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 launched a trial in 2024 using a Quota Application Mechanism. Producer organisations with English-registered vessels and non-sectoral over-10-metre vessels are invited to apply directly for a share of English quota. This trial consists of 5 stocks, with quota intended to be allocated towards the end of March 2025.

The questions and assessment criteria have been designed to support maximisation of benefits for the English fleet and work towards better sustainability outcomes. The trial 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 by 28 February 2025 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-in-2025).

**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 OR
* Be a non-sectoral over-10-metre vessel. This includes over-10-metre Crown Dependency vessels. You can also submit a joint application with other non-sectoral over-10-metre vessels.
* 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 trial as part of an assessment by Defra, the MMO and/or their contractors. This can include and is not limited to e-log data, invoices, inspections, license records, companies house, meeting minutes, landing statistics, take-over declarations and certifications.

**How to complete and submit the application**

Applications can be completed on an individual producer organisation basis, as a group application with vessels from multiple producer organisations with a named producer organisation as the lead contact, on an individual non-sectoral over-10-metre vessel basis, or as a group application of non-sectoral over-10-metre vessels with a named person as the lead contact. Applicants will be required to complete applicant and vessel details. Applicants will also need to provide answers to 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:

* Complete and submit your form online.
* 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 3 February 2025 and will close at midnight on 28 February 2025. Applications received outside of this period will not be considered. Awaiting a response to a query will not be regarded as a justification for considering an application which has been submitted after the deadline.

**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.).

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).

## 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** | **Are you a member of a PO or a group application, and if so, which PO or group?** |
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**Section 3: Stocks you are applying for**

Please state here which stocks you are applying for quota in and your minimum viable tonnages. Where an application is being submitted on behalf of more than one vessel, please also state how your tonnage will be split across those vessels. If successful, quota will be allocated to compliant vessels in line with the tonnage splits in your application. Quota will not be awarded to any non-compliant vessels. We have included for reference the estimate total amount of tonnage which could be available, and the estimate indicated tonnage available for non-sectoral over-10-metre vessels (O10s) and over-10-metre Crown Dependency vessels. The stocks and tonnages listed are subject to quota availability, which will be confirmed after the application process has closed.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Stock Name** | **Stock Code** | **Total tonnage available\*** | **Indicated tonnage available for non-sectoral O10s including Crown Dependency O10s\*** | **How much tonnage are you applying for?** | **What is your minimum viable tonnage?** | **Please outline how much each vessel will fish in percentages (%).** |
| i) Cod North Sea | COD/2A3AX4 | 535 | 175 |  |  |  |
| ii) Saithe North Sea | POK/2C3A4 | 1167 | 25 |  |  |  |
| iii) Herring North Sea | HER/4AB. | 3005 | 200 |  |  |  |
| iv) Skates & Rays Western | SRX/67AKXD | 213 | 75 |  |  |  |
| v) Mackerel Western | MAC/2CX14 | 2848 | 200 |  |  |  |

\*This is subject to quota availability for 2025.

**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 ‘i) Cod North Sea’, please write your answers in the areas allocated to ‘i) Cod North Sea’.

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 ‘ii) Saithe North Sea’ and ‘iii) Herring North Sea’, please write your answers in the areas allocated to numbers two and three respectively.

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

Questions between 4.1 and 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. This may include demonstrating that, as a result of receiving the quota, the desired outcome or impact will be achieved to a minimum degree, and/or that there is a way by which the desired outcome or impact will be achieved.

• 2 - Some level of detail in answering the question. This may include demonstrating that, as a result of receiving the quota, the desired outcome or impact will be achieved to some degree, and/or that there are one or two ways that the desired outcome or impact will be achieved.

• 3 - Good level of detail in answering the question. This may include demonstrating that, as a result of receiving the quota, the desired outcome or impact will be achieved to a good degree, and/or that there are two or three ways that the desired outcome or impact will be achieved.

• 4 - Excellent level of detail in answering the question. This may include demonstrating that, as a result of receiving the quota, the desired outcome or impact will be achieved to the highest degree, and/or that there are three or more ways that the desired outcome or impact will be achieved.

The panel reviewing applications will be assessing the quality of the information in the answers given. Scoring will be awarded in line with what the panel thinks the impact of that applicant being awarded the quota will be. Higher marks can be achieved not only by detailing a number of ways the intended outcome will be achieved, but also by having a smaller number of ways of a higher quality or if the information in the answer demonstrates a high likelihood or degree that the impact will be achieved.

