



# **SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS GAZETTE**

**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

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*No. 2*

*22 April 2025*

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The following are published in this Gazette —

**Notices 2 and 3; and**

**Marine Protected Areas Order 2025 (SR&O No 1 of 2025).**

## NOTICES

No. 2

31 March 2025

### **Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2000** *section 4*

#### **Appointment of Fisheries Protection Officers**

1. Section 4(4) of the Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2000 provides for the Commissioner to appoint Fisheries Protection Officers.

2. In exercise of my powers under section 4(4) of the Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2000 I appoint:-

**Mark Belchier;**  
**Jennifer Black;**  
**Denise Blake;**  
**Tracey Cooper;**  
**George James Gittens;**  
**Susan Gregory;**  
**Bernice Hewitt;**  
**Mairi Macleod;**  
**Paul Robert Morrison;**  
**Nadine Orme;**  
**Patrick Smith;**  
**Scott Hayden Thain;**  
**Simon Wallace;**  
**Laura Sinclair Willis;**  
**Karen Wolstenholme; and**  
**Ryan Woods**

to be Fisheries Protection Officers for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 (subject to any earlier termination).

Dated 31 March 2025

A. M. BLAKE C.M.G.,  
*Commissioner.*

No. 3

15 April 2025

### **Customs (Declaration and Clearance) Order 2016** *article 8*

#### **Notice of Fees**

In accordance with article 8 of the Customs (Declaration and Clearance) Order 2016 the fees payable under that Order are set out below. These fees are payable from the date of publication of this notice in the *Gazette* until otherwise changed, amended or revoked.

#### **Fees payable in respect of all vessels**

The total fee payable is made up of two components:-

(1) For making an entry declaration and/or an exit clearance declaration:-

For making an entry declaration	£37
For making an exit clearance declaration	£37
If making an entry declaration and an exit clearance declaration involving a single visit to the vessel by a Customs Officer	£37

(2) Additional fees payable in respect of the time the Customs Officer is engaged:-

	Minimum payable
During normal working hours a further fee calculated at the rate of £28 per hour (or part hour) – with the minimum fee payable being £56.	£56
Outside normal working hours a further fee calculated at the rate of £44 per hour (or part hour) – with the minimum fee payable being £88.	£88

Notes:

1- Normal working hours are between 0800 and 1630 local time (Public Holidays excepted).

2- All fees must be paid to a Customs Officer or as directed by a Customs Officer.

3- Fees must be paid in the currency of the United Kingdom or in such other currency approved by the Customs Officer.

Dated 15 April 2025

A. M. BLAKE C.M.G.,  
*Commissioner.*

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## **SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION**

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### **Marine Protected Areas Order 2025**

(S.R. & O. No.: 1 of 2025)

#### **ARRANGEMENT OF PROVISIONS**

##### **Article**

1. Title
2. Commencement
3. Interpretation
4. South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area
5. Conservation order prohibitions
6. Marine Protected Areas Order 2019 repealed

Schedule 1 – General benthic closed area

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Schedule 3 – Closed season (Antarctic krill)

Schedule 4 – No-take zones

Schedule 5 – Pelagic closed areas

Schedule 6 – SGSSI MPA Map

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## SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

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### WILDLIFE & PROTECTED AREAS

#### Marine Protected Areas Order 2025

S. R. & O. No.: 1 of 2025

*Made:* 17 April 2025

*Published:* 22 April 2025

*Coming into force:* on publication

IN EXERCISE of my powers under sections 18(1) and 20(1) of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 (No 1 of 2011), after consultation with the Secretary of State as required by section 5(5) and (6), and being satisfied that the criteria in section 18 of that Ordinance are met, I make the following order —

#### 1. Title

This order is the Marine Protected Areas Order 2025.

#### 2. Commencement

This order comes into force on publication in the *Gazette*.

