

FishingFocus

The Defra and MFA marine fisheries newsletter

Inside this issue

Winter 2009/10
Number 17

Marine Policy Statement
Page 3



December Fisheries Council
Pages 4 and 5

Marine and Fisheries Agency News
Pages 6 and 7



SAIF Advisory Group

The Advisory Group to the Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries (SAIF) project has published a paper suggesting ways to make the English inshore fishing fleet more sustainable.

The Group is aiming for the paper, which draws on its discussions, to kick-start a debate on the way forward with a wide audience. The paper proposes several principles for the future management of English inshore fisheries – including that the system is simple to understand and administer; uses existing marine management structures where possible; includes local management and makes more use of local knowledge; and gives longer-term rights to fishers.

The paper outlines possible steps to review and, where necessary, make changes to



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ensure the right balance between fleet segments and available fishing opportunities; delegate management authority to local managers; and introduce new local groups to represent local fleets, input into management decisions and maximise value of landings from inshore fisheries.

The Group is keen to hear your views to help it to develop its final recommendations, and will soon be visiting coastal areas to listen to reactions and ideas from as many people as possible.

The Group's work and your comments will inform work on a long-term strategy for the English inshore fishing fleet, so do make sure your views are heard.

The SAIF project team will also be seeking ideas from around the coast to feed into the project, as well as helping the Group to capture feedback on the paper. To let you know more about the SAIF project more generally we've just published a newsletter.

📍 You can find the Advisory Group's paper and the newsletter at: www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/marine/fishman/saif.htm or ask your local MFA office for a copy.

Please e-mail your views by 19 March to SAIF.Advisorygroup@defra.gsi.gov.uk

or post them on the online forum: www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/1631070/home.do

If you'd like a SAIF team member to visit your area, please email: accesstofisheries@defra.gsi.gov.uk



The end of 2009 saw the UK submitting our views on reforming the CFP (see page 8), as well as negotiating hard at the December Fisheries Council (pages 4 and 5). Government and fishermen may not agree on everything but we share much common ground in the way we want the CFP to work in future, including decentralising fisheries management to regional and local levels.

It's disappointing that it wasn't possible to reach agreement between the EU and Norway on key jointly managed stocks but I hope that negotiations will be concluded soon. The UK delegation, led by Huw Irranca-Davies, achieved some notable successes in December which balance the interests of all parts of the UK.

I and my team appreciate the constructive way in which you and industry leaders have worked with us on these vital agendas. We look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming months.

Every good wish for 2010.

David Dawson
Director of Marine and Fisheries

News in Brief

New Control Regulation

The new Council Regulation establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the CFP (the 'Control Regulation') was published in November and came into force on 1 January 2010. Fisheries Administrations will be issuing further guidance soon – guidance for England will be provided by the MFA. As we work up the details of the rules for the control measures throughout 2010, we'll be discussing them with the fishing industry.

📌 You can find the Control Regulation (EC No 1224/2009) at: www.eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:343:0001:0050:EN:PDF

IUU Fishing Regulation

If you import fish or fish products from outside the EU, or export fish to non-EU countries you need to know about the new rules that may apply to you. The EC Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Regulation came into force on 1 January 2010. The UK Fisheries Administrations are operating a UK IUU Catch Certificate Centre within the MFA's UK IUU Co-ordinating Unit (email: ukiuuccc@mfa.gsi.gov.uk). This Centre validates UK catches exported as freight where any EU or international IUU measures require it. The UK Fisheries Call Centre based with Marine Scotland (Tel +44 (0) 131 271 9700 or email: UKFCC@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) handles notifications from non-EU fishing vessels landing into the UK, as well as the validation of UK Catch Certificates for UK fishing vessels landing their catches directly into non-EU countries.

📌 Info: To find out more see: www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/marine/conservation/iuu-regulation.htm

IFCA Committee appointments

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) replace Sea Fisheries Committees from April 2011. We're inviting applications to join the IFCA Committees from a wide range of interests with local knowledge including commercial fishing, sea angling, environmental and recreational. Watch out for our adverts online and in the regional and local press, as well as in Fishing News and other publications from late January.

📌 For more information on IFCA recruitment visit: www.ifcamembers.co.uk and to find out more about IFCAs see: www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/marine/fishman/ifca.htm

Marine Science Co-ordination Committee

The Committee is planning to publish the UK Marine Science Strategy in early February. The Strategy aims to improve the delivery of marine science.

