Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Application for the allocation of English quota:

Quota Application Mechanism

**Introduction**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Defra have launched a pilot which uses a Quota Application Mechanism (QAM) to invite producer organisations with English-registered vessels to apply directly for a share of English quota. This pilot consists of 3 stocks, with quota intended to be allocated towards the beginning of August 2024.

The questions and assessment criteria have been carefully designed to support maximisation of benefits for the English fleet and work towards better sustainability outcomes. The pilot will be reviewed and developed to continue the delivery of sustainable management of fisheries in line with the Joint Fisheries Statement.

This application form must be submitted to [quota@defra.gov.uk](mailto:quota@defra.gov.uk) by 29 June 2024 BST. For further information, you can read [Alternative ways of managing English fishing quota](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-ways-of-managing-english-fishing-quota).

**To be eligible to apply you must:**

* Be a producer organisation that is submitting an application containing vessels registered in England with a commercial fishing licence
* Ensure no master/owner in your application has been found guilty of any fisheries offences in the last three years which resulted in an Official Written Warning (OWW), Financial Administrative Penalties (FAPs) or finding of guilt by a court
* Agree to only catch and land the quota rather than trade the allocation
* Agree to be contacted and share information and scheme-relevant data (e.g., landings data, sales data) during and after the pilot as part of an evaluation by Defra, the MMO and/or their contractors.

**How to complete and submit the application**

Applications can be completed on an individual producer organisation basis or as a group application with vessels from multiple producer organisations with a named producer organisation as the lead contact. Applicants will be required to complete applicant and vessel details. Applicants will also need to provide answers to three questions which relate to how applicants are best placed to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits.

When completing this form, you should:

* Answer all required questions. Incomplete application forms may not be considered and may cause your application to be unsuccessful.
* Contact Defra at [quota@defra.gov.uk](mailto:quota@defra.gov.uk) if you experience any problems completing this application.

To submit your application, you can either:

* Email your form to [quota@defra.gov.uk](mailto:quota@defra.gov.uk)
* Post your form to: Quota Policy and Negotiations team, Marine & Fisheries, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Lateral House, 8 City Walk, Holbeck, Leeds, LS11 9AT. If you are planning on posting your application please let us know to expect it by emailing [quota@defra.gov.uk](mailto:quota@defra.gov.uk).

Applications are open from 4 June 2024 and will close at midnight on 28 June 2024. Applications received outside of this period will not be considered.

**Complaints and disputes process**

For complaints about the quality of customer service or disputes, please contact Defra using the published [customer complaints procedure](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/complaints-procedure#:~:text=You%20should%20address%20your%20complaint,complaints%20about%20standards%20of%20service.&text=If%20you%20are%20unhappy%20with,passed%20to%20a%20senior%20manager.).

## Section 1: Applicant details

**1.1 Contact Information**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title  Mr, Mrs, Mx or Other (specify) | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| First name | |  | Last name | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Email address | |  | Telephone / Mobile number | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Address | |  |  | |
|  |  | | | |

**1.2 Group Information**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Group name (if applicable) | |  | Your position in organisation (if applicable) | |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**1.3 Alternative contact information**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title  Mr, Mrs, Mx or Other (specify) | | |  |  | |  |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |
| First name | | |  | Last name | | |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |
| Email address | | |  | Telephone / Mobile number | | |
|  |  | |  |  | |  |
| Address | | |  |  | | |
|  |  | | | | | |
| Alternative contact’s position in organisation (if applicable) | | | | |
|  | |  | | |

## Section 2: Vessel details

Please include details for the vessels you are applying on behalf of.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Vessel**  **registration**  **(include your**  **vessel PLN and RSS number)** | **Licence holder**  **name** | **Master/owner**  **name** | **Master/owner address** | **Master/owner date of birth** | **Stock the vessel will fish** | **Which PO are you a member of?** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Section 3: Stocks you are applying for**

Please state here which stocks you are applying for quota in, your minimum viable tonnages, and your maximum viable tonnages. We have included for reference the total amount of tonnage which could be available.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Stock Name** | **Stock Code** | **Tonnage which could be available\*** | **How much tonnage are you applying for?** | **What is your minimum viable tonnage?** |
|
| a: Cod North Sea | COD/2A3AX4 | 200 |  |  |
| b: Herring North Sea | HER/4AB. | 1000 |  |  |
| c: Nephrops North Sea | NEP/2AC4-C | 300 |  |  |

\* This is subject to availability for 2024.

**Section 4: Your fishing plan(s)**

As part of the application process, we will be assessing how you intend to manage this quota. We will assess which applicants are best placed to support environmentally sustainable fisheries with clear economic and/or social benefits.

Please respond to all questions and give your answer against the stock(s) you are applying for. For example, if you are applying for access to quota for ‘1: Cod North Sea’, please write your answers in the area allocated to ‘1: Cod North Sea’ in the answer boxes.

If you are applying for multiple stocks, please write your answers in the areas allocated for these stocks. For example, if you were applying for access to quota for ‘2: Herring North Sea’ and ‘3: Nephrops North Sea’, please write your answers in the areas allocated to number two and number three in the answer boxes respectively.

Please respond to all questions below keeping within the word limit of 350 words. Answers will be assessed up to the maximum word count of 350 words. If you are printing this form and require additional space, please mark clearly which questions your answers refer to when using extra pages.

Questions 4.1 to 4.3 will be assessed with the following scoring system for each of your stock applications:

• 0 - No demonstration of answering the question.

• 1 - Minimal level of detail in answering the question. For example, but not limited to: some information has been provided which relates to one or two bullet points suggested to help answer the question. However, there is a lack of detail or evidence provided.

