



---

**An Bille um Fhiadhúlra (Leasú), 2025**  
**Wildlife (Amendment) Bill 2025**

---

*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

---





---

**AN BILLE UM FHIADHÚLRA (LEASÚ), 2025**  
**WILDLIFE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025**

---

*Mar a tionscnaíodh*

*As initiated*

---

**CONTENTS**

**Section**

1. Definition
2. Amendment of section 2 of Principal Act
3. Amendment of section 23 of Principal Act
4. Amendment of Fifth Schedule of Principal Act
5. Short title and commencement

ACT REFERRED TO

Wildlife Act, 1976 (No. 39)



---

AN BILLE UM FHIADHÚLRA (LEASÚ), 2025  
WILDLIFE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025

---

# Bill

*entitled*

An Act to amend section 23 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 to include the Sprat Fish, *Sprattus sprattus*, in the Fifth Schedule of the Act; to prohibit the targeted fishing of sprat except where caught as bycatch; to provide for a moratorium on commercial sprat fishing until sufficient scientific data is available regarding sprat habitats, population dynamics, and their ecological role, to include a Just Transition plan for inshore fishers; and to provide for related matters.

5

10

**Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:**

## Definition

1. In this Act, “Principal Act” means the Wildlife Act 1976.

## Amendment of section 2 of Principal Act

2. The Principal Act is amended in section 2(1), by the insertion of the following:  
“ ‘hunt’ means stalk, pursue, chase, drive, flush, capture, fish, course, attract, follow, search for, lie in wait for, take, trap or shoot by any means whether with or without dogs, and, except in sections 28 and 29, includes killing in the course of hunting, but does not in this Act include stalking, attracting, searching for or lying in wait for any fauna by an unarmed person solely for the purpose of watching or of taking or making photographic or other pictures, and kindred words shall be construed accordingly;”.

15

20

## Amendment of section 23 of Principal Act

3. The Principal Act is amended in section 23 by the insertion of the following:  
“(12) Notwithstanding subsection (5), any protected fish, as per the Fifth Schedule of this Act, captured indirectly, or as part of a by-catch fishery, is exempt from this section.  
(13) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Minister may, after consultation with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, revoke protected status from fish specified in the Fifth Schedule upon the

25

30

allocation of a fisheries management quota for this species and the approval of a species-specific management plan.

- (14) The Minister shall develop, in consultation with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and relevant stakeholders, a Just Transition plan for fishers who are adversely impacted by the passing of this Act.”. 5

#### **Amendment of Fifth Schedule of Principal Act**

4. The Principal Act is amended in the Fifth Schedule, (Animals referred to in Section 23), by inserting an additional subheading entitled “Fish” and inserting “Sprat” “*Sprattus sprattus*” in this category. 10

#### **Short title and commencement**

5. (1) This Act may be cited as the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2025.  
(2) This Act shall come into operation on the day of its passing.



# BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do leasú alt 23 den Acht um Fhiadhúlra, 1976 chun go n-áireofar an Salán, *sprattus sprattus*, sa Chúigiú Sceideal a ghabhann leis an Acht; do thoirmeasc iascaireacht spriocdhírthe a dhéanamh ar shaláin seachas i gcás go ngabhtar saláin mar fhoghabháil; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le moratóir ar iascaireacht tráchtála a dhéanamh ar shaláin go dtí go mbeidh sonraí leordhóthanacha eolaíocha ar fáil maidir le gnáthóga an tsaláin, dinimic a lín, agus an ról éiceolaíoch atá aige, lena n-áireofar plean um Aistriú Cóir d'iascairí cladaigh; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

An Teachta Jennifer Whitmore a thug isteach,  
17 Iúil, 2025

# BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to amend section 23 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 to include the Sprat Fish, *Sprattus sprattus*, in the Fifth Schedule of the Act; to prohibit the targeted fishing of sprat except where caught as bycatch; to provide for a moratorium on commercial sprat fishing until sufficient scientific data is available regarding sprat habitats, population dynamics, and their ecological role, to include a Just Transition plan for inshore fishers; and to provide for related matters.

Introduced by Deputy Jennifer Whitmore,  
17th July, 2025

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH  
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR  
Le ceannach díreach ó  
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,  
BÓTHAR BHAILE UÍ BHEOLÁIN, CILL MHAIGHNEANN,  
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 8, D08 XAO6.  
Teil: 046 942 3100  
r-phost: publications@opw.ie  
nó trí aon díoltóir leabhar.

DUBLIN  
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE  
To be purchased from  
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS,  
MOUNTSHANNON ROAD, KILMAINHAM,  
DUBLIN, D08 XAO6.  
Tel: 046 942 3100  
Email: publications@opw.ie  
or through any bookseller.

€0.76

