

DECLARATION

THE FOYLE AREA (CONTROL OF OYSTER FISHING) REGULATIONS 2008

SUSPENSION OF OYSTER FISHING IN THE FOYLE AREA

I, Sharon McMahon, Designated Officer of Loughs Agency, Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission, hereby certify that The Commission is satisfied that it is necessary and expedient for the conservation and protection of native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) to declare fishing for such oysters suspended in the entirety of The Foyle Area, as defined by The Foyle Area (Control of Oyster Fishing) Regulations 2008 as amended 2010, for the periods listed below.

“the defined mouth” in relation to the River Foyle, means the mouth of that river as defined by instrument dated 8th February 1864 made under section 17 of the Salmon Fishery (Ireland) Act 1863;

“Lough Foyle” means those waters in the Foyle Area bounded on the north or seaward side by an imaginary straight line drawn between Greencastle Fort in the County of Donegal and the Martello Tower at Magilligan Point in the County of Londonderry and bounded on the south by the defined mouth of the River Foyle;

“the River Foyle” means all of the River Foyle upstream of the defined mouth of the River Foyle;

“seaward of Lough Foyle” means those waters in the Foyle Area which lie seawards of an imaginary straight line drawn between Greencastle Fort in the County of Donegal and the Martello Tower at Magilligan Point in the County of Londonderry.

Dates of suspension of fishing in The Foyle Area

Fishing for native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) is **suspended** in the entirety of The Foyle Area, as defined by The Foyle Area (Control of Oyster Fishing) Regulations 2008 as amended 2010, for the periods listed below:

- 19th September 2022 at 06:00hrs to 3rd October 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 6th October 2022 at 06:00hrs to 10th October 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 13th October 2022 at 06:00hrs to 17th October 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 20th October 2022 at 06:00hrs to 24th October 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 27th October 2022 at 06:00hrs to 31st October 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 3rd November 2022 at 06:00hrs to 7th November 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 10th November 2022 at 06:00hrs to 14th November 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 17th November 2022 at 06:00hrs to 21st November 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 24th November 2022 at 06:00hrs to 28th November 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 1st December 2022 at 06:00hrs to 5th December 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 8th December 2022 at 06:00hrs to 12th December 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 15th December 2022 at 06:00hrs to 31st January 2023 at 18:00hrs

Reasons for suspension of fishing in The Foyle Area

Suspension of Opening

The protection and retention of a functioning spawning stock biomass is necessary in order to maintain future stocks. There is evidence that a widespread spatfall took place in summer 2018, however, these juvenile oysters only began to reach minimum landing size in the summer 2021.

Spawning Surveys and indications for water temperature monitoring in 2022 have indicated that conditions are such that oysters may be continuing to spawn into September and that young of year will still be settling or just settled in late August and early September and therefore susceptible to fishing induced mortalities. Therefore, the 2022/23 fishery opening has been suspended until 06:00 hours on 4th October 2022 in order to protect juvenile stages.

Reduction of Days per Week

In order to reduce the amount of stress being put upon the Native Oyster population in Lough Foyle, and in order to retain an acceptable biomass of spawning stock in the population, fishing effort will be reduced from the total regulation days for the 2022 season as in previous years.

Closure January 2023

Removal of 100% of the stock above the minimum landing size is not sustainable. The fishery will be closed in January 2023, in accordance with the dates listed in this Declaration, in order to allow a survey and

review of the Native Oyster population remaining in the Lough after the fishing period in accordance with the dates listed in this Declaration.

NOW THEREFORE

In pursuance of the said Regulations

I HEREBY SUSPEND OYSTER FISHING IN THE FOYLE AREA AS DEFINED BY THE FOYLE AREA (CONTROL OF OYSTER FISHING) REGULATIONS 2008 AS AMENDED 2010.

From:

- 19th September 2022 at 06:00hrs to 3rd October 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 6th October 2022 at 06:00hrs to 10th October 2022 at 18:00hrs
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- 8th December 2022 at 06:00hrs to 12th December 2022 at 18:00hrs
- 15th December 2022 at 06:00hrs to 31st January 2023 at 18:00hrs

Signed: S. Mc Mahon
(Designated Officer)
Sharon McMahon

Dated: 5th September 2022