📌 You'll be able to find the Strategy at: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/science/mscc.htm

Marine Environment Science Yearbook

Our Marine Environment Science Yearbook 2008/09 highlights a range of the marine biodiversity and marine environment projects we've funded and lists all our current and recent marine biodiversity and marine environment projects.

📌 You can read the Yearbook at: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/documents/science/mes-yearbook200809.pdf

Marine Policy Statement

The Marine and Coastal Access Act introduces a new system of marine planning to help to deliver the UK Government's and Devolved Administrations' vision for the marine environment: 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'.

The Marine Policy Statement will provide the framework for developing marine plans and will set the direction for new marine licensing systems. The Act requires policies in the Marine Policy Statement to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of the UK marine area. In developing the Marine Policy Statement we'll be building on the High Level Marine Objectives, published in April 2009. These set out the outcomes we're seeking to help achieve sustainable development in the marine area and the wider context.

We'd like to receive the views of as many people and organisations as possible on the Marine Policy Statement, so we've published a Statement of Public Participation setting out how you can be involved in developing the Marine Policy

📍 You can find 'Our seas-a shared resource: High Level Marine Objectives', the Statement of Public Participation for the UK Marine Policy Statement, initial thinking on the contents of the Marine Policy Statement and outputs from our 2009 stakeholder workshops in England at: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/planning.htm See page 8 of the Statement of Participation for where to find out about stakeholder events.



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Statement. The Statement of Public Participation also reports progress in developing the Marine Policy Statement and explains how it affects decision-making by public authorities.

We're aiming to issue the draft Marine Policy Statement for consultation in spring 2010, together with an Appraisal of Sustainability which will provide information on the relative economic, social and environmental sustainability of proposals in the draft Marine Policy Statement. We plan to publish the final version by spring 2011.

We're arranging events for stakeholders in England both before and during the consultation on the Marine Policy Statement so do join us and help us to get the Statement right.

Marine protected areas – update

We're aiming to have a national network of marine protected areas by December 2012 to meet the UK's commitments.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act includes a duty to set up a network of marine protected areas (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ramsar sites, and marine conservation zones under the Marine and Coastal Access Act). The UK has also signed two international agreements to establish a marine protected areas network: the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive which requires us to take measures to achieve 'good environmental status' for our seas by 2020 also requires us to establish a network of marine protected areas.

In March there'll be a statement to Parliament on the principles for establishing an ecologically coherent network and for designating marine conservation zones. We'll also be publishing a strategy on marine protected areas, following our consultation on the draft strategy. Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee plan to issue network guidance for the four regional stakeholder projects (see Fishing Focus summer 2010) in the following months. The projects will recommend marine conservation zone sites to the two conservation organisations by June 2011 and the organisations will advise the Government on sites by autumn 2011. Defra will consult on proposed sites in 2012 and designate sites by the end of 2012. Do get involved with the regional projects to make sure your views are heard at an early stage.

December Fisheries Council

The UK Fisheries Team at the Council was led by **Huw Irranca-Davies, Minister for Marine and Natural Environment in Defra**. During the two days of negotiations to agree a package of catch and effort limits for 2010, he was assisted by **Richard Lochhead (Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment)** and **Michelle Gildernew (Northern Irish Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development)** and officials from across the UK.

The UK had a number of successes, including obtaining 10% increases in the quotas for North Sea and West of Scotland megrim (on the back of further, more up-to-date scientific advice that we'd recently submitted); a bringing forward of the trigger date for the application of more stringent control measures, which will apply if North Sea cod

quota uptake exceeds projected levels (to ensure this mechanism does not result in increased discards); and successfully resisting any cut in the Celtic Sea cod quota. However, perhaps the greatest achievement, was obtaining the Commission's permission to go ahead with trials to test fishermen's self-policing of fishing activity through comprehensive monitoring, such as using CCTV onboard, and offering an incentive of additional quota to those fishermen volunteering for the trials. This follows a joint initiative by the UK, Denmark and Germany launched in Aalborg in October. We'll be letting you know more about the trials soon.

The table below summarises UK priorities and outcomes achieved. There's more detail at www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/marine/conservation/fstock/tacs.htm

Summary of UK priorities and outcomes achieved

Put the management of the **North Sea whiting** stock on a firmer footing, by pursuing the potential for a long-term plan – and minimise reductions in landings for **North Sea whiting and haddock** as far as possible. This awaits the outcome of EU-Norway negotiations.

