



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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Discards Policy Team  
Marine and Fisheries Defra  
Lancaster House  
Hampshire Court  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 7YH

**Date:** 17 July 2023

Dear Consultee

## Consultation on discards reform

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) invites your views on the consultation which launches our vision for reforming the management of discards in England.

This is a 12 week consultation running from 17 July to 9 October 2023.

The consultation includes the key principle of counting all fish catches against quota, initially through options for better catch accounting, but also through more tailored, fishery focussed approaches.

It also proposes that steering groups are set up with industry and other stakeholders to develop measures to avoid and reduce unwanted catch. This could include the use of more selective fishing gears.

This consultation will be of interest to fishing industry stakeholders in England. The proposals are also likely to be of interest to retailers and other stakeholders in the seafood supply chain, consumers, NGOs (non-governmental organisations), gear manufacturers and fishing technology companies.

This consultation is an opportunity for you to help shape and influence the future of discards management policy in England. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals.

It should be read alongside the parallel consultations on expanding the use of remote electronic monitoring in English waters, and the first draft fisheries management plans.

If you have any questions about the consultation, please email: [discards@defra.gov.uk](mailto:discards@defra.gov.uk)

## Responses

To submit your consultation responses, please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space, the online consultation tool at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/discards/discards-reform/>

We prefer you to respond using our online consultation tool, Citizen Space. However, you can also respond by:

- emailing the discards policy team at: [discards@defra.gov.uk](mailto:discards@defra.gov.uk)
- or by post to:

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Marine and Fisheries, Defra  
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Please say if you would like your response to be confidential and why.

Responses should be received before the consultation closes on 9 October 2023.

## Confidentiality and data protection

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>.

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.

Defra will process your personal data in accordance with the law and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. A full privacy notice is included as a related document alongside the online consultation document.

Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (e.g. home address, email address etc).

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please email: [consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk)

### **Next steps**

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the government website at [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra). An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

The response to the consultation is expected to be published within 12 weeks of the consultation closing date.

If you have any queries, please contact us at: [discards@defra.gov.uk](mailto:discards@defra.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Discards policy team

Defra