#### 3. Interpretation

In this order —

“**baselines**” means the baselines established by article 3 of the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (Territorial Sea) Order 1989 (SI 1989/1995) from which the territorial sea is measured;

“**bottom fishing**” means fishing on the sea floor including —

(a) bottom trawling; and

(b) the use of lines, pots, nets or traps on the sea floor;

“**bottom trawling**” means towing a trawl or fishing net along (and in contact with) the sea floor;

“**closed season**”, means, in respect of fishing for Antarctic krill, the season referred to in Schedule 3;

“**fishing vessel**” means a vessel of any size that is used for, equipped to be used for, or intended for use for the purposes of fishing or fishing related activities including —

(a) vessels engaged in transshipment of fish or fishery products; and

(b) carrier vessels equipped for the transportation of fish or fishery products;

**“general benthic closed area”** means the area described in Schedule 1;

**“no-take zone”** means each of the zones described in Schedule 4;

**“Ordinance”** means the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 (No 1 of 2011);

**“pelagic closed area”** means each of the areas described in Schedule 5;

**“pelagic fishing”** means fishing using a trawl, long line, jig or other method that is not designed to come into contact with the sea floor during normal fishing operations;

**“research benthic closed area”** means each of the areas described in Schedule 2;

**“SGSSI MPA”** means the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area designated by article 4; and

**“SGSSI waters”** means —

(a) the internal waters of the Territory between —

(i) the baselines; and

(ii) the mean high water at spring tide;

(b) the territorial sea established for the Territory by article 2 of the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (Territorial Sea) Order 1989; and

(c) the Maritime Zone (SGSSI Maritime Zone).

#### **4. South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area**

(1) The SGSSI waters are declared to be a marine protected area called the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area (“SGSSI MPA”) and is shown on the map in Schedule 6.

(2) The principal conservation objectives for the SGSSI MPA are to —

(a) conserve marine biodiversity, habitats and critical ecosystem function;

(b) ensure that fisheries are managed sustainably, with minimal impact on associated and dependent ecosystems;

(c) manage other human activities including shipping and scientific research, to minimise environmental impacts on the marine environment;

(d) protect the benthic marine organisms from the destructive effects of bottom trawling;

(e) facilitate recovery of previously over-exploited marine species;

- (f) increase the resilience of the marine environment to the effects of climate change; and
- (g) prevent the introduction of non-native marine species.

## 5. Conservation order prohibitions

(1) The following activities are prohibited within the SGSSI MPA —

- (a) bottom trawling;
- (b) fishing in the no-take zones;
- (c) fishing vessels entering the no-take zones, except in exercise of the right of innocent passage or under force majeure;
- (d) bottom fishing in —
  - (i) the general benthic closed area;
  - (ii) the research benthic closed areas;
- (e) pelagic fishing in the pelagic closed area; and
- (f) fishing for Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*) during the closed season.

(2) The prohibitions under paragraph (1) do not apply to —

- (a) anything carried out in accordance with a permit granted by the Commissioner under section 21(1) of the Ordinance; or
- (b) anything permitted by section 20(8) of the Ordinance.

## 6. Marine Protected Areas Order 2019 repealed

The Marine Protected Areas Order 2019 (No. 1 of 2019) is repealed.

### SCHEDULE 1 - General benthic closed area

(article 3)

Area	Boundaries	Protected features	Conservation objectives To conserve and protect:-
General Benthic Closed Area	<p>All waters lying within the outer 200 NM boundary of the SGSSI Maritime Zone except</p> <p>(1) the no-take zones;</p> <p>(2) the research benthic closed Areas; and</p> <p>(3) the areas where the water is in the range from 700-2,250 m</p>	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 705,225 km <sup>2</sup>	<p>The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) deep-sea benthic fauna and South Georgia's outer continental shelf which includes:-</p> <p>(1) the spawning grounds of many fish species, including mackerel icefish;</p> <p>(2) a diverse range of benthic habitats and associated invertebrate communities</p>

