



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Fleet Management Team

Defra
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Date: 13 October 2020

Dear Consultee,

CONSULTATION ON STRENGTHENING THE FISHERIES ECONOMIC LINK CONDITION IN ENGLAND

I am writing to invite views on the policy proposal to strengthen the economic link condition in England.

As outlined in the 2018 Fisheries White Paper '*Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations*', leaving the EU gives the government the opportunity to reconsider the economic link licence condition. The condition applies to all UK registered vessels of 10 metres and over in length that fish against UK quota. It requires these vessels to demonstrate a link, or benefit, to the UK's economy.

On 13 October 2020, the government launched a public consultation to seek views on a proposal to strengthen the economic link licence condition. We want to ensure that the owners of English registered vessels owners who fish against UK quota provide greater benefits to the UK, and to coastal communities in particular.

The proposal involves increasing the landing requirement to 70% for quota species and strengthening the quota donation requirement to increase the value of quota transferred to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The proposal also allows vessel owners to use a combination of the two criteria, landings and quota donation, to meet the economic link requirement, recognising the importance of flexibility to support ongoing business practices. Under the proposal the crewing and financial expenditure criteria would be removed as these are considered to generate the lowest economic benefits. The purpose of this proposal is to increase the benefit to the UK from fish caught against England's allocation of quota. This recognises that fish are a shared national resource, which should be for the benefit of all.

The economic link is a devolved matter, and the policy proposal in this consultation only applies to England.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we intend to amend the economic link condition included in licences issued by the MMO from 1 January 2022.

We welcome your views on this policy proposal to strengthen the economic link conditions. We want to learn from your experience and to take your ideas on board. We need your help to get this right.

The consultation can be found on Defra's website:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/fleetmanagement-team/fisheries-economic-link-licencecondition-in-engla/>

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). You may post in your response or any additional information to: Consultation Coordinator 2nd Floor,

Foss House

Kings Pool,

1-2 Peasholme Green,

York, YO1 7PX

This consultation will run for 4 weeks from 13th October to 23:59hrs on 10th November 2020. Responses should be received by 23:59hrs on 10th November 2020.

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/consultationprinciplesguidance>.

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

Consultation Coordinator

2nd Floor,

Foss House,

Kings Pool,

1-2 Peasholme Green,

York, YO1 7PX

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

Yours faithfully

Fleet Management Team

Marine & Fisheries

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs