



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/defra

BY E-MAIL:

Owners of English, Northern Irish and Welsh fishing vessels  
Holders of licence entitlements  
Fish Producer Organisations  
Members of the Fisheries Management and Conservation Group  
UK Fisheries Administrations  
Other interested parties

**Date: 7 December 2016**

Dear Sir/Madam

**CONSULTATION ON REVISED FISHERIES CONCORDAT AND MORATORIUM ON  
TRANSFER OF FIXED QUOTA ALLOCATION (FQA) UNITS FROM ENGLISH, WELSH AND  
NORTHERN IRISH LICENCES TO SCOTLAND**

1. I am writing to advise you that, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England, Welsh Government (Wales) and The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland) are seeking your views on proposed changes to the existing Fisheries Concordat that has been in place between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales since 2012. The Concordat sets out the licensing of fishing vessels and the allocation of fish quota received through the EU's Common Fisheries Policy. It strengthens arrangements about the transfer of fishing vessels between UK Administrations. Owners will continue to be permitted to move the management of their vessels from one UK Administration to another, but only after the vessel has physically moved its operations to the country that the owners wish to administer their vessel.
2. The new Concordat also offers to each of the UK Administrations enhanced flexibility to maintain the quota allocations available to the vessels fishing from their ports. In future, each Administration will have the option to retain their existing share of UK quotas, except when vessels move fishing operations to another UK country and are given permission to change country of administration. In these circumstances, it will be permitted to move quota allocations between UK countries. Industry and stakeholder views are being sought on the proposed changes.
3. The English, Northern Irish and Welsh Government encourage all consultees to respond to the consultation to ensure that there are no unintended consequences arising as a result of the proposed changes. We will reflect on the consultation responses before proceeding with the adoption of a new Concordat. In the interim the 2012 Concordat will remain in

effect. The consultation document can be found at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/>. You can respond to the consultation by email to: [Concordatconsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Concordatconsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Or by post to

Fisheries and Conservation

**Area 8A Millbank**

**17 Smith Square**

**London**

**SW1P 3 JR**

4. However you choose to reply, please make sure your response reaches us by 17:00 on 28 February 2017.
5. In conjunction with the consultation on the changes to the Concordat the English, Welsh and Northern Irish administrations have with immediate effect today , 7 December 2016 suspended the issue of FQA transfer forms (FQA 2 forms), until further notice. Exceptional circumstances relating to the suspension will be subject to correspondence with Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in England. This moratorium relates only to applications that involve proposed transfers from an English, Northern Irish, or Welsh licence to a Scottish licence. This means that the Fisheries Administrations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will issue forms to applicants wishing to transfer units onto an English, Northern Irish or Welsh licence from whatever source. The UK Government is currently developing policy in respect of fishing opportunities and allocation of these opportunities post EU exit. The purpose of the moratorium is to provide for stability in the overall number of FQA during these considerations. This policy is in response to the existing moratorium that Scotland has had in place since January 2014 in which FQAs are allowed to be transferred into but not out of Scotland.
6. The moratorium on transfers of FQA units will have no effect on in year quota transfer arrangements.
7. The English, Northern Irish and Welsh Government's will keep the requirement for a moratorium under review.



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