## SCHEDULE 2 - Research benthic closed areas

*(article 3)*

Area	Boundaries	Protected features	Conservation objectives To conserve and protect:-
West Shag Research Benthic Closed Area	53°12'-53°24'S; 43°30'-42°48'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 1,039 km <sup>2</sup>	The vulnerable marine fauna identified in this location; provides refugia for toothfish
West Gully Research Benthic Closed Area	(1) 53°36'-54°00'S; 40°42'-40°06'W; (2) 53°36'-53°54'S; 40°06'-39°54'W; (3) 53°36'-53°48'S; 39°54'-39°42'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 2,494 km <sup>2</sup>	The vulnerable marine fauna in this area and protect juvenile toothfish, which are abundant in this area
Northern Research Benthic Closed Area	53°36'-53°54'S; 35°48'-35°36'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 440 km <sup>2</sup>	The vulnerable marine fauna identified in this location; provides refugia for toothfish
Eastern Research Benthic Closed Area	54°48'-54°54'S; 34°00'-34°12'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 143 km <sup>2</sup>	The vulnerable marine fauna identified in this area (particularly gorgonians)

## SCHEDULE 3 - Closed season (Antarctic krill)

*(article 3)*

Description	Season	Protected features	Conservation objectives To conserve and protect:-
Seasonal closure of the fishery for Antarctic krill	1 October – 30 April inclusive	The pelagic ecosystem in an area of 1.24 million km <sup>2</sup> during a 7 month period	Mammalian and avian krill dependent predators, such as penguins and fur seals during the key part of the breeding season

## SCHEDULE 4 - No-take zones

*(article 3)*

Zone	Boundaries	Protected features	Conservation objectives To conserve and protect:-
South Georgia No-take Zone	Between:- (1) a line 16.20 NM from the baselines around the coast of South Georgia; and (2) mean high water at spring tide	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 18,517 km <sup>2</sup>	The shallow marine environment around South Georgia including:- (1) the spawning grounds of many fish species, including mackerel icefish; (2) the inshore foraging areas of marine predators such as gentoo penguins, cormorants, petrels and prions

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Boundaries</b>	<b>Protected features</b>	<b>Conservation objectives</b> To conserve and protect:-
Clerke Rocks No-take Zone	The area lying between the South Georgia No-take Zone and North Scotia Ridge No-take Zone excluding where water depths range from 700-2,250 m and bounded by a line linked by the following points:- 54°42'S, 35°15.7'W; 54°49.5'S, 34°32'W; 54°54'S, 32°12'W; 54°54'S, 34°00'W; 55°00'S, 33°30'W; 56°00'S, 33°30'W; 55°13'S, 34°53'W; 55°11.1'S, 36°01.7'W	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 7,875 km <sup>2</sup>	The marine environment to the south east of South Georgia including:-  (1) the spawning grounds of many fish species, including mackerel icefish;  (2) the inshore foraging areas of marine predators such as gentoo penguins, cormorants, petrels and prions;  (3) the “spirulid reef” at approximately 55°00'S, 34°31'W;  (4) all benthic habitats shallower than 700 m and deeper than 2,250 m
Shag Rocks No-take Zone	Between:-  (1) a line 12 NM from the baselines around Shag Rocks and Black Rock; and  (2) mean high water at spring tide	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 2,344 km <sup>2</sup>	The shallow marine environment of the Shag Rocks shelf incorporating:-  (1) the principal recruitment area for juvenile Patagonian toothfish;  (2) spawning grounds of mackerel icefish;  (3) a key foraging area for black-browed albatross, Antarctic fur seals and baleen whales
Western Edge (Area A) No-take Zone	The area lying to the west of 43°30'W and inside the outer 200 NM boundary of the SGSSI Maritime Zone	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 5,848 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna; provides refugia for adult toothfish on this lightly fished area of the North Scotia Ridge
North Georgia Rise No-take Zone	52°20'-53°00'S; 36°45'-37°40'W	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 4,590 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna of this area; provides refugia for adult toothfish
North East Georgia Rise No-take Zone	The part of the Maritime Zone to the east of 34°00'W and north of 52°30'S	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 14,275 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna of this area; provides refugia for adult toothfish
Southern Seamounts No-take Zone	55°30'-56°12'S; 36°20'-37°30'W	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 5,614 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna; provides refugia and is a spawning location for adult toothfish that is likely an area of high biological productivity



