



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Fisheries: Apportioning additional quota between the UK administrations

UK and the Crown Dependencies

October 2020



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1. Introduction

In January 2021, at the end of the transition period, the UK will be an independent coastal State with rights and duties under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to control and manage the resources in our waters. We will have left the Common Fisheries Policy and will no longer be bound by the EU's outdated and unfair method for sharing fishing opportunities. We are committed to moving away from relative stability to a fairer share of fishing opportunities for our fishing industry across the British Isles.

We will be negotiating with the EU and other coastal States this year on 2021 fishing opportunities, including quotas, for shared fish stocks. There will be negotiations in future years for fishing opportunities beyond 2021.

We aim to secure additional quota in these negotiations - over and above what we had before we left the EU – and we need to be ready to allocate any additional quota we secure. However, we will not know what precise stocks and tonnages we will have in 2021 until negotiations conclude later this year.

This consultation is about how we apportion this additional quota between the four UK fisheries administrations. We are working closely with the Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government and Welsh Government on this and will share the responses to this consultation with them.

At the same time, we are consulting separately on how we allocate this additional quota to industry in England and the Crown Dependencies. The devolved administrations are responsible for allocating quota in their parts of the UK.

We are also consulting separately on the future of the economic link in England.

This consultation will run for 4 weeks from 13 October 2020 until 10 November 2020.

2. How we currently apportion quota between administrations

In our 2018 white paper, [Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fisheries-white-paper-sustainable-fisheries-for-future-generations/sustainable-fisheries-for-future-generations-consultation-document)¹, we stated that we would continue to allocate our existing share of quota using the current method. By continuing to allocate this share of the quota in this way, we provide certainty to those who have invested in the system.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fisheries-white-paper-sustainable-fisheries-for-future-generations/sustainable-fisheries-for-future-generations-consultation-document>

In broad terms, our existing share means the quota we received under the Common Fisheries Policy's relative stability key. There are some stocks where the UK routinely got more than our relative stability share due to a process known as Hague Preference. We consider these Hague Preference gains to be part of our existing share too.

Annex A includes a list of stocks and what we consider our existing quota share to be.

The current method for apportioning quota between administrations is predominantly based on fixed quota allocation (FQA) units. Details can be found in the [Fisheries Concordat](#)² and in the [UK Quota Management Rules](#)³.

To be clear, in this consultation we are not proposing any change to how we apportion the UK's existing share of quota between administrations. That will continue to be done on the current method. That said, we can learn from the positive and negative elements of the current method and use that to inform what we do for additional quota.

QUESTION 1 – What are the positive elements of the current method of apportioning quota between administrations?

QUESTION 2 – What are the negative elements of the current method of apportioning quota between administrations?

3. What is additional quota?

Additional quota refers to the extra quota the UK aims to secure in future now we have left the EU and will be negotiating as an independent coastal State. This means anything above our existing share of quota (please see Section 2 and Annex A for further information).

In our 2018 white paper, we clearly stated that we will allocate any additional quota in a different way. Other administrations have also stated ambitions for new ways of managing additional quota.⁴

Following this, we are now seeking to put in place a new method of apportioning this additional quota between the four fisheries administrations.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69547/pb13771-fish-concordat.pdf

3

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890051/UK_2020_QMR_-_FINAL.pdf

⁴ See, for example: [Future of fisheries management in Scotland: national discussion paper](#) and [Securing Wales' Future](#).

4. Options for 2021

Given that we will not know how much additional quota we will secure until negotiations conclude it is highly likely that the method we put in place for apportionment in 2021 will change in future. We don't want to tie ourselves into a new method if it doesn't work.

Our aim is to share additional quota fairly with benefits realised across the UK. All administrations should gain as a result of us leaving the EU. Among other things, we will consider both the needs and track record of the existing fleet as well as the potential opportunities for industry to develop elsewhere.

We would like your views on how we split additional quota between the four administrations in 2021. The order of the options set out below do not indicate a level of prioritisation. It is also not an exhaustive list, and we are keen to hear any other proposals you may have.

It is important to understand that these options are solely about how the additional quota would be split between administrations. It would then be for each administration to decide how best to use their share of this quota.

Some of these options are potentially technically challenging. It may take time to develop and implement these which might make some better suited for future years.

Option 1: Geographic location of the stocks

One option we are considering is to share additional quota by the geographic location of the stocks. This would mean using zonal attachment which better reflects where the fish live.

