

Web: www.defra.gov.uk

Date: 5th April 2011

Dear Consultee

Consultation on the Reform of Fisheries Management Arrangements - England.

I am writing to seek your views on the Government's proposals to reform the fisheries management arrangements for the English fishing fleet.

Fisheries play an important role in providing food, jobs, wealth, and social/cultural benefits, particularly in some coastal communities. The English under-10m fleet (often referred to as the 'small scale' fleet or the 'under 10s') has failed to thrive under successive management regimes, and it faces major challenges. Specifically, the current regime has encouraged an imbalance between capacity and fishing opportunities, putting pressure on smaller businesses. These problems have been compounded by rising fuel/operating costs, increasing competition for fishing grounds with the development and expansion of renewable energy sites and marine protected areas, and continually reducing quotas.

This consultation sets out proposals for fisheries management reform in England designed to secure a more profitable, sustainable and unified fishing industry in the long term. The key elements include:

- the establishment of community quota models in England, in areas that wish to safeguard a small-scale/community fleet;
- the allocation of clearer, more stable and predictable entitlements to fish across the whole English fleet, using the existing Fixed Quota Allocation mechanism;
- safeguards to help retain fisheries access rights in small scale/community fleets and prevent the concentration of rights; and
- some re-alignment of fishing opportunities across the English fleet, including that associated with consistently un-fished allocations. We are considering how this measure might be used to incentivise English community quota models.

The following documents relating to this consultation may be found on Defra's website at www.defra.gov.uk/consult/fisheries-1104/:

- a copy of this letter;
- the consultation document;
- the impact assessment;
- a list of consultees.

If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, or have any queries please contact:

Access to Fisheries Team
Defra
Area 2C Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR
fisheriesreform@defra.gsi.gov.uk

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals and questions posed in the consultation document. Responses should be sent by post or by email to the above address, or by **close Thursday 30th June 2011**.

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at <http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/>. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Consultation Co-ordinator, Rhonda Marshall, Defra, Area 7C, Nobel House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

When the consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra Library at Ergon House. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of a response under Freedom of Information legislation. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep your details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/manage/saif/>. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details. To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

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Lower Ground Floor, Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
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Telephone: 0207 238 6575
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Please give the library 24 hours notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

Nathalie Simon
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs