

## **DECLARATION**

### **THE FOYLE AREA (CONTROL OF OYSTER FISHING) REGULATIONS 2008**

#### **SUSPENSION OF OYSTER FISHING IN THE FOYLE AREA**

I, Sharon McMahon, Chief Executive 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:

- 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 06:00hrs to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 16:00hrs to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 16:00hrs to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at 16:00hrs to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 at 16:00hrs to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 16:00hrs to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 16:00hrs to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 16:00hrs to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 16:00hrs to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 16:00hrs to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 16:00hrs to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 16:00hrs to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 16:00hrs to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 16:00hrs to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 16:00hrs to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at 16:00hrs to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at 16:00hrs to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 16:00hrs to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 16:00hrs to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 18:00hrs

## **Reasons for suspension of fishing in The Foyle Area**

### *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 2025/26 season as in previous years.

### *Closure January 2026*

Removal of 100% of the stock above the minimum landing size is not sustainable. The fishery will be closed in January 2026, 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:

- 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 06:00hrs to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 16:00hrs to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 08:00hrs
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 16:00hrs to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at 08:00hrs
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- 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 16:00hrs to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 18:00hrs

Signed: Sharon McMahon  
(Chief Executive Officer)  
Sharon McMahon

Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025