

Consultation on the proposed Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)

Personal details and confidentiality

Would you like your response to be confidential?

- Yes
- No

If you answered Yes to this question, please give your reason

Confidentiality and data protection information

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the Government website at: www.gov.uk/defra <<http://www.gov.uk/defra>> . An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (e.g. home address, email address, etc).

If you click on 'Yes' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

If you click on 'No' in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won't make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide in response to the consultation, including any personal data with external analysts.

This is for the purposes of consultation response analysis and provision of a report of the summary of responses only.

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance> <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principlesguidance>> .

Please find our latest privacy notice uploaded as a related document alongside our consultation document.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

What is your name?

Name

What is your email address?

Email

What is your organisation?

Organisation

Which of the following best describes your interest in the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP

(Required)

- *Aquaculture*
- *Individual*
- *Interest Group*
- *Processing*
- *Producer/Catching Sector*
- *Recreational Sea Fishing*

- *Science/Research*
- *Supplier/Retailer*
- *Marine Industry Sector*
- *Other*

If 'other', please specify.

Questions on the proposed Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP

The following questions relate to the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish Fisheries Management Plan which can be found in the 'related documents' section on the home page.

1 Do you have any comments on the process for developing the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP?

Details can be found within the FMP under heading **Relevant Stakeholders and Process Followed** and **Annex 4: Stakeholder Engagement**.

- Yes
- No

If yes, please leave your comments here.

2 What are your views on the evidence presented on the current state of the southern North Sea and eastern Channel mixed flatfish stocks in English waters and can you provide other evidence which supports or differs from ours?

Details can be found within the FMP under heading **Description of the fishery and stocks** and **Annex 1: Evidence Statement**.

Please leave your comments here.

3 What are your views on the goals for the management of flatfish in English waters of the southern North Sea and eastern Channel?

Details can be found in the FMP under heading **Fishery Management Objectives**.

Please leave your comments here.

4 What are the benefits and drawbacks (environmental, economic, social) of principles for TAC setting for southern North Sea and eastern Channel mixed flatfish fishing in

English waters? What points would need to be considered when delivering this?

Details can be found in the FMP under heading **Harvest Strategy**.

Please leave your comments here.

5 What are the benefits and drawbacks (environmental, economic, social) of introducing Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes for lemon sole, turbot and brill in 7d?

Details can be found in the FMP under heading **Technical Measures** and **Annex 1: Evidence Statement**.

Please leave your comments here.

6 What are the benefits and drawbacks (environmental, economic, social) of towed gear measures in 7d?

Details can be found in the FMP under heading **Technical Measures** and **Annex 1: Evidence Statement**.

Please leave your comments here.

7 Do you agree that these actions to improve the evidence base are appropriate for the flatfish FMP?

Please leave your comments here.

8 How would you like to be involved in the delivery of the plan and the future management of the southern North Sea and eastern Channel mixed flatfish fishery?

Please leave your comments here.

9 Are there any important connections with, or links to, other fisheries that we should consider when finalising this FMP or during its implementation process?

Please leave your comments here.

Questions on the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP environmental report

The following questions relate to the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP environmental report which can be found in the 'related documents' section on the home page.

Is there any additional evidence we could consider, to inform our environmental baseline?

Sections 4.1 to 4.4 provide a summary of the current state of the UK marine environment for each of the environmental issues screened into this SEA, and where applicable their associated UK MS descriptors (Table 4).

Our assessment has been conducted against the environmental baseline set out in these sources of existing information.

Please include any additional evidence below.

Are there any other positive or negative environmental effects associated with the policies and actions of the draft Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP that we could consider?

Sections 6.1 to 6.4 assess the environmental effects of the policies and actions of the draft Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP, in relation to the environmental issues screened into this SEA, and where applicable, their associated UK MS descriptors (Table 4).

Please include any other positive or negative environmental effects associated with the policies and actions of the draft FMP below.

Do you have any comments on the proposed actions set out in the Environmental Report to monitor and/or mitigate any likely significant (negative) effects on the environment of the FMP?

Sections 7.1 to 7.4 detail the proposed measures for reducing significant negative environmental effects arising from the Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP, for issues scoped into the assessment.

Please include any comments on the proposed actions to to monitor and/or mitigate any likely significant (negative) effects on the environment of the FMPs.

Do you have any additional comments in relation to the Environmental Report which you have not been able to provide in response to the previous questions?

Please include any additional comments in relation to the Environmental Report below.

Consultee feedback on the online survey

Overall, how satisfied are you with our online consultation tool?

- *Very satisfied*
- *Satisfied*
- *Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied*
- *Dis-satisfied*
- *Very dissatisfied*
- *Don't know*

Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.