



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Cordelia Bagley
Defra
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

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Dear Consultee,

Management of Under 15m Scallop Fleet

I am writing to invite views on management of the under 15m scallop fleet in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The call for evidence documents may be found on GOV.UK. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals.

To submit your response please complete the questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).

If you require a copy of the call for evidence documents, please contact us at Scallopandshellfishconsultations@defra.gov.uk.

Responses

Responses or additional information or documents can be sent to:

Under 15m Call for Evidence
Consultation Coordinator
2nd floor
Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Responses should be received by **30 August 2021**.



Call for evidence criteria

The UK Western Waters regime currently sets scallop fishing limits for fishing vessels of 15m and over in specified areas on historical fishing activity. However, such fishing limits are not applied to vessels under 15m in length. We are asking for views which will help us to better understand whether there are issues arising from limits not applying to the under 15m fleet and, if so, what these issues are and how this could be alleviated. We will use the evidence gathered to inform whether new management measures are required and if so, what form of response we might consider, to ensure the sustainability of scallop and shellfish fisheries. The Call for Evidence will last six weeks and focuses on English, Welsh and Northern Irish under 15m scallop fleets.

Confidentiality and data protection

This call for evidence document and process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office. Which can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultationprinciplesguidance

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 call for evidence, 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 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.

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

Cordelia Bagley
Policy Advisor
Marine and Fisheries