• 2 - Some level of detail in answering the question. For example, but not limited to: some information has been provided which relates to the majority of the bullet points suggested to help answer the question; some detail or evidence has been provided.

• 3 - Good level of detail in answering the question. For example, but not limited to: some information has been provided which relates to all of the bullet points suggested to help answer the question; a good level of detail or evidence has been provided; multiple options have been considered; training or qualifications have been undertaken.

• 4 - Excellent level of detail in answering the question. For example, but not limited to: detailed information has been provided which relates to all of the bullet points suggested to help answer the question; very good level of detail and evidence has been provided with multiple examples; multiple options and contingencies have been considered; quantifiable evidence has been provided; training or qualifications specific to the question have been undertaken.

A score of ‘0 - No demonstration’ in any of the questions in section 3 will mean your application will not be considered.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel chaired by Defra and attended by the MMO and Cefas. Applications will be ranked based on their score and quota will be awarded to the highest scoring applicants, subject to the quota available. In the event of equal scoring applicants, quota may be allocated so as to prioritise the applications which score highest on environmental considerations and are best placed to support environmentally sustainable fisheries. If applications are still of equal scores, the panel may award quota to enable multiple applicants to take part in the pilot or select an applicant at random.

* 1. If you are awarded quota, how will you ensure that your fishing techniques and vessel modifications are environmentally sustainable in the long term?

When answering this question you may wish to include information on:

* Use of selective fishing gear
* Minimising and if possible eliminating the accidental capture of fish that are caught in the course of fishing for fish of a different description, or animals other than fish that are caught in the course of fishing
* Reducing impact on the environment, for example, using less energy, reducing carbon emissions or causing less damage to habitats
* Use of additional monitoring, either using equipment or technologies or through a scientific programme, such as Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM), use of the Clean Catch app (where available), or participation in a voluntary scientific scheme.

Examples of fishing techniques and/or vessel modifications include but are not limited to: selective or modified gears with varying mesh size or escape panels, acoustic deterrents or pingers, move on procedures, bird scaring, reduced deck lighting during line setting or night setting, increased line sink rate, change where offal or discards exit the vessel, and work on undersized species, berried or spawning individuals, or non-target species.

Environmental considerations which are different to those listed in the above bullet points will be taken into account.

a: Cod North Sea (350 words maximum)

b: Herring North Sea (350 words maximum)

c: Nephrops North Sea (350 words maximum)

* 1. How will access to this quota provide social benefits to the UK? This can include local, regional or national benefits.

When answering this question you may wish to include information on:

* Improving crew job satisfaction/job security
* Supporting and training new entrants
* Making fishing operations safer
* Supporting business diversification/adaptation
* Increased participation in collaborative science/management.

Examples of social benefits that could be provided include but are not limited to: accreditations or measures on crew welfare and crew conditions such as Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard, providing apprenticeships and employing domestic crew, increasing the range of species caught by vessels, reducing the risk of accidents, and increased attendance at meetings of regional fishing groups or IFCAs.

Social benefits which are different to those listed in the above bullet points will be taken into account.

a: Cod North Sea (350 words maximum)

b: Herring North Sea (350 words maximum)

c: Nephrops North Sea (350 words maximum)

* 1. How will access to this quota enable you to contribute economic benefits to the UK? This can include local, regional or national benefits.

When answering this question you may wish to include information on:

* Potential direct or indirect benefits to the local economy of coastal communities
* Contributing to employment in coastal and rural areas
* Enhancing UK supply chains
* Market conditions

Examples of contributions to the economy include but are not limited to: landing in UK ports, impact on harbours, processers, markets or people, identification of new outlets and other commercial opportunities, improving the conditions for the placing on the market of your members’ fishery and aquaculture products, improving economic returns and stabilising the markets.

Economic benefits which are different to those listed in the above bullet points will be taken into account.

a: Cod North Sea (350 words maximum)

b: Herring North Sea (350 words maximum)

c: Nephrops North Sea (350 words maximum)

**Terms and conditions**

By launching a pilot using a Quota Application Mechanism, Defra is not bound to accept any application from any applicant. Defra reserves the right to withdraw or terminate the application exercise at any time.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they understand the requirements for this application process. If any information is unclear, you can raise a query with Defra via the contact details set out in the introduction section of this form. We will respond to all requests for clarifications as quickly as possible but cannot guarantee a minimum response time. It is the responsibility of applicants to make sure that they raise any queries sufficiently early to allow them to submit their application by the deadline. If a query is relevant to other applicants, Defra will share all clarifications with other applicants, as and when necessary.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring they submit a complete and accurate application and provide all the information requested. Only completed applications, and content up to the 350 word count, will be considered. Once applications are submitted, amendments will not be accepted. Should applicants wish to make an amendment, they should withdraw their existing application and submit a new application before the pilot deadline.

Applicants may withdraw an application at any time by contacting Defra. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered except in exceptional circumstances at Defra’s discretion. Defra may also, at its own discretion, change the deadline and in such circumstances, Defra will notify all applicants of any change via email and publish changes online.

## Declaration

By submitting this application, you are agreeing that the information you have provided is correct.

Any personal information provided within your application would be handled only for the purpose of processing your application and for evaluating the scheme. The UK Government undertakes commensurate and appropriate evaluation to understand efficiency and effectiveness of interventions and their impacts. Your application will be shared with evaluation teams at the MMO and Defra, or their agents, solely for evaluation of the scheme. Your personal details will not be published in any evaluation reporting.

You can find out more about Defra’s standards for requesting and processing personal information in the [Defra personal information charter](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/about/personal-information-charter).

I confirm that I accept the terms and conditions laid out above.

Name ………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Date …………………………………………………………………………………………………...