



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Quota and CMO Policy Team
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Date: 13 October 2020

Dear Consultee,

CONSULTATION ON ADDITIONAL QUOTA ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT IN 2021 AND BEYOND: ENGLAND AND THE CROWN DEPENDENCIES

I am writing to invite views on the future allocation and management of additional quota in England and the Crown Dependencies.

BACKGROUND

In January 2021, at the end of the transition period, the UK will be an independent coastal State with rights 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 We will have left the Common Fisheries Policy and will no longer be bound by the EU's outdated method for sharing fishing opportunities.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 precise stocks and tonnages we will have in 2021 until negotiations conclude later this year.

WHY WE ARE CONSULTING

This additional quota provides us with an ideal opportunity to explore alternate methods for allocating and managing quota. Quota management is complex, and previous actions have had unintended consequences. We aim to move carefully and avoid radical reforms which could lead to further unintended consequences and potentially be destabilising for industry. We will also apply the lessons we have learned to date.

This consultation builds upon our previous engagement and is about how we use this quota in England and the Crown Dependencies. It also covers our aims for quota more broadly, the future of the English quota reserve and future English quota management trials. This is an opportunity for you to help shape and influence our quota policy in England and the Crown Dependencies in 2021 and beyond.

In our 2018 fisheries white paper, Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations we set out plans to promote a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK and to set a gold standard for sustainable fishing. The responses we received to the white paper showed no consensus for how quota should be allocated in future.

Following publication of that white paper, we held a call for evidence in 2019 about how we should use additional quota in England. We received 36 responses to that call for evidence from a range of sources including producer organisations, individual fishermen and environmental organisations. Again, there was no consensus about how we should use additional quota. Views on the positive and negative aspects of our current quota allocation and management methods were varied and at times conflicting.

We followed that call for evidence with an informal scoping exercise earlier this year. This exercise focused on prioritising aims and methods for allocating additional quota. In total we received 20 individual responses from fishermen and fishing companies, producer organisations and other industry representatives. We also further held a wider range of informal conversations with stakeholders. Again, there was no consensus about how any additional quota should be used but some themes did emerge.

We expect our approach will evolve over time as we trial, evaluate and refine methods. This means that how we allocate and manage quota in 2021 may differ from that in future years.

At the same time, we are consulting separately on how we apportion this additional quota between the UK fisheries administrations. We are also consulting separately on the future of the economic link in England.

As stated in the 2018 white paper we are not currently planning to alter the allocation methodology for our existing quota. This will provide certainty and stability for industry.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support in this important work. We want to learn from your experience and to take your ideas on board. We need your help to get this right.

The consultation documents may be found on Defra's website: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/fisheries/quota-allocation-and-management-in-2021-and-beyond>

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact fisheriesengagement@defra.gov.uk

RESPONSES

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).

This consultation will run for 4 weeks from 13 October to 10 November 2020. Responses should be received by **10 November**.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

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, Defra 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.

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>.

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

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

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