<b>Zone</b>	<b>Boundaries</b>	<b>Protected features</b>	<b>Conservation objectives</b> To conserve and protect:-
East South Georgia No-take Zone	The area lying within the outer 200 NM boundary of the SGSSI Maritime Zone between 52°30'-55°00'S; 30°30'-33°30'W	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 58,256 km <sup>2</sup>	A diverse range of deep seabed habitats and a region used for seasonal migrations by cetaceans
North Scotia Ridge No-take Zone	The area lying between 55°00'-56°00'S and between 33°30'W extending east to the boundary of the South Sandwich Trench No-take Zone.  It excludes those areas where water depths range from 700-2,250 m lying south of 55°30'S and east of 29°00'W	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 39,187 km <sup>2</sup>	A region of seamounts and complex bathymetry that is a refugia for adult toothfish and a migration route between South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands for toothfish and marine mammals
South Sandwich Islands No-take Zones	Between:- (1) mean high water at spring tide; (2) lines 3 NM from the baselines around the coasts of the South Sandwich Islands; and (3) lines from 3 NM to 26.99 NM excluding those areas where water depths range from 700-2,250 m	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in areas that total 27,047 km <sup>2</sup>	The shallow marine environment around each of the South Sandwich Islands including:- (1) the inshore foraging grounds of marine predators; (2) the spawning grounds of fish species; (3) all benthic habitats shallower than 700 m and deeper than 2,250 m
North East South Sandwich Islands Seamount No-take Zone	The part of the Maritime Zone between 54°15'S and 24°00'W	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in areas that total 2,488 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna on an unfished seamount. Likely to provide refugia for adult toothfish
South Sandwich Trench No-take Zone	A line:- (1) 26.99 NM around a baseline through the midpoint of the South Sandwich Trench defined as:- 55°0'0''S-27°9'25''W 55°44'56''S-25°32'49''W 56°19'59''S-24°48'11''W 57°30'4''S-24°2'24''W 58°42'25''S-23°43'16''W 60°0'0''S-24°23'24''W and (2) extending between 55°S to 60°S	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 62,900 km <sup>2</sup>	A unique biogeographical feature which could potentially contain rare or unique habitats and biodiversity including hydrothermal communities

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Boundaries</b>	<b>Protected features</b>	<b>Conservation objectives</b> To conserve and protect:-
South Sandwich Trench Eastern Extension No-take Zone	The area lying between 56°00'-57°00'S located between the South Sandwich Islands No-take Zones and South Sandwich Trench No-take Zone	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 5,354 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna of this area; provides refugia for adult toothfish and foraging habitat for penguins
Herdman Bank No-take Zones	The area lying between 59°00'-60°00'S and inside the 200 NM SGSSI Maritime Zone  Extending east to the western boundary of the South Sandwich Trench No-take Zone.  It excludes:-  (1) those areas where water depths range from 700-2,250 m lying south of 59°30'S and east of 29°00'W.  (2) areas already covered by the South Sandwich Islands No-take Zones	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 41,184 km <sup>2</sup>	Area containing unique features including areas of the East Scotia Ridge Spreading Zone, Herdman Bank and regions of high hydrothermal and tectonic activity linking existing No-take Zones in the region
No-take Zone south of 60° South	The area lying to the south of 60° South and inside the 200 NM SGSSI Maritime Zone	The seabed, overlying water and associated organisms in an area of 172,635 km <sup>2</sup>	A unique biogeographical feature which include seamounts, deep trenches and a large area of the South Sandwich Fracture Zone and Herdman Bank - regions of high hydrothermal and tectonic activity
Protector Shoals No-take Zone	55°45'-56°05'S; 27°30'-28°20'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 1,934 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (but largely unknown) benthic fauna; provides refugia for adult toothfish
Kemp Seamount and Calderas No-take Zone	59°40'-59°45'S; 27°45'-28°25'W	The seabed, and associated organisms in an area of 348 km <sup>2</sup>	The potentially sensitive (largely unknown) benthic fauna of this seamount and caldera. Protects different chemosynthetic habitats, including white smoker vent fields