Advantages of this approach include aligning the split with the physical location of the stocks in UK waters.

QUESTION 3 – What are your views on using the geographic location of the stocks?

Option 2: Historic uptake

Another option is to share the additional quota based on historic uptake. This would take account of previous landings by vessels registered in each administration.

Advantages of this approach are that the additional quota would go to those who have fished it previously.

Disadvantages include the potential of perpetuating any current imbalances in the apportionment. Other approaches may better allow opportunities to those who have not had them in the past.

QUESTION 4 – What are your views on using historic uptake?

Option 3: Capacity of the fleet in each administration

Another option is to share additional quota based on the capacity of the fleet in each administration. For example, allocating quota in proportion to the number of vessels or gross tonnage or gross engine power of the vessels registered in each administration.

Advantages of this approach include being potentially more representative of capacity to fish than models such as historic uptake.

Disadvantages of this approach include the potential of perpetuating the structural overcapacity in some parts of the fleet. We should also recognise that it may take time to grow capacity in some areas.

QUESTION 5 – What are your views on using the capacity of the fleet in each administration?

Option 4: Policy priorities of each administration

Another option is to share the additional quota according to the policy priorities of each administration. For example, if one administration were looking to bolster their industry in a particular area, we could allocate relevant quota to them.

Advantages of this approach include aligning the UK apportionment with each administration's aims.

Disadvantages include developing detailed approaches such as this before we know the negotiation outcome and how much additional quota we will have in each stock. It would be challenging to resolve if administrations had competing aims.

QUESTION 6 – What are your views on using the policy priorities of each administration?

Option 5: Hybrid approach

Using a hybrid option could also allow us to take the best elements of each of the other options while finding ways to deal with their disadvantages. It could however be complex.

QUESTION 7 – What are your views on using a hybrid option? What elements might a hybrid option include?

Other options

It would also be possible is to use the same method we currently use for existing quota. In this method, the split is based primarily on the number of FQA units linked to vessels registered in each administration. However, this is not our preferred option. We have been clear in the 2018 white paper and elsewhere that we intend to allocate additional quota in a different way.

QUESTION 8 – What are your views on using fixed quota allocation units?

There are probably other options that we have not considered too and we would like your help to identify these.

QUESTION 9 – Are there any other options for splitting additional quota between the four administrations we should consider for 2021?

QUESTION 10 – What other factors should we consider when apportioning additional quota between administrations?

5. Your opportunity to contribute

This is an opportunity for you to help shape how we apportion additional quota between the UK administrations in 2021 and beyond.

About you

First name:

Last name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Postal address:

Email address:

Telephone number:

Do you wish for your name to be published alongside your response in any documents we make available to the general public as a result of this call? (Yes/No)

Summary of questions

1. What are the positive elements of the current method of apportioning quota between administrations?
2. What are the negative elements of the current method of apportioning quota between administrations?
3. What are your views on using the geographic location of the stocks?
4. What are your views on using historic uptake?
5. What are your views on using the capacity of the fleet in each administration?
6. What are your views on using the policy priorities of each administration?
7. What are your views on using a hybrid option? What elements might a hybrid option include?
8. What are your views on using fixed quota allocation units?

9. Are there any other options for splitting additional quota between the four administrations we should consider for 2021?
10. What other factors should we consider when apportioning additional quota between administrations?

Responses

To submit your response, please complete the questionnaire available from the Citizen Space website at the following link: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/fisheries/apportioning-additional-quota-between-the-uk-admin>

Alternatively, you can send us your comments by post to:

Consultation Coordinator, Defra
2nd Floor
Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Or directly to our dedicated email account: fisheriesengagement@defra.gov.uk

Please let us have your comments by **10 November 2020**.

We will share responses received with Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government and Welsh Government.

6. Confidentiality and data protection

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office “Consultation Principles” and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes 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.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

Defra will process your personal data in accordance with the law and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. A full privacy notice is included in the parts above.

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).

As explained above, we will share responses with the Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government and Welsh Government.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation Coordinator, Defra
2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool,
1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

7. Next steps

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the Government website at: 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.

The response to the consultation will be communicated before the start of the 2021 fishing year.

Annex A: The UK's existing quota share

The percentages below represent the UK's relative stability share in each stock, plus the average Hague Preference gains between 2014-20 for the applicable stocks.