Secure increase in the **North Sea cod** Total Allowable Catch (TAC) (of 16.5% to 33,500 tonnes), corresponding to the application of the stock recovery plan and explore scope for flexibility to offset impacts of further expected cuts in effort – in particular, a switch from counting actual 'fishing time' rather than 'time at sea'. The TAC decision awaits the outcome of EU-Norway negotiations. The Commission wasn't convinced of value of only counting 'fishing time' – we'll pursue this again in 2010.

Seek to minimise the proposed cut of 30% in the **Irish Sea nephrops** TAC (on basis of latest science) – negotiated 9% cut. Resist Commission proposal for a 7% cut and seek roll-over for the **North Sea stock** (24,837 tonnes) – as partially endorsed by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries – negotiated 0.6% cut. Accept 15% cut in the TAC for the **West of Scotland** stock.

Secure opportunity to trial the 'catch quota' option for one or more of **North Sea cod, haddock and whiting**, based on the application of appropriate monitoring onboard participating vessels. Political commitment through Council statement and additional quota awaiting EU-Norway negotiations.

Resist proposed 15% cut in the **Western Channel (Vile) sole** TAC (650 tonnes) – negotiated 5% cut.

Resist giving Norway **mackerel** in the EU/Norway negotiations – awaiting outcome of EU-Norway negotiations. Support the Commission's aim for long-term management plan for the stock to protect its long-term sustainability – but only if the deal produces real benefits for the UK – awaiting outcome of negotiations with Coastal States (Norway, Iceland and Faeroes). Ensure the Commission stands firm in keeping Norwegian mackerel fishery in EU waters closed for the remainder of the year (achieved) – and that Norway pays appropriately for any additional access in 2010 – achieved political commitment to address integration of 'southern mackerel component' (which spawns in Bay of Biscay).

EUROPE: FISHERIES COUNCIL

Aim to secure as high a proportion of the UK's full entitlement to **Arctic stocks** as practicable, in the light of the reduced availability of suitable exchange currency and the increased level of such stocks on offer. Awaiting outcome of EU-Norway negotiations.

Seek 15% increase in **North Sea and West of Scotland megrim** TAC as supported by robust science – achieved 10% increase, and flexibility for West of Scotland **monkfish** quota – achieved 5% flexibility.

Resist cuts in TACs for '**use it or lose it**' stocks e.g. lemon Sole and witch (EC waters of IIa and IV); herring (VI Clyde); and pollack (VII) – proposed 15% cut negotiated down to 10%.

Seek roll-over in **Celtic Sea cod** TAC but ensure alternative management arrangements are put in place to assist stock recovery – based on North Western Waters RAC proposals for general effort/capacity limits (rather than application of existing cod recovery plan). Proposed 25% cut resisted and rollover achieved.

Seek a revision to application date for 90% **North Sea cod** quota uptake rule to avoid a repeat of 2009 discard problems. Achieved 90% trigger at 15 October.

Secure 15% increase in **Irish Sea herring** TAC, based on latest scientific evidence that supports view that stock size is increasing. Achieved roll-over.

Resist any continuation of targeted fisheries for **spurdog** or **porbeagle** and establish appropriate bycatch limits. For spurdog achieved zero TAC and 10% of 2009 quota as bycatch. For Porbeagle achieved zero TAC, no bycatch provision.

Seek changes to **West of Scotland haddock** proposal in order to spread cut in TAC over two years (i.e. 25% cut per year rather than 54% in one hit). Achieved, plus commitment to long-term management plan.

Secure agreement to more reasonable and transparent (Commission) mechanism for exempting vessels catching less than **1.5% cod** from recovery plan. Achieved West of Scotland Nephrops vessels exemption from days at sea in 2010.

Ensure appropriate application of the long-term management plan for **blue whiting**; avoid any increases in transfers to Norway and the Faeroes – and if possible, secure reductions which are at least equivalent to the cut in TAC. Achieved TAC based on management plan. Level to be exchanged in balance awaiting outcome of EU-Norway negotiations.