Applicants must score a minimum average of ‘1 – Minimal level of detail in answering the question’ across the four sections of question 4.1 ‘Environmental factors: ensuring your fishing techniques and vessel modifications are environmentally sustainable in the long-term’. An average score below 1 for this question will mean your application will not be further considered as quota under this trial will only be awarded where applicants score the minimum average in response to the questions in 4.1.

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 the highest average on question 4.1 ‘Environmental factors: ensuring your fishing techniques and vessel modifications are environmentally sustainable in the long-term’ 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 trial or select an applicant at random.

**4.1 Environmental factors: ensuring your fishing techniques and vessel modifications are environmentally sustainable in the long-term.**

**a) Will you use selective fishing gear that reduces your impact on the environment?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail in your answer as to what gear and how it will reduce your impact on the environment Examples include but are not limited to modified gears with varying mesh size or escape panels, coverless trawl and double cod end. Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**b) Will you minimise and, if possible, eliminate your 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?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail in your answer as to what accidental capture you will minimise and how you will minimise it. Examples include but are not limited to acoustic deterrents or pingers, move-on procedures, bird scaring, change where offal or discards exit the vessel, and work on undersized species, berried or spawning individuals, or non-target species.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**c) Will you implement additional monitoring, either by using equipment, technologies or through a scientific programme?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to are Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM), use the Clean Catch app (where available), or participation in a voluntary scientific scheme.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**d) Are there any other fishing techniques or ways in which you will you reduce your impact on the environment, for example, using less energy, reducing carbon emission, causing less damage to habitats, or ensuring as much of the gear as possible is either reused, repurposed and/or recycled at end-of-life?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to reduced deck lighting during line setting or night setting, increased line sink rate, or repurposing and/or recycling fishing gear in an appropriate way at end-of-life.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**4.2 Social factors: ensuring your fishing activities provide social benefits to the UK and Crown Dependencies. These can include local, regional or national benefits.**

**a) Will you improve crew job satisfaction and staff retention job security and make fishing operations safer?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to accreditations or measures on crew welfare and crew conditions such as Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard, reducing the risk of accidents and career and skills development opportunities. Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**b) Will you support and train new entrants?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to providing apprenticeships, employing domestic crew and sponsoring new entrants through their training.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**c) Will you increase participation in collaborative science and management?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to research projects, membership of groups in support of the industry, and sharing data with research institutes and facilitating research scientists or observers on board.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**d) Are there any other ways in which you will provide social benefits to the UK and Crown Dependencies?**

**☐Yes**

**☐No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to contributing to cultural heritage, strengthening formal or informal social networks and working with under-represented groups in the fishing sector.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**4.3 Economic factors: ensuring your fishing activities contribute economic benefits to the UK and Crown Dependencies. These can include local, regional or national benefits.**

**a) Will you contribute to employment in coastal and rural areas?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to employing locally based crew, utilising other local businesses for their services and external promotion of the fishing sector such as at work fairs.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**b) Will you support business diversification and adaption?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to increasing the range of species caught by vessels, ensure a fuller utilisation of fisheries and aquaculture products and selling to different buyers.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**c) Will you enhance UK and Crown Dependency market conditions and supply chains?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to landing in UK or Crown Dependency ports, using UK or Crown Dependency companies to transport, store and/or process landings and improving economic returns and stabilising the markets.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 words maximum)

**d) Are there any other ways you will contribute direct or indirect benefits to the local economy of coastal communities?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If so, please give detail as to how in your answer. Examples include but are not limited to encouraging entrepreneurship, maintaining or developing business opportunities or selling through local, regional or national markets.** **Consideration other than the examples given will be taken into account. These examples are intended to be illustrative.**

i) Cod North Sea (100 words maximum)

ii) Saithe North Sea (100 words maximum)

iii) Herring North Sea (100 words maximum)

iv) Skates & Rays Western (100 words maximum)

v) Mackerel western (100 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. Awaiting a response to a query will not be regarded as a justification for considering an application which has been submitted after 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 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 trial 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.

If on inspection a vessel in your application is found to not be using the selective fishing gear and/or fishing techniques outlined in your application, it may jeopardise the allocation of quota you may have received through the QAM trial. It may affect any applications you make for future QAM processes.

## 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 assessment to understand efficiency and effectiveness of interventions and their impacts. Your application will be shared with assessment teams at the MMO and Defra, or their agents, solely for assessment of the scheme. Your personal details will not be published in any assessment reporting. Your company data and how you intend to manage this quota as outlined in your application may be published on GOV.UK or shared with stakeholders.

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 …………………………………………………………………………………………………...