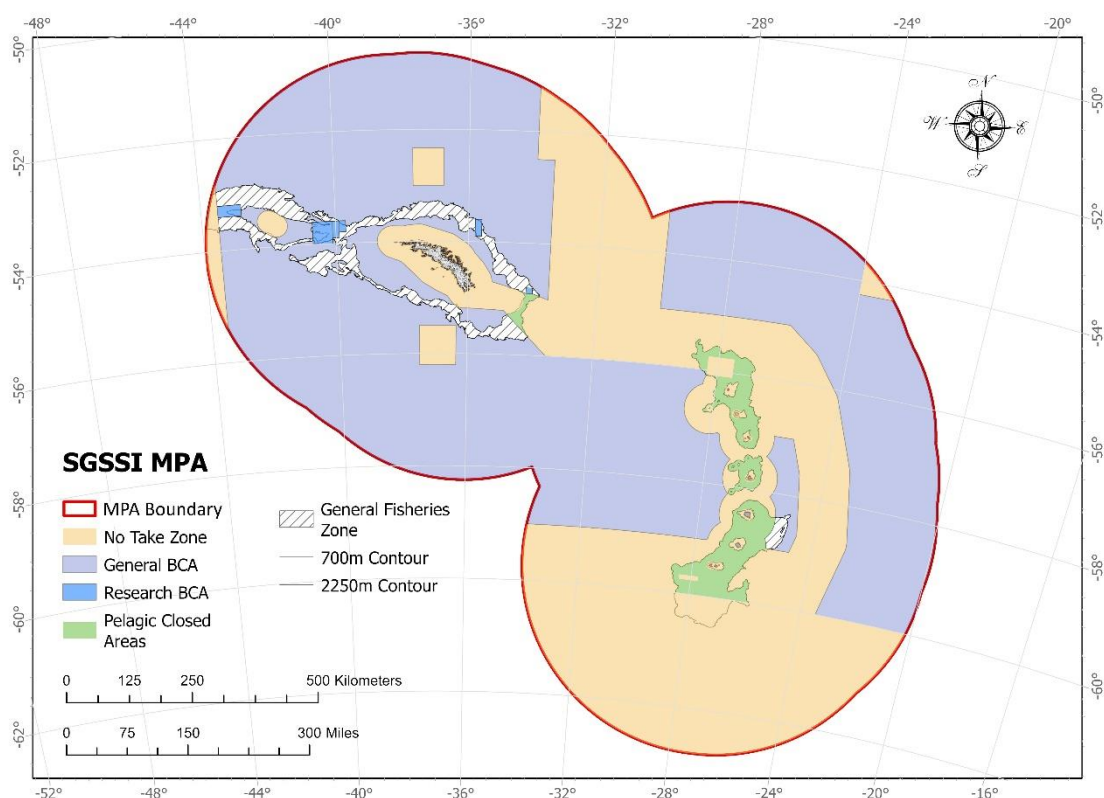
## SCHEDULE 5 - Pelagic closed areas

*(article 3)*

Area	Boundaries	Protected features	Conservation objectives To conserve and protect:-
Clerke Rocks Pelagic Closed Area	The area lying within the Clerke Rocks No-take Zone where water depths range from 700-2,250 m	The pelagic ecosystem across an area of 1,258 km <sup>2</sup> and all benthic habitats excluding those lying between 700-2,250 m depth in this area	The pelagic ecosystem and dependent predators in the area east of Clerke rocks forming a contiguous No-take Zone for pelagic fisheries between South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands a key migration corridor for krill dependent predators
Protector Shoals Pelagic Closed Area	The area lying between 55°30'-56°00'S and between 29°00'W and the eastern boundary of the South Sandwich Trench No-take Zone where water depths range from 700-2,250 m	The pelagic ecosystem outside the Protector Shoals No-take Zone in an area of 2,741 km <sup>2</sup>	To extend protection for the pelagic ecosystem and dependent predators in the area around Protector Shoals
South Sandwich Islands Pelagic Closed Area	Between:- (1) a line 26.99 NM from the baselines around the coasts of each of the South Sandwich Islands; (2) mean high water at spring tide; and (3) those areas where water depth is between 700-2,250 m	The pelagic ecosystem around each of the South Sandwich Islands in an area of 23,496 km <sup>2</sup>	The pelagic ecosystem and dependent predators in the area around each of the South Sandwich Islands, particularly the highly abundant chinstrap and Adelie penguins
Kemp Seamount Pelagic Closed Area	The area lying between 59°30'-60°00'S and between 29°00'W and the western boundary of the South Sandwich Trench No-take Zone where water depths range from 700-2,250 m	The pelagic ecosystem surrounding the Kemp Seamount in an area of 3,424 km <sup>2</sup>	To extend protection for the pelagic ecosystem and dependent predators in the area around the Kemp Seamount

## SCHEDULE 6 - SGSSI MPA Map

(article 4)



Made 17 April 2025

A. M. BLAKE C.M.G.,  
*Commissioner.*

### EXPLANATORY NOTE (not part of the order)

This order repeals and replaces the Marine Protected Areas Order 2019.

Section 18(1) of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011 (No 1 of 2011) (the Ordinance) allows the Commissioner to designate areas of sea as marine protected areas (MPAs).

