



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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17 July 2023

Dear Consultee,

Fishing Licence Reform in England: Proposed removal of the quota finfish licence cap on English 10 metre and under vessels

I am writing to invite views on the proposal to permanently lift the licence cap of 350kg of finfish quota species, which affects 432 English registered 10 metre and under (u10m) licence holders. The proposed change aims to simplify the English licensing system. The English u10m pool has in recent years seen an increase in the proportion of the total English quota allocated to it. However, many stocks in the pool have not been fully utilised, with licence capping cited as one of the reasons.

To support the English u10m fleet the cap has been temporarily lifted during 2020, 2021 and 2022 fishing years, and a number of vessels have used this opportunity to fish additional quota. The cap has also been temporarily lifted for the current fishing year, from 1 March 2023 until 31 December 2023. While some fishers have benefitted from these temporarily arrangements, others want the certainty of the cap being removed permanently, before they invest in gear that will enable them to access more quota. The English u10m licence holders with a capped licence will directly benefit from this change, as the current cap limits their ability to diversify into catching quota species from non-quota species.

We are however keen to hear the views of all interested parties on the proposal.

The consultation will run for 6 weeks, starting at 09:30 on 17 July 2023 and ending on 30 August 2023. Consultees can respond to this consultation via Citizen Space (online portal), email or by post. All citizen space and email responses to this consultation should be submitted to Defra by 23:59 on 30 August 2023 and written responses to be received by 29 August 2023.

A copy of the consultation and the summary of responses will be published on the Government website at: www.gov.uk/defra. 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

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool). Responses or additional information or documents can be sent to:

Consultation Coordinator (Fishing Licence Reform in England: Proposed removal of the quota finfish licence cap on English 10 metre and under vessels)



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Kings Pool
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Responses should be received by 30 August 2023 at 23:59.

Confidentiality and data protection

Please find the Consultations Privacy Notice uploaded alongside this consultation.

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, the Department 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 on the Department. This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultationprinciplesguidance.

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

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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 sincerely, Fleet Management Team Defra