



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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31 March 2014

Dear Consultee

Consultation on proposals to implement the pelagic landing obligation in England.

I am writing to seek your views on our proposals to implement the pelagic landing obligation in England. The landing obligation is a ban on the wasteful practice of fish discarding so that all relevant catches must be brought ashore and not returned to the sea. It is an EU obligation, under the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) basic regulation. Our proposals have been designed meet our EU obligations while helping the English pelagic fishing industry operate under a landing obligation.

Full details of the proposals 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.

This consultation is one in a package of consultations linked to the reformed CFP which includes reforms to the CFP basic regulation, the Common Market Organisation of Fishery and Aquaculture Products (CMO) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The purpose of the package of reforms is to deliver sustainable fish stocks, a healthy marine environment and a prosperous fishing industry.

This is a six week consultation to ensure that the responses can be used to develop regional Discard Plans for pelagic fisheries. These pelagic Discard Plans must be submitted to the EU Commission for adoption by 1 June 2014.

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 **12 May 2014**.



Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/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

Nuala Carson

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

