



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.gov.uk/defra

Date: 10 February 2015

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on reducing latent capacity in the English 10 metre and under fishing sector

I am seeking your views on our consultation which sets out proposals for addressing latent capacity in the 10 metre and under sector of the English fishing fleet for both vessels which target shellfish species and those which operate in the under 10 metre pool.

The intention behind these proposed options is to achieve a more appropriate balance between the capacity in the inshore fleet and the quota available to it. It is also to ensure that inactive shellfish vessels do not suddenly become active, thus increasing effort in these fisheries. Increased effort could have a detrimental effect on the prospects of the stocks being exploited at Maximum Sustainable Yield.

You can find the consultation at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/reducing-latent-capacity>

Responses

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. Responses can be made:

- via email to: fisheriesreform@defra.gsi.gov.uk or
- in writing to: Domestic Reform Team, Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Planning 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 **31st March 2015**.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/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,

Matt Sowrey

Domestic fisheries reform team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs