

Marine Protected Areas (Bottom Trawling) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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B I L L

TO

Regulate and limit the practice of bottom trawling in marine protected areas, and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Regulation and limitation of bottom trawling in marine protected areas

(1) *The Secretary of State must by regulations make provision to regulate and limit the practice of bottom trawling in marine protected areas.*

(2) The regulations—

- (a) must prohibit bottom trawling in marine protected areas; 5
- (b) may make exceptions to that prohibition to support small-scale fisheries and small boat fishing from UK ports in areas where bottom trawling would not cause serious environmental damage;
- (c) may make associated provision about licensing and enforcement;
- (d) may confer responsibilities and powers on the Marine Management Organisation; 10
- (e) may create criminal offences punishable with a fine in respect of failures to comply with the regulations.

(3) In this Act—

“bottom trawling” is fishing by dragging heavy weighted nets across the sea floor; 15

“marine protected area” means a marine conservation zone or a marine protected area under section 116 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

2 Consultation and technical provisions 20

(1) Regulations under section 1—

- (a) are to be made by statutory instrument;
- (b) may make different provision for different purposes;
- (c) may make transitional and saving provision;

- (d) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (2) Before laying draft regulations under section 1 before Parliament the Secretary of State must consult—
 - (a) the Scottish Ministers, 5
 - (b) the Welsh Ministers,
 - (c) the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, and
 - (d) the Marine Management Organisation.
- (3) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a draft statutory instrument containing regulations under section 1 before the end of the period of one year beginning on the day on which this Act is passed. 10

3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed. 15
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Marine Protected Areas (Bottom Trawling) Act 2022.

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*Presented by Chris Grayling
supported by Bob Seely, Sir Oliver Heald,
Barry Gardiner, Andrew Selous, Neil Parish and
Kerry McCarthy.*

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