Stock code	Stock name	The UK's existing quota share (% of union TAC)
SOL/07A	Sole 7a	22%
SOL/07D	Sole 7d	19%
SOL/07E	Sole 7e	59%
SOL/7FG	Sole 7fg	28%
SOL/7HJK	Sole 7hjk	17%
PLE/07A	Plaice 7a	51%
PLE/7DE	Plaice 7de	29%
PLE/7FG	Plaice 7fg	23%
PLE/7HJK	Plaice 7hjk	13%
COD/07A	Cod 7a	43%
COD/7XAD34	Cod 7bk xd	8%
COD/07D	Cod 7d	9%
WHG/07A	Whiting 7a	53%
WHG/7X7A-C	Whiting 7bk	11%
POK/7/3411	Saithe 7	15%
ANF/07	Angler 7	18%
LEZ/07	Megrim 7	14%
HAD/07A	Haddock 7a	48%
HAD/7X7A34	Haddock 7bk	10%
HKE/571214	Hake 67	18%
POL/07	Pollack 7	17%
NEP/07	Nephrops 7	33%
SRX/67AKXD	Skates & Rays 67 xd	26%
SRX/07D	Skates & Rays 7d	15%
HER/07A/MM	Herring 7a	74%
HER/4CXB7D	Herring 4c7d	10%
HER/7EF	Herring 7ef	50%
BOR/678-	Boarfish 678	6%
SPR/7DE	Sprat 7de	53%
SPR/2AC4-C	North Sea Sprat	4%
COD/2A3AX4	North Sea Cod	47%
HAD/2AC4	North Sea Haddock	84%
WHG/2AC4	North Sea Whiting	67%
POK/2C3A4	North Sea Saithe	17%
PLE/2A3AX4	North Sea Plaice	28%
SOL/24-C	North Sea Sole	4%
HKE/2AC4-C	North Sea Hake	18%
NEP/2AC4-C	North Sea Nephrops	87%
OTH/04-N	Norway Others	38%

ANF/2AC4-C	North Sea Anglers	81%
LEZ/2AC4-C	North Sea Megrin	96%
L/W/2AC4-C	North Sea Lemon Soles & Witches	61%
SRX/2AC4-C	North Sea Skates & Rays	65%
T/B/2AC4-C	North Sea Turbot & Brill	15%
PRA/2AC4-C	Northern Prawn	22%
COD/5BE6A	West of Scotland Cod 6a	60%
COD/5W6-14	Rockall Cod	61%
HAD/5BC6A	West of Scotland Haddock 6a	81%
HAD/6B1214	West of Scotland Haddock 6b	81%
WHG/56-14	West of Scotland Whiting	64%
POK/56-14	West of Scotland Saithe	41%
PLE/56-14	West of Scotland Plaice	61%
SOL/56-14	West of Scotland Sole	20%
NEP/5BC6	West of Scotland Nephrops	98%
ANF/56-14	West of Scotland Anglers	31%
LEZ/56-14	West of Scotland Megrin	31%
POL/56-14	West of Scotland Pollack	37%
GHL/2A-C46	Greenland Halibut 2a46	73%
HER/4AB	North Sea Herring	23%
HER/5B6ANB	West of Scotland herring	60%
MAC/2CX14-	West of Scotland Mackerel	58%
MAC/2A34	North Sea Mackerel	5%
JAX/4BC7D	North Sea Horse Mackerel	11%
JAX/2A-14	West of Scotland Horse Mackerel	9%
WHB/1X14	Northern Blue Whiting	20%
HER/1/2-	AS Herring	22%
ARU/567	Greater Silver Smelt 67	6%
SAN/2A3A4	North Sea Sandeels	2%
WHB/2A4AXF	Faroes Blue Whiting	44%
USK/04-C	Tusk 4	41%
LIN/04-C	Ling 4	77%
USK/567EI	Tusk 567	28%
LIN/6X14	Ling 6-10,12,14	34%
BSF/56712-	Black Scab-bardfish 567,12	6%
RNG/5B67-	R'nose/ R'head Grenadier 5b67	5%
BLI/5B67-	Blue Ling 67	19%
ANF/04-N	Norway Anglers	18%
LIN/04-N	Norway Ling	8%
NEP/04-N	Norway Nephrops	5%
USK/04-N	Norway Tusk	2%
C/H/05B-F	Cod / Haddock	86%
B/L/05B-F	Ling / Blue Ling	6%

RED/05B-F	Redfish	1%
POK/05B-F	Saithe	23%
OTH/05B-F	Others	24%