Seek an increase in the transfers from Norway of **monkfish**, **ling** and **tusk** – and a reduction in transfers to Norway of the latter two stocks. Also seek small increase in **Norway 'Others'** (fish in Norwegian waters not covered by TACs) allocation. Awaiting outcome of EU-Norway negotiations.

Secure an agreement on the long-term management plan for **horse mackerel** which reflects UK interests. Achieved 5% flexibility to fish Western and North Sea stocks.

Secure appropriate application of **West of Scotland herring** management plan. Achieved 12.2% increase in TAC.

Ensure EU continues to claim 65% of the global **Rockall haddock** TAC. Achieved.

Ensure appropriate application of the **North Sea herring** management plan (including appropriate allocation between north and south regions, consistent with ICES advice). Awaiting outcome of EU-Norway negotiations.

MMO – update

The appointment of Steven Gant as Chief Executive Officer of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) marks another important step towards its launch in April 2010.

Steven will take up his position on 1st February 2010 and will be based at the MMO's headquarters in Newcastle. He said: "The establishment of the MMO is a decisive step forward in providing effective management of our seas, especially in drawing together the natural, economic and social aspects of the marine environment. I am very much looking forward to playing my part in the sustainable management of this strategic resource and to working on behalf of the marine community".

The new Chief Executive Officer and the Chair of the MMO, Christopher Parry, will soon be joined by eight non-executive Board members. The first Board meeting will take place before the formal launch of the MMO.



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The selection process for Directors is also underway to ensure that a robust senior management team is in place by April.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA), which will be absorbed by the MMO when it is launched in April, is moving its headquarters from London to Newcastle. New members of staff are being recruited to replace those not relocating to Newcastle. Over 60 new recruits have already completed training in London and are now working in Newcastle. More staff will join over the coming months, reinforcing the capacity of the

MMO's headquarters and complementing the experienced staff around the coast. In particular, recruitment is also underway for several new positions both at headquarters and in Coastal Offices to manage the marine nature conservation aspects of the Marine and Coastal Access Act. Chair, Christopher Parry said: "I'm very pleased with the progress that we're achieving in the run-up to the MMO's establishment in April 2010 and am confident that we're going to have a strong balanced team in place to ensure the MMO hits the ground running on day one".

Future MMO Chief Executive Officer



The MMO's future Chief Executive Officer, Steven Gant, has a keen interest in marine issues and wide-ranging experience including a strong academic background in geography and environmental science. He started his career conducting environmental research with the National Rivers Authority before moving to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF). Steven then joined Anderson Consulting (now Accenture) and worked for 13 years on public and private sector projects with organisations such as Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Defra and Sun Microsystems in the US. Steven became a partner and head of European pensions and social security practice for Europe, Africa and Latin America. He had also managed the UK Local Government practice, working with local authorities across England and Scotland.

Shellfish

The overall value of shellfish (including mussels, crabs and nephrops) caught by the UK fishing fleet in 2008 and landed into the UK was £257 million. The MFA and Defra are both working to help the long-term sustainability of this valuable industry.

The MFA provides grant aid through the European Fisheries Fund for both aquaculture projects and the captured shellfish industry. It also has responsibilities relating to both the cultivation and capture of shellfish.

In addition to issuing licences for shellfishermen (such as the Mussel Seed Licence), the MFA also enforces minimum sizes for shellfish like crabs, lobsters and scallops landed by fishing vessels to ensure the long-term sustainability of stocks.



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Changes to ways of making Shellfish Orders

Defra has changed the way it makes Shellfish Orders to make the application process easier for applicants, the changes also improve the way Shellfish Orders are managed.

Through the Marine and Coastal Access Act, Defra has amended the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967, changing how Shellfish Orders are created and introducing a new process for the variation of an Order, as well as some other minor changes. The changes will all help to ensure that the valuable English shellfish industry has a long-term, economically viable future. The Shellfish Act provides for the establishment of new, or improvement of existing, wild shellfisheries through Several and Regulating Orders. Several Orders essentially grant exclusive fishery rights to an individual or company in a specific area, whilst Regulating Orders either impose restrictions, or make regulations

on the dredging, fishing for, and taking of shellfish in an area. Regulating Orders also allow grantees (usually a Sea Fisheries Committee), to introduce quotas for shellfish stocks and a system of licensing to restrict the number of people authorised to exploit the fishery.

