



Department
for Environment
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17 July 2023

Dear Consultee,

Establishing a Recreational Fishery for Bluefin Tuna

We are writing to you to make you aware of a consultation on the proposal to introduce permitting regimes for the recreational targeting of bluefin tuna (BFT) in the UK. The proposed change aims to introduce permitting regimes to enable the establishment of Catch and Release Recreational Fisheries (CRRFs) for BFT in each of the UK's four Administrations.

In 2021, after leaving the EU, the UK established its own BFT quota for the first time. UK Administrations have initially taken a cautious and measured approach to managing their BFT quota, running catch and release tagging programmes (CHART) in 2021 and 2022. These programmes demonstrated that BFT can be caught and released with a very low incidental mortality rate and have provided data on the social and economic benefits associated with recreational access to BFT. Defra is now progressing the introduction of a small, UK wide, trial commercial fishery in summer 2023 alongside the development of a legislation to underpin new recreational fisheries across the UK.

We are keen to hear the views of all interested parties on the proposal for new secondary legislation to set up permitting regimes to enable the establishment of CRRFs for BFT in each of the UK's four Administrations. We are also keen to hear the view of all interested parties on the operational design for an English CRRF.

The consultation will run for 7 weeks from the 17 July 2023 and ending on 4 September 2023. Responses must be received by 23:59 on 4 September 2023.

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space at: www.consult.defra.gov.uk/recreational-aquaculture-and-migratory-team/bft-recreational-fishery.

Responses or additional information or documents can be sent to:

Recreational Fisheries Team (BFT CRRF: Proposed licence regime)

1st floor Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Responses should be received by 4 September 2023 at 23:59.

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

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,

Defra Recreational, Aquaculture and Migratory Fisheries Team