



Dear Consultee

25 August 2022

Consultation on managing flyseine vessel pressure on demersal Non-Quota Species in English waters

I am writing to invite views on the proposal to gather evidence and better understand the impact of flyseining in English waters in order to help support sustainable fishing and reduce pressure on demersal Non-quota Species (NQS).

NQS are often high value, potentially vulnerable and generally species for which there is limited data on. The importance of NQS is recognised in the draft Joint Fisheries Statement, written by the Government and Devolved Administrations, which also sets out our intention to prioritise the development of management approaches for NQS domestically, including through the preparation of Fisheries Management Plans. This is complemented by our commitments to develop 'multi-year strategies for the conservation and management of non-quota stocks' under the UK/EU Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA).

Whilst there are evidence gaps, landings and vessel data and concerns raised by stakeholders suggests the growth of a new fishery, relative to more traditional forms of flyseining effort. We are seeking further evidence on the impact of current fishing activity on demersal NQS, including through the Channel Demersal NQS FMP process. But we are conscious of current pressures on the stocks and of not waiting to take action given concerns about the vulnerability of demersal NQS.

The proposals in this consultation relate to the impact of certain fishing vessel capacity in English waters and focus on possibly extending current measures and/or bringing in new measures. This consultation will assist in providing more data and also test the limited data we have so far.

The expectation is that any new technical measures in English waters could come into effect during 2023.

The following documents may be found on GOV.UK:

- Consultation document
- De Minimus Assessment

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

Responses

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 [Managing flyseine vessel pressure on demersal Non-Quota Species]
2nd floor
Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Responses should be received by 16 November 2022 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:

Consultation Coordinator

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 sincerely,

Non Quota Species Team

Defra