragraph (1) of this article and, in particular

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(a) may search for and examine, and may test, any equipment of the boat, including the satellite tracking device, and require persons on board the boat to do anything which appears to him to be necessary for facilitating such a search, examination or test;

(b) may require any person on board the boat to produce any document relating to the boat, or the equipment of the boat, to any fishing operations or other operations ancillary thereto or to the persons on board which is in his custody or possession;

(c) for the purpose of ascertaining whether a relevant offence has been committed, may search the boat for any such document and may require any person on board the boat to do anything which appears to him to be necessary for facilitating the search;

(d) inspect, take copies of and retain in his possession while he completes any search, examination and inspection provided for under this article, any such document produced to him or found on board;

(e) without prejudice to sub-paragraphs (c) and (d), may require the master and any person for the time being in charge of the boat to render all such documents on a computer system into a visible and legible form, including requiring any such document to be produced in a form in which it may be taken away; and

(f) where the boat is one in relation to which he has reason to suspect that a relevant offence has been committed, may seize and detain any such document produced to him or found on board for the purpose of enabling the document to be used as evidence in proceedings for the offence.

(4) Where it appears to a British sea-fishery officer that a relevant offence has at any time been committed, he may -

(a) require the master of the boat in relation to which the offence took place to take, or may himself take, the boat and its crew to the port which appears to him to be the nearest convenient port; and

(b) detain or require the master to detain the boat in the port;

and where such an officer detains or requires the detention of a boat he shall serve on the master a notice in writing stating that the boat will be or is required to be detained until the notice is withdrawn by the service on the master of a further notice in writing signed by a British sea-fishery officer.

Protection of officers

8. A British sea-fishery officer or a person assisting him by virtue of article 7(2) of this Order shall not be liable in any civil or criminal proceedings for anything done in the purported exercise of the powers conferred on him by virtue of article 7 of this Order if the court is satisfied that the act was done in good faith, that there were reasonable

grounds for doing it and that it was done with reasonable skill and care.

Obstruction etc

9. Any person who -

(a) fails without reasonable excuse to comply with any requirement imposed by a British sea-fishery officer under the powers conferred on him by virtue of article 7 of this Order;

(b) without reasonable excuse prevents any other person from complying with any such requirement; or

(c) obstructs any such officer who is exercising any of those powers,

shall be guilty of an offence, and liable -

(i) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;

(ii) on conviction on indictment to a fine.

Provisions as to offences and proceedings

10. - (1) Where any offence under article 4 of this Order committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or approval of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or a person purporting to act in any such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate, shall be guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where any offence under article 4 of this Order committed by a partnership is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, a partner, he as well as the partnership shall be guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(3) Where any offence under article 4 of this Order committed by an unincorporated association (other than a partnership) is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any officer of the association or any member of its governing body, he as well as the association shall be guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Admissibility in evidence of logbooks and other documents

11. Any -

(a) logbook kept under Articles 6, 17.2 or 28c;

(b) declaration submitted under Articles 8.1, 11, 12, 17.2 or 28f;

(c) effort report completed under Articles 19b and 19c;

(d) document drawn up under Articles 9 or 13,

of Regulation 2847/93 and any required information received by a Fisheries Monitoring Centre shall, in any proceedings in England or Northern Ireland for a

relevant offence, be evidence of the matters stated therein.

Elliot Morley

Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

25th January 2000

John Reid

Secretary of State for Scotland

26th January 2000

Paul Murphy

Secretary of State for Wales

27th January 2000

Peter Mandelson

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

30th January 2000

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order provides for the enforcement of Articles 3 and 28c of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2847/93 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy and Commission Regulation (EC) 1489/97 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2847/93 as regards satellite-based vessel monitoring systems.

Those Regulations provide for the transmission via satellite of vessel identification and location reports by fishing boats measuring more than 20 metres between perpendiculars or more than 24 metres in overall length. Article 3 of the Order is the principal provision giving effect to these requirements.

