

Proposals relating to the Common Fisheries Policy and the Common Organisation of the Markets in Fishery and Aquaculture Products

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Proposals relating to the Common Fisheries Policy and the Common Organisation of the Markets in Fishery and Aquaculture Products

On 13th July the European Commission published a package of proposals to reform both the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and its supporting Common Market Organisation (CMO) in fishery and aquaculture products. Some of the changes that have been proposed are potentially far-reaching and could have a significant impact on UK fisheries and the marine environment. The UK is committed to genuine and fundamental reform of the CFP, to achieve healthy fish stocks, a prosperous fishing industry and a healthy marine environment. The Commission's proposals are therefore welcome as a starting point in fixing this broken policy (a summary of the main changes can be found at p10 in the Communication on Reform of the CFP (COM 2011 417) – see link below).

We will now need to continue our work with the Commission, other Member States, the European Parliament, the Fishing Industry, NGOs, Processors and others with an interest in fisheries, aquaculture and the marine environment to improve the package of proposals and make sure that reforms will work effectively in the real world. We want to hear what you think about the proposals to help us prioritise our approach to negotiations in Europe over the next 18 months.

The full list of proposals is below and you can view the documents by following the hyperlinks. In addition we have also included a number of questions that are aimed to help focus on the most important changes needed to overcome the failures of the CFP and the issues that matter most to the UK. Please send your responses to these questions or any other points on the proposals to cfp@defra.gsi.gov.uk by 10th November 2011.

- [COM\(2011\) 417](#) – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions; Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy
- [COM\(2011\) 425](#) – Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy
- [COM\(2011\) 416](#) – Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Organisation of the Markets in Fishery and Aquaculture Products
- [COM\(2011\) 424](#) – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on External dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy
- [COM\(2011\) 418](#) – Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions; On Reporting Obligations under Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy
- [Impact assessments](#): SEC(2011) 891, SEC(2011) 883

The Commission are expected to publish proposals on the supporting financial instrument in the autumn and we will also be seeking views on those proposals at that stage. In addition to this process, we will also meet directly with groups of stakeholders to gather their views on the Commission proposals, and continue to do this as negotiations develop.

Questions - CFP Reform

- 1. Are the aims of the CFP set out clearly and appropriately in these proposals, with the right balance between environmental, social and economic objectives?**
- 2. What are your views on the proposed content of multi-annual plans and the process to deliver management measures under these plans?**
- 3. Have the proposals got it right on ending fish discards? If not, what changes would you suggest?**
- 4. Do the proposals give sufficient flexibility to manage fisheries on a regional basis, with an appropriate voice for stakeholders? If not, what changes might be necessary?**
- 5. What are your views on the proposal to introduce “transferable fishing concessions” for vessels over 12m and those which used towed gear? Are the provisions for Member States to decide on allocations and set safeguards on trading appropriate/sufficient?**
- 6. Are the proposals to help develop the aquaculture industry necessary, and the steps suggested helpful?**
- 7. Do these proposals go far enough to ensure the sustainability of EU fishing activity in external, non-EU waters? If not, what other measures are necessary?**

CMO Reform

- 8. Do you think that quota management and marketing responsibilities for producer organisations should be brought out and strengthened in the legislation?**
- 9. Are the proposals consistent with current, wider consumer information and labelling requirements? (If not, how should they be made consistent or will they place additional burdens on the industry).**
- 10. Should additional voluntary information' be included in the proposals?**
- 11. Do you think that intervention mechanisms should continue to be part of the new marketing regulation? (If so what form should this be in e.g. temporary or permanent)**

General

- 12. Will these proposals place additional burdens and costs on stakeholders? If so can you provide an estimate of what those additional costs could be?**

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