The criteria for designation of a marine protected area are set out in section 18(2) of the Ordinance and the requirements for orders designating MPAs are set out in the rest of section 18 and in section 19. Section 5(5) requires consultation with the Secretary of State about whether there would be any implications for foreign policy or relevant international obligations resulting from a proposed MPA. The consultation took place and the Secretary of State gave their permission for the Order to be made.

Section 20(1) of the Ordinance allows the Commissioner to make conservation orders to further the objectives of an MPA. Section 20(3) allows the Commissioner to prohibit or restrict

activities in a conservation order and section 20(6) allows for different prohibitions or restrictions to apply in different parts of an MPA.

This order designates the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area (the SGSSI MPA). The designation is intended to conserve marine biodiversity, habitats and critical ecosystem function.

The SGSSI MPA consists of the SGSSI waters.

This order revises the existing measures and also introduces new measures based on outcomes of the SGSSI MPA five-year review. The new MPA measures are based on revised baseline data contained within the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (Territorial Sea) (Amendment) Order 2024 (SI2024/994).

The changes agreed through a series of stakeholder meetings, are to increase the areal extent of the existing No-take Zones and Pelagic Closed Areas. This order revises and incorporates changes to the areal extent of the measures listed under Schedules 1, 3 and 4 and makes the necessary changes to the map and reference to the new baselines.

A revised map, which illustrates the boundaries of the SGSSI MPA, the no-take zones, the pelagic closed areas, general benthic closed area and the research benthic closed areas is in Schedule 6.

To protect benthic marine organisms, the order prohibits bottom trawling throughout the SGSSI MPA and all bottom fishing in waters of less than 700 m depth and in waters of depths greater than 2,250 m (Schedules 1 and 2). Bottom fishing is prohibited in areas identified in Schedules 1 and 2.

Fishing for Antarctic krill is prohibited between 1 October and 30 April (closed season). Pelagic fishing is prohibited within 26.99 NM of the South Sandwich Islands (Schedule 5).

This order also defines a no-take zone 26.99 NM either side of a defined line representing the approximate mid-point of the South Sandwich Islands trench (Schedule 4).

Article 5 prohibits certain activities in the SGSSI MPA. These prohibitions do not apply to activities covered by the limited exceptions in section 20(8) of the Ordinance or by a licence granted by the Commissioner under section 21(1) of the Ordinance.

Breach of the prohibitions is an offence against section 20(9) of the Ordinance.