



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

23rd January 2015

Dear Consultee

Consultation on proposals to implement the demersal landing obligation in England

I am seeking your views on our proposals to implement the landing obligation in England for demersal fisheries. The landing obligation puts an end to the wasteful practise of discarding, thus preventing fish being thrown back into the sea, dead, after being caught.

The phased introduction of a landing obligation, also known as a “discard ban”, was one of the key successes the UK Government secured in reforming the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The reform is designed to deliver sustainable fish stocks, a healthy marine environment and a prosperous fishing industry.

We are consulting on five key areas including how to best utilise the flexibilities the UK secured as part of the reform package, to enable our fleet to operate successfully under a landing obligation; enabling vessels to fish throughout the whole year, land more fish and benefit financially. Full details of these are included in the consultation document, which along with a draft impact assessment can be found on Defra’s consultation website: www.gov.uk/defra.

The consultation will run until the 31st March 2015 to ensure that the responses inform our policy position and negotiations at the regional groups to enable us to develop an appropriate, fair and effective Discard Plan for demersal fisheries. These demersal Discard Plans must be submitted to the EU Commission for adoption no later than June 2015.

Implementation of the demersal landing obligation is one of several measures that will contribute towards achieving Good Environmental Status in our seas. We will soon be consulting on:

- The full programme of measures to implement the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and achieve Good Environmental Status in our seas; and
- On the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones, which also contribute to achieving Good Environmental Status.



Responses

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. Responses can be made:

- using the online survey on our consultation website www.gov.uk/defra;
- via email to: cfp.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk; or
- in writing to: CFP Reform Implementation Team, Sea Fisheries Conservation Division, Defra, Area 8A, 9 Millbank, c/o 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR.

If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation please contact us via the postal or email addresses above.

Responses should be received by **31st March 2015**.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

Copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at: www.gov.uk/defra.

This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, 629 Milbank, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk .

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider and respond to this consultation. We welcome your views and comments. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Sarah Adcock

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