The Order creates offences in respect of breaches of the provisions referred to in article 4 of this Order, including breaches of articles 6.1 and 6.2 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1489/97. Articles 6.1 and 6.2 require the required information (as defined in article 2(1) of the Order) to be sent to the flag Member State and the concerned coastal Member State by alternative means, at least every 24 hours, in the event of a technical failure or non-function of either a satellite tracking device installed on a fishing boat or the vessel monitoring system of the flag Member State. Also, in the event of a technical failure or non-function of a satellite tracking device the owner is required to have it repaired or replaced within one month or, where such event occurs during a fishing trip that lasts for more than one month, as soon as the fishing boat enters a port. The master of the fishing boat is not authorised to commence a new fishing trip until the satellite tracking device has been repaired or so replaced.

Penalties for contravention of the provisions referred to in article 4 of this Order are

to be found in article 5 of the Order.

For the purpose of enforcing this Order British sea-fishery officers are given powers to board fishing boats, to search, examine and test the equipment of the boat, to require the production of documents and to take the boat to the nearest convenient port (article 7).

Provision is also made for the prosecution of offences of changing the identification of a satellite tracking device installed on a fishing boat or removing the device from the boat without prior authorisation (article 4(3)), interfering with transmissions from the device or knowingly furnishing false information (article 4(4)), and obstruction of British sea-fishery officers (article 9). Penalties following conviction are set out in article 5(2) and 9. The statutory maximum penalty specified in the Order is currently £5,000.

The Order provides powers for the recovery of fines imposed by a magistrate's court in England or Northern Ireland (article 6).

Articles 8, 10 and 11 contain ancillary provisions.

The Order does not form part of the law of Scotland. It does not apply in relation to fishing activities within the territorial sea of Wales.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment in relation to the application of the satellite-based vessel monitoring system to UK fishing boats has been prepared and placed in the library of each House of Parliament. Copies can be obtained from Fisheries Division IV of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Room 420, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR.

Notes:

[1] 1981 c. 29. See section 30(3) for the definitions of "enforceable Community restriction", "enforceable Community obligation" and "the Ministers", as modified by Schedule 2, paragraph 68(5) of the Scotland Act 1998 (Consequential Modifications) (No. 2) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/1820). Article 3(1) and Schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998 (Concurrent Functions) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/1592) provide for the functions exercisable under section 30(2) of the 1981 Act to be exercised by the Ministers, concurrently with Scottish Ministers, in relation to: relevant British fishing boats within the Scottish zone; and, Scottish fishing boats within British fishery limits but outside the Scottish zone.[back](#)

[2] Section 30(2A) was inserted by the Scotland Act 1998 (Consequential Modifications) (No. 2) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/1820)[back](#)

[3] OJ No. L261, 20.10.93, p. 1.[back](#)

[4] OJ No. L301, 14.12.95, p. 1.[back](#)

[5] OJ No. L301, 14.12.95, p. 35.[back](#)

[6] OJ No. L338, 28.12.96, p. 12.[back](#)

[7] OJ No. L102, 19.4.97, p. 1.[back](#)

[8] OJ No. L304, 7.11.97, p. 1.[back](#)

[9] OJ No. L356, 31.12.97, p. 14.[back](#)

[10] OJ No. L358, 31.12.98, p. 5.[back](#)

[11] OJ No. L202, 30.7.97, p. 18.[back](#)

[12] OJ No. L054, 25.2.98, p. 5.[back](#)

[13] OJ No. L105, 22.4.99, p. 20.[back](#)

[14] OJ No. L298, 19.11.99, p. 5.[back](#)

[15] 1995, c. 21.[back](#)

[16] c. 46; see section 126 and the Scottish Adjacent Waters Boundaries Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/1126).[back](#)

[17] 1976, c. 86; as modified by paragraph 3(c)(1) of the Schedule to the Fishery Limits Act 1976 (Guernsey) Order 1989 (S.I. 1989/2407).[back](#)

[18] 1980, c. 43.[back](#)

[19] S.I. 1981/1675 (N.I. 26).[back](#)

[20] 1995, c. 46.[back](#)

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