Defra has removed the need for applicants to have the consent of The Crown Estate, Duchy of Cornwall, or Duchy of Lancaster when applying for a new Shellfish Order. It has also introduced a process allowing an Order to be varied, or ceased, if the landowner wants to develop their land; and for compensation to be paid if this happens. These changes will allow Defra to start granting new Several and Regulating Orders, and make the application process quicker and easier.

Defra has also made other changes to improve the management of Shellfish Orders.

These include:

- giving grantees of Regulating Orders the power to use money collected through the Order for regulating as well as improving the fishery;
- increasing to £50,000 the maximum fine for a breach of a Regulating Order, or for depositing rubbish, or disturbing a shellfish bed in a Several Order in another way;
- being able to cancel a licence in a Regulating Order if the holder is convicted of a single offence under the Order;
- Defra being able to decide whether to hold a Public Inquiry, when considering an application for a new Order. This means that Public Inquiries will only be called when necessary, saving time and money; and
- making the master, owner and charterer (if any) of a vessel all guilty of an offence under section 3(3) of the Act where a fishing boat is used.

📞 If you have any queries about these changes please email: coastalwaterspolicy@defra.gsi.gov.uk

CFP reform

Thanks for your views on our discussion paper: 'Achieving sustainable fisheries through CFP reform'.

In preparing the UK response to the Commission's Green Paper on CFP reform we considered all your views – sent to us, told to us in the meetings in eight English ports or given to us via the Fisheries Administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. We also discussed your views at a meeting of the UK Marine Fisheries Stakeholder Forum in November where Huw Irranca-Davies, Fisheries Minister, listened to views from across the UK and from different sectors to help us to develop the UK response.

Key points in the UK response are that a reformed CFP should aim to achieve ecological sustainability. This means maximising returns in the long term for the fleet within environmental limits. Specific UK priorities for reform include more responsibility at regional levels to bring decision making closer to those managing fisheries; greater flexibility and clearer rights for fishermen to help them manage their businesses and fish quotas and to help reduce the waste of discards; and more opportunity for industry and other partners to be involved in fisheries science and management and in marine policy making more generally.

We support moving away from annual negotiations over fishing opportunities and technical issues. We want a more flexible policy, based on appropriately set and rigorously enforced catch limits rather than landing limits, providing incentives which encourage innovation and enterprise to maximise long-term wealth generation, safeguard fish stocks and reduce discards. We recognise the benefits of relative stability which give a transparent, predictable basis for allocating fishing rights and therefore agree it should be used as a starting point for future access to fisheries arrangements.

Any future policy framework for small scale fisheries should focus on actively promoting viable businesses. As such public support should be directed toward helping businesses to adapt, diversify and maximise the value from the fish they catch whether through local or 'niche' markets or through mainstream supply chains.

The next steps will be discussing with you the detail of our proposals.

i You can see the UK response at: www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/documents/fisheries/cfp-response.pdf and a summary of your responses to our discussion paper at: www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/documents/fisheries/cfp-summary.pdf

Marine conservation sites consultation

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales are seeking views by 26 February on 12 proposed new marine conservation sites to add to the 'Natura 2000' European network of areas designed to protect important habitats, species and birds.

The 12 proposed new sites include important habitats and species, ranging from the sandbanks of the Outer Wash and southern North Sea to areas in the Irish Sea that are important for birds, and to the cold water coral reefs off south-west England.

You are invited to comment on the scientific reasons for proposing the sites, and on the assessment of the likely impacts of the site designation on marine industries such as fishing, recreation, sand and gravel extraction, windfarms and the oil and gas industry.

Following this consultation, the conservation organisations will submit proposals to Government, and Ministers will decide which sites to recommend to the European Commission in October 2010.

i You can find more details on the consultation at www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2009/271109.aspx

Marine plan consultation

You have until 16 February to let us have your views on the proposed marine plan areas within English inshore and offshore waters and on the considerations the Marine Management Organisation should take into account when deciding the order of priority for developing plans under the Marine and Coastal Access Act.

i You can find out more about the consultation at: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marine-plan/index.htm

FishingFocus

Have you any questions you'd like us to answer in the April issue of Fishing Focus or any comments on this issue? You can email us on fishingfocus@defra.gsi.gov.uk or write to Fishing Focus, Defra Marine Programme, Area 2D Nobel House, London SW1P 3JR. You can read previous issues of Fishing Focus at www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/marine